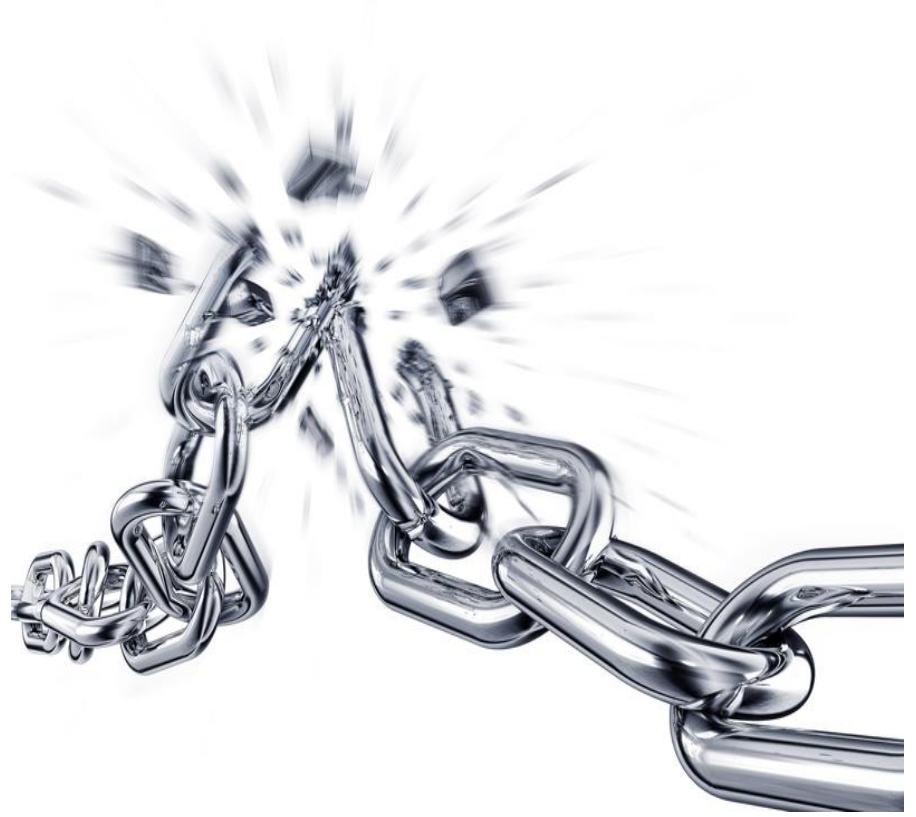

Freedom From Bondage



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BBC Supplement

In preparation for encounter weekend

It is left to the teacher of the class to ask relevant questions and arrange the lessons to bring out the best from the material. There are two books in this BBC Supplement, which are designed to prepare the new believer for the Encounter Weekend.

- I. 7 Reasons why every Christian should speak in tongues
- II. Freedom From Bondage

It is hoped that with adequate preparation the new member in the Consolidation Cell Group will come away from the weekend full of the Holy Spirit and free from all spiritual contamination from his previous life.

Introduction

Freedom is the ability to be the person God wants us to be in Christ. Bondage, on the other hand, is the work of the devil. He tries to keep us from being complete in Christ.

As Christians we must be aware of the activities of the devil. He is not called the enemy for nothing. In 1 Peter 5:8 we are given a warning, "*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*". Satan does not give up his attacks just because we have become Christians. If anything he intensifies them.

Thanks be to God that we have the victory in the Lord Jesus Christ. But this victory is not automatic. It must be applied to specific areas of our lives. Very often Satan will not yield his ground unless we pin him down. So we must find out what he is doing, where and how he got there for a thorough job of deliverance to be done.

Two enemies of freedom

There are two enemies that must be dealt with before any progress can be made. They are the enemies within: ignorance and arrogance. I have compiled a checklist to deal with the first.

Most of us go through life unaware of demonic presence or activities in and around us. As it will become clear later, a person may have problems which are not of his own making. Someone who has an emotional problem because his parents were involved in the occult is not responsible for his woes.

In my dealings with many cases of human misery, it is often necessary to look back to the root of the problem. These are things hidden in the past or old associations. If we are ignorant of these things Satan will just get away with it. Tragically a person may be so accustomed to his condition that he does not consider himself in bondage.

Worst still is the case where a man is prevented from being free because of his arrogance. Most of us find the mere suggestion that we might be under some kind of bondage distasteful. It is easier to admit poverty and sickness than to spiritual bondage. It is even harder if we are in some sort of ministry or standing in the church, or if we felt sure such issues have been dealt a death blow once and for all sometime in the past.

Deliverance is an on-going necessity

With the checklist in the appendix, it is easy to find out if there are areas of your life yet to be liberated. Believe me, deliverance is an on-going necessity. Since Satan does not let up, you need to be always on the lookout, and give him the old fashion boot out of your life.

It was a rude shock to me to discover a few years ago that I was the victim of a spiritual bondage. It was in the area of finance. For five years I was stone-broke, and I mean broke. I was nearly forced to sell my house to clear my debts. Initially I thought God was dealing with me, maybe to make me a purer vessel. I repented of all the sins I could possibly imagine – still no change in my circumstances. This went on for five years until one day the Holy Spirit showed me that the root of my problem was spiritual contamination.

I traced the beginning of my troubles to the time I inherited some money. Then it all clicked into place. The source of my new found wealth was contaminated. The money I received had been acquired with a little help from lucky charms, etc. within a fortnight of dealing with the root, there was a dramatic turnaround in my fortunes. Everything I lost was gradually restored. Had I seen a checklist similar to the one at the end of this booklet, I would have saved myself five years of misery.

You may well ask why Christians should have such problems. The answer is in Ecclesiastes 10:8 *“Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.”* From birth we all have a God-given protection, and more so when we become born again. God puts a wall or hedge around us. If we stay inside, all is well, but there is trouble if we make a hole in the wall. The serpent will bite.

When we give our hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ we become born again. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*(2 Cor 5:17). We are transferred from Satan’s kingdom to the Kingdom of God. God now puts a hedge of protection not only around us but around all we have. Satan acknowledged this fact in Job 1:10 *“Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.”*

Deliverance

How to deliver someone from bondage, and set him free to abundant life in Jesus.

1. Make sure the person is truly born again
2. He must submit his life totally to the control of Christ (James 4:7 “*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*”)
3. Identify points of entry (doorways) and write them down. Use the checklist for reference.
4. Then take authority over the offending spirits, bind their powers, and cast them out. Sometimes as you begin to pray for the person, and laying your hand on him/her the Spirit of the Lord will descend on him. You will then begin to see some manifestations. Use the entry points identified to command the spirits to come out. If through discernment you know their names, then call them out and dislodge them.
5. You will also find it helpful to ask the person to breathe out forcefully through the mouth. By doing this the spirits will lose their grip and will just fall off like stones out of a bucket when the bottom is fallen out.
6. If the person appears to be ‘slain in the spirit’ shake them awake. Sometimes spirits not wanting to come out can knock the people out, so that inexperienced counsellors will leave them alone. There is a difference between when someone is ‘slain in the Spirit’ because the Lord is doing some work of inner healing and restoration in him, and when the devil uses a look-alike to distract.
7. One of the systems of deliverance in progress is contorted fingers, or feeling of cold or shivers. Usually after deliverance the person may feel exhausted and sleepy. Then joy will come.
8. It is rare for a deliverance to take place without some form of manifestation or sensation. Like when virtue came out of Jesus, when a power leaves a man he will know it.

With the checklist in the appendix, it is easy to find out if there are areas of your life yet to be liberated. Believe me, deliverance is an on-going necessity. Since Satan does not let up, you need to be always on the lookout, and give him the old fashion boot out

STAY FREE

- Make Jesus your Lord.
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Feed daily on the Word of God.
- Put on the whole armour of God.
- Keep close to God through holy living.
- Have regular fellowship with other believers.
- Avoid areas of former demonic doorways

Very often demons will make several attempts to return. The person should assert his/her will and resist the evil at all cost. If symptoms return, they should be ignored. However, if they persist or problem not fully resolved, more ministry may be required. Any spirit allowed to remain will open doors for others. As the parable of the sower illustrates, seeds planted on problem soil cannot last long.

Freedom from bondage is not the “Be all and end all” of ministry. It is useful in that it cleans the person, making right conditions for the seed of the Word to take root and produce fruits in our lives. Therefore there is no conflict between faith teaching and the deliverance ministry. You can’t have one without the other.

In the checklist there are two main divisions. **The Symptoms** show us if we are bound. The **Doorways** show us how and where Satan came in. it will help in keeping our deliverance, because we should be careful not to repeat the same mistakes that invited him in. secondly, we can seal up the entrance with the Blood of Jesus, and keep Satan out permanently.

Among the symptoms are areas which may have started out as works of the flesh, for instance, anger or shyness. Satan can take advantage of all traumatic experiences or character flaws and turn them into bondage. While care must be taken not to over-estimate the devil and blame him for everything, we should not ignore him either. If in doubt it is wise to seek help.

Appendix

In this checklist, tick the areas where you are affected. The Holy Spirit may reveal other areas to you, which are not covered here. You may pray for yourself in some cases, but it is better to seek help from an anointed minister with some experience in these matters. After your deliverance you, too, can follow the instructions in this manual to help others.

CHECKLIST - SYMPTOMS

1. RELATIONSHIPS

(a) TO SELF

Over emotional

Moodiness

Unbelief (logical explaining away miracles)

Limitation (never completing a task)

Suicidal tendencies

Believe you're useless (though with many achievements)

Full of anxiety

Sensation of being pressed down when waking up

Fear of water (e.g. shivers in tunnel under water)

Run of bad luck

Can't retain God's Word

Drowsiness when reading Bible, during prayer or sermon

Difficulty expressing emotions (e.g can't cry)

Secretive (hard to share your heart with others)

Problem taking responsibility

Problem relating to others

Violent/uncontrollable temper

Fear (without foundation)

Irritable

Depression

Nightmares

Poverty

PECULIAR DREAMS

- Masqueraders
- Eating in parties or company of friends
- Climbing but never reaching the top
- Chased by people unknown
- Snakes, dogs chasing or biting
- Sex with person known or unknown, other than spouse

BIRTH COVENANT

- Family name linked to demons/shrine
- Given name ascribing credit to demons/shrine
- Dedicated to spirits at birth
- Childhood traumas (nightmares, apparitions, tragic death of loved one)

ABORTION

- Woman who commits it
- Man who permits or demands it

BODY MARKINGS

- On the face (because of convulsions, seeing ghosts)
- On chest, wrist, head, etc for fetish protection
- Fetish food/drink (brewed by herbalists/witch doctors, or having scriptures read over it)
- Ceremonial bathing at sacred sites
- Active spectator at fetish festivals, shrines sacrifices
- Attended churches or temples where you were required to remove your shoes
- Use of candles in prayer

OCCULTIC CONNECTIONS

- Astral travel (out of body experiences)
- Crystal ball gazing
- Emptying of the mind (chanting, vain repetition in prayer, fixation on a candle light or spot on the wall in meditation)
- Tarot cards
- Horoscopes
- Hypnosis
- Ouija board
- Talking to the dead

Tea cup reading
Martial arts (Karate/Judo)
Heavy metal

PHOBIAS

Fear of crowd
Fear of accident
Perfectionism (e.g. articles remain as placed)
Fear of small space
Fear of poverty (obsessed about money)

(b) RELATIONSHIP - TO OTHERS

Dislike of men/women
Unable to show love to (to spouse or children)
Can't bear to be touched by men
Difficulty submitting to authority of husband
Domination of your wife
No lasting friendship
Often feel misunderstood
Difficulty making friends
Problem accepting authority from others

2. COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOUR

Argumentative
Alcoholism
Nicotine
Drugs
Eating soil/stone
Constant checking and re-checking
Gambling
Hand washing
Nail biting
Wringing hands
House cleaning (obsessed with cleanliness)

3. SEXUAL LIFE

Masturbation
Attraction of same sex
Fornication/Adultery
Soul mates (imaginary husband/wife, often taken out
romantic novels or TV soaps)
Sexual fantasies

4. PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

Frequent illness (recurrent flu/colds)
Frequent miscarriages
Still births
Particular health problem run in the family
Unnatural deaths in the family
Mental or nervous breakdown
Your dreams often come true
Accident prone

DOORWAYS

HOW AND WHERE UNCLEAN SPIRITS ENTER

INHERITANCE

- Before your birth (parents in idolatry or occult practices)
- Parent conceived you out of wedlock
- Parent consulted medium (fortune tellers for your birth)
- Parent(s) did not want you (rejection) e.g. mother still studying, had enough children or were expecting a different sex
- Parent victim of rape