

## Dealing with Demonic Forces

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*(ACT10:38) If you are to wage effective warfare, you must learn how to deal with demonic powers that obsess, oppress, possess the body, soul, spirit. There are people who are tormented, troubled, possessed by the powers of darkness. Jesus said that the casting out of demonic powers was one of the signs that the Kingdom of God had come.(MAT12:22-30) Jesus taught about demons and how He dealt with them. Jesus ministered to all who came with demonic problems. It is example of Jesus and authority of His name provides basis for dealing with demonic powers. Opposition to God's will is Satan's main objective. The word "Satan" means adversary. Satan is primarily God's adversary (JOB1:6) He is secondarily, man's adversary.(IPE5:8) Demons of various natures operate as spirits of infirmity, seducing spirits, unclean spirits. Satan uses them to war against man in body, soul, spirit. Seducing spirits include the spirit of divination. (ACT16:16) Such spirits of divination operate in fortune tellers, witches, palm, to foretell future which is naturally unknown. Evil spirits can oppress people. To oppress means to bear down, or bind from the outside. This oppression is accomplished by evil spirits in various ways. They cause depression, create negative circumstances, and insert wrong thoughts into the mind such as thoughts of suicide, immorality, unbelief, fear, etc. Demons create circumstances. situations which tempt men to sin. Demons can possess human beings. Demon possession is a condition in which one or more evil spirits inhabit body of a human being and take complete control of their victim. A man lived Gadarene in the tombs. The demons tormented him so badly that he went around crying out, cut himself with stones and did not wear clothing. The possessed person is host to resident demons. Possessed person held responsibility with factors that led to his condition. Possession can happen unwillingly. But believers can be affected by demonic powers. It is these powers against which we wrestle. Satan uses demonic powers to attack believers from the outside through oppression. But he cannot possess the true believer. To possess indicates inside occupation. This is what happened when Peter, disciple of Jesus, was used of Satan to try to divert Jesus from suffering for the sins of all mankind. When Jesus described the suffering He was to go through, Peter said: "*Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You! Jesus said to Peter: Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.*(MAT16:22-23) Jesus did not mean Peter was actually Satan. He recognized that at that moment Peter had allowed Satan to operate through him. He was allowing Satanic spirits to influence him.(EPH4:27) If a believer continues in known, unconfessed sin, you will eventually end up in a backslidden condition.(ICO9:27) and again become part of Satan's Kingdom. It is important when you sin, immediately confess your sin and turn from unrighteousness. Demons gain control in several ways: Through generations: Demons may oppress or possess a person because of previous of parents. Through the mind: Continuing in sinful thoughts and actions can lead from oppression to possession and finally to a corrupt mind. This is a mind totally controlled by evil thoughts. Demons gain access thru addiction to drugs, alcohol. Through sinful actions: Sinful thoughts are soon fulfilled by sinful actions. For example, thought of adultery is fulfilled in the actual act of adultery. Sin is rebellion, and rebellious thoughts and actions provides an entry point for demonic activity. Dealing with demonic powers is for all believers who would have the ability to overcome demonic powers: *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons;*(MAR16:17) Jesus has given His followers the ability to deal with demonic powers. He first delegated such power to the disciples: *And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*(MAT10:1;10:8) It is important that believers do not become overly demon conscious. You are not to fear demonic powers. To overcome demonic powers it is important to be able to recognize their presence and tactics. The Holy Spirit has provided a special spiritual gift for this purpose. This gift is called discerning of spirits.(ICO12:10) To discern means distinction between and identify evil spirits. This gift permits believer to discern the spirits operating in others. It prevents deception by lying spirits. Spiritual realm-problems related to sin. These require spiritual healing(salvation, repentance, forgiveness of sin) When a woman of Canaan came to Jesus with an appeal that He cast out an unclean spirit from her daughter, she said *Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed.*"(MAT15:22) How did she know this? She knew it by symptoms. This young girl had an unclean spirit which her mother recognized by outward manifestations of the spirit. A woman who Jesus relieved of a spirit of infirmity was bound physically. Chronic sickness may be demonic oppression. Fast and pray before you go to minister deliverance. Since power, authority for deliverance comes from God. Any deliverance from demon-possession must be done according to guidelines found in the Scripture. Christ and His apostles are our example. It is imperative that we do as they do. Jesus sent out His disciples in pairs for this ministry. Do not make a show of such ministry and try to attract crowds with it. The Lord may direct you to delay until further instruction is given, i.e., they may need to deal with a sin problem. Jesus warned, there would be many who exorcised demons in His name whom He never knew.(MAT7:21-23) When an unclean spirit is cast out of a person, it seeks return with other demons into a human body. They can be repossessed by even greater evil spirits. Therefore, the new spiritual birth/salvation is necessary. In cases of supposed demon activity, Lordship of Christ is what should be emphasized. Since Bible teaches that Christ has achieved victory over Satan and his forces, believers should stand upon that truth, and not be afraid of demonic manifestations. Christ Should Be Magnified/Glorified as Lord. Do not attempt to cast demons into Hell. The demons recognized Jesus and asked if He had come to torment them before their time. There is a set time for the final judgment of demons in the future, to the lake of fire (Hell)

Pray the prayer of deliverance

Pray a prayer of deliverance which focuses on specific problem of demonic influence which you have identified. Just as salvation is based on condition of faith, so is deliverance. God wants to deliver, just as He wants to save. Jesus commanded you to do so just as He told you to spread the Gospel. Jesus gave His disciples authority and power over all demons. *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.* (LUK10:19) All the evil in the world, including death, sickness, demonic oppression is the work of Satan and demons, i.e. "snakes and scorpions." all the power of the enemy indicate. They bluster and rage in order to terrify the people of the world and sow fear and doubt, but the truth is that the least in the Kingdom of God has authority to "trample on them." Jesus gives us assurance that He has given us the power to overcome all the power of the enemy and nothing shall harm us. Jesus taught that first you should bind the enemy, then you can exercise power over him: (MAT12:29) If demonic powers are binding in oppression, pray for their hold to be loosed and their powers to be bound. Jesus loosed the woman in synagogue from the spirit of infirmity. She was oppressed, casting out was not necessary. In cases of demon possession, you have the authority to cast demons out in the name of Jesus. Faith, fasting, and prayer are necessary to cast out demons. (MAT17:14-21) The Word of God; the blood of Jesus and the infilling power of the Holy Spirit are tools for deliverance God has given you. Holy Spirit will direct you in prayer of deliverance. This establishes power base for deliverance. Here is a sample prayer:-  
"*In the name of Jesus Christ and on the basis of the authority of His power, His Word, His blood, and the Holy Spirit .....*"  
"*...I bind you.....*" (Jesus taught to bind the strong man first before attempting to cast him out) "*.....and I command you*" (Ministering deliverance is a prayer of authority. You can speak quietly, but you must take authority over the forces of evil in the name of Jesus. Look directly into the eyes of the person as you speak.) "*...the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_*" (if the spirit has been identified either through spiritual discernment, then name it specifically; otherwise, generally) "*...to depart*" (this is casting out process) "*...without harming \_\_\_\_\_* (name of person being delivered), or anyone in this house, and without creating noise or disturbance" (Sometimes the demon will try to harm the person or create disturbance.) "*...I forbid you to reenter this person*" "*...and I loose the Holy Spirit to fill of this person with the cleansing, delivering power of the blood of Jesus.*"  
Always forbid the demons to reenter. This is part of prayer of deliverance: *When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"* (MAR9:25) Jesus rebuked demons and told them to be quiet. (LUK4:34-35) We are told to loose as well as bind. If you have identified a specific spirit at work, loose the opposite spirit. For example, bind spirit of pride and lose spirit of humility. Prayer for those affected by demons can be done with or without laying on of hands. Jesus used laying on of hands to minister to the woman oppressed with spirit of infirmity. (LUK13:11-13) she was made straight and glorified God. In other cases, He did not lay on hands but rebuked the demons. (LUK9:42) Any conversation with demons is dangerous because there are lying spirits. Praise God for the answer: Follow prayer with praise to God for deliverance. Believe He has done what He said He would do. Thank Him for it. After deliverance, those who have been possessed by demons should be led in a prayer of confession, repentance, and renouncing any sins or involvements connected with the demonic activities. If the person has any occult items should be destroyed. Jesus taught that the departure of evil spirits leaves an empty place. There is danger of a demon returning to his former victim accompanied by worse spirits: (LUK11:24-26) The spiritual "house" must be filled by the new birth experience and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Follow up counseling and ministry is necessary. The person should be immersed in the Word of God and prayer and become part of a community of believers. Those experiencing deliverance from demonic powers also should be encouraged to give their testimony. Jesus told the demoniac of Gadarene: (MAR5:19-20) There are specific ways to protect yourself from activities of demonic powers. The most important protection is to receive Jesus Christ as Savior because demons cannot possess a true born-again believer. Keep yourself from sin, for through sin you "give place to the Devil." Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Demonic spirits and the spirit of God cannot inhabit the same spiritual vessel. Avoid an obsessive interest in demons. Avoid any contact with occult. Do not consult witches, astrologers, horoscopes. Do not serve false gods or allow idols to come into your home: (Deu.7:25-26) It is important to control your mind, your tongue, and select your associates carefully. It is also important to gain victory over the world and the flesh. In Matthew 18:18, Jesus says, "*Whatever we bind on earth, will be bound in heaven and whatever we lose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*" We exercise that same power to set us free. According to the Word of God, we stand strong in the Lord and in the power of His might with the whole armor of God. In the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and in His name, we stand against the wiles of the devil; all principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in high places. How great is our God who not only gives us authority but also the power to carry out His will. At the command of Jesus the disciples had performed miracles. Jesus confirmed their miracles by saying: "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning" (LUK10:18) The miracles of the disciples were an assault against the power of the devil. The Messiah, who was to bruise the head of the serpent, had come. The disciples performed their miracles in His name, It was this message that the disciples were to proclaim, namely that the kingdom of God had come near. The miracles were proof of Jesus' victory. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. The sting of death has been abolished because Christ has atoned for our sins. God has promised us, death will be defeated forever at the rapture, that the resurrection from the dead, when the last trumpet blasts and Christ returns for those who belong to Him.

