

Deliverance

Doug Balzer
Soul Care Equipping Conference

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.
He guides me along right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my
enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of
my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
(Psalm 23)*

Deliverance

*"There are two equal and opposite errors into which
our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve
in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an
excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They
themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail
a materialist or a magician with the same delight."*

C.S. Lewis - *The Screwtape Letters*

Restoring

the biblical/historical ministry of deliverance
as a **critical facet** in the **disciple-making** process

Restoring the **biblical/historical ministry** of deliverance
as a critical facet in the disciple-making process

History - Jesus

Jesus cast out demons
His disciples cast out demons (Lk 10:17)
Jesus said we would do the works he had been
doing (Jn 14:12). He healed the sick, and cast out
demons.

Restoring the **biblical/historical ministry** of deliverance as a critical facet in the disciple-making process

History - Jesus

Jesus never once sent people on mission without first equipping them to proclaim the kingdom, to heal the sick and cast out demons.

The 12 - Luke 9:1

The 72 - Luke 10:1, 17

The global church - Matthew 28:18 - "*exousia*" - always used in context of healing & deliverance

Restoring the **biblical/historical ministry** of deliverance as a critical facet in the disciple-making process

Paul - cast out demons, healed the sick, raised dead

Acts 16:16-18; 19:11-12; 20:7-10; 28:7-9

"Signs and wonders"

Romans 15:18-20; 2 Cor. 12:12

"Power" - *dunamis* - Luke 4:36

Paul's use of: *dunamis* = dozens of times

Romans 15:19, 1 Cor. 2:4

Restoring the **biblical/historical ministry** of deliverance as a critical facet in the disciple making process.

History - Early church fathers cite exorcism:

Justin, Tertullian, Cyprian, Eusebius...

Was one of the primary marks of early church along with divine healing that produced mass conversions

Demonstration of power over darkness gave early church unique credibility in its proclaimed message

"...possibly the most highly rated activity of the early Christian Church" - Ramsay MacMullen in *Christianizing the Roman Empire*

Restore the **biblical/historical ministry** of deliverance as a critical facet in the disciple making process.

History - Early church fathers 70-200 AD

Christians self-identified as combatants in war against darkness

"...many of our people have healed a great number of possessed persons who did not receive healing from any other exorcist, sorcerer, or herb doctor.

They did this throughout the whole world...by driving out the demons in the name of Jesus Christ..." - Justin Martyr - 2nd century

Restore the **biblical/historical ministry** of deliverance as a critical facet in the disciple making process.

History - Early church fathers 70-200 AD

Became a part of pre-baptismal rituals; understood people came out of a life under influence of evil one;

New believers as coming out of darkness, into light.

A variety of approaches.

Although conversant in deliverance, the early church was not fixated on the devil, but rather freedom in Christ.

Restore the **biblical/historical ministry of deliverance** as a critical facet in the disciple making process.

History - 300AD to today
Deliverance become part of the rote ritual with infant baptism in early Roman Catholicism.
Reformers - Luther and Calvin - dispensed of the spoken ritual of deliverance in infant baptism.
Deliverance largely sat dormant until 19th century
Frequently gravitated to extreme margins and then discarded. In this is a warning.
Largely rejected by church in modernity as reaction to scientific reason.

Restore the **biblical/historical ministry of deliverance** as a critical facet in the disciple making process.

Today: Shifting of worldview in popular culture
Acceptance of spirituality among mainstream entertainment media
“In a world taught by *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and in which Lucifer has a self-named program on Netflix, a West that finds it hard to believe in God finds little problem believing in evil.”
-Brian Stiller, *Jerusalem to Timbuktu: A World Tour in the Spread of Christianity* (2018).

Restore the **biblical/historical ministry of deliverance** as a critical facet in the disciple making process.

Today
Shifting of worldview in popular culture
Acceptance of spirituality among mainstream entertainment media
The most logical explanation for egregious evil
Psychological, educational, humanistic experiments reaching their practical limits.
Openness inside the church although often stuck in modern worldview.

Restore the **biblical/historical ministry of deliverance** as a critical facet in the disciple making process.

Deliverance: A facet of disciple-making: mission
Every church needs means to set people free.
Fear of church leaders in area unfamiliar to them.
Keep deliverance “right-sized.”
“We should pay as little attention as possible to the demonic as is pastorally possible. Yet we should confront the demonic as much as is pastorally required.” - Graham Twelftree
Focus remains upon Jesus and freedom he brings.

A Biblical Worldview

Spirits (good and evil) are part of the Biblical world view.
A demon, also called an evil or unclean spirit, is a fallen angel. They have rebelled against God, and seek to kill, steal and destroy. They seek to indwell & control people.
What do we mean my deliverance?
demonic attachments identified
grounds (legal right) removed
verbally cast out
healing and restorative presence of Christ released

A Biblical Worldview

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.
1 Jn 5:19

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.
1 John 3:8

Deliverance principles

One of the primary signs of the coming Kingdom.
Jesus was responsive and not reactive. He never went "demon hunting." Nor should we.
Demonic behind some but not all problems: physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional, organizational, etc.
Deliverance but one facet of discipleship (i.e., 1 / 7 SC)
End game: not critter-ridder but the fullness of Jesus.

Can Christians be possessed by demons?

No. It's the wrong question. Possession=ownership.
Christians are possessed by God.
Possession vs oppression.
They can be "demonized" = *daimonizomai*
"topos" (Eph. 4:27) foothold, influence, ground, access
Can Christians be demonized; have a foothold belonging to demons? Yes.

Can Christians be possessed by demons?

Written to believers:

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

1 Peter 5:8

False notion: God's holy presence cannot have evil present. Satan / Job. Jesus temptation / Satan.

Can Christians have be possessed by demons?

1 Thes. 5:23 - spirit, soul, body - our regenerated spirit is hidden with Christ (Col. 3:3)

Deliverance primarily for believers, not unbelievers

Mt. 12:44 - "unoccupied house" worse than before

With a caveat - as vehicle towards salvation

Additionally, experience has a lot to say - fruit of freedom, joy

The Freedom is Real

A study of over 40 Christian leaders
Improvement or significant improvement:
Hunger for God and Word - 84%
Love for others - 79%
Peace in life - 94%
Joy in life - 85%
Take risks for mission - 78%
Sense of empowerment - 85%
Walking in spiritual authority - 91%
Some form of emotional healing - 96%
Better sex life - 47%

The Freedom is Real

Decrease or significant decrease :
Anxiety- 75%
Fear of failure - 72%
Discouragement - 76%
Shame - 83%
Condemning thoughts - 78%
Feeling of inadequacy - 52%
Power of lust - 35%

How do demons gain access?

Sin
Abuse
Generational
Occult activity
Agreement with lies, fear, bitterness, etc.
Soul-ties, sexual ties, etc.
Curses (religious, behavioural, words)

Know the symptoms/manifestations of demonization

voices in one's head
anger / rage
sense of being tortured / raped
blasphemous thoughts
suicidal thoughts / self-harm / cutting
persistent lack of freedom from sinful acts
physical / mental / emotional illness
condemning thoughts, toxic shame, deep fear
story: discouraged pastor, condemning thoughts
Discern: body / soul / spirit (i.e., stomach ache)

How do we get rid of evil spirits?

They operate on basis of legal access.
Break the ground / foothold. Ground =legal right
Break as much ground as you can up front before the deliverance.
Demonic beings are secondary not primary - our attachments are of primary focus (Kraft).
Captives vs prisoners.
Spirits hide in darkness. Light dispels darkness.
Truth encounter vs exorcism? (Neil Anderson)

How do we get rid of evil spirits?

Do a test (1 John 4:1, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.") We ask Biblical questions. Don't filter. The Holy Spirit never gets a wrong answer.

1 Cor 12:3, "I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit."

Testing for a manifestation until we see clear manifestation (fruit) of Spirit of Jesus - the End Game.

How do we get rid of evil spirits?

Don't go it alone. Go with a discerning team.

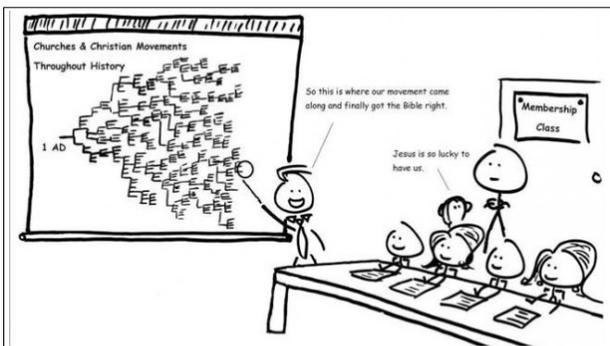
There are systems you can use; Rob's cheat sheet, Charles Kraft, McGraw's War Manual. Learn from others.

Should we "talk" to demons? Jesus did. Don't they lie?

Scripture gives us principles, not specific methods.

Approaches in Deliverance

Approach	Source of Information	Strengths	Limitations	Note
Direct	Demons: speaking directly to	-Easier to teach -Apologetic to sceptics -Ability to 'test the spirits' (1 Jn 4:1)	-Demons lie -Focus upon demonic -Can be slow	Jesus did this (Mk 5:9, 1 Cor. 12:3)
Demonstrative	Observation of what is being demonstrated	-Accessible -Does not require high discernment	-Not likely to reveal root or grounds -Does not 'test'	Jesus did this (Mk 5:1-21)
Discernment	Holy Spirit	-Focus more on God -Strat. knowledge	-Difficult to teach -Does not 'test'	Jesus did this (Mk 7:29, 1 Cor. 12:10)



Process of deliverance:

- Invoke protection and authority
- Test for manifestations of darkness or light
- Discern and break grounds where present
 - Renounce, forgive, confess, heal wound, break curse, etc.
- See if there are other spirits present
- Cast out (rinse and repeat)
- Pray for and release the healing presence of Christ
- Layers of infestation - self-awareness, glass floor, blocked memories, hiding behind lack of self-awareness

Walking in Your Identity, Intimacy and Spiritual Authority

Be spiritually prepared (pant-leg story).
Pray, confess, fast. (some only come out by prayer & fasting= intimacy/authority)
Use your weapons - 2 Cor. 10:3-5 demolish strongholds.
Know and use your spiritual authority in Christ.
(Story - give me a minute - closed my eyes...)
Command to go where Jesus sends them, in Jesus' name.
When stuck, pray, discern, follow the process.
Walk in your identity, ministry out of intimacy.

How do we get rid of evil spirits?

Exercise faith and be persistent! Do not give up. They resist, but they cannot overcome.
Dive in! You'll never feel ready!
Still lots of mystery, but focus on freedom for captives.
If you think you have tormenting spirits, get help.
Nothing to lose, everything to gain.
Jesus ALWAYS wins!

Review the Process - Cheat Sheet

After Care

Walking Out Your Freedom doc

Questions and Responses

Group test

review process

pray for leadership of Jesus in the room, light to shine
on darkness and for peace to reign where there is no
darkness

rebuke fear and confusion

commands

test

stand if you got a negative response in the test

volunteer?
