# **Basic Deliverance**

When a Believer goes from being a baby believer or carnal Christian to a Kingdom worker, they will come up against push-back from the enemy. While the enemy’s primary attacks are in our mind through temptations and thoughts, he does use other methods to get our attention off of God: sickness, financial problems, strange coincidences, nightmares, relationship problems, etc. The point of this discussion isn’t to capture all the ways the enemy works because, ultimately, we want to become “experts” in our heavenly Father, not Satan, the accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10).

Fear is a primary motivating strategy of the enemy. If the previous paragraph scares you, you need to refocus on the greater truth. “Perfect love casts out all fear” (1 John 4:18). God’s love, protection, and provision are far greater than anything the enemy can throw at us (Ps 23, Ps 91). Remember who you are: a child of God and a saint. Rest in what God has already said about you!

We don’t need to be “sin finders.” Nor do we need to look for a demon behind every bush. Just realize that there are demonic forces at play, and evil started in the mind of the Devil. He hates all of God’s creation with a passion. Any way that the Devil can turn God’s Kingdom upside down, he will attempt to do so. As the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph 2:2), he influences “rulers and powers” to do his dirty work (Eph 6:12). When God says something is good, the Devil will say it is bad. When God calls something evil, the Devil will call it good (Rom 1:18-32). That’s how Satan works.

There is no hope or redemption for the enemy and his demons (Jude 1:6-7, Matt 25:41, Rev 20:10). Jesus defeated Satan on the cross, and God’s Kingdom is advancing. The Church is called to carry on the ministry of Jesus, putting this earth back in order and pushing out the enemy (Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). Satan’s most effective plan is to cause the Church (and its members) to be ineffective in carrying out their work, thereby prolonging his demise. He uses lies to create disunity, divisiveness, selfishness, self-gratification, and all forms of fleshly living (1 Cor 1:10, Rom 16:17, Phil 2:3-4, Gal 5).

So what is deliverance? I want to suggest it is bigger than just casting out demons (although it includes that, too.) Similar to Israel’s journey from Egypt to the promised land, deliverance can be considered in terms of segments or seasons. There were three key segments to Israel’s journey:

1. Israel leaving Egypt
2. Israel wandering in the desert
3. Israel entering the promised land.

Israel’s deliverance looked different in each season. In the first season, Israel needed to get out of Egypt. Deliverance in this season could be thought of as a salvation experience, leaving the kingdom of darkness and entering God’s Kingdom. Israel needed to leave a territory, people group, and lifestyle to begin their journey with God.

In the desert, deliverance looked like getting “Egypt” out of Israel: Egyptian thought, culture, religion, artifacts, etc., out of Israeli life. Israel plundered Egypt as they left. They took a lot of artifacts with them, along with the Egyptian mindset. At some point in their desert wandering, they must have realized that thinking and acting like Egyptians no longer made sense. Furthermore, thinking like slaves was also inappropriate. I can picture them discarding Egyptian artifacts in the desert as they followed the Lord’s Tabernacle. This is deliverance in the desert season: Getting things out of our lives that are from the old way of life. These things don’t belong in the life of the Believer.

The final stage was Israel entering the promised land. Interestingly, God said in Exodus 23 that He will progressively drive out their enemies. God specifically says He left them there so they wouldn’t be overrun by the beasts of the field (Ex 23:29). It is as if God was teaching them how to be led by His Spirit in each situation. God was also teaching them how to fight. As Israel drove out the enemies in their land, they became more fruitful (Ex 23:30). Doesn’t this sound like progressive sanctification? Isn’t it interesting that God allowed enemies to stay “in their land” for a time?

Christians have often figuratively said, “We all have our demons.” Whether those are habits, hangups, or actual demons, in this third stage, we need to trust God to drive them out of our lives. The promised land is Israel’s land. Our lives, bought with the blood of Christ, are supposed to be stewarded by us and dedicated to the Lord. Enemies of God are not welcome here. In this season we seek greater unity with God and separation from all things of the Kingdom of Darkness.

Psalm 34:4, 17

*“I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.*

*17 [The righteous] cry, and the LORD hears And delivers them out of all their troubles.”*

“Can Christians have demons?” Many good books cover this topic, but let’s review this from what we know about our identity and the scriptures. Can Spirit-Sealed Christians be fleshly (Eph 1:13, Gal 5:13)? Yes! Can a Righteous Christian choose to sin (Romans 6:12)? Yes! Can a Christian have parts of his body dedicated to worldly things (Romans 6:13)? Yes! Even though it is preposterous, Christians can still live and act as though they are lord of their own lives. (Otherwise, why would Scripture repeatedly tell us not to live this way?) Suffice it to say, a Christian can be double-minded and seemingly have some of their inner “land” devoted to the enemy (James 1:7-8).

One of the most confusing concepts of the topic of deliverance comes from the phrase “demon possession.” In short, the confusion comes from our modern translations of the Bible, which often translate daimonizomai (δαιμονίζομαι) as “demon-possessed.” A less confusing translation may be “demonized.” Strong’s dictionary defines the Greek word as “to be under the power of a demon.” In American English, Merriam-Webster defines possession as “ownership, owned or occupied by, dominated by something.” When we hear the phrase “demon-possessed,” we tend to think, “A demon owns this person.” Christians are bought and owned by God, not demons. That said, few Believers would deny the fact that Christians can be influenced by the demonic. Otherwise, why do we say the enemy tempts us?

Christians can, and often are, influenced by demonic forces. We see from our topic on spiritual warfare that there are demonic powers and principalities behind the scenes pulling the strings of society, leaders, movements, etc. The enemy loves influencing Believers to live like we’re children of Hell. Satan wants us to stay in bondage so that he can influence the world through us. Christians need to be delivered from all Demonic influence, regardless of what form it takes. Like Israel in the promised land, we need to purify and sanctify ourselves (2 Tim 2:21, Col 3:5). We need to be fully dedicated to the Lord: Body, Soul, and Spirit. In this way, we become “whole-hearted” for God (Matt 22:37).

For prayer ministers, most of the deliverance work we do will be replacing the lies with the truth. Secondly, we will be helping people to leave their “Egypt” and embrace God’s “Promised Land” life for them. Sometimes, they will need to leave articles from their past life by the wayside so that they can move forward. But make no mistake, there will be times when we need to bind and cast evil spirits out of a person (Mark 16:17-18, Matt 8:16, Mark 1:34, Matt 10:8).

The Gospel is a Kingdom declaration; it’s a public declaration putting people on notice that a new king has come! We have a job to do as Kingdom-minded Believers.

Matt 10:7-8

*“7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 “Heal [the] sick, raise [the] dead, cleanse [the] lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.”*

Jesus first empowered and called the twelve disciples in Luke 9:2. Then in Luke ten he gives authority to seventy-two other disciples. Finally, in John 14:12 Jesus said, “he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.” We are called to walk in Jesus’ footsteps.

The Church regularly accepts that the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 is for Believers today. Likewise, the Church regularly accepts the Greatest Commandments in Matthew 22:36-40. For some reason, we have a hard time believing Jesus’ words about healing and deliverance are for today. Listen again to what Jesus told His disciples.

Notice that Jesus tells us in John 14:12-15 that we will be doing the same things He’s been doing. Why? Because the same Holy Spirit empowers us (Romans 8:11), and we’re called with the same calling Jesus had. Jesus didn’t leave us as orphans (John 14:18-21), but sons and daughters of the most high God (Romans 8:14-17). We have a job to do, and by faith, we must believe that God can work miracles in us and through us (Acts 3:16, Luke 18:27, Mark 9:23, Matt 17:20, Matt 19:26, Matt 21:21).

The Gospel proclamation is a message to the world that a new king has come, and His name is Jesus. He offers deliverance from the enemy, healing from our sickness, hope from the tragedies we’ve faced, and salvation from our sins. God desires His kids to walk intimately with Him. This isn’t a casual “once saved, always saved mentality.” Nor is it a “do whatever I want and get away with it” mindset (Rom 6:1). We’re talking about marriage with the King of Kings and learning how to trust His provision, protection, and guidance. It’s a covenant relationship, like marriage, rooted in love (Eph 5:23-32).

Ephesians 5:1-2

*“1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”*