

The Kingdom of God and Deliverance from Demons

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Introduction

The world has become a fearful and painful place for many. A large percentage of the population is on psychiatric medicine for conditions like anxiety and depression. Many of our young people are depressed and some even tragically take their own life, believing that they have no real hope for the future. In spite of our growing knowledge in so many fields, hatred and even war seems to be on the rise. Many people today remain under economic oppression. Pandemics of various sorts, cancer and heart disease seem to be on the increase. Do you ever get the sense that things were not meant to be this way? What is behind the torment, the insanity, the selfishness and the suffering in the world?

The Bible makes the bold statement that Satan, the enemy of God, is the god of this age, the prince of the power of the air, and that the whole world lies in the power of the wicked one. But nevertheless, in the midst of this, God has intervened and is intervening. We are getting ready for something better and new, and even now the powers of this new and better future touch our world. When this happens, we can truly say, "The Kingdom of God is at hand". It is within reach.

The ministry of casting out demons is one of the signs from God that better things are possible with God.

"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you." (Matthew 12:28) - Jesus

The Nature of the World We Live In

We live in a Universe that is both spiritual and material.

The material world has its true origin in the spiritual world.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth". (Genesis 1:1)

"God is Spirit" (John 4:24).

There are Angels and Demons in the Spiritual World

“Who makes his angels spirits” (Hebrews 1:7)

God uses angels to be his messengers. He gets them to do things for His purposes in heaven and on earth. Sometimes Christians may even meet an angel who might help them out. They can appear in a wide variety of forms - and can appear like normal human beings at times.

Some angels, led by Lucifer, rebelled against God. These fallen angels are at work in the earth today. They strongly influence the affairs of the world, especially, but not limited to, the political realm. References

There are also multitudes of evil spirits called by the Bible “demons” or “unclean spirits” . We see Jesus and the apostles dealing with these demon spirits in the accounts of the New Testament. The exact origin of these spirits is not explicitly stated in the Bible. Some believe they are the disembodied spirits of a union between women and fallen angels, which was referred to in Genesis 6. Others believe they are simply a lower grade of fallen angel spirit. Whatever the case, they are the enemies of humanity. They are behind an unbelievable amount of sadness, sickness, evil and misery in the world.

Human Beings are Spiritual and Material

We are spiritual, eternal beings living in a physical, material body. Our thoughts are implemented in BOTH physical neural networks in our brains AND in the spiritual substance of our inner being. When your physical body dies, the real you will continue to exist. If you belong to God’s Kingdom, you will go there. It will be glory, bliss, happiness and you will be all God meant you to be. One day you will get a new physical body and live on a new regenerated earth where all will be wonderful.

If, however, the devil or Satan (formerly Lucifer) has a legitimate claim of ownership over you, you will go to his kingdom forever when you die. Your sufferings will likely never end, although some Christians believe that ultimately the soul of the unbeliever will be annihilated, after unspeakable sufferings. In any case, that being taken to hell is the immense tragedy that awaits the vast majority of humanity today. These are the lost ones who live all around, the ones who are being led to the slaughter by their own evil desires reinforced by the influence of evil spirits.

The Bible calls all this rebellion, independence and disobedience to God SIN.

God is not the One to Blame

The world is full of suffering and evil. It is broken. People everywhere are really hurting as a result.

People say, “If God is love, why doesn’t He just stop evil?” Well, the answer is, that for there to be a meaningful relationship with anyone, there has to be a choice. God doesn’t force people to do His will. There is no true love without a choice, and God is true love. He

respects that people can choose to reject the only true source of life - Himself, and side with the spirit of death. We have spiritual choices to make, and consequences to receive.

When we come into this world, as descendents of Adam, we are already weakened by the effects of sin in the world, and we are already born with a kind of spiritual bondage as well as other defects that are a result of sin and corruption in the world. Some people are more affected than others, but everyone is affected in different ways. This is one of the sad results of sin. Sin affects not just the individual doing it, but others and people downstream. This is horrible, and we need to be rescued.

Then the world and its systems, cultures, practices and ways damage human beings further. Satan and evil spirits are doing all they can to promote harmful practices in every field of human existence - medicine, education, politics, business and so on. Human beings only have a limited but real capacity to resist these machinations. We tend to be swept along by culture, tradition and popular belief in many ways.

Not only this, but to a lesser or greater extent, all of us have sold ourselves to do further evil, thus giving Satan and his demons a claim to our lives. One of the effects of this is that evil spirits can get into our minds, blinding us from receiving the very truth that could save or rescue us.

This spiritual blindness can and does affect highly intelligent people, University educated people, as well as simple, uneducated folk and everyone in between. All are affected to a greater or lesser extent.

Christians and church people can and often are still affected by this to some degree. Hence all the brokenness, sin and disagreement in the visible Church.

The Good News

Against this background of tragedy there is still Good News.

In God's great love and with great foresight, God the Father planned a way to get people back to Himself. Back to the One who loves us, who is all wise, who can help us, who has a good plan for our lives, that can be tapped into.

God is good. God is the best. We were made by God, for God. God Himself is the fuel and the source and the true satisfaction for us. We need Him or we don't have a long term future worth having. Sin has separated us all from Him, and had to be dealt with.

God doesn't force anyone to come back, but He makes the way and gives us what it takes to come back.

When Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the world, born of a virgin woman - Mary - He was sent as God the Father's representative in every way. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and in perfect unity with the Father during his earthly life and ministry.

Jesus was sent to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8, Acts 10:38)

Jesus came and cast demons out of people.

Jesus came and healed sick people, demonstrating what the Kingdom of God does for the human body.

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him’ (Acts 10:38)

Jesus taught the way into the Kingdom of God.

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

(Mark 1:14, 15)

To repent means to turn from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to the power of God (Acts 26:18). It is more than a change of mind, more than feeling sorry or regretting past actions, though it includes that. It is a change of heart and a change of direction. It includes a change of heart that leads a person to trust God rather than reject God. It needs to be a long lasting change of heart that will take us out of Satan’s Kingdom into God’s Kingdom - the place where Jesus is King.

All Must Repent

*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but **now commands all men everywhere to repent**, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.*

(Acts 17:30-31)

Freedom from God or Freedom from Sin?

Freedom is an ambiguous word. What do we want freedom from? Many in the world want freedom from God’s rules, or what they think are just the rules of religious men. This is especially true in the area of sex. Because sex can release such pleasure in our brains, people will go for it in ways that God did not design. So people will go for sexual experiences and fantasies that have nothing to do with a loving commitment to a lifelong spouse, but everything to do with satisfying a craving of the body and soul for some kind of other sexual release. It doesn’t matter what people call it - it opens the door to dark powers.

People want freedom from God's laws to engage in sexual perversion without being troubled by it. People want freedom from God's laws to pursue their own imagined greatness in the world without being limited, they feel, by anything God or the Bible may or may not say.

We can go for this freedom from God, but not without at the same time being enslaved to sin and the powers of evil.

You can pursue freedom from God, or freedom from sin and Satan, but not both.

Both God and Satan are more powerful than you. You cannot avoid ending up in the Kingdom of one or the other of them.

If you are not in God's Kingdom, Satan doesn't have to explicitly inform you that you are in his kingdom. You are there, whether you believe it or not. And the proof is in the way you live your life and the way you experience it. You cannot live up to even your own moral standards, let alone the standards of a Holy and Righteous God. To a greater or lesser extent, your life is damaged and cursed. And you cannot do right just by trying to.

If you want freedom from sin and demons, it is available, but it is not easy. God by His grace makes it possible, and does wondrous things for those who come to Him, or who yield to Him. But there are conditions. Our heart response to God's truth is very important.

Before a person, Christian or otherwise, can receive lasting deliverance from evil spirits, they MUST repent - or turn from darkness to light.

What God Has Done to Free You

Because you sinned and disobeyed God's Word, just like all other human beings apart from Jesus Christ, Satan has (or had) a claim on you.

When Jesus died on the cross, what was it for?

There is a lot to this, but let us hear the words of Jesus on the subject.

“just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)

When Jesus gave his life on the cross, it wasn't an accident. It was part of an eternal strategy devised by God even before the world was made, to rescue human beings God knew would be deceived and go their own way.

We came into the hand of the devil and demons, but Jesus paid a ransom price on the cross to get us legally out of Satan's hands.

Paul said to the Christians in Corinth. “You are not your own, you have been bought with a price.” (1 Corinthians 6:19)

His own blood was the price which purchased us out the hand of the devil who only wanted us to destroy us and hurt the heart of God.

Our sins were paid for, and our sinfulness was also somehow dealt with at the cross, in a mysterious way that can only be apprehended by faith.

There is a lot to what Jesus did on the cross for us. The Bible has much more to say, but it is important to realise at least this: because of the cross, your sins can be forgiven, your guilt is taken away and you can have a new life - when you truly believe and call upon the name of the Lord.

Jesus didn't stay dead. He physically rose from the dead as well, with a new kind of glorified body, similar to the one we will receive if we belong to Him at His coming again or our own physical death, whichever comes first.

Our sins are forgiven in Christ, we have a release document so to speak, but we still need to act on it to receive freedom from sin and demons in practice.

The blood of Jesus can cleanse us and sanctify us, and does - to the extent that we repent and believe the gospel.

The Kingdom of God and Deliverance from Demons

The Kingdom of God advances when people yield to the will of God communicated by the Holy Spirit through His Word and our consciences.

Marks of the Kingdom of God are “righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17). These qualities cannot be faked for long. Only the Holy Spirit can produce these qualities in our lives in a genuine way.

The Kingdom of God can touch the political, social and economic realms as well. This is outside the scope of this writing. When God’s Kingdom touches these areas, great blessing results, and fallen angels lose some of their power. However, it is important to note that the Kingdom of God will not fully come to these areas until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes to judge evil and establish His wonderful Kingdom permanently.

For now, we see the Kingdom of God through transformed lives, peace, joy, holy living, deliverance from demons and healing of bodies. When people receive the gospel and receive the Holy Spirit, the Kingdom advances. When people obey God’s Word, the Kingdom advances. The Kingdom advances whenever God’s will is done.

Demons and fallen angels work to hinder the advancement of the Kingdom. If our loyalty is to be to Jesus and His Kingdom, we must begin by seeking the advancement of the Kingdom in our own souls. This part of our being - our mind, will and emotions, needs to come under the effective Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Now We Come to What You Must Do to Be Free from Demonic Power

1. You need to call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the LORD

Shall be saved.

For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,

As the LORD has said,

Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

(Joel 2:32)

For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

This means calling out to Jesus for help and salvation. You need to sincerely ask Him into your life and to save you from sin and demons. You may not be

able to fully trust Jesus at the start, and there might be some sin you can't see, but at least make a start.

The more wholehearted you are in renouncing sin and evil and surrendering to the true authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, the better and safer things will be for you.

To truly call out to Jesus to be rescued, you do need to believe in Him.

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?" (Romans 10:13)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only born Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

God gives us time to repent, but really, there is no time to lose.

Today is the day of salvation - and deliverance.

We don't need only a legal standing with God. We need actual deliverance from sin. You need to cry out to God for this.

2. Forsake Your Pride

I am now speaking to Christians as well as people who are considering coming to the Lord for the first time.

Pride is the mother of all sins. It was pride that made the beautiful archangel Lucifer into Satan, the Prince of Darkness and destroyer of mankind.

Pride blinds us to the truth and opens us to lies.

There is such a thing as religious pride, and it is dangerous, because when we have it we assume we know the truth when in fact we don't.

Pride is about believing that we don't need to listen to God's Word, or obey it. That somehow doing it our own way, in independence from God, would be better.

A proud Christian may be in denial about the sin they are in. You have to be willing to change or you will never get free from sin.

Humbling ourselves is the answer. As the truth breaks in, don't resist it. If you can't see the problem but you know there is one, consider fasting and don't eat for a while - to allow God to show you what is wrong and how you can change. Talk less and listen to God more.

Go to people who can help you - like people who are accustomed to casting out demons, for example. Don't say, "I don't need this."

3. Be Honest

The belt of truth referred to in Ephesians 6 is part of our spiritual armour and related to being honest and real.

Some Christians want to affirm that there is no problem in their lives, based on past tense declarations of the Scriptures (for example, "by whose stripes ye were healed") not understanding that these verses actually speak of a potential to realise or appropriate something that Christ was provided but we may still need in time and space.

It needs to be real. If you have been in pornography, for example, you need to confess it and repent. You need to destroy all such things and remove them from your life. If you have been unloving to others, and your relationships full of strife and selfishness, you need to humble yourself and seek to do what is right, yielding to the love of God and acting out of it. If you are bound by unbelief and cannot accept or believe some things the Bible declares, you need deliverance or you will stay bound. And so on. The Holy Spirit can enlighten you on what needs to change if you are willing and honest.

For some of us, these things are an ongoing process. The faster we get to honesty and humility, the more thorough will be the transformation in our lives.

4. Confess the Darkness and Sin in Your Life

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

Confessing can be done to God, but sometimes we need to confess to people we have wronged. Sometimes, if we want to receive physical healing, we need to confess our sins publicly.

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16)

*"He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."
(Proverbs 28:13)*

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

5. Forgive Others

One sin that is very important to confess and forsake is the sin of unforgiveness. If we want to receive anything from God, including forgiveness, we **MUST** forgive others. If we don't, we will go to hell - Christian or not.

34 *And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.*

35 *"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."*

(Matthew 18:34-35)

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

(Mark 6:14,15)

See also Mark 11:25 which says the same thing and is a warning from Jesus that our prayers will not work if we don't forgive.

6. Repent, Renounce your Sins and Demons and Divorce them

As mentioned earlier, repentance means to turn from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God.

God can set you free from the evil that you count as your enemy. He will not set you free from your friends that you want. He will not set you free from the evil that you really want to retain. Even if he did, you would likely return to it.

If you want to retain drugs, alcohol, porn or other vices, because you trust in the comfort they give your mind, or because of the way they sometimes make you feel, you cannot be free.

You must trust that God can meet your mental, emotional and physical needs without the need for anything perverted or destructive.

It is much better to enjoy the peace of God and the pleasure that comes from being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Specific Prayers of Things to Renounce

It would be difficult to come up with a comprehensive list of all forms of darkness that a person should renounce. It would be a very long list and some things would not be as applicable to some people as others.

Nevertheless, we all need to renounce things specifically.

We need to co-operate with the Holy Spirit, who will be speaking to our minds and hearts, convicting us of sin, showing us the most important things we need to break with RIGHT NOW.

Do not delay in obeying the Holy Spirit.

For those who are not yet true followers of Jesus

If you have never called upon the name of Jesus, trust in Him and His work for your salvation, begin by doing that now. It is best to do it in your own words.

The essence of what needs to be in this kind of prayer would be:

"Lord Jesus, I'm sorry for living my own way without you and for all the wrong I have done.

I recognise you as Lord, King and Savior and surrender to your authority over my life.

Save me from the power of sin.

Thank you for dying on the cross to rescue me and for rising from the dead.

I give my life to you. Please receive me. I will follow you. Help me to do this and lead me in every way into your truth."

If you have never been baptized in water find a believer who is willing to baptize you (put your body under water in Jesus' name) as soon as practical. This is a powerful foundation for your deliverance and should result in great freedom, if your repentance is real. It is a practical step that shows we mean business with God.

Instructions for Everyone - Christians Included

To renounce something means to come out of agreement with it, to stop believing what that thing says to you, to reject it and to basically divorce it.

You need to renounce sin and darkness as a foundation for getting free.

You can use the following template.

I renounce and reject [name of sin and darkness].

If you are a believer and someone who submits to God and therefore comes under God's authority, you can also follow the principle of Mark 11:23 and use spiritual authority to cast this darkness out of your life.

Mark 11:23 says: *"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."*

This is one powerful way to actually implement the words of James 4:7

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7).

The way to resist is not simply to internally brace yourself against demons in a defensive posture, but rather to attack and drive him out through speaking to them

from your new position in Christ and according to Mark 11:23. The mountain of demonic oppression will have to leave, even if it is within your body.

Others can help you with this part if your faith is not strong enough yet. But the part you yourself must do, is to renounce the darkness. So returning to our template:

I renounce and reject [name of sin and darkness].

Renounce any and all of these things. Renounce them even if you have never done them, because they might still be affecting you spiritually as a result of what sins your ancestors have done.

It is estimated that about half the demons a person has will come from their ancestors' sins.

So Renounce:

Unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, fear, anxiety, depression, mental illness, rebellion, rejection, unloving behaviour, selfishness, unbelief, pride, idolatry (especially Freemasonry if you live in the west), stubbornness, indifference to truth, greed, false religions (name them), love of money, gluttony, lust, drug addictions, adultery, pornography, masturbation, sexual perversion of any other kind, doubt, witchcraft (all attempts to manipulate spiritual power to gain dominance and control over people and things), sorcery (which includes an over reliance on medicine - pharmakeia in Greek), divination (attempts to get information by non-approved spiritual means e.g. tarot cards), lying, deception, blasphemy, a critical spirit, over-talkativeness.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything else that you need to renounce, divorce and get out of your life.

Any New Age practices need to be renounced. Reiki, yoga, some forms of meditation, consulting a psychic, and martial arts are among these.

Non Christian meditation practices which empty the mind and create a passive mind need to be renounced, as they open the door to demon powers unbeknownst to the practitioner.

Occultic practices need to be renounced. Anything satanic or related to satanism including human sacrifice, abortion or hatred must be renounced. Even if you have never participated in such, your ancestors may have, and this may have invoked a

curse upon all their descendents, which must be broken through a verbal renunciation done in faith.

False religion like Islam, Hinduism and Freemasonry needs to be renounced. Unbiblical beliefs and practices of Christian or pseudo-Christian groups need to be renounced.

God will show you and it may take a while. You may need to repeat this step multiple times in your life.

How to Actually Get Free - Expel the Demons

The way to take the next step depends on whether you are doing this by yourself or with others present.

Sometimes we need the faith of other believers in Christ to actually get our freedom.

The strong application of the power of the Holy Spirit through other believers is sometimes necessary to actually receive deliverance.

If you can believe you can apply the principle of Mark 11:23 above and speak to the demons and command them to leave. They will be forced to flee if you believe.

At other times, God can deliver you sovereignly without overt human intervention.

In any case, you will know you are free when there is abiding peace and a sense of the presence of God that remains, and the inner torment has left.

Binding demons

Binding means to forbid or stop from operating. You can declare that you bind demons, and this is good, but it is not the same as casting them out. You also have to cast them out, and you yourself have to be loosed from their hold.

So here is your part:

Once you have renounced and someone (yourself or someone else) has commanded these spirits to leave, **you can do a physical act of expelling demons** to prime the pump so to speak and get them moving.

You might feel tension in your stomach or in your chest. You can command these demons to come up and out. **Your job is to breathe OUT in faith and expect the demons to leave with your breath.** Something will start to happen.

It is possible to yawn, to cough, to vomit or even to scream as the demons come out. Sometimes it is noisy and demonstrative, other times it may be relatively quiet - like yawning, or tears. Sometimes demons come out in other ways, but they normally come out through the mouth. But they can come out of the eyes too. If they are merely oppressing from the outside they can come off the head or off another part of the body. But we are aiming mostly to get the demons out that are somehow in our bodies and should not remain there.

Deep Deliverance

Don't be satisfied with getting 2 or 3 demons out. Keep asking the Holy Spirit for light, and get as many demons out as you can. By persistence and faith you will get a deeper cleansing. We want to get everything out, but this may depend on our consecration to God. Are you really willing to be led by God, or not steer your own ship? When we want to go our own way, and choose our own path, we will inevitably navigate ourselves into trouble and further oppression.

Follow Up

Thank God for whatever deliverance you receive and resolve to press on to know the Lord and obey the voice of the Lord. Fill yourself with the Bible, with praise music and if you have never spoken in tongues ask God to give you that power to pray in audible words that your mind does not understand.

We need to find the ways God is leading us to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

I urge you to ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit every day (Ephesians 5:18), every morning (Mark 1:35), so that you can be led by the Spirit. One helpful and supernatural activity is to pray in an unknown language given by the Holy Spirit (Mark 16:17, Jude 20, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Corinthians 14:2, Acts 2:4, Acts 19:6, Luke 11:13, John 7:37-39). This is outside the scope of this writing, but is another major key to freedom. I leave these biblical references as something for you to meditate on, believe and act upon.

We need to learn to live out our lives in a different way, and think and speak in a different way.

Deliverance from demons is usually not a one shot experience. We may need to repeat some of these steps above again, especially as we gain deeper levels of understanding and conviction.

Broken Heartedness and Healing of the Emotions

We also may need to ask God to heal us our own broken heartedness which is a separate issue to deliverance. We need the Father's love to make us whole. It is an ongoing revelation in fact.

Jesus in announcing his mission quoted the prophet Isaiah saying these words.

"The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to *the* poor;
He has sent Me *to* heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to *the* captives
And recovery of sight to *the* blind,
To set at liberty those who are *oppressed*;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."
(Luke 4:18:19)

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8) and His mission statement above is still for today. Today He wants to work through His people, His Body, who are immersed in the Holy Spirit and following His Spirit to make this a reality in people's lives who come to Him by faith.

This is how Paul prayed for the Ephesian Christians and you can make it a prayer for yourself as well.

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints

what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

God bless you as you consider all these things.

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