Freedom from Demonic Strongholds 2 and Wrap-up

Handout

I. Deliverance from demons is an authority issue.

A. Satan rebelled against God, wanting to be “like the Most High” **(Isaiah 14:14)**

B. Adam and Eve rebelled against God, wanting to be “like God, knowing good and evil”. (**Genesis 3:5**)

C. When I tackle a demon I want to be sure that I am submitted to God’s authority over my life.

D. I also want to be sure I am secure in the Biblical authority that belongs to God in the earth and has been assigned to me by Jesus. My God is sovereign and He is almighty and He has commanded me to set the captives free.

1. God gave Adam and Eve authority over all the earth. **Genesis 1:27-28**

2. Adam and Eve gave their authority over to Satan when they sinned. **Genesis 3:17-19.** This is why Satan is called “the God of this world” **2 Cor. 4:4**

3. Jesus took back God’s authority over the earth when He was crucified for our sins, was buried, and was raised from the dead.

a. This what we hear Jesus proclaim in John’s glorious vision of our resurrected Lord in **Revelation 1:17-18**.

b. This is how Jesus can proclaim of Himself and commission us with his authority in **Matthew 28:18-20. Mark 16:17-18**

4. Jesus saw His casting out of demons as evidence that the Kingdom of God had come to earth. . **Matthew 12:27-28.** *If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. 28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you**.* There is no evidence of demons being cast out in the OT. The scribes and Pharisees did not cast out demons.

5. We have the authority of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit to cast out demons!

II. What does it look like to cast out a demon? There is no one-size-fits-all method for casting out demons. You must be led by the Holy Spirit. I am mainly going to talk about deliverance from demons in the context of freeing someone from a stronghold. I have taught throughout this course that there are three kinds of strongholds that can be present in the life of a Christian. Though we have talked about these three kinds of strongholds individually, we have stressed that where there is one, there is usually at least two and often all three.

A. A sin-based stronghold happens when a Christian commits sin and does not repent, especially when the sin is repeated over and over again. Eventually a hardness of heart can develop so that the person is no longer convicted of sin in this area.

1. A fortress of justifications for the sin is erected in the person’s mind and he/she gives himself permission to continue in the sin. Those justifications are lies or wrong thinking not founded on the word of God. Thus a lie- based stronghold becomes entangled in what started as a sin.

2. Satan and his demons take the repeated sin as permission for them to gain influence in the person’s life. Ground has been surrendered to Satan’s kingdom and demon/s build their own stronghold in the midst of the sin and lies.

3. This process happens with especial effectiveness when the sin is unforgiveness, according to **Matthew 18:21-35**.

4. The consequences are also complicated when the sin is sexual in nature. See **I Corinthians 6:15-20**

a. Sexual sin opens a door to the enemy that he is eager to take advantage of by sending in his demons.

b. Demonic soul ties can be built by those demons between the two sexual partners so that even after they repent and separate they still feel “connected”.

c. Wherever there is sexual sin be on the lookout for demonic influence and soul ties. When they are present, they need to be renounced and broken in Jesus’ name.

5. Where there is sin, the remedy must begin with repentance. Even if there is also a lie at the root of the stronghold, Jesus will usually not release truth until the sin is repented of. Neither will a demon permanently leave until the sin is dealt with.

B. A Lie-based Stronghold has a lie that feels like truth at the root of it. The occasion for the lie came through some circumstance of life: it may have been a traumatic event that was misinterpreted or it may have been a pervasive atmosphere in the home growing up or it could have been a controlling relationship or it could have been hurtful words that were spoken by an authority figure. There are many different circumstances that produce these lies, including circumstances that were the consequence of sin.

1. Generally, the order that freedom comes is to first deal with any sin, then look for a lie and ask Jesus to speak truth to the person.

2. After getting rid of sin and lies, if there is still a problem, there may be a demon.

C. Most of the time, demons run when the ground on which they are standing (sin and/or lies believed) are dealt with and removed. You do not have to know the name of a demon to cast it out, but it does help.

1. Look for the entry point. Many times, the entry point has already become obvious as you have dealt with sin and lies. But it is a good idea to ask if the person has ever been involved with the occult or witchcraft: a. fortune telling: Ouija boards, tarot cards, reading tea leaves, palmistry, crystal ball, etc

b. Spiritualism: horoscopes, seances, mediums, automatic writing, spiritualist healing, clairvoyance

c. Magic: both black and white magic, table lifting, levitation, casting spells and hexes

d. False religions: Satanism, idol worship, eastern religions, new age, paganism in any form

2. Another entry point for demons is anger. See **Ephesians 4:26-27***.*

3. Another entry point can be demonization in a family. Where people are brought up in a family where demons are working, it is quite likely that the children will be affected. This is especially true when the mother or father are very controlling. Familiar spirits need to be renounced and their power broken over the person. Sometimes specific action needs to be taken to walk out of the control that has been exerted.

D. Some symptoms of demonic strongholds. When sin and lies have been dealt with and the person continues to have these symptoms: This is not an exhaustive list!

1. Unpleasant physical reactions when the power of the Holy Spirit is present or when Christians are worshiping

2. Addiction to drugs or alcohol

3. A problem with compulsions such as lust, fornication, pornography, masturbation, homosexuality, stealing murder, lying, suicide, eating

4. Bondage to emotions such as fear, depression anxiety, or rage.

5. Bondage to sinful attitudes such as self-hatred, unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, contempt.

6. Chronic physical sickness, especially those sicknesses have been in the family for generations.

7. A history of occult involvement or idolatrous worship.

8. A disturbed family history involving things such as incest, alcoholism and various forms of child abuse.

9. Rejection, fear of rejection, self-rejection can cause people to reject others or to do things that cause others to reject them

E. Some guidelines

1. Work in a team when ministering deliverance. Make sure all team members are trained and in agreement with your methodology

a. United prayer is so helpful! Encourage team members to pray in tongues and also to thank God for the power of the blood of Jesus, the redemption that was purchased on the cross, etc.

b. It is good to have a witness. Demonized people can be manipulative and having a witness is a safeguard.

c. Make sure someone of the same sex as the ministry receiver is present.

2.. Focus on Jesus, not on the demon, for guidance. Do not engage the demon in conversation.

3. Command the demon to leave in the name of Jesus. It is not necessary to shout! Sometimes it helps to have the person renounce the demon and command it to leave, letting the demon know it is not welcome any longer.

3. Pray with your eyes open, being watchful of what is happening. Listen to God as you are praying. Ask the person whether they feel the demon has left. Trust the witness of the Holy Spirit if you feel it has not gone or is hiding.

4. Don’t feel pressured by people or situations. This demon does not have to be cast out right NOW. If the demon is not leaving, there is a reason. Everything does not have to be resolved TODAY. You can always schedule another session for later.

5. Manifestations. There are 2 kinds of manifestations: those that occur as the demon leaves (coughing, crying, laughing, blowing, screaming, gagging, etc) which should not be stopped; and those that are simply the demon showing off (sliding around on the floor like a snake, shaking violently, rolling around, etc) which should usually be stopped by commanding the demon to stop. Use discernment to tell the difference.

6. Do not encourage a build-up of emotions. If the demon does not leave right away, call a short break and let things cool down a bit, Then when you come back, examine entry points again. The person may have forgotten something earlier or they may be hiding something. If needed, stop the session and reschedule for a later time.