

After The Battle, What?

The important thing to remember after deliverance has taken place is. ...

DELIVERANCE IS A WALK – not a once and for all experience without any responsibilities on the part of the person who has been set free.

After deliverance, it is necessary to build certain safeguards around the ground that has been liberated and recovered from the Enemy. Jesus warns in Matthew 12:43-45 that deliverance is not necessarily permanent unless one takes certain spiritual precautions against the Enemy's attempts to return. Thus, if the life of the liberated individual is not filled with faith and spiritually wholesome things, the evil spirit can return bringing with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself and the last state of that individual is worse than the first.

Generally, one should avoid all future contact with any form of spiritism or false religious cults.

Be on guard against new or strange doctrines that are not in harmony with Scripture.

One should not neglect to destroy all occult objects and literature without regard to their cost, such as

Fortunetelling cards, oiuja boards, occult games, magic books Literature from such cults as Rosicrucians, Christian Science, and Unit Literature written by such authors as Edgar Cayce, Annalee Skarin, Harold Sherman, and so on. (See Acts 19:18-19).

It is imperative that one cultivate a strong faith and spiritual life after deliverance. We suggest the following:

STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES

Faith comes by hearing and believing the Word (Romans 10:17). Strengthen your faith with such passages on deliverance, protection, and the power of Jesus' Name and blood as: Psalm 91; Romans 8:28-29; Revelation 12:11; Luke 10:17; Mark 16:17f; John 10:27-29; Isaiah 54:11-17; Ephesians 2:6; Ephesians 6:10f; Exodus 12:23.

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<u>PRAYER</u>

Develop a consistent prayer life. Pray much in the spirit. Praying in fellowship with other Biblically sound Christians in a prayer group develops faith and encourages spiritual growth. Prayer partners are recommended. See Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20.

FELLOWSHIP

Spiritual fellowship with other members of the Body of Christ is essential. A member separated from one's physical body would soon atrophy and die. An ember taken from the fire soon grows cold. Especially does one, who has suffered oppression, need communion with the saints in worship for mutual encouragement, and for spiritual nurture, growth, strength and development. See Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:41-47.

RESISTANCE

After liberation Satan may seek to oppress again, or through temptation attempt to entice the individual to yield to him in order to gain access to his life once more. It is well to remember, therefore, that Satan must have the consent of the individual's will in order to gain an entrance, for we are told in I Timothy 4:1, for example, that those who departed from the faith <u>gave heed</u> to seducing spirits. We are admonished in Ephesians 4:27 not to "give place to the devil", but to "resist the devil, and he will flee from you". (James 4:7). However, EVEN IF THE ENEMY DID BREAK THROUGH IN A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS, ONE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY TAKE A FIRM STAND AND REFUSE TO GIVE HIM FURTHER ACCESS, DEMANDING THAT HE DEPART.

It would be well to keep in mind the following principles of spiritual warfare in order to maintain one's victory over the powers of darkness and prevent any future invasion of one's life by these malevolent spirits:

- Confess your victory and deliverance through Jesus' blood (Revelations 12:11).
- Claim your authority over Satan by virtue of your position with Christ "far above all principality, and power, and might and Dominion" (Ephesians 2:6; Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 2:13-15; Psalm 91; Mark 16:17).



- Use the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit in time of temptation or assault from the Enemy. Jesus overcame Satan's temptations with Scripture saying: "It is written (Matthew 4:1). Paul admonishes us "above all, take the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one" (Ephesians 6:16).
- Resist Satan in faith, for we are in a spiritual warfare in which we can always have the victory if we will take it by faith. (I Peter 5:8-9; Matthew 26:41; James 4:7; Ephesians 4:27).
- Put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD (Ephesians 6:10-18). This should be done in faith DAILY, especially in time of great trial.

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- Command Satan to depart in Jesus' Name when he tempts or attacks in any unusual manner, particularly when he seeks to take some advantage of a weakness, or makes an attack through another individual (Matthew 16:21-23; Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17).
- Keep guard over your mind and thoughts. Absolutely refuse entrance into your heart and mind anything of a negative, critical, contrary, resentful, selfish, or depressive nature.

<u>GUARD YOUR MIND</u> jealously, for this is where the Enemy usually strikes. Refuse every thought that is impure, unkind, offensive, unjust, evil, detrimental, or envious. Resist and repulse thoughts of pride, hate, resentment, slander, doubt, unbelief, anxiety, indifference, wrath, and self-pity. In so doing the Enemy can gain no access to your life, inasmuch as the greater part of his effort is directed toward making an invasion of your mind. Few people resist him, as they should at this point and thus fall prey to his influence and control. Failure to guard the mind and heart against Satan's deceiving, depressive, negative and destructive thoughts and suggestions is one of the major causes of oppression, sickness, fear, discord, depression, despair, strife and failure. "Keep thy heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life".

<u>The responsibility of the one liberated to keep the door closed to further invasions by the</u> <u>powers of darkness cannot be over-emphasized</u>, for we have seen a few who neglected their responsibility suffer oppression again. This warning should be especially heeded by

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those neurotic individuals who manifest a spirit of "self-pity". These individuals desire attention at any cost. Although it is a morbid and pathological sort of desire for recognition, nevertheless they feel such a deep-seated need for attention they actually fear (often sub-consciously) full deliverance lest they lose the notice of others.

Feeling unable to face life, or make independent decisions, and constantly threatened with a specter of failure and misfortune, they do not follow through with their responsibilities and keep the door closed to these dark powers. They constantly lament their fate; confess doubt, fear and failure voicing their problems and troubles to any and all who will listen. Such are to be firmly admonished concerning their failure to accept their responsibilities, never pitied and sympathized with, since this only feeds this selfish spirit of self-centeredness which thrives on attention and will depart only when it fails to get it.

Pray for such individuals, but do not under any circumstances encourage this condition. They must be willing to admit their weakness in this regard, command this spirit to leave, and firmly resist its efforts to return by not encouraging it with their own appetites for attention. There is no cure for the ego-centered person whose liberation from occult enslavement rests entirely in their own wills. They must, if they expect permanent victory, resist any new inroads by this spirit as resolutely as a former alcoholic or drug addict would in taking another drink or injection of narcotics. In all cases, one maintains his position of victory by resistance and faith. CONFESS VICTORY BY FAITH AND STAND ON IT.

In summary, liberation from occult subject and oppression basically involves three steps, which are the essential things to remember in dealing with those who have had any form of occult involvement. They are

Confession of sins of occult participation. Renunciation of Satan and the command for him to depart. Exorcism (when required)

In no case have we failed to see a person liberated from the powers of darkness who sincerely desired it and followed these Scriptural requirements.

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After prayer for deliverance, ACCEPT THE FACT OF YOUR LIBERATION from the powers of darkness by FAITH. Do not rely on "feelings" or "appearances" at this point. Stand on the Word of God – the assurance and evidence WILL COME. At times no change was noted immediately by some of those for whom we have prayed for deliverance, but they later testified to definite liberation from their oppression and subjection occult powers. Satan KNOWS the he must release his victim when commanded to do so in Jesus' Name, but this does not mean that he always does so immediately, or that certain symptoms disappear at once. BOLDLY CONFESS THE FACT OF YOUR LIBERATION BY FAITH FOR THE VICTORY IS WON!

2-23-72

Excerpts from "Angels of Light" by Hobart E. Freeman

