

Freedom in Christ

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Is it possible for a Christian to be under spiritual bondage?

Can a Christian Sin?

Many Christians say that they do not think that it is possible for one in whom the Holy Spirit lives to be bound by an evil spirit. And yet, if we were to ask: Is it possible for a true Christian to sin? The answer would unfortunately have to be: Yes. Christians do sin. Of course, this grieves the Holy Spirit, it quenches the Holy Spirit, it resists the Holy Spirit, but the fact is that sin can be present in Holy Spirit indwelt Christians. And sin is worse than satan. It was sin that turned Lucifer, the archangel, into satan – the fallen angel, the enemy of God and all His people.

Some of the well known Christian leaders who have taught that Christians may suffer from demonic bondage include: Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, Dr. Kurt Koch, Watchman Nee and A.W. Tozer.

The Forces of Darkness

The book of Ephesians is addressed to *“The Saints... Faithful in Christ Jesus...”* Ephesians 1:1. And these Christians are taught not to *“give place to the devil.”*

Ephesians 4:27. In fact the believers are commanded to

“Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against

powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 6:11-12

Be Vigilant

Plainly the ‘we’ spoken of here, are the Believers in Christ. Every Christian should be involved in a personal wrestle against evil forces. Christians are also warned: ***“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the Faith ...”***

1 Peter 5:8-9

Setting the Captives Free

In the Gospel of Luke we read of a woman who had “a spirit of infirmity eighteen years ...” and Jesus called her to Him and said: *“Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.’ He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.”*

Luke 13:12-13

Because the Lord healed this woman on the Sabbath, He came under severe criticism. In response the Lord declared: *“...Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it away to water? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”*

Luke 13:15-16

By describing her as a daughter of Abraham, whom satan had bound, our Lord reveals to us that a Believer can be bound by an evil spirit, even while continuing to attend worship services.

Be Not Deceived

The Bible is full of warnings against being deceived. *"...feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has turned him aside..."* Isaiah 44:20; *"...he deceives himself."*

Galatians 6:3;

"But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

James 1:22;

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

1 John 1:8;

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

Jeremiah 17:9

As our Lord warned His own disciples to take heed that they be not deceived; this means that it is possible for Christians to be deceived. Deception brings bondage. Since it is possible for a Christian to be deceived, it implies that it is possible for a Christian to be in bondage.

A World at War

In "The Christian in Complete Armour" the Puritan William Gurnall (1616-1679) writes that we are all involved in a war between the Saint and satan. *"And it is such a bloody one that the cruelest war ever fought by man will be seen as but sport and child's play, compared to this. Alas, what is the killing of bodies to the destroying of souls? It is a spiritual war that you shall read of; not a history of what was fought in many ages past and is now over, but of a war now going on – the tragedy is present with us. ...the stage on which this war is fought is every man's own soul. There are no neutrals in this war. The whole world is engaged in the quarrel, either for God against satan, or for satan against God."*

□

Films and finances. Monuments and museums. Homes and hospitals. Publishing and parliament. Class rooms and clubs. Media and movies. Science and social media. These are all battlegrounds in this spiritual warfare.

A Life and Death Struggle

The author of Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan, wrote that this is why *"The most delicate Christian must become a stern warrior."*

Whether we believe it or not, and whether we like it or not, this war is raging in our souls, and in the heavenlies every moment of every day and night. It is a life and death struggle to the finish

- against the devil and all his demons. Satan and his cohorts come ‘
...to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...

John 10:10

Two Extremes

C.S. Lewis wrote: *“There are two equal and opposite errors into which we 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.”*

Know your Enemy

In any war a soldier needs to **know his enemy**, their **weapons** and **tactics**, and the **terrain** in which he fights.

The nature and activities of satan are revealed through his different names. In the Scriptures he is called **satan** (the adversary or enemy), the **devil** (slanderer or accuser), **Beelzebub** (lord of the flies), the **serpent**, Lucifer (the light bearer), **a murderer** from the beginning, like a roaring lion, a **liar**, the **tempter**, the dragon, the **accuser of the brethren**, the **prince of the power of the air, the evil one, the deceiver of the world, Abaddon** (or Apollyon – the destroyer), the god of this world, the **beast, belial** (the worthless one) and an **angel of light**.

Demons are created spirit beings. They are fallen angels who have rebelled against Almighty God. Demons are **evil spirits** - they can think and act without a body; they have a character, a mind of their own and a will. They are not human spirits, nor impersonal forces, but actual spiritual persons. The demons are crooked, cruel, contaminating, clever, cunning, cowardly, craving, ceaseless, crouching, crippling, counterfeiting, clandestine, continuous criminals, but at the same time created beings confined in time and space, curtailed in their activities and power, conquered by Christ on the Cross, cursed and condemned.

Like scavengers they attack the tired, the weak, the wounded and the sick. They track down, attack and mutilate their prey. Like flies they gather around any form of filth. Like serpents they can hide and slide secretly, striking suddenly and injecting their venom.

As Ephesians 6 reveals there are principalities, powers, rulers, hosts – an entire *hierarchy* of darkness and deception. The Scripture speaks of lying and seducing spirits (1 Timothy 4:1); idolatrous spirits (1 Corinthians 10:20, Psalm 106:36-38 and Deuteronomy 32:16-17); unclean spirits (Mark 7:25 and Zechariah 13:2); seducing spirits, such as the spirit of Jezebel, spirits of infirmity (Luke 5:15, 8:2, 13:11); and spirits of divination (Acts 16:16).

Demonic Possession

Possession is a legal term that does not necessarily mean the person has an evil spirit within them, but that rather the evil spirit possesses something in, or of, that person. E.g. I may possess a car, but not be in it. You may call it your house, but the bank may have a claim on it through a bond you agreed to. I may even point out and say that that is my car while someone else is in it and driving it. Demonic possession can be when an evil spirit has a hold over something in the life of a person.

Do Not Give the Devil Any Ground

The Scripture urges us to not give the devil a foothold (Ephesians 4:27). Whether it is a toehold, a foothold, a stronghold or a stranglehold, we must personally and practically proclaim the Gospel of Christ's glorious victory on the Cross, not only over sin and self, but also over satan

and all his hosts of evil spirits. Our eyes need to be opened and our hearts cleansed. We need to be set free.

“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8

Immunity

God has given each person a natural physical immunity, a natural mental immunity and a spiritual immunity. Bacteria cannot enter our bodies unchallenged. In the same way we can take control over the thoughts that enter our mind. Similarly, God has placed a hedge of protection around His children. Physically our skin is part of our body's immune system. When a wound breaks the integrity of the skin, bacteria can enter and cause infection, disease and in the case of tetanus, even death.

In the same way demons will try to cause a break in our mental and spiritual wall of immunity against them. Once they succeed in making a gap, an opening or a wound, they will enter in, and establish a foothold, and attempt to gain ground, to establish a stronghold, and ultimately a stranglehold. If a **wound** is not swiftly and effectively treated, it can become a **way** for evil spirits to enter and bring bondage in a persons' life.

By Storm or By Stealth

What the demons cannot obtain by **force**, they attempt to gain by **fraud**. These are the two ways the enemy seeks entrance: by storm
or by
stealth.

It is the same with our physical bodies. While some bacteria enter through the trauma of a vehicle accident or an assault with a knife, others can enter by stealth, such as when we

unknowingly drink contaminated water.

Principles

Watchman Nee taught: For each and everything God has created, there is a law. All actions are governed by laws. Hence evil spirits also operate according to definite laws. Certain causes produce certain effects. Violating the law of gravity will cause one to fall. Putting one's hand into a fire will result in one being burnt. The principles by which demons can successfully break through the hedge of protection God has placed around us, and weaken our spiritual immunity, gaining ground for the devil and bringing us into bondage include: **permission** by the victim; **passivity**; **parental bondage**

, and

para-normal

spiritual activity (such as witchcraft).

"Nobody can make me do something that I don't want to do. If something is not in my heart, the devil will not be able to make me do it!" Rev. Greg Denysschen

Permission

By involvement in occultism, idolatry, stubbornness, rebellion and pride, we can give permission to demonic forces to gain a foothold in our life. We can also give permission unconsciously, through deception. By accepting emotions or deception suggested by evil spirits, we can come under spiritual bondage. That is why the Scriptures commanded us to *"capture every thought and make it obedient to Christ."*

(2 Corinthians 10:5).

Passivity

Passivity also gives permission for evil spirits to work in our lives. The chief condition for the working of evil spirits in a human being, apart from sin, is passivity. *"Passivity is the law: suggestion is the tool the devil uses!"*

Rev. Greg Denysschen

We are commanded to watch, resist, fight, obey, work, trust, test. The Scriptures teach us that a person is cursed when he is slack, lazy or passive in doing the Lord's work (Jeremiah 48:10). Passivity gives place to the devil. Passivity is sin. Passivity is the sin of omission. Passivity is the chief basis of possession. Enemy forces easily occupy unresisting territories. Invaders can soon subjugate passive populations. Tyrants can oppress defenceless people.

Parental Bondage

In The Ten Commandments God declares: *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol..."* The Lord reveals that He is a jealous God, who will punish the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Him (Exodus 20: 2-6). Children are not held responsible, or reckoned guilty, for those sins (Ezekiel 18:20), but they do suffer the consequences of parental sin. This principle is seen in the physical realm. E.g. through children being born with diseases transmitted from the parents and economically through bankruptcy. It is also seen in the psychological realm and in the spiritual realm. Darkness and deception in the ancestral line has the potential for bringing about a familial bondage.

George McDonald wrote: *"I will assert that it is an honour to us to have the sins of our fathers laid upon us. For thus it is given into our power to put a stop to them, so that they shall descend no further."*

Occultism

The fourth principle by which evil spirits work is through witchcraft or occultism. God's Law forbids us to give attention to: *"mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them to be defiled by them; I am the Lord your God."* Leviticus 19:31

"When you come into the land which the Lord your God has giving you, you shall not learn to

*follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For **all** who do these things are abominations to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out before you. You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.”* Deuteronomy 18:9-14

Demonic Devices

The main methods which demons use to bring people into bondage are **darkness** (sin) and **deception**

(lies). They also use doubt, discouragement, difficulty, desire, disobedience, disunity, disease and death. These demonic d's can be easily identified in the downfall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In Genesis 3, satan came with

doubt

to Eve's mind (3:1), then

desire

in her heart (3:6),

deception

(3:4&13),

disobedience

(3:6),

darkness

(3:8), followed by

difficulty

(3:17),

disease

(3:16),

depression

(4:6),

discouragement

(4:6),

disunity

(4:6),

departure

from God and man (3:24; 4:12) and

death

(4:8) – both spiritually and physically. Adam and Eve were

deceived

into darkness by
doubting
in the mind,
desiring
with the heart and
disobeying
with the will.

All sin is darkness. **Persistent sin gives ground to demons and brings bondage** (Proverbs 5:22-23). Sin is the greatest enemy which we have in the world and does us more harm than the devil himself. For it betrays us to the devil and, under the pretense of favouring and pleasing our nature, betrays us.

Sin's Kisses Kill

Sin lusts (Galatians 5:17), fights, wars (Romans 7:23; James 4:1; 1 Peter 2:11) and captivates the soul (Romans 7:23; Proverbs 5:22-23). Sin is madness (Ecclesiastes 9:3). Sin is selfishness, lawlessness, missing God's mark and self-centeredness. In Galatians 5:19 – 21 the works of the flesh are listed: *“Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like; of which I told you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that* ***those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God*** .”

Idolatry Enslaves

Doubt is darkness (Romans 14:23), disobedience is darkness (1 Samuel 22:23), demon worship (Idolatry), is darkness (1 Corinthians 10:20). Any form of idolatry is darkness. Divination is darkness (Deuteronomy 18:10-13) and discouragement is darkness (Ezekiel 13:22).

Lies Bind

Self-centeredness is **idolatry**, which is an abomination to God and gives a foothold to demons. Deception (lies) is darkness and **deception leads to darkness.** Nothing is more infectious than a cleverly cloaked lie.

Lies bind

. It is not harmless to believe a lie. It is not innocent to believe a lie. Believing a lie can have painfully devastating consequences. Ignorance, pride and deception lead to bondage. Lies bind, but the truth sets us free.

Types of Bondage

One can distinguish between two basic types of bondage: **voluntary bondage**, which involves the permission of the person (consciously or unconsciously, actively or passively), and

involuntary bondage

, which would include familial bondage. (The degree of bondage and affliction suffered would be determined by the degree of involvement by the person concerned, the kind and number of evil spirits involved, the ground given, the amount and frequency of exposure to the demonic influence, and the nature and immunity of the person.)

Wounds

Demonic spirits may seek to cause a wound in a person's life, either through that person's own darkness or through another's darkness/sin towards them. Even if no ground was given, sometimes serious trauma can cause such a terrible wound in a person's soul and spirit that they seek to heal the wound through sinful **pleasure**, or **performing**, or **pleasing** people, or inflicting **pain** on others, or **pretending**, or exerting **power** over others, or **pitying** themselves, or through **paralysis (passivity).**

These make matters worse and give ground to satan.

A wound not taken to Christ becomes a way for evil spirits to bring bondage.

The process of deliverance includes us **recognising, repenting, refusing**, and being **ready to resist**.

Signs and Symptoms

Christian missionaries involved in deliverance ministries have identified the following as possible signs and symptoms of demonic bondage:

Physical symptoms: severe headaches and migraines, muscle spasms, nausea, infertility, mouth ulcers, darkened skin, muscle twitching, obesity and anorexia.

Psychological symptoms: antagonism to truth, an inability to reason or listen to others; a suspicious spirit, fear, panic attacks, sudden unexplainable awakenings at night with a sense of oppression and dread; blasphemous thoughts; abnormal depression; temper tantrums; uncontrollable episodes of anger; homosexuality; vacillation; obstinacy; suicidal tendencies; death wishes; multiple personality disorders; schizophrenia, psychotic disorders, drug dependency and alcoholism.

Spiritual symptoms: hostility to the truth; falling asleep while reading the Bible or praying or during church services; difficulty reading the Word of God; aversion to the Gospel of the Cross of Christ; deadness and hardness of heart towards God; no spiritual growth; mediumistic tendencies; an obsession with esoteric, mystical and occultic experiences, such as 'being slain in the spirit' and 'holy laughter'.

Social symptoms: asocial and antisocial behaviour; socializing with people involved in the occult; following the fashions of this world and the spirit of this age; interest and involvement in false religions; and criminal activities.

Symptoms and signs observed **before prayer for deliverance** have included:

Physical swelling of the veins in the temple areas and on the sides of the head, profuse sweating and reddening of the face, wandering and flitting eyes, a seductive look in the eyes, rebelliousness and angry expression of face, glazed-over look in the eyes, dizziness and visual problems with spasms, pain and pins-and-needles movement in parts of the body.

Emotionally: fear, anxiety, anger, suspicion, negativity, etc.

During prayer the person may go into a complete trance where the eyes go blank as if not seeing anything, not even blinking when a hand is moved in front of their eyes. The body may tense up or tremor or sway. They sometimes start speaking in another language or voice (not their own). They may take on the posture characteristic of the particular evil spirit that is troubling them, such as dancing like the monkey god, Hanuman, hissing and writhing like a snake, they may become very aggressive or destructive towards themselves, or those present. They may also vomit or sweat out needles or metal objects from their skin.

Freedom in Christ

“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

The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast (Proverbs 5:22).

Jesus taught that those who sin are slaves to sin (John 8:34). *“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”*

Romans 6:16-18

The Apostle Peter writes of people being *“slaves of corruption”* 2 Peter 2:19

The Apostle Paul writes *“that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”* 2 Timothy 2:26

The Apostle Peter rebuked Simon the sorcerer: *“For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”* Acts 8:23

“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8

On the Cross our Lord Jesus Christ dealt with our sins (1 Peter 2:24; Colossians 2:14), crucified our self (Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20; 6:14), defeated the world (Galatians 6:14), and triumphed over satan and all his evil spirits and hosts of hell (Colossians 2:15; 1 John 3:8).

“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the Cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them, in it.” Colossians 2:13-15

God Alone

Deliverance is a dynamic work of Almighty God, working on the basis of Christ's victory on the Cross, applied by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Deliverance is God's work. Our prayers cannot deliver any person, nor can any method, technique or ritual. God alone delivers by the power of His Holy Spirit. It is not magic or mediums which we need, but Almighty God Himself.

God Resists the Proud

The person needing deliverance must recognise his need and willingly seek help. You cannot help a person who is not really willing to be helped. A person who is bound needs to want to be free. They need to be desperate to be set free by the Lord. The one seeking deliverance should humble himself completely. **God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.** Where there is pride in the heart the person cannot truly be delivered.

Foundations for Freedom

Foundations need to be carefully laid. It is important that the person understands how evil spirits work, by what laws they operate, and what ground for bondage is. Otherwise it will be easy for them to be re-deceived by evil spirits, to again give ground to the enemy. It is the truth that sets us free and unless the person is filled with the Holy Spirit, he will be open for further bondage by evil spirits.

Reclaiming Surrendered Ground

It is only Christ's victory on the Cross that makes deliverance possible. **The ground that was given to evil spirits must be reclaimed before true deliverance can take place**. The process of bondage needs to be reversed. Step by step the ground given to the enemy needs to be reclaimed.

The Counselor

The counselor needs to be **called, cleansed, consecrated and committed**.

Spiritual Warfare

The battle lines have been drawn. This is a battle between light and darkness, holiness and sin, the real vs. the counterfeit, truth vs. deception, forgiveness vs. bitterness, submission vs. rebellion, humility vs. pride, freedom vs. bondage, truth vs. lies, activity vs. passivity and God vs. satan.

The Phases of Deliverance

Like a surgical operation there is the pre-operative phase, the actual operation and the post-operative phase. In the same way the three phases of deliverance are: **Preparation** for the deliverance;

Process of prayer

for deliverance and

Post deliverance

(how to stay free).

Phase 1: Preparation for deliverance requires removing all ground for bondage and preparing ground for deliverance. All darkness must be dealt with ruthlessly. All deception must be discovered and destroyed. All doors that were opened for the demons must be closed, one by one. All ground given to the enemy must be removed, one by one. This requires separating from sin, self-centeredness and satanic activities and influences, and uniting with God, His holiness, light, truth and integrity.

Leaving Egypt and Entering the Promised Land

Negatively the person needs to be dead to sin, self, society and the evil spirits. Positively the person needs to be alive to Christ, holiness and the Spirit of God. As with the people of Israel in the book of Exodus, he needs to get out of Egypt and cross the river to the Promised Land to conquer the enemy. He needs to die to self and come alive in Christ. This involves a **realisation** of where he has given ground to evil spirits, to where he may be in demonic bondage; recognition as to the truth of his condition. This involves

recognising

all ground given to the evil spirits,

relying

on God,
remembering, re-searching
into family background and life and
revelation
from God.

He needs to remember, recall back to memory, those steps, stumblings, and sins that led to his state. **“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent...”** Revelation 2:5

The best way is to write down these sins, one by one, and repent of them, one by one. This list should include all sins of commission and omission.

Repentance

One needs to repent radically and completely. True repentance involves a complete change of mind, and heart, and life and a radical change in attitude, affections and acts. Without repentance there is no salvation. **Without repentance there is no deliverance.** Without repentance there is no relationship with God.

Repentance is the lifeblood of the Christian’s walk with God

. It is at the heart of true Godliness. The crisis and continued life of repentance includes:

conviction

of sins (John 16:8),

contrition

(Psalm 32),

confession

(James 5:16),

cleansing

(1 John 1:7-9),

conversion

(John 3),

consecration

(2 Corinthians 5:15), and

commitment

to Christ (Acts 2:38).

Confession

If we confess our sins He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other that you may be healed (James 5:16). God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible (Ephesians 5:13-14). But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin (1 John 1:7). Confession of sin should be **free, full, frank, factual**, from the heart, in **front** of another Christian, and include

forsaking

sin,

Faith

in Christ's Sacrifice on the cross, and it must be

frequent

Divorce from Sin

Joseph Alleinen in *An Alarm to the Unconverted* writes: *"You cannot be married to Christ unless you are divorced from sin. Give up the traitor, or you can have no peace with Heaven. Keep not Delilah in your lap. You must part with your sins or your soul: spare but one sin and God will not spare you. Your sins must die or you must die for them."*

A Broken and Contrite Heart

Openness without brokenness is not acceptable to God. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart God will not despise (Psalm 51:17). **There is not true confession without conviction of sin and contrition for sin.**

The root of all sin is pride

. Confession breaks arrogance as nothing else can.

We need to renounce and refuse all ground given to demons - specifically, steadily and deliberately, one by one. God commands: ***"Repent! And renounce all your detestable practices."***
Ezekiel 14:6

I must renounce my sins, reject them and refuse to have anything to do with them anymore, to resist any temptation towards them or from them – once and for always.

Restitution

There is no forgiveness without restitution. *“He must make restitution in full...”* Leviticus 6:5

Return what you have borrowed, **restore** what you have stolen, **repair** what you have damaged and **reconcile** with those that you are not right with. Do everything you can to **resolve** conflict and repair your relationships.

Idols for Destruction

Remove and destroy all objects related to demonic activity and sin. Read of the believers in Ephesus who had practiced sorcery how they brought their scrolls together and burned them publically. In this way the Word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power (Acts 19:20).

Full Freedom in Christ

In the war to claim the land of freedom, Joshua left no survivors. In the same way the person in need of deliverance should not rest until every bondage is broken and he is set free from every evil spirit in his life. As William Booth wrote: “For strength to ever do the right, for grace to conquer in the fight, for power to walk the world in white - send the fire!”

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2

Corinthians 3:17

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:2

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:36

“For you brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13

“For this is the Will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men – as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.” 1 Peter 2:15-16

“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:12-14

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

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See also [Reclaiming Surrendered Ground](#)

Reclaiming Surrendered Ground can also be viewed on our website as a PowerPoint on [Slide share](#)