

Introduction

Frank and Ida Mae Hammond Wrote *“Demons are evil personalities. They are spirit beings. They are the enemies of God and man. Their objectives in human beings are to tempt, deceive, accuse, condemn, pressure, defile, resist, oppose, control, steal, afflict, kill, and destroy.*

Demons enter through ‘open doors’. They have to be given an opportunity. There must be an opening. In other words, one does not pick up a demon by walking down the street and accidentally bumping into one that is looking for a ‘home’. The organization of Satan’s kingdom enables him to attack each one of us personally. There is not a person on the face of the earth who escapes his notice. He devises a plan to ruin and destroy each one. It is a sobering realization that you and I are definite targets of Satan’s wiles. But how does he gain entrance?”

First of all: Satan gains access through knowing participation in sin, our unknowing participation in sin.

Secondly: Satan will gain access through unknowing participation on our part, through ignorance, or maybe being forced to do something, or for that matter the sin of others related to us or around us that can affect us.

It's knowingly or unknowingly, Satan is looking for a foothold in our lives and if he can get a foothold, he wants to build a stronghold.

Knowingly participating in sin will **ALWAYS** open a doorway to the devil. Also unknowingly you can participate and open a doorway to the devil in complete ignorance.

Occult Practices and their Demonic Influence

Deuteronomy 18: 9-13

9 When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. **10** Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, **11** or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. **12** Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. **13** You must be blameless before the Lord your God.

There are various occult practices, such as playing with an Ouija Board, Tarot Card Readings, Reiki, Yoga, Martial Arts and Chi, Astrology, and Crystal Energy and Healing, Wiccan and Druid Practices, Witchcraft, Any Roots in the New Age Movements. This list goes on and on with so many demonic occult practices. It's crucial to recognize that these practices can open doors to demons and demonic spiritual influences. Understanding the spiritual ramifications of these things is a step toward seeking deliverance.

Unknowingly or knowingly, you can participate in activities that are 100% rooted in demonic practices. How do you guard yourself and your family from such things? Here in the Northwest, we have a lot of activities that are rooted in demonic practices. Do I dare say that Yoga is a demonic activity? Yes, it is. Yoga is a practice of physical poses, concentration on clearing the mind of negative energy and deep breathing. Yoga is an ancient practice. It is not compatible with Christianity. Any form of meditation needs to be focused fully on God. Not an empty mind.

Anything that pulls us away from God and knowingly and unknowingly is an open door.

Our personal lives are busy, but with what? Are we serving and glorifying God? Are we being filled up to overflow or are we exhausted, and too tired from the activities of the week?

Forms of Malice

Be careful what you pick up knowingly or unknowingly. Forms of malice are always open doors for the enemy.

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Sometimes you pick up a grudge against someone and that festers over time into something that ultimately leads to demonic possession. There are people that are seething with hatred towards others and even towards brothers and sisters in the body of Christ.

How do you talk about events in your life? How do you tear down those who have hurt you? How do you carry bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, and other forms of malice? These are easy open doors.

God is clear about how we handle this and how we are to act on our life circumstances that bring about such things.

What about getting angry? We can get angry, but we are not to sin in our anger. When we sin in anger, we invite the demonic forces of evil to prevail.

Ephesians 4: 29-32

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And

do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

James 3: 9-18

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

SIN

Sin is always an open door for a demon. God is clear on how we are to live our lives. As you can see, we have covered a lot of different types of sin, ultimately sin is sin. The key is how get rid of the sin and walk in life by the Spirit of God. There is no sin that God condones. There is no justification for sin. Get rid of it, let it go, and be free.

Life by the Spirit

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: **sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.** 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the

Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Life Circumstances

Other forms of demonic oppression and possession come from generational curses, soul ties, addiction in all forms, the impact of a traumatic event or multiple events.

Derek Prince names 7 ways demons enter a person,

1. *A family background in the occult or false religions*

Generational curses and practices in the occult or false religion can extend back to over four generations. That goes back as far as your great-great-grandparents.

Exodus 20:3-5 ³ "You shall have no other gods before^[a] me."⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

2. *Other negative parental influences*

When a child does not feel accepted or loved, issues of abandonment can create open doors for the enemy to enter. The life you experienced growing up impacted who you are today.

3. *Pressures in early childhood*

James 3:16 Where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

4. *Emotional shock or sustained emotional pressure (Trauma)*

5. *Sinful acts or habits*

6. *Laying on of hands*

The power may do either good or evil. It may emanate from the Holy Spirit or from a demon, depending on the one whom it flows.

1 Timothy 5:22 22 Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

7. Idle words.

This is an area where many of us are caught off guard, yet one about which Jesus gave us some of His most solemn warnings.

Matthew 12: 36-37 ³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Each of these have specific ways that again, knowingly and unknowingly enter a person and wreak havoc on their lives. We have all been exposed at some point to at least one of these areas. How do we take authority over these things and get set free? (More to come at the end.)

Mindfulness, Emotions, Feelings

What are feelings?

While emotions are associated with bodily reactions that are activated through neurotransmitters and hormones released by the brain, feelings are the conscious experience of emotional reactions.

Which comes first, feelings or emotions?

Emotions come first, then feelings come after as the emotion chemicals go to work in our bodies. Then moods develop from a combination of feelings. Emotions are chemicals released in response to our interpretation of a specific trigger.

When we do not care for ourselves, we become tired, busy, exhausted, and sometimes lazy. This is one of the easiest ways for a demon to gain access and have a stronghold over your life.

The Bible is clear that we all have emotions and feelings.

IT IS WHAT WE DO WITH THEM THAT COUNTS.

The Bible is clear and has way too many verses for me to count about our feelings and emotions. We all have our favorite stories in the Bible where something typically tragic happens and then God redeems the person. Most of the time these people are caught up in some kind of sin.

One of my favorite books is the Promises of God. It is a small book that names all of our feelings and has scripture paired with it. For every feeling that is not of God there is a verse that provides clarity and action.

For example:

We all might have experienced anxiety. If that is the case, what is the verse we use to come against that?

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

I love this because it is a command, an action, and a giving and receiving verse.

The command: Be anxious for nothing

The action: Pray

Giving: Our anxiety

Receiving: Peace of God

Psalm 4 is a favorite of mine.

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have relieved me in my distress; Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer. 2 How long, O you sons of men, Will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness And seek falsehood? Selah 3 But know that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; The LORD will hear when I call to Him. 4 Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, And put your trust in the LORD. 6 There are many who say, "Who will show us any good?" LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. 7 You have put gladness in my heart, More than in the season that their grain and wine increased. 8 I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

We will all continue to experience emotions and feelings. Find ways to track your feelings and emotions throughout the day. Are they honoring God and are we using His Word to combat the negative ones that can lead to oppression, possession, and into the demonic realm?

Conclusion: This is where I will turn it back over to you.

Pastor Todd: Ministry and refresh these points, leading into alter ministry.

Three major areas of freedom

- I. **The immature Christian.** This is someone who simply needs to Grow up in the faith and mature. New believers need to learn the nature of Jesus, know the word, be surrounded by other strong Christian and continue to apply themselves the truth and close the door to the world. Often times believers who have simply not matured or entered into a true lifestyle of discipleship where Jesus is Lord are really easy targets for the enemy. Sometimes infants pick up false ideas about Christianity and Jesus *Christ*. *The enemy loves to take advantage of weak and helpless people. The antidote to immaturity is being formed by the word of God and discipleship. The first question we should ask someone when dealing with any issue is :Do you have a daily rhythm of sitting at the feet of Jesus and reading the word of God? Deliverance comes through being a disciple!!!!They often times don't need demons expelled they need to grow up in the faith and have their minds renewed by the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. You can't cast out immaturity.*

1. **Romans 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
2. **John 17:17-** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
3. **John 8:31-32** ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

II. Removing Strongholds

1. **A stronghold is a faulty thinking pattern based on lies and deception.** Deception is one of the primary weapons of the devil, because it is the building blocks for a stronghold. What strongholds can do is cause us to think in ways which block us from God's best. **The enemy wants you to believe**

this is how your hard wired, his lie is that it is so wrapped into your identity you can't imagine a life without fear. Satan is a liar. The truth "Jesus" tells us we were meant to be free. A stronghold in your life makes you see God incorrectly and yourself incorrectly. Once the stronghold is removed you can see!

2. **Strongholds, cannot be driven out, they must be cast down. Though a lot of times where there is a stronghold there is a strong man (demon) who must be bound and cast out.**

2 Corinthians 10:4- For the weapons of our warfare *are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,*

1. **Strongholds are broken over time while demons are cast out quickly.**
2. **It's important to remember not to give up. While demons at times are quickly removed, a stronghold can take consistency, renewal of the mind with God's Word, and patience to fully remove. Just as the house of thoughts was built over time, it must be broken down with time to ensure its full removal and replacement with God's truth. *Strongholds are broken by the Truth while demons are cast out by the Name of Jesus.***

III. **Expelling demons as modeled by Jesus Christ**

1. Following the pattern of Jesus , using the authority He gave all of His children to cast out demons.
2. **The Christian should always consider the demonic as trespassers. If you are saved by the blood of Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit and sanctified for His use they are unlawfully on our territory.**
3. We are not meant to negotiate with the demonic. As soon as they are discovered they are to be driven out. We repent (Change your mind so you can change your direction), renounce (break all agreements) and expel.