



DEALING WITH DEMONS

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Did you know that Jesus spent nearly 25 % of his earthly ministry casting out demons and healing the sick? Dealing With the Demonic is an in-depth, biblically based training manual examining biblical encounters with demons, the facts, nature and strategies of demons and the believer's authority in Jesus.

David examines teaching about demons from Paul and Jesus and answers the question, "Can a Christian be demon possessed?" **He teaches about the seven stages of demonic influence and four steps to be set free, along with a prayer for deliverance.**

No believer, young or old should be without this crucial information because, *"Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour"*
(1 Peter 5:8).

Arm yourself and buy a second copy for a friend!

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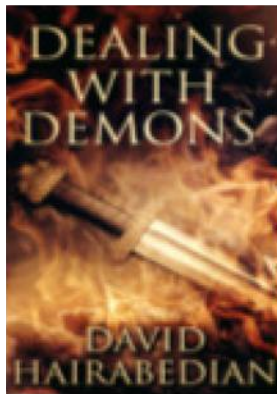
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Dealing With Demons

“The thief (Satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (Jesus) came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10, parentheses mine, RSV).

Did you know that Jesus spent nearly 25% of his earthly ministry casting out demons and healing the sick? Most Bible scholars agree that one-fourth of the Son of God's ministry was spent dealing with sickness and demons--casting them out of God-fearing people in a religious community.

“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1

John 3:8, NAS).

Jesus then multiplied his efforts to set the captives free by giving the 12 disciples authority to cast out demons and sent them into the surrounding towns with this same power (Luke 9:1-3). Jesus later gave this same commission to 70 others. “When the seventy disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, ‘Even the demons obey us when we use your name’” (Luke 10:17, LVB).

If that wasn't enough to deal with the problem of demons in this life, Jesus then gave every believer the power to cast them out. “And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16:17-18, emphasis mine, NRSV). Nowhere in the Bible does Jesus send anyone out to preach the gospel without giving him or her divine authority to cast out demons.

In the book of Acts, a convert named Philip is just one example of a believer who also cast out demons and healed the sick.

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

And there was great joy in that city (Acts 8:5-8, emphasis mine, KJV).

Since Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8), the same power given to the 12, the 70 and then everyone who believes is available to you and me right now in Jesus' name. Healing the sick and casting out demons is part of evangelism.

When was the last time you heard a message about how to properly deal with demons?

If Jesus spent one-fourth of his time dealing with them and never sent out a single minister without also commissioning them to deal with demons, we would be remiss if we didn't "study to show ourselves approved...rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV) on this basic doctrine of our faith. The ability to live a victorious Christian life depends on it.

Are you ready to read on? It may change how you think about this subject. Let's see what the apostle Paul told his converts about demons:

He told the Corinthian Church that they "were not to

be ignorant of the enemy's devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11). He told the Church at Ephesus, "For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies--the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world (Ephesians 6:10, LVB). He warned us to be on our guards against another or different spirit that would try and beguile believers (2 Corinthians 11:3-4). Paul told the Galatian congregation that they had been bewitched by the enemy (Galatians 3:1). To Timothy, his spiritual son, he warned about the last day's battle against these demon spirits. "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times [that's now] some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons" (1Timothy 4:1, emphasis and brackets mine, NAS).

God, speaking through his prophet Hosea said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6, KJV).

What exactly are demons? What is their nature? How do they work against us? Can they affect a blood-washed believer in Jesus Christ? How do we guard against them? I will answer these questions by looking to the Bible. As we will see in the following pages, the Bible says a great deal about this subject.

General Facts about Demons

They are Satan's agents (Matthew 12:24-29). They wage war against God's people (Ephesians 6:10--18). They are called devils (Mark 16:17); familiar spirits (Leviticus 20:6); unclean spirits (Mark 1:27); evil spirits (Luke 7:21); and seducing or deceitful spirits (1 Timothy 4:1). Scripture refers to them 16 times as "familiar spirits," indicating they are familiar with the people they influence.

They are disembodied spirits that seek to enter into a body to express themselves in the earth (Matthew 12:43-45). Thousands of them can simultaneously enter into and take possession of one man, as in the case of the demoniac of Gadara who was possessed by an entire legion (up to 6,000) demons (Mark 5:1-11). They can also enter animals. Jesus cast the Gadarine demoniac's demons into 2000 swine that ran down the hill and drowned (Mark 5:9-13).

They have the ability to influence men (1 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Peter 2:10-12). They act friendly to deceive people (Leviticus 20:6). All unbelievers, knowingly or unknowingly, are more or less in league with them (Ephesians 2:1-3).

They have more than ordinary intelligence (Matthew 8:29). They can speak intelligently through the vocal cords of their host (Mark 1:34; 5:12; Acts 8:7) and can imitate dead people to deceive the living (1 Samuel 28:3-9; 1 Chronicles 10:13; Is. 8:19). They have unique personalities (Luke 8:26-33). They have the ability to teach (1 Timothy 4:1); steal (Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:12);

fight (Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8). They can tell fortunes (like those operating through people on the 1-(900) Psychic Lines) (Leviticus 20:27; Acts 16:16). They can travel (1 Kings 22:21-24). They go out and come back into those they influence (unless cast out and rejected by the individual) (Matthew 12:43-45). They inflict physical maladies, sickness and disease (Matthew 12:22; 17:15-18).

They fear God (James 2:19). They are subject to (must obey) Christ and subject to (must obey) blood-washed believers in Christ. They submit to the name of Jesus and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 8:16-17; 12:28; Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 19:15). They recognize those who have power over them (Acts 19:13-16).

They will eventually be cast into the abyss (Luke 8:31) or bottomless pit (Revelation 9:1-21).

Demons know their eternal fate of “being cast into the lake of fire” (Matthew 8:31-32; Revelation 20:10, 14).

The Nature of Demons

They are evil (Judges 9:23; 1 Sam. 18:9-10); intelligent and wise (1 Kings 22:22-24; Acts 16:16); powerful (Mark 5:1-18). They are not angels (Acts 23:8-9). They are not human (if they were they could not possess men and be cast out to dry arid places) (Matthew 10:8; Luke 12:43-45). They have knowledge (Matthew 8:29; Luke 4:41; Acts 19:15). They have feelings (Matthew 8:29; Mark 5:7); faith (James 2:19); and use false doctrines to deceive believers and non-believers (1 Timothy 4:1);

they possess their own wills (Matthew 12:43-45); have miraculous powers (Revelation 16:13-16); emotions (Acts 8:7); and desires (Matthew 8:28-31).

The Works Of Demons

They influence, demonize and/or possess people and cause numerous negative effects: dumbness and deafness (Matthew 9:32-33; Mark 9:25); blindness (Matthew 12:22); grievous vexation (Matthew 15:22); insanity and mania (Matthew 4:23-24; 17:14-21); convulsions (Mark 9:20); lusts 8:44; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 2:15-17); counterfeit worship (Leviticus 17:7; Deuteronomy 32:17; 2 Chronicles 11:15; Ps. 106:37; 1 Corinthians 10:20; Revelation 9:20); error (1 John 4:1-6; 1 Timothy 4:10; sickness and diseases (Matthew 4:23-24; Acts 10:38); torments (Matthew 4:23-24; lying (1 Kings 22:21-24); enchantments and witchcraft (2 Chronicles 22:6); heresies (1 Timothy 4:1) love of the world (1 John 2:15-17); fear (2 Timothy 1:7) and deceptions (1 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 John 4:1-6).

Ten Facts about Demons

We can glean a great deal of information about these disembodied spirits from Jesus' teachings in the Gospels:

When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, "I will return to the house I left." When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final

condition of that man is worse than the first. (Luke 11:24--26, NIV).

This passage reveals ten facts about demons:

1. They are evil (v. 24);
2. They can go out and come into the bodies of men (vs. 24-26);
3. They can go other places (v. 24);
4. They seek comfort (v. 24);
5. They can talk (v. 24);
6. They make their own decisions (v. 24);
7. They can distinguish between different places (vs. 24-26);
8. They seek fellowship and company with each other (v. 26);
9. They are wicked (v. 26); and
10. They seek control of men (vs. 24-26).

What Is Demonic Possession?

The Greek word used in the Bible for demonic possession is *diamonizomai* (Strong's NT #1139), and is pronounced, Dahee-mon-id'-zom-ahee. It means, to be exercised by a demon and includes the meaning "possessed by a devil," but also includes other lesser degrees of demonic influence. "To have, be exercised by or vexed with, or tormented by a devil." In most situations, *diamonizomai* would be better translated "demonized." When thinking of *diamonizomai*, we

should remember these lesser degrees of demonization (tormented, vexed by, exercised by) as well as being fully controlled (possessed by a devil).

In approaching this subject in this manner, we can properly deal with demons from a Biblical perspective. Since Jesus spent so much of His ministry dealing with this subject, we in a God-fearing, church-going community need to maintain a proper balance in dealing with this sometimes difficult matter. It is important to remember that the devil doesn't care whether we are in the right or left ditch, as long as we are in the ditch and not on the road with Jesus.

With this strategy, the devil has sought to deceive the church into several extreme doctrinal camps: one extreme teaches that Christians don't have to worry about demons or casting them out because they can't be affected by them once they are born again. The other extreme teaches that every time a Christian sins there is a demon that needs to be dealt with and cast out. Both camps are in opposite ditches, shouting across the road of Biblical truth at each other. "You are in error!" All the while the devil laughs with glee.

Can A Christian Be Possessed By A Demon?

Possessed (fully controlled) spirit, soul, and body? Absolutely not. However, Christians can be demon-influenced (demonized), tormented, afflicted, vexed, bewitched, hindered, opposed, oppressed, deceived, tempted, persecuted, seduced, and also brought into bondage. Why else would the Bible warn us repeatedly

about “the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11)? Paul admonished the church at Ephesus, “In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:26-27, emphasis mine, NIV). If a Christian couldn't give a foothold to the devil in the first place, then Paul wouldn't have admonished us against it. Just like we have the ability as Christians to “grieve the Holy Spirit, whereby we are sealed unto the day of redemption,” (Ephesians 4:30), we can also “give place to the devil” through unresolved anger or other sins (Ephesians 4:27).

Demons or Works of the Flesh?

There are 17 works of the flesh listed in Galatians: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness and revellings (Galatians 5:19-20, KJV). The New Living Translations lists these sins as: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties (Galatians 5:19-21, NLT).

Notice, these are not referred to as works of devils, but of men's flesh (sinful nature).

We must distinguish between the flesh and the devil. We must accept responsibility for our actions and not just try to cast out a devil every time we sin. It is our job to “keep ourselves pure” (1 Timothy 5:22). It is our

responsibility to “present our bodies to God as living sacrifices” (Romans 12:1). God has given us the grace to do these things, but it is still our choice as blood-washed believers to “study to show ourselves approved unto God” (2

Timothy 2:15).

It is up to us to walk in the grace that has been given to us so we might be continually “transformed by the renewing of our minds” (Romans 12:2) by the “washing of water by the word” (Ephesians 5:26). At the same time, there is a devil loose and he and his army of demons are “roaming to and fro seeking whom they may devour” (1Peter 5:8). He seeks to put up roadblocks and hindrances to our faith (1Thesalonians 2:18, Galatians 5:7). We are to “steadfastly resist him in the faith” (1 Peter 5:9).

So the key to victory is to “submit ourselves to God” (in our hearts, minds and actions) then we can effectively “resist the devil and he will flee from us” (James 4:7). The opposite is also true. If we refuse to submit to God after becoming Christians, we will resemble what the Bible warns us against. “A dog comes back to what he has vomited, and a pig is washed only to come back and wallow in the mud again” (2 Peter 2:22LBV). That is the way it is with those who turn again to their sin. The devil has access to our lives to the degree that we open the door to him through sin. It is one thing to be persecuted for righteousness, but we can't blame the devil for coming into our lives when we leave him a key under the back door mat.

Cain and Abel

Cain and Abel were the first brothers (Genesis 4). Abel offered his sacrifice correctly and God accepted it (v. 4). Cain offered his sacrifice incorrectly and God did not accept it (v. 5).

God told Cain that if he offered it again correctly it would be accepted, but if he continued to try to do it his own way, then it would be rejected a second time. Then God added this warning, “And if thou does not well, sin lieth at the door” (v. 7). As the rest of the story goes, Cain let sin into his door and murdered his brother. Many men and women have made this same mistake the last 6,000 years. In fact, our prisons are full of those who fell prey to this “work of the flesh,” that was then empowered by devils. “For the thief (Satan) only comes to kill, steal and destroy” (John 10:10, parentheses mine KJV). History has shown that the devil needs a willing vessel through which to do his works in the earth. Just as God is looking for men to preach His Gospel, so is the devil looking for those through whom he can express his nature and works on the earth. Yielding to God keeps us free from Satan’s power.

Jesus Begins His Ministry Of Deliverance

Mark's Gospel begins Jesus’ ministry with the story of a man in the synagogue who was bound by an evil spirit:

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to

teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed (diamonizomai) by an evil spirit cried out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.” News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee (Mark 1:21-28, parenthesis mine, NIV).

At least three things are noteworthy here: (1) the man with the evil spirit was in the church (synagogue); (2) the evil spirit recognized Jesus' power over him and had to come out; and (3) the people were so amazed that they wondered what new teaching and new doctrine this was.

Two thousand years later, when churchgoers see devils cast out of people at church, they say the same thing, “What new thing and new doctrine is this?” Yet Jesus and His followers cast out devils wherever they went. Let's read the rest of this passage:

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her.

So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was (Mark 1:29-34, emphasis mine, NIV).

Not only did Jesus spend nearly a quarter of his time ministering to the sick and casting out devils, 25% of the healings also dealt with an evil spirit. Spirits of deafness and dumbness (Matthew 9:32-33); blindness (Matthew 12:22); convulsions (Mark 9:20); lunacy and mania (Matthew 4:23-24; 17:14-21; Mark 5:1-18); and so on. Based on Jesus' example, we can expect to encounter evil spirits when praying for the sick and we should be prepared to cast them out in Jesus' name. Of course, not every sickness is a devil, but based on our Savior's ministry model we should expect to run into a devil from time to time while effectively healing the sick. (Many don't encounter devils when praying for the sick, and interestingly, these same well-meaning Christians rarely see the sick healed when they pray.

Praying for the sick and casting out devils go hand in hand). (See Acts 10:38). In fact, this was one of the main earmarks of Jesus' ministry. "And you no doubt know that Jesus of Nazareth was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with power, and he went around doing good and healing all who were possessed by demons" (Acts 10:38, LVB). Jesus said in John 14:12, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do,

because I go to the Father” (RSV). Do you believe?

If so, read on...

Seven Stages of Demonic Influence

There are varying degrees (or stages) of demonic influence. The devil never possessed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, but he clearly influenced them, resulting in their poor decision. When they partook of the forbidden fruit (from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) it led to the fall of man. Thank God that Jesus redeemed us by overcoming temptation in the wilderness and by going to the Cross to destroy Satan’s power over us.

Whether the devil tempts us to sin, deceives us into sin, or we simply choose to sin, the results are still the same: “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23 KJV). Said another way, if the devil influences someone to jump off a cliff, tricks them into jumping off the cliff, or he enters their body and throws them off the cliff, the end result is the same -- a fall and a terrible crash at the bottom. Our job as Christians is to recognize the devil’s influence in our lives and stop him in Jesus’ name before he can do irreversible harm.

The seven stages of demonic influence (diamonizomai), also called “degrees of demonization” or “demonic control”, are as follows:

1). Regression (withdraw) -- The enemy influences us to step back from what we know we are called to do. This may concern a doctrine that we know to be true, but we withdraw from preaching it. It may be the fear of

man, persecution, or the seed of doubt entering our mind or heart. Instead of progressing forward, plundering Hell and populating Heaven, we regress backwards. This first stage of demon influence in our lives may come as subtly as missing church a couple of times when we know God has called us to fellowship. When this occurs, repression is soon to follow.

2). Repression (non-expression) -- Next, the enemy moves in a little deeper, burdening our spirit to a degree that we no longer express ourselves when we have something to say on the matter. If the enemy can keep us silent when we know we should be preaching, teaching, or professing what we believe, he knows he can move in deeper still by suppressing us.

3). Suppression (withholding) -- When people ask us about Jesus, instead of answering them we withhold the truth, effectively denying them the Gospel (good news) that can save them. At this point in the game, the enemy knows he can move in even further to depress us.

4). Depression (broken-spirit) -- When the enemy breaks our spirit, others have difficulty lifting us out of our spiritual state of brokenness. We lose desire to even try anymore.

People come to us and share a word of hope or encouragement, but we respond by saying, "Well that may work for others, but it won't work for me." At this point, we need to call out to God, asking him to heal our broken spirit, or things can go downhill quickly. (If you see someone in this state, it is time to pray and fast for this person's restoration and deliverance from the enemy's plan.) It is at this stage of demonic influence

that bitterness, offense, unforgiveness, apathy or anger against God can easily enter in. Paul stated, "Look after each other...Watch out that no bitter root of unbelief rises up among you, for whenever it springs up, many are corrupted by its poison" (Hebrews 12:15, NLT). Once a root of bitterness enters the enemy moves on to oppress us.

5). Oppression (weighed down) -- Once this occurs, a person usually needs someone to help "lift the burden." This is where we cast the spirit off our brother or sister in the Lord.

We must do this with the authority Jesus has given us. Jesus declared, "In my name they shall cast off (cast out, expel) demons" (Mark 16:17). If we don't step in at this point, the enemy, who already has one handcuff on our fellow Christian soldier can easily move to the next phase of his control by shackling the wounded brother's mind through obsession.

6). Obsession (preoccupation) -- This stage of demonic control affects the individual's mind all the time. It may be constant thoughts of doubt, unforgiveness, a grudge, the occult, anger, pornography, or murder. It could be a spirit of suicide, pride, or jealousy. The list of things the enemy could be using is nearly endless, but the preoccupation with it is the telltale sign that the obsession stage of demonic control is present. The person who is under this level of demonic control will often hear thoughts in their head and even voices when no one else can. This level of preoccupation with evil will often cause an individual to curse God, deny Christ, and/or reject the gospel. If this occurs, the

enemy may have free reign to enter the person's spirit and take full control of their lives through possession.

7). Possession (fully-controlled) -- This stage of demonic control involves an individual losing total control of their spirit, soul (mind, will, and emotions) and body. The enemy has free reign to do whatever he wants through the earthly vessel of the human body. The demoniac of Gadara is a Scriptural example of full-blown demon possession (Mark 5:1-20).

Notice how drastically the man is changed once Jesus cast out the demons. "When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid" (v. 15, NIV).

Three Examples from Scripture

How free are you? God tells us to "...keep yourself pure" (2 Timothy 2:21). The Bible never tells us to do something unless God also provides the ability for us to do it.

Jesus, our perfect example, kept Himself pure from Satan's influence through the power of God. He was able to boldly declare, "For the ruler of this world [Satan] is coming. He has no power over me" (John 14:30, RSV). Satan had absolutely no demonic control over Jesus' life. The devil was allowed to crucify Jesus, appearing to defeat Him, but we know this was ordained by God in advance, that mankind might be redeemed (John 3:16; 10:11-15). In fact, Jesus tricked the devil into the crucifixion. "None of the rulers of this age understood

this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:8, RSV). Jesus walked free from all demon bondage in this life, and demonstrated how we can do the same.

Peter, our second example, is a man who was used greatly by God, but Peter also allowed the enemy to use him. At one point, Peter is speaking by direct revelation from the Father, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16, KJV). Jesus replies, “Blessed art thou...for flesh and blood has not revealed this unto you, but my Father which is in heaven” (v. 17). Jesus then gives Peter “the keys to the kingdom of heaven” (vs. 18-19).

The invisible enemy then jumps right on Peter. “Then Peter took him [Jesus], and began to rebuke him, saying, you will not be crucified...” (v. 22). Jesus responds with these astonishing words, “Get thee behind me Satan: thou art an offense unto me: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men” (v. 23).

This scripture clearly shows that the devil influenced Peter to come against God’s plan for Jesus’ life. Jesus immediately recognized the adversary at work through Peter. Instead of ignoring it, Jesus said, “Get thee behind me Satan,” effectively casting the enemy off Peter.

When people come to us with the “plans of man” instead of the “mind of Christ,” we are wise to follow Jesus’ example.

The adversary didn’t give up on Peter, however, but came back for a second run against him. Jesus said, “Peter, behold, Satan has desired to have you, that he

may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not: and when you are converted, strengthen your brethren” (Luke 22:31-32, KJV). Later, Satan did sift Peter. Peter eventually denied Christ three times (spirit, soul and body) and disqualified himself for discipleship.

Jesus, after His resurrection, extended His grace to Peter, restoring him three times. “Peter, do you love me? Peter do you love me? Peter do you love me?” (John 21:15-17). Then Jesus prophesied that Peter would die by martyrdom while holding fast to the faith (vs. 18-19).

Many of us have also denied Christ at a moment of weakness, but God's grace is so far reaching that He comes to restore us. “But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound” (Romans 5:20, KJV). It doesn't matter how far we've fallen, Jesus is there to help lift us up if we'll only call out for deliverance and forgiveness.

Judas, our third example, is a man whom the Holy Spirit anointed with “power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease” (See Matthew. 10:1-8). Judas did not use this power to keep himself pure from satanic influence (following Jesus' example). Judas had a money problem. “For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10). Judas loved money so much that he, “stole from the money bag” of Jesus (John 12:6). Judas left a key under the doormat of his spiritual house and the enemy could get in anytime he chose. Satan eventually picked his opportunity and used Judas as the means to arrest Jesus. “And after the sop, Satan entered

into him [Judas]" (John 13:27). When Satan was done with this compromised minister of the Gospel, he caused him to commit suicide. Judas' love of money, left unchecked, caused him to end up in Hell by satanic assistance.

How many of us have ended up in prison (either physically or spiritually) for a similar reason? Thank God that we've been given a "time out" to recover ourselves from the devil's snare through the grace given by Jesus Christ. "And that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will" (2 Timothy 2:26, NIV).

Here are other scriptural examples dealing with degrees of demonic control:

- Mark 9:14-29 - A boy demonized since he was a child was taken captive by the enemy from time to time, "tormenting him and throwing him into the fire" (v. 18).
- With the demoniac of Gardara the demons completely controlled the man, tormenting him continually. "And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones" (Mark 5:5, KJV).
- Judas brought the torment to himself by his covetousness. "And Satan entered him"
- (John 13:27).
- Peter by his calling (and his pride).
- The apostle Paul was hindered (road blocked) by Satan (1Thessalonians 2:18).

- The Galatians' growth was hindered by Satan through the false (legalistic) teachings within the church (Galatians 5:7).
- Others by generational curses of their fathers or mothers, and yet others by willful disobedience and sin.

Regardless of the cause, Jesus wants to forgive us, deliver us, and put us into the ministry of helping Him set others free. Are you ready?

Entry Ways for Demons

We have already discussed the 17 works of the flesh of Galatians 5:19--20: adultery, fornication, strife, drunkenness, etc. We determined that these are not demons, but rather our own fleshly desires acted out as sin. James says, "When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death" (James 1:13-15, NIV).

We are responsible for our own sinful acts, not the devil. The devil and his army of demons, however, are responsible at times for doing the tempting. Once we yield to the temptation, it gives license for the devil to have place in our lives. That's why James goes on to say, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"

(James. 4:7, KJV), and Paul says, "Be angry but do not

sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger and give no opportunity to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27, RSV). With this in mind, let's study the five entry ways for demons.

The Five Entry Gates of Man

These entry ways cause (or allow) Christians, when in disobedience to the above warnings from James and Paul, to give opportunity to the devil. I heard one Christian jokingly say, "I can resist anything but temptation." His life had been a terrifying example of his honest proclamation. He had served, on the installment plan, 30 of the last 34 years behind bars, and was on another parole violation for drug use. I often say, "If you can't be a good example, you'll just have to be a horrible warning." So we don't fall into the latter category, let's learn these entry ways and close the doors to the devil and his demons, keeping ourselves pure from their influence.

The five gates of man are: (1) the eye gate (things we look at -- magazines, television, other people, etc...); **(2) the ear gate** (things we listen to -- radio, music tapes, conversations, etc...); **(3) the mouth gate** (things we eat, drink, ingest, speak, etc...); **(4) the nose gate** (things we snort -- drugs or otherwise, things we smell, such as odors or aromas that bring us into thoughts of past experiences, etc...); and **(5) the touch gate** (things that arouse us through physical touch, or things we touch that arouse us to any of the 17 works of the flesh). The devil can't make us sin, but he can certainly arouse us to such actions by tempting us to commit sin. Once we sin, then he has access into our lives through our actions.

Our actions against God give Satan entrance into our lives.

The Trojan Horse

The story of the Trojan Horse from Greek mythology can help us to gain an insight into the strategy of the devil and his demons. The Greek siege of Troy had lasted for ten years.

Instead of waging war to get inside the city the Greeks devised a new ruse: a giant, hollow, wooden horse. It was built by Epeius and filled with Greek warriors led by Odysseus. The rest of the Greek army appeared to leave, but actually hid themselves inside the horse.

Meanwhile, a Greek spy convinced the Trojans that the horse was a gift despite the warnings of priests and soothsayers. In the end, the Trojans desirous of the gift, foolishly opened their own gates on the otherwise impenetrable city walls and brought the giant horse inside their domain. The Trojans celebrated the end of the siege, so that, when the Greeks emerged from the horse, the city was in a drunken stupor. The Greek warriors opened the city gates to allow the rest of the army to enter, and the city was pillaged ruthlessly; all the men were killed, and all the women and children were taken into slavery.

All through the sly offer of what appeared to be a free gift.

The devil's schemes are like that. For some it's the attractive Trojan Horse of making some quick money.

This cost Judas his eternal soul for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 27:3-9).

For others, it's the enemy's offer of sex. Samson fell prey and his head landed squarely in the lap of Delilah, the Philistine hairdresser. He lost his seven locks of hair, his strength, his freedom, his eyes, and eventually his life as he died in prison (Judges 16:4-30). David fell prey to Bathsheba and then committed murder to cover it up (2 Samuel 11:1-27). All this because he didn't protect his spiritual gates from temptation.

What is the Trojan Horse the enemy uses with you? Is it alcohol? Drugs? Pornography?

Has the devil placed these things outside your spiritual gates lately? Remember, when you invite these things into your city, he comes with them. Let's look at an all too common example of how the enemy works in the Christian's life.

We Are Not Ignorant Of The Enemy's Devices

He sets before the gates of the blood-washed Christian a beautiful, unsaved woman. The Christian peers at her through his eye gate. She is pleasing to the eye. Her perfume arouses him through his nose gate. They engage in conversation. Her words are smooth and soothing to his soul as he listens attentively through his ear gate. The thought of going to dinner with her sounds appealing. Dinner is safe enough, he thinks. Why not? It's not like I'm sleeping with her, I just want to get to know her better. Besides, she may be sent to me by God

to be my wife! He asks her to dinner, she responds. While waiting for their food, she orders a glass of wine, he says, "I'll take one too. One glass won't hurt," and then it's two.

As glass after glass enters through the mouth gate, his senses begin to dull and his neck tie begins to loosen... He begins to forget the advice of King Lempel's Mother, "Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings...it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes to drink strong drink; lest they forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted" (Proverbs 31:3-5). As they get up to leave, he helps her with her coat. As she slips it over her shoulders, he feels something as they make contact for just a moment. The touch gate has been affected. He is aroused. A kiss follows, and then passion runs wild. The two become "one flesh," and the enemy has ridden in undetected on this seductive filly of the night.

The following morning the Christian tries to repent for his actions, but something seems to hinder him. His desire to read the Bible doesn't seem to be present. His prayers are hollow. God's presence seems withdrawn, the heavens unhearing and silent. Later, a phone call comes his way. It's her. She wants to thank him for such a wonderful evening. Can they go out again? He pauses, remembers the passion, and yields again. The next thing he knows it's been several months time. Church has been on the back-burner. His friends have again become those from the world. All five of his gates are open to the enemy and the level of demon-influence in his life is increasing, although he doesn't know it. He's been too preoccupied with the woman, with making ends meet

financially, and the enemy now has him.

For some, it's back to prison for a dirty Urine Analysis; for others, a new crime to keep that high-maintenance woman in proper attire; or several women by now. Oh, what a tangled web we weave. A dozen of the 17 works of the flesh are now in full manifestation and we have given the devil permission to "take us captive as he wills" (2 Timothy 2:26). For although we are born again Christians, our actions indicate we have once again become "the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2-3). We have, in effect, "given place to the devil."

How to Be Set Free

Whether it's pornography, drugs, gambling, homosexuality, or some other sin that has you, a friend, or a loved one bound, there are four simple steps to be set free from diamonizomai; the demon influence, torment, and vexation of the devil and his minions.

They are simple to remember because they all start with "RE." They are easy to apply because God wants to set us free and all of Heaven backs us in our decision to be free from the bondage of the evil one. Here they are:

STEP ONE -- Re-cognize you are demon influenced. The Bible says, "For we are not ignorant of the enemy's devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV), If necessary, "confess your faults to another, and pray for one another that you might be healed (set free)" (James 5:16, KJV, parentheticals mine), Remember, any believer can cast out the evil one in Jesus' mighty name (Mark 16:17).

STEP TWO -- Re-pent from the sin that gave place to the devil in your life. "If we confess our sin God is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9, KJV). Since the devil is unrighteous, God will cleanse him from our lives once we confess our sins and command him to leave our life in Jesus' name. True repentance is more than just apologizing for our actions. God isn't interested in our apology, but rather our repentance. Repentance is a military term that means to do an "about-face." This indicates an action of turning from sin and turning to the Lord, a 180 degree turn in the other direction. It also means to return to the highest point with God. "Re" means again, and "pent" means the highest point. This is where we get our word "penthouse," the highest point on the building. So, when we re-pent we go again to the highest point possible with God.

STEP THREE -- Re-nounce the sin and all evil imps associated with these activities. Simply say, "Satan, I renounce you from my life. I command you to flee from me now and never return in Jesus' mighty name. I apply the blood of Jesus Christ between me and you right now and declare myself set free from this moment forward. Amen." If necessary, throw out or destroy the Trojan horse the devil rode in on. This could include magazines, music, witchcraft books, false religions, alcohol, drugs, nicotine products, Tarot cards, Dungeons & Dragons, and a variety of occult related Video Games, that invite special powers, entities, or empowerments other than the Holy Spirit, into your life, etc...

In the Book of Acts when the gospel set people free from witchcraft, they "brought their books together and

burned them before all men...so mightily grew the word of God and prevailed” (Acts 19:18-20, KJV). If you keep the Trojan horse in your possession you have given the devil license to come and go in your life as he wills. If you destroy the horse he rode in on, and command him to leave, his power is broken.

With these three steps being accomplished, you are ready to stand against all the enemy’s wiles. Remember, he came at you once and got in, he will try it again. Therefore, it's our job to resist temptation when it comes. The good news is we don't have to resist in our own power. The power to resist temptation always comes before, not during the temptation. It's important that we “give no place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:27). Once he's in, we need to go back to step one and start this process again.

STEP FOUR -- Re-sist the devil. This maintenance step is done by first “submitting to God” (James 4:7). If we try to resist the devil in our own strength, we are bound to fail. However, if we submit to God first, asking Him to clothe us with the “full armor of God” (Ephesians 6:10-18), then we have Heaven's power against the devil, and we will win every time.

Submitting to God is first agreeing with what God says about our sin. Recognizing, Repenting, and then Renouncing it. Then we can stand against the tricks and traps of the adversary with the power of the Holy Spirit and God’s armor assuring victory. And once we are free, we can then effectively avoid the traps of the adversary relying upon the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit. We also stand clothed in His presence with God’s armor

assuring victory. And once we are free, we can then help others get set free using the same powerful steps to victorious Christian living.

Prayer for Deliverance

I confess Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. I believe and proclaim that Jesus died on the Cross for my sins, was buried in the tomb and three days later rose from the dead. Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father and intercedes for me in prayer. By His work on the Cross of Calvary 2,000 years ago, he purchased my freedom from the devil and all his demons. God has promised that if I confess my sin He is faithful and just to forgive me and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness, including all demons and demon bondages. By faith right now, I take God at His word and I confess my specific sins of _____, (Take a moment to ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind all sin you need to confess.) Lord I confess that I accepted the devil's Trojan horse into my life but now I turn to you for help and total deliverance. Jesus, I accept Your absolute Lordship over my life, spirit, soul, and body right now. Cleanse me from all unrighteousness and any and all spirits of unrighteousness that received permission by my actions to enter in my life. I accept this deliverance by the power of your Holy Spirit right now in Jesus' all-powerful Name, the name above every name. Satan, I command you to depart from me and my family right now in Jesus' Name! Amen.

Remember, if the Son sets you free (and He has), you are free indeed (John 8:36). Begin to thank and praise

God for your deliverance and prepare to resist the devil when he comes next time. Get into the Bible today. Begin reading in Matthew and continue through the whole New Testament. Go to church. Fellowship with other believers. Spend time each day in prayer, talking with God. Commit yourself to fasting one day a week. As a believer, you have victory today, because you are now submitted to God. All Heaven backs you on your decision to remain free. The devil is a liar, but God is the Truth and “greater is He [Christ] in you than he [the devil] who is in the world” (1 John 4:4, KJV). Now, go forth in victory, in Jesus’ Name.

Bonus Section

The Secret to His Power - His Presence vs. His Anointing
Pastor Darin Shorey

People often ask me to help explain the difference between the Presence of God and the Anointing of God. This is an excellent question and one that I sought the Lord for understanding for many years before hearing someone explain it in this simple way. The Presence of God is His Nature, while the Anointing of God is his Power. The Presence of God is His being (who He is), while the Anointing of God is His doing (what He does). The Presence of God is His Person, while the anointing of God is his Power.

People often make the mistake of seeking the anointing, while the real key is to seek the Anointed One. Jesus is the Anointed One, and He has all the anointing and power. The Anointing of God (his power)

is wrapped up inside his Person (his nature). If you want the anointing to go and do the works of Jesus, you have to first seek the Face of the Person of Jesus to learn his ways. In His presence you will learn his ways, and then He will trust you with the anointing to go release his powerful acts. The Bible says in Psalm 103:7: "God made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel." You can witness miracles, signs and wonders, like the children of Israel did daily, but unless you know his ways (his nature, his person, his character), you will go back to business as usual once the man of God leaves the area and returns to spend time alone with God on the mountaintop.

But if you learn His ways, he will trust you to release his powerful acts wherever He sends you.

Jesus said, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29 NKJV). To truly take the yoke of Jesus upon our lives means to walk with him in agreement. Releasing the supernatural comes by agreement. Without God we cannot, without us, for whatever reason, God will not. He looks for someone to agree with him on earth so that "it might be done in earth as it is in heaven" as Jesus taught us to prayer (Matthew 6:10). "Can two walk together unless they be agreed" (Amos 3:3 KJV). It is during these times special times alone in His presence that we truly learn from Jesus. His character rubs off on us. His nature becomes part of us. We begin to think like He thinks and act like he acts. We are filled with His love for the lost. We want to see the sick healed, the lame walk, the deaf hear and the blind see. We want to see drug addiction broken and

the captives set free. The Bible says that when we spend time in His presence, "we are changed into the same image of Jesus from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

The anointing comes by association; by spending quality, regular and undistracted time with Jesus. This transformation process occurs through three primary foundation stones: (1) Spending time in prayer, (2) Spending time in Worship, and (3) Spending time in His Word (the Bible). When we've been faithful to lay these three foundation stones God will begin to trust us with the anointing and build the house.

Another simple way impartation and empowerment occurs is when we associate with others who have already been entrusted with His precious anointing. These men and women of God who have spent time in his presence now carry the nature and power of Jesus. These people also carry the anointing to do the works of Jesus. It is through these anointed people God will often speak to them to release an impartation through the laying on of hands or transfer a measure of His precious anointing to us. We know that we are warned not to associate with evil people because "Bad company corrupts good character"

(1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV). We can also see from Scripture that associating with the Godly people will sometimes release the anointing for service. The apostles spent 3 ½ years with Jesus and then went and "turned the world upside down" with the power of the Holy Spirit after Jesus was raised from the dead (Acts 17:6). The seventy elders in the Old Testament received

the spirit of prophecy because they were in association with Moses, who had already this gifting (Numbers 11:24-25). When three different groups of soldiers came near the Prophet Samuel, the spirit of prophecy upon Samuel also fell upon them and they began prophesying (1 Samuel 19:20-24). Elisha received a double portion of what Elijah carried by serving him and being in association as his servant (2 Kings 2:9-14). Paul longed to see the church members at Rome, “so that he might impart to them some spiritual gift that would help strengthen them in the faith” (Romans 1:11). The anointing comes by association. It is important to associate with people who carry the nature and power of Jesus. The presence is His Nature, the anointing is His power.

The Key to His Power

The Bible records something very interesting in the Book of Acts. It says that apostles were untrained and ignorant men but were performing the same miracle of Jesus. The Pharisees, were very educated, and knew the word of God, but didn't know the God of the Word.

Therefore, no miracles occurred through their hands or ministry. The Pharisees made a telling observation about the apostles in the book of Acts. “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13 NKJV). The key to the anointing, is spending time in God's presence, spending time with Jesus. The key to miracles is spending time with the

miracle worker, Jesus. The key to receiving his power comes only by first receiving his nature. This comes from spending time in His Presence. The Bible clearly states that “All power and authority resides in Jesus” (Matthew 28:18). Any power outside of Jesus is not the power of God. It is not the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

When you spend time with Jesus you will learn his ways, and his powerful acts will flow through you. As God changes you and trains you, he can then trust you with more and more of the anointing of His precious Holy Spirit. You will then go forth and release his acts. You will do the same works of Jesus, because it is Him doing the works through you by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27 KJV). Jesus wants to see his promise fulfilled through you that you will do “even greater works” than he did, because it brings people to him and releases more of His glory (John 14:12-14). He is inviting you into His presence to prepare you for service. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8). Are you ready to receive this power? The Holy Spirit is Jesus unlimited!

BIBLICAL FASTING – Are you ready to go to the next step? Jesus said, “When you give”

(Matthew 6:3), When you pray (Matthew 6:6), and “When you fast” (Matthew 6:16).

Notice Jesus didn’t say “If you give, if you pray, and if you fast?” Evidently, to Jesus, giving, praying and fasting are all taught by him as part of the normal Christian life. In fact, Jesus positioned Giving on one side of the Lord’s

Prayer and Fasting on the other, they hold the truth of prayer together like book ends.

Fasting – The Key To The Breakthrough And Release Of Heaven’s Power

Below is a teaching vignette from a Pastor Darin Shorey, New Brunswick, Canada. He highlights 9 different types of fasts in Scripture. Since Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit once he came out of the waters of baptism (See Luke 4:1), but not yet released in the POWER of the Holy Spirit until he had fasted (see Luke 4:14), I wanted to include this article for your encouragement, knowledge and empowerment. Jesus is our example. The Bible says that Jesus began doing miracles and casting out demons after he was released in the power of the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:38 says, “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the **Holy Spirit** and **power**, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. Jesus had the Holy Spirit AND power. To properly defeat the flesh in our own lives, and the devil in this present world, we need the Holy Spirit’s presence, and the Holy Spirit’s anointing (the power).

One of the keys to receiving mastery over the enemy is do things the way Jesus did things, and Jesus fasted (Luke 4:1-15). After he fasted, “Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him” (Luke 4:14-15). Fasting is one of the Biblical keys that will unlock heaven’s power in and through your life.

**By Pastor Darin L. Shorey, Family Worship Center,
St. John, New Brunswick, Canada**

During one of Isaiah's many conversations with God concerning the nation of Israel, the Word of the Lord came to Him like never before. He was so stirred in his spirit that he wrote it down. The nation of Israel was experiencing a national crisis that included a rebellion against the commandments of God. Isaiah needed clear direction and he needed it now!

The Lord said, "Is this not the fast that I have chosen; to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out, when you see the naked, that you cover him and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily and your righteousness shall go before you. The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'" (Isaiah 58:6-9 KJV).

God said that the answers would come as light breaking forth like the morning! God desires to provide His children with clear direction for every question and a solution to every problem, whether it's spiritual, physical, financial, legal, mental or emotional.

Decisions like, "What is my calling and purpose? How can I best prepare myself for the next chapter of my life, after prison? How can I be most fruitful for God where I'm presently planted? How can I deal with specific

problems with God's wisdom?" He is very interested in your life and enjoys leading you toward the best of each day!

Too often, we stand in the dimness of twilight -- which is neither light nor dark. Like driving your car at dusk, twilight makes it difficult to see the road clearly. Without clear illumination, you might miss an important sign or take a wrong turn, delaying your arrival to a desired destination. Many decisions we make are actually defining moments! During many of these defining moments, we feel like we are driving in twilight. Though there are many good resources available to us today to assist us in making good choices, there is none better than the resource that God reveals here to Isaiah, "Is this not the fast that I have chosen?"

What does fasting do? It opens the door of communication with God and it creates an incredible sensitivity to the realm of the Spirit. God tells Isaiah that some things are only achieved through a selfless sacrifice, a denial of the lesser pleasures of life in order to enjoy the greatest pleasures of God!

Jesus demonstrated to his disciples one day that certain miracles and deliverances only happen when prayer is combined with fasting. The disciples were unsuccessful in casting a demon from a boy. Jesus took the boy, rebuked the demon and instantly the boy was set free by the power of God. These same disciples, who earlier, were given authority to cast out every devil (see Matthew. 10:1; Luke. 9:1, 10:17), but failed in this instance, were astonished at the ease at which Jesus cast the demon out. It became a teachable moment.

They inquired of Jesus, saying, "Rabbi, why could we not cast it out?" Jesus replied, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting" (Mark. 9:29, NKJV).

Jesus knew the secret power of combining prayer and fasting. Where did he learn this secret? Scripture says that right after John baptized Jesus the Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, Jesus was "full of the Spirit" (Luke. 4:1). Once filled, "the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to fast" (Matthew 4: 1; Luke. 4:1-2). After fasting for a season the Bible says, "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit" (Luke 4:14 KJV). What was the key?

Fasting. Before Jesus was led by the Spirit to fast 40 days, Jesus was "filled with the Spirit."

After fasting, however, an additional supernatural dynamic was imparted to him. He was released in "the power of the Spirit."

Jesus began his ministry immediately after receiving the Spirit's **power** in the wilderness.

"And news of Him went out from the entire surrounding region" (Luke 4:14b).

Fasting released God's power for Jesus to minister to the people in miracles, signs and wonders.

Since Jesus is our role model and example, then we should follow his leading. Start by asking Him how, and how long, you should fast. If you've never fasted before you may try not eating after 6:00 PM, then eating dinner the following day (24 hour fast). You can drink water if you like, or go without water. However, don't drink coffee or eat candy. Simply trust God to give you the

grace, and He will. The next time you fast, try 36 or 48 hours, then try a three day fast. God will lead you from there and you will see His power released in and through your life. I've heard many Christian teachers say, "You have not because you ask not." Though this statement by itself is scriptural, I wonder if there might be more to it than that. Maybe we have not because we fast not!

Here is an overview of the nine fasts mentioned in the Bible to help get you started:

- The Disciple's Fast -- Fasting for the freedom from addiction (Matthew 17:20-21)
- The Ezra Fast -- Fasting to solve problems (Ezra 8:21-23)
- The Samuel Fast -- Fasting to win people to Christ (1 Samuel 7:1-8)
- The Elijah Fast -- Fasting to break crippling fears and other mental problems (1 Kings 19:2-18)
- The Widow's Fast -- Fasting for the needy (1 Kings 17:12)
- The Saint Paul Fast -- Fasting for insight and decision making (Acts 9:9-19)
- The Daniel Fast -- Fasting for health and physical healing (Daniel 12-20)
- The John the Baptist Fast -- Fasting for an influential testimony (Matthew 3:4; Luke 1:15)
- The Esther Fast -- Fasting for protection and deliverance from the evil one (Esther 4:16).

May God bless you abundantly as you continue to

seek and serve Him with all your heart!

Pastor Darin Shorey **An Unseen War**

(We received this letter at our sister ministry, HeartPrisonMinistries.org, that highlights the unseen war men and women face every day):

Dear Heart of America Prison Ministries,

I would like to share some of the good treasures that our Father has shared with me. The Authority of the Believer (Ephesians 1:18-2:6).

“These present days there is an unseen war raging on every front: the war between the forces of righteousness and the forces of wickedness and between God and Satan. The world, the nation, the church, the family and every individual on planet earth are specific targets of attack by the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12).

The average man on the street is totally unaware of the invisible war, even though he is very directly involved, and in many cases, he is being swept away by the forces arrayed against him. He interprets everything from world crises to personal traumas as natural happenings. He sees no connection between unseen spiritual forces and such life tragedies as divorce, illegitimacy, sexual perversion, abortion, child abuse, disease, financial collapse, drug abuse, and crime. Furthermore, Mr. Average citizen believes that man is his own savior, and that increased knowledge and scientific advancement will eventually remedy all of

mankind's problems.

While the forces of evil have been increasing in boldness and strength, even to the point of seeming invincibility, as God has been gathering and training a vast army of spiritual soldiers. These soldiers of the cross know who the enemy is, and are not ignorant of his tactics. They know their spiritual weapons and how to bind the satanic strong men. The trumpet of God is now sounding the call to battle. It is time for the great army to go forth in full battle array through fasting and prayer. This army is the true church of the living God.

(Not everything that is called "Church" is His Church).
Time is running out. Arise, O Church!

Truth is the key to freedom. Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). There is much truth in the Bible which pertains to Satan and his kingdom.

This area of biblical truth is a necessary part of that which must be embraced in order to experience freedom. It is certainly a fact that Jesus spent much of His earthly ministry in dealing with the devil and in emphasizing principles of spiritual warfare. If it were not important for us to know about Satan and his ways then the Bible would have remained silent on the subject. Satan is the one who stands to lose the most when Christians gain understanding about who they are in Christ and who the devil is. Satan does not want us to understand that he has already been defeated. Jesus defeated the devil. He took away all the armor in which Satan trusted (Luke 11:22).

Therefore, the devil can do no more than we permit him to do. When Christians really comprehend Satan's limitations and their own equipping, they will be encouraged to confront the devil directly, bind him, and spoil his house. There are two levels of spiritual warfare. One level of warfare involves the casting out of demons. This is commonly designated as the ministry of deliverance. A second level of warfare is that of wrestling against principalities, powers, world rulers, and spirits of wickedness in the heavenly places

(Ephesians 6:12). We do this through prayer, standing in the gap (Ezekiel 22:30-31).

I believe that it is time for the Church to confront these spiritual Goliaths. You may recall that young David conquered the giant with his slingshot (ours is prayer, "The effectual fervent prayer" referred to in James 5:16) but he became experienced with his weapon while protecting his sheep from lions and bears. In a similar way, the church has been learning the tactics of spiritual warfare through deliverance ministry among the "sheep", and now it is time to face demonic strong men. This letter is written because of a deep desire of heart that the Church, God's army, become totally aggressive in spiritual warfare.

Too many Christian Soldiers remain inactive and ineffective in the time of battle.

It is my prayer that all the Saints of God will become Saints at war by the Holy Spirit!

Enclosed are also 20 Forever stamps, to help with the prison ministry. May the Lord be glorified through this

humble tithe offering for His Kingdom. In His name and service, Bro. Freddy, Tennessee

About Heart of America Prison Ministries

At the time of this writing Heart of America is providing Study Bibles and Discipleship Teachings in more than 1,000 prisons, state and federal. With the financial support and hands on help of people like you we are *Helping Changing Lives...One Bible at a Time!* Many have asked how they can help change a life. The Lord directed us to create a program entitled, *"Raise up 12 Disciples behind bars."* With a donation of only \$25/month Heart of America is currently able to provide a first-quality leather or new generation simulated leather Bible that retails for \$50-80. These Bibles are then delivered directly to the prisoner at mail call, just like I received in 1990 that helped change my life. While on the Bible waiting list the prisoner also receives several discipleship teachings provided through this donation amount.

The Lord highlighted the main difference between the prisoners who get on the Bible waiting list from behind bars and then wait up to two years for their Bible and the average Christian who attends church on the outside who has access to a Bible at their leisure. "The prisoner actually takes the time to read theirs." Often for hours and hours a day since many prisoners have nothing but time on their hands and realize they need a Savior.

If you sense the Holy Spirit is prompting you to help change a life with a Study Bible through Heart of America Prison Ministries here's a way you can make a

DAVID HAIRABEDIAN

difference now. Join our “Help Raise up 12 Disciples this Year” Bible Program. You can also make a one-time donation online: www.HeartPrisonMinistries.org, or send a check to Heart of America Prison Ministries, P.O. Box 1685, Independence, MO 64055. Jesus and our staff want to say thank you in advance for helping change lives...One Bible at a Time! The prisoners who will receive their Bible will also thank you in person, when you meet them in heaven!

HEART of AMERICA
PRISON MINISTRIES

Final Prayer over you from David Hairabedian

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to speak to us 2,000 years ago. Jesus, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to guide us personally, into all truth so that we might be changed into the image and likeness of the Son of God. Holy Spirit, tune the ears of my spirit to hear you when



you speak whatever you hear from Jesus. I ask you to make it so clear that not even a fool can misunderstand. I thank you for telling and showing me the things to come, as Jesus promises you will. Today, I ask you to teach me personally, by the School of the Holy Spirit that I may learn to hear and obey the voice of God. I ask this in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.

God Bless you richly as you become more and more sensitive to His voice!

May God change you, and then change the world around you by the Power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Mighty Name!

Author, David C. Hairabedian

Arrested with a Stolen Jet - David is a critically acclaimed author, speaker, and lead pastor. His autobiography "Jet Ride to Hell, Journey to Freedom" tells of his incredible transformation story – one that exemplifies God's beautiful plan of redemption and grace. David was a convicted felon, where he spent 20 years in federal prison for stealing multi-million-dollar jet aircraft for the Colombian drug cartel. However, a life's path that seemed to have stamped a one-way ticket to hell was dramatically changed by a mother's prayer and a faithful God. A riveting storyline that includes a sting operation carried out by 20-armed federal agents on the tarmac of a South Florida runway, and the tales of a prisoner living inside America's maximum-security prison, Leavenworth Penitentiary – this autobiography will captivate you from start to finish!

To purchase a copy of David's autobiography, Jet Ride to Hell, Journey To Freedom, visit VirtualChurchMedia.com or Amazon.com

David and his wife Joanna Hairabedian are co-founders of VirtualChurchTV.com.

They live in Southern, California. David is an author, teacher and conference speaker. Joanna is a writer, singer, a Prophetic Psalmist. Together, they host a weekly TV Broadcast called, In His Presence, Where ALL Things are Possible. David teaches and Joanna plays piano and sings. People report receiving encouragement, deliverance, healing and a tangible Presence of the Lord while watching these programs.

To download their ministry mobile app and access their ministry on demand, visit VirtualChurchMedia.com

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Through the generous donations and prayers of people like you, our Sister ministry, HEART of America Prison Ministries helps provide leather-bound study Bibles to inmates on our waiting of more than 2,000 prisoners.

HEART Ministries was originally received through a vision from the Lord while David Hairabedian was sitting in a prison cell in 1990 awaiting sentencing. During David's incarceration God answered his mother's prayers and Jesus visited him. David's life was forever changed. Shortly thereafter, David received the gift of a Leather-bound study Bible in the mail from a former prisoner. For the next twenty years David spent 3-5 hours a day in this Bible learning more about God's love for the world. His heart's desire now is to see others arrested and transformed by the same irresistible love and power of the Holy Spirit that transformed his life.

To learn more about how you can Help change lives, one Bible at a Time, or to donate for Bibles for prisoners, visit HeartPrisonMinistries.org.

Partnering with us to Help Raise of 12 Disciples a Year through our Bible a month program can be life changing for the prisoner as well as the supporter. Visit HeartPrisonMinistries.org to learn more how you can be the answer to someone's prayers.

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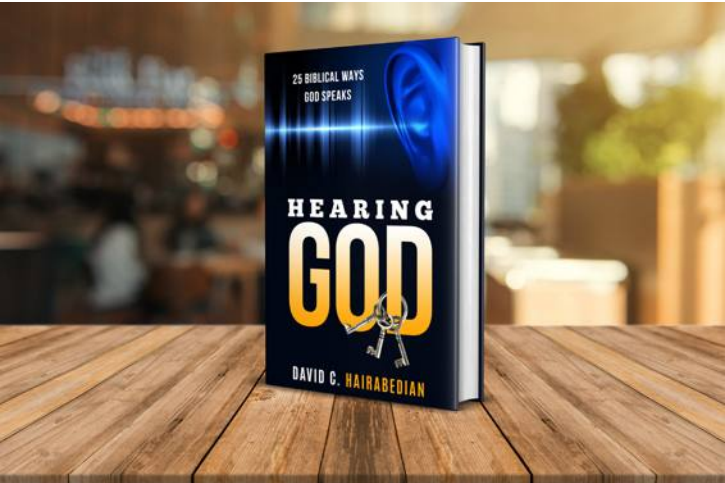
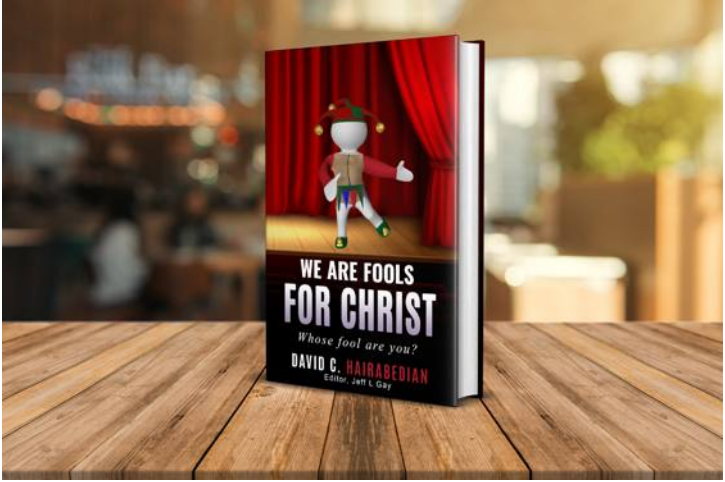
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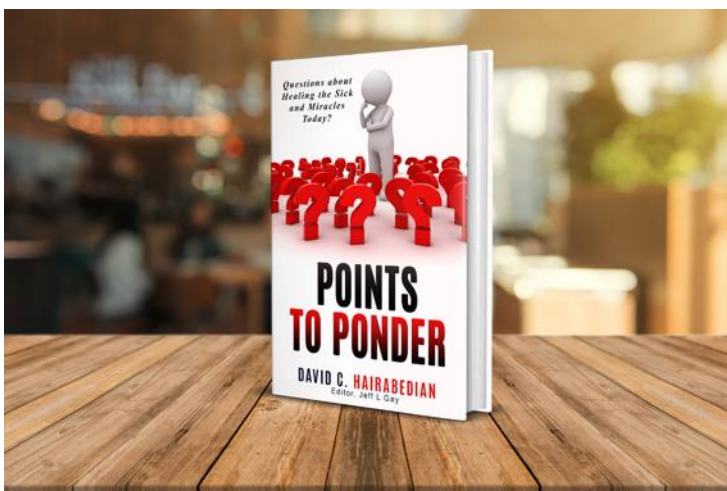
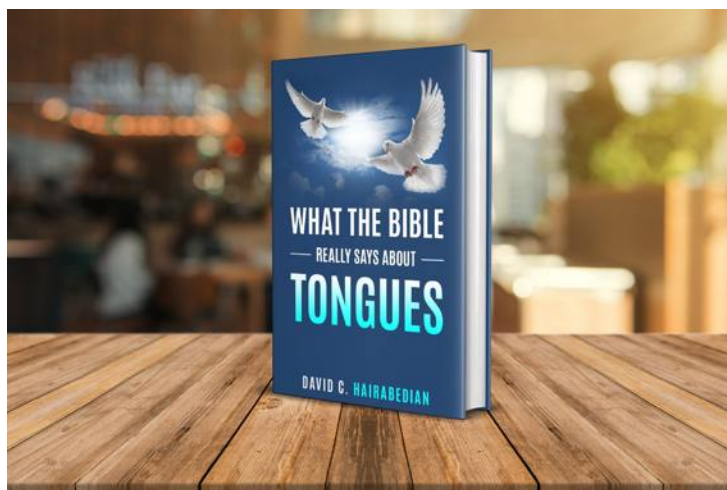
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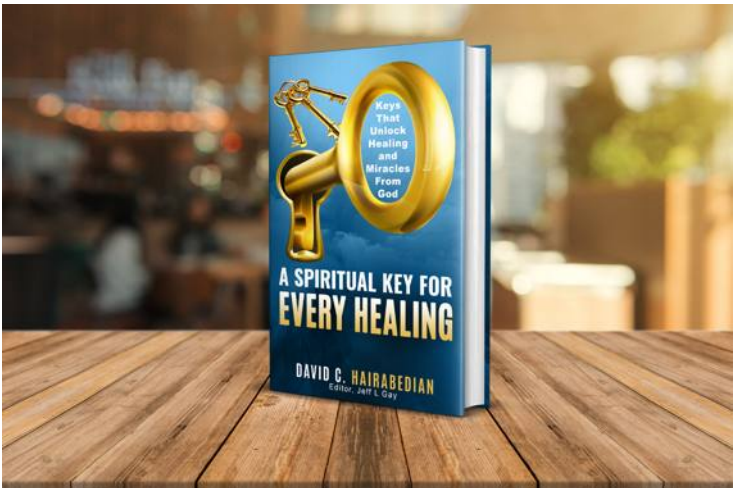
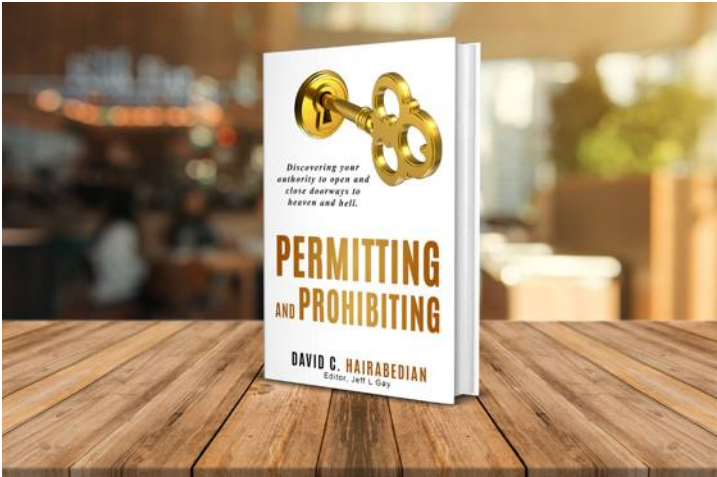
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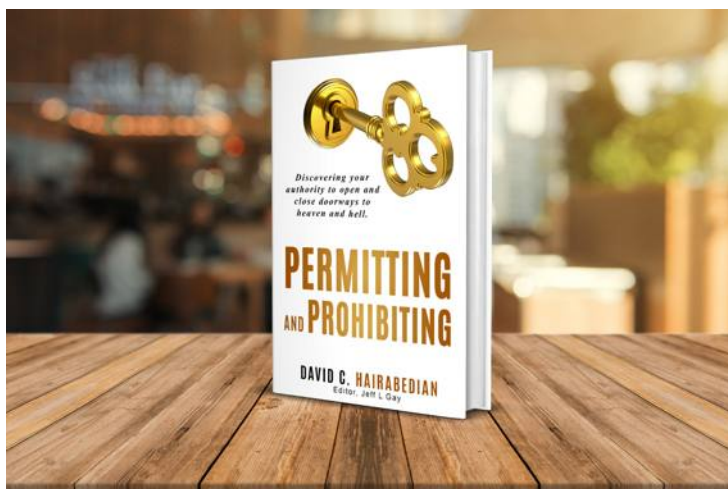
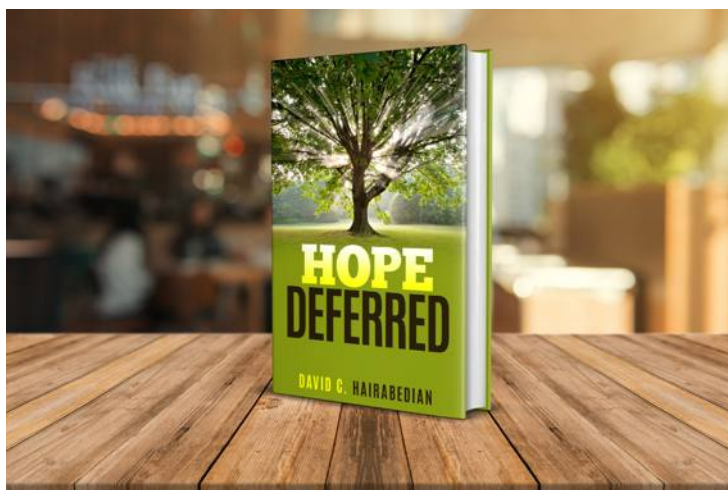
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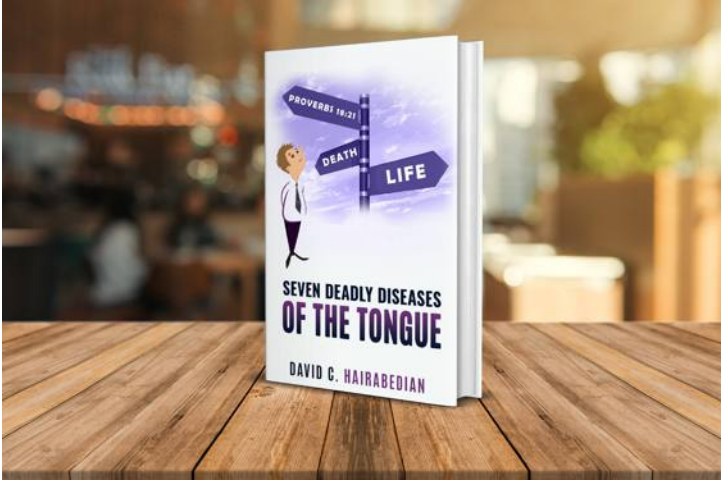
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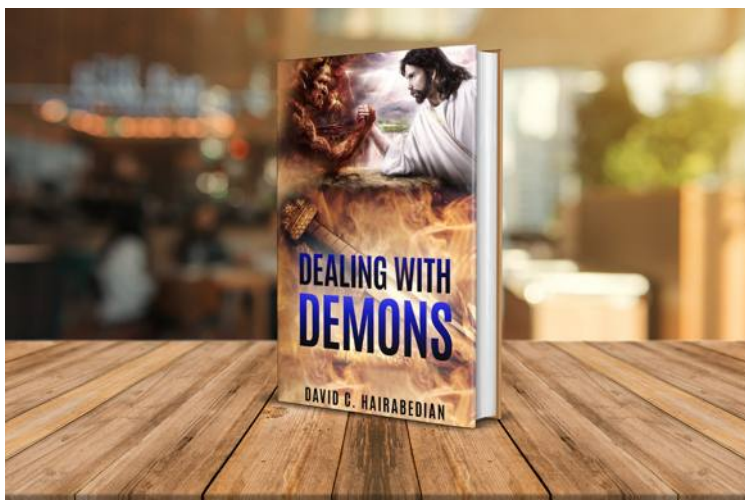
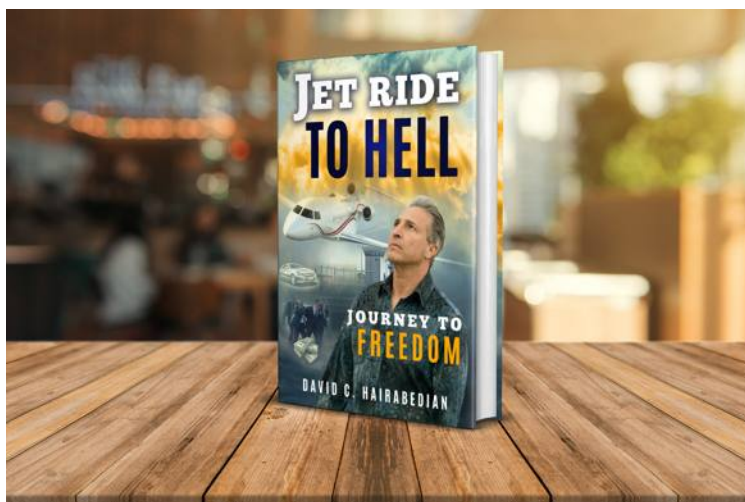












DEALING WITH DEMONS

Did you know that Jesus spent nearly 25 % of his earthly ministry casting out demons and healing the sick? Dealing With the Demonic is an in-depth, biblically based training manual examining biblical encounters with demons, the facts, nature and strategies of demons and the believer's authority in Jesus.

David examines teaching about demons from Paul and Jesus and answers the question, "Can a Christian be demon possessed?" **He teaches about the seven stages of demonic influence and four steps to be set free, along with a prayer for deliverance.**

No believer, young or old should be without this crucial information because, *"Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour"* (1 Peter 5:8).

Arm yourself and buy a second copy for a friend!

David Hairabedian is a critically acclaimed author, speaker, and lead pastor. He and his wife Joanna live in Newport Beach, CA. They co-host a weekly TV Broadcast that reaches millions of homes helping transform lives through virtualchurchmedia.com. They also sit on the board of a ministry that provides Bibles and discipleship materials to more than 1,000 prisons through heartprisonministries.org.

