

POWER OF THE WORD:

Walking In Deliverance

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Deliverance is defined as *rescue from bondage or danger* according to the Merriam Webster's Dictionary. That is exactly what Christ's death and resurrection does for the believer. Once the Christian accepts the gift of salvation from God, they are set free from a life of sin and the penalty of the second death, which is the lake of fire.

However, the question that comes to mind is "If the believer is set free from sin, why is there still a struggle with sin?" Many believers have asked the questions, "Why do I keep falling to the same sin over and over again?" and "How do I maintain victory after the benediction is given?"

Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians, *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Corinthians 15:57). Therefore, the believer must remember that Christ has already given us the victory. However, there are some things that the believer must do in order to maintain the victory. There are three practical things a believer must do in order to walk in deliverance: continue in the Word of God; fill up their house with the things of God; and eliminate satanic access to their life.

CONTINUE IN THE WORD

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then ye are my disciples in deed; and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31 - 32).

As a believer, you must realize that you were set free at Calvary. This means that Satan no longer has power over you as a believer. John 8:36 says, *If the son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.* Jesus has set you free from whatever it was that had you bound. Paul says that we are no longer slaves to sin (Romans 6:17). Consequently, we do not have to give in to our fleshly desires or temptations.

Jesus makes clear what a believer is to do in order to maintain the freedom which he has given to them. We must continue in his Word. God declares in Joshua 1:8, *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."* The word meditate means to chew over, to think intently or at length. Therefore, it is important that the

Word of God be a part of the daily diet of the believer. It is also imperative that the child of God keep His word in constant thought.

Peter then exhorts the believer in I Peter 2:2, *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.* Consequently, it is the responsibility of the believer to absorb as much of the Word of God as possible; not just read the Word of God for the sake of reading it, but to have a passion for it. Just as that newborn baby cries after its mother's milk, so must the believer cry after the milk of the Word of God.

The truth of the Word of God is revealed to the believer as they continue read and study. As the believer begins to apply the revealed truths of the Word of God, they are made free from the things that had them bound.

FILL UP THE HOUSE

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation (Matthew 12:43 - 45).

Once a person becomes a born again believer, their spiritual house is cleansed and they are then set free from everything that had them bound. It then becomes the responsibility of the believer to fill up their house with the things of God. Then when the spirit that once occupied the believer's house comes back to reattach itself, he finds the house no longer empty. At this point, the believer is able to maintain their freedom.

How do we, as believers, fill up our house with the things of God? We must simply begin to do the following:

- **Pray** (Luke 18:1) – The believer must develop a consistent prayer life. It is during the time of prayer where we gain the heart and mind of God.
- **Study** (II Timothy 2:15) – Learning the Word of God must become a priority for the believer.
- **Fellowship** (Hebrews 10:25) – Make Church attendance and interaction with other believers a necessity. Try to have a relationship with someone that can be an accountability partner.

- **Worship** (John 4:23, 24) – Focusing on God through praise and adoration helps the believer become sensitive to God in their personal worship.

As the believer practices these four things, their house begins to be fill up. This does not mean that the believer will not have any struggles. However, the believer now has a source on which they can lean and depend.

CLOSE ALL DOORS

Neither give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27).

Now once the believer continues in the Word of God and fills up their house, their next area of responsibility is to close all doors of access from the enemy. It is very important for the believer to understand that he/she cannot give the enemy access to his/her life. Galatians 5:1 says, *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.* When we keep doors of access open to the enemy, we continue to keep ourselves entangled with the yoke of bondage.

We close the doors of access by doing the following:

- Being obedient to the Word of God.
- Judging ourselves.
- Walking in love and forgiveness.
- Realize that you need help.

God wants obedience to his Word more than he wants praise out of our mouth; He honors obedience to his Word above everything else. I Samuel 15:22 tells us, *...behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.* Therefore, believers have to make sure that they are obeying God's Word in every area of their life. When we do not walk in obedience to the Word of God, we continue to give the enemy access to our lives, keeping the doors open for Satan to re-enter.

Next, the believer must judge themselves. I Corinthians 11:31 tells us, *For if we judge ourselves, we should not be judged.* Judging ourselves means that we examine our life to see if there is any sin in it. Paul says in I Corinthians 9:27, *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

Therefore, it is the responsibility of the believer to judge themselves and to make sure that they are walking according to the Word of God. We are told that if we do not judge ourselves then we leave God no choice but to judge us. If a believer finds that

there are areas of sin in their life, they must then apply I John 1:9 (confess and repent) and Colossians 3:8 (stop doing).

The next step for the believer in closing the doors of access to the enemy is to make sure that they are walking in love and forgiveness. When we do not walk in love and forgiveness, we continue to leave open a door that the enemy can exploit and take advantage of in our lives

Jesus says in John 13:35, *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.* Consequently, love becomes the qualifier for the believer. The Word of God tells us that God is love (I John 4:8). Therefore, if God is love and we are followers of God, then we should walk in the love of God. That means we should love them that do not love us, and that our actions should be motivated by love and not by selfish gain.

Forgiveness will follow as the believer walks in love. Colossians 3:13 – 14 says, *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.* Forgiveness is the act of excusing a mistake or offense and a necessity for the believer to walk in love.

As Christians, we must constantly evaluate our walk of love and forgiveness. We allow the enemy access in our lives when we continue to have malice in our heart.

We cannot give the enemy of our soul any room. As John 10:10 says, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...* That is why it is so important for the believer to realize that he/she cannot make it on their own and they need help from the Lord. James 4:7 says, *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he shall flee.*

To submit means to yield or surrender oneself to the will or authority of another. As the believer yields himself/herself to the will of God and surrenders to God's authority, then God strengthens them and they are able to resist the devil.

Remember, you cannot resist him in your strength or ability. We can only resist the devil once we have submitted to God. Once the devil is resisted, he realizes that the believer is not standing on their own strength, but that there is someone greater sustaining them. Then Satan runs from the believer because the believer has humbled himself/herself and submitted to God.

As the believer practices these simple truths, they will see that walking in deliverance is not something foreign and unattainable to them and that they can have sustained victory in their life.

Examine yourself by answering the following questions:

FuRtHeR sTuDy

1. Are there any open doors in your life that gives the enemy access?
List them and determine what you must do to close them.
2. Do you have any malice in your heart towards anyone?
Recognize that you have malice and be prayerful about how you can deal with it.
3. Is there anyone that you need to forgive?
Forgive individuals from both your present and past. Ask forgiveness of those who you may have offended or hurt in the past.
4. Are you walking in obedience to God's word?
5. Are you an instrument of Praise and Worship unto the Lord?
6. How is your prayer life? Is prayer a regular part of your daily life?
7. Do you have any accountability partners? Is there someone in your life that you can be open and honest with who is a Christian?