



The Ministry of Deliverance

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The **Spirit** of the
Lord is *upon* me,

for **he** has
anointed me to

bring Good
News to the poor.

He has sent **me**
to **proclaim**
that captives *will*

be
released,

that the blind **will**
see,
that the **oppressed**

will be **set**

free,

and *that* the time
of the *Lord's*
favour *has* come.



Alive Ministries South Africa

www.aliveministries-sa.org

Dear friends,

Our Lord Jesus is more than a Saviour, He is also our Deliverer. Many of God's people (the Church) are living in captivity, because a lack of knowledge of their true identity in Christ. Alive Ministries South Africa provides practical, free out of print biblically teachings & studies by which church and ministry leaders discover their true identity in Christ and are able to lead their people out of captivity into freedom, so that those ministries become healthy healing places making a powerful impact for Christ on their communities.

"You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons (Isaiah 42:7)". "Through you I am saying to the prisoners of darkness, 'Come out, into the light!' I am giving you your freedom! (Isaiah 49:9)". Say to those who are afraid, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you." (Isaiah 35:4).

The ministry of deliverance is a form of pastoral care for Christians dealing with the consequences of spiritual struggle, which determines more or less their (religious) life in different areas. The ministry of deliverance can be seen as an application of the Biblical message of teaching on spiritual warfare and as such can be used as part of wider pastoral care. The function of guidance and healing is the most dominant, which is divided in inner healing, tearing down of strongholds, removing legal rights, and if necessary casting out of demons. The reconciliation and forgiveness feature is part of the guidance in almost all cases. The assist function and aftercare is essential, so that lasting fruit will be visible. The ministry of deliverance is, currently, in most cases applied outside the Church, however, closer cooperation is essential between all stakeholders, to meet a comprehensive pastoral care for people and a structurally healthy spiritual life. The Scripture is always the basis and starting point and experiences are not unimportant but are coming in the second place. It is also essential to handle the proper biblical concept of man (spirit, soul and body) as it is written: *Now may the God of peace make you **holy in every way**, and may your whole **spirit and soul and body** be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again (1 Thessalonians 5:23)*. We want to assist those who believe in dealing with (the effects of) spiritual struggle in their lives with the aim of discovering and experiencing their freedom in Jesus Christ.

Witchcraft is the best way to enter Satan's dominion. The core of witchcraft is written in the book of Revelation: *This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon **gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority** (Revelation 13:2)*. Satan is giving his power to all people who call upon him or those who want to connect to him. Satan don't mind whether people are doing this in ignorance or by purpose. Satan is giving everyone who opens him- or herself for him his power, and as a consequence you are becoming dependant on him and under his dominion. He is giving his power to become dependent on him, to take you away from God and finally to destroy you. Be aware of that process! In the same way as the children of God are unable to do miracles in their own power (Acts 3:12), likewise those who applying witchcraft are using the power of Satan: *They are demonic spirits who work miracles (Revelation 16:14)*. Those who practices occultism, are using the 'energeia Satan', 'the works of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders " (2 Thessalonians 2:9, Matthew 24:24, Mark 13:22). This 'energeia' (literally: 'energy' or 'force') has Satan originally from God. After his fall he still owns this supernatural power, but uses it for his own glorification, to deceive people and pull away from God to get them in his own power. The sings and lying wonders are Satan's cunning imitation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the occult followers use (perhaps in ignorance) the occult (demonic) forces, by their commitment to occult spirits. They give their souls and salvation, their strength and power to these demons (Revelation 17:13). Therefore occultism is a sin against the first two of the ten commandments and the consequences (occult tax!) is often felt "unto the third and fourth generation" (Exodus 20:3-5).

There are two forces working upon this earth, God and Satan. These two are not comparable, so let's not even try, for who is like our God?

Our focus and basis is: *For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).* Where Gods (spiritual) Kingdom reigns the next situation is already here on earth more and more applicable: ***And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. (Revelation 2:3).*** Living close to God and a holy life is still the best remedy to live in freedom and protected in enemy territory, called the earth. Where Gods light appears the darkness disappears automatically, as it is written: *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. (John 1:5).* **Realize your position in Christ: We are seated with Him in the heavenly places! ... the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world (1 John 4:4).**

On the other hand we realize that we live in occupied territory: Jesus already defeated the enemy 2000 years ago, however He is using us to regain ground from Satan here on earth as it is written: *And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. (Revelation 12:11).* Realize that this is a twofold fight: Jesus has laid the foundation, and we must build on that foundation to regain the land here on earth from Satan. The new heaven and earth is already fixed, and we can add nothing to that, but here on earth we take our position in Christ and proclaim and say: *Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you." (Isaiah 35:4).*

Each variant and mix between these two options is possible. Sometimes we face brothers and sisters deep under Satan's dominion and we literally have to pull them out of Satan's territory in the name of Jesus and recently I faced a situation that nothing helped to drive the enemy out. Eventually we started only to focus on our position in Christ and living a holy life and step by step this brother in South Africa got free. Sometimes it is trial and error, however apply always both options. And remember that God has delegated a lot to us. I will give you an example: When we pray (ask) "God please expel this demon" than the Bible teaches that God wont do that, because God has delegated this authority to us, and we therefore have to say "Demon, go out in the name of Jesus!".

Never forget your position in Christ: *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise (crush) your head, and you shall bruise His heel (Genesis 3:15).* Satan's head is crushed and we are limping a bit . This is absolutely not comparable. Live in the victory which Jesus took for us!

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies (Psalm 18:2-3).

Most of the next content of this article is from the hand of Pastor James Brandt and taken with permission from www.greatbiblestudy.com .

This article is directed towards pastors, ministers, and anybody who is interested in entering the ministry of deliverance. It will give you a brief overview of what you should know before entering this ministry, and how to effectively prepare yourself for this ministry.

Many people enter this ministry with barely any knowledge of what they are doing, and it's given the ministry of deliverance a bad name in many people's eyes, because of failed deliverances, unsuccessful ministering, and people walking away still in bondage, because the minister didn't really understand what the root of the problem was in that person's life.

The purpose of this article is to point you in the right direction and to prepare you for this ministry, so you will be ready to help and minister to a wide variety of people, in a wide variety of bondages, and bring them into complete freedom in Christ! This article alone is by no means a complete manual, it was never intended to be, but it will give you an overview of what you will need to learn before entering this ministry.

The purpose of ministering deliverance

Guess what? This ministry isn't about demons! That's right! It's about guiding and helping our brothers and sisters come into the victory that Christ died to give them! The purpose of ministering deliverance is to set free those who are in bondage. As Jesus was sent fourth to preach deliverance to the captives (Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to... preach deliverance to the captives..."), so we are also sent out (John 20:21, "Then said Jesus to them... as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.") to do the works He did (John 14:12, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also..."), and this includes casting out of devils (Matthew 10:8).

The ministry of deliverance is about bringing spiritual victory and freedom to those who are in bondage. It doesn't matter what you call it (demonized, possessed, oppressed, etc.), if they are in demonic bondage, whether they need to tear down a stronghold, break up a legal ground, cast a demon out, or all three... it's still deliverance, because it's setting the captives free. Casting out demons, is just part of the overall ministry of deliverance.

Four important elements of this ministry

This is where I see some deliverance ministries miss the mark. They think it's as simple as commanding the demon to come out, and there's nothing more they can do. This is a grave mistake that causes a lot of people to walk away from a deliverance still in bondage. There is more to it than simply casting out demons. In Luke 9:42, we are told a story of how Jesus not only rebuked demons in a boy who was mentally affected by evil spirits, but also is said to have healed the boy. There is no mention of the boy needing physical healing, but if you look up the word healed in this passage, one of the meanings is, "to free from errors and sins...", which is likely what Jesus did with the boy, Jesus removed the boy's legal grounds (sins) and freed him from errors (strongholds). This case of deliverance required more than just rebuking demons!

There have been times when I have successfully helped people out of their demonic bondages, without even having to cast out demons! Sometimes all that is needed is the pulling down of a stronghold, or a breaking up of a legal right. Other times, all three areas need to be addressed to bring the person into complete freedom.

An educated deliverance minister should be knowledgeable with all three of these very important elements, and be prepared to address them without hesitation:

Inner healing: Many times when a person has been abused, rejected, wounded, or hurt in some way, there is an emotional wound that needs to be healed. Demons will use these wounds and weaknesses against the person, as leverage to hold them in bondage and get them to re-open doors so that they can re-enter. Inner healing is a vital step in

the overall restoration process that needs to take place in the lives of many who are seeking deliverance. There is more information on this process in the teaching Steps to Inner Healing.

Tearing down strongholds: Strongholds are incorrect thinking patterns that people develop over time, and are often set up and nurtured by demons through lies and deception. Demons thrive on strongholds, and use them to hang around a person and torment them. I recommend reading the teaching on Strongholds for a clear insight into exactly what a stronghold is, and how to go about tearing them down. Failing to tear down strongholds can hold up a deliverance and prevent us from walking in complete spiritual freedom.

Removing legal rights: Legal rights are things that give demons permission to enter and remain in our lives. Before demons can often be cast out, it is important to address and remove these legal rights. The teaching on Legal Rights lists the most common legal rights and how you can go about removing them. Failing to remove legal rights can hold up a deliverance very easily.

Casting out the demons: This requires two basic elements: knowledge of your authority in Christ Jesus over the powers of the enemy, and faith in that authority. Demons are cast out with a simple spoken command, such as, "I command the spirit of fear to come out in the name of Jesus!" You can learn more about your authority and how it works from the teaching on Spiritual Authority.

I believe it is usually a good idea to give the person requesting deliverance a Deliverance Questionnaire that will give you an overview of their background, the bondages they are facing, the root or source of their problem, as well as legal grounds, strongholds and any particular spirits that need to be addressed. Then begin to work with them to receive inner healing, break up any legal grounds, and tear down any strongholds you see in their life and of course, cast out any demons that need to go.

It is always helpful to have a general idea of what the different common demons are, what they do and how they enter, how they usually operate, etc. For example, the Bible speaks of spirits that cause physical health problems such as the spirit of infirmity, blindness, deafness, etc. along with spirits that cause fear and depression (King Saul), mental illness, etc. The teaching on Demon Possession is a good place to start and will help you begin to understand how demons affect us, and what it really means to be 'possessed with a demon'. I don't necessarily recommend reading occult books or books on demons that were not written by solid Christian ministers, because that can cause you to pick up demons yourself! Whatever you do, don't wander into the dark world to learn about it! The best place to learn about demons, is from the Bible itself! Whatever you can't find in the Bible, you can learn from other solid Christian ministers such as Derek Prince, Frank Hammond, or Doris Wagner.

Don't lose insight on what really matters

Do you know what bothers me? When I see people placing so much of their focus on demons, curses, and what the enemy is up to, that they lose their focus on Jesus and what the true purpose of this ministry is all about. It is important not to lose sight of what Jesus has done for us, the goodness of God, and what the true purpose of this ministry is all about. It's not about the demons at all, it's all about what Jesus has done for us on the cross, and helping fellow brothers and sisters in Christ come into and walk in that freedom in their lives.

Fear-driven ministries: One thing that I like to watch out for, is fear-driven ministries. I call them fear-driven, because they often put a lot of fear into people that is NOT from

God, and is completely unnecessary. They don't show you the love of Christ and build you up, instead they are good at giving you warnings and telling you how serious of a condition you are in, or how badly you messed up and how serious your sin is, etc. They tell you that if you aren't careful, the demons will return and you'll be worse off the second time than the first (which is true if you are a sinner, but that doesn't apply to believers). They give you the impression that you're in serious danger and if you don't follow their instructions to the tee, you aren't going to be set free. They overall speak a lot of fear and condemnation to you, which can set you on the edge of your seat sometimes. By the time you are done, you could be worse off than before, because of all the false lies and deception they feed people who are in bondage. I do not affiliate myself with these kinds of ministries, and I don't support them. I like to keep 95% of my attention on God's goodness, and 5% on kicking the enemy out. I myself have experienced "bad ministering" before, so I know what it's like. I walked away worse off than I came. The more I began to see through their tactics (and some of the areas they were WAY off), the better I felt. But I didn't let that stop me from receiving TRUE deliverance ministry, and thank God... true deliverance ministry is well worth the wait!

Always remember this important point: It's not about the demons... it's about the children of God receiving and walking in the freedom that Christ died to give them!

Yours in His service,
Kees
www.aliveministries-sa.org