



Life of Freedom MINISTRIES

Newsletter—Vol. XVI, No. 8
August 2022

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

When you watch a movie, play, or TV program that has injustice, don't you want to have things made right, and justice done by the end? Sometimes, you might even want to cheer when there is justice. If there isn't justice, the disappointment might keep you from approving the performance or show. I see a similar thing in working in deliverance. I have noted recently when helping people who have been afflicted by evil spirits and the ground for affliction was not due to their own sin. We want justice from the attacks of the enemy, and, thankfully, the Lord Jesus provides justice. Through His victory over the powers of darkness, a person can be set free. When the works of the enemy are due to our own sin, we don't even deserve the justice. Still, God is so gracious, and through Him we are given freedom when we turn to Him. What a loving God we have!

Praises:

I praise God for His working in a difficult case that I've noted in the Prayer Concerns. In a recent session, we had a significant breakthrough in understanding what the evil spirits were using as a right to torment a client. I also praise God for how He has been ministering to the client between sessions, bringing the client to a greater place of trust and surrender to Him. A good thing that can come out of the enemy's attacks is that it can drive us right to the One who can set us free!

I praise God for His promise to never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). I can be content, even in difficult cases because I know He's present and at work in the situation.

Short Report:

Often in deliverance ministry the cases that get recognition are the dramatic difficult cases. Ministry sessions that have fascinating or bizarre actions in the person, or in the room, because of the presence of evil spirits get the most attention. In the case of Ms. TT, there was very little drama and quite possibly not even an evil spirit involved. She came to LFM for help because for about six months, life was continually going wrong. Every aspect of life was difficult for her. The sin base in her life was not extreme, but there was some anger held towards a church and some family. She confessed all of these things and cancelled any ground any evil spirits may have held. When we confronted spirits, none identified themselves. She did not feel any tension or anxiety that often happens when a person is afflicted by spirits, and no spirits responded to the order to admit their presence. Instead, she felt great relief and peace. Did no evil spirits acknowledge their presence because they fled, which brought her peace? Was it that no evil spirits had been with her and the peace just from the act of forgiving those who angered her? Did she just get relief from the guilt from her sins? All of these are possible. The truth is that when one takes the specific burdens to the cross, He is faithful to forgive us (1 John 9). The peace she felt from the forgiveness was genuine and she left feeling free.

Something to Consider:

Psalm 55:22—²² *Cast your cares on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.*

James 5:16—¹⁶ *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

From time to time in my reading material or listening to messages about Christianity, I encounter comments that are negative in regard to deliverance. It is common for a total rejection of the possibility of evil spirits afflicting a Christian. However, if not a total rejection, most of these comments greatly minimize the depth of demonic affliction. For instance, one recent podcast said that an evil spirit can't be at work in a person's alcoholism. The whole burden was due to the choices the person made, and there should be no need to cast out an evil spirit in regard to alcohol. The issue that comes to the surface in this is the great desire for people to be accountable for their own actions instead of making excuses and blaming an evil spirit for one's problems. The podcast even mockingly mimicked someone commanding an evil spirit to depart, and then said to just choose to stop doing the sin. Even though he said some people may need deliverance, his tone and words seemed to negate what he said.

My question is, why does it have to be just one or the other? Can't an evil spirit powerfully *influence* a person to participate in the sinful activity, and the person still be responsible to resist? I believe so, and sometimes people need help to be free from those spirits who are a powerful influence on the person. Therefore, could a person struggling with alcohol be afflicted by an evil spirit, where the spirit's influence, or pressure, makes it very difficult for the person to stop abusing alcohol? (The spirit would not have to go by the name Alcohol. It could be Addiction, Abuse, Escape, or some other term that describes the function of what the demon is doing to the person. Contrary to how it is presented by many in deliverance, I believe evil spirits are not limited to one function and then just go by that one name). The important part is for the person to repent of personal and ancestral participation in the sinful activity. Then, if there is an evil spirit involved, that spirit can be ordered to depart. If there isn't an evil spirit present, great! Regardless, the passages noted above show that we must take our burdens and sins to the Lord so we can be free. There is no need to make excuses and blame the evil spirits because we are responsible to address the matter that has allowed the evil spirit to be present. Ms. TT was able to live in freedom. We don't know if the freedom included being set free from an evil spirit, but the most important thing is to live fully for the Lord Jesus.

Prayer Concerns:

Please keep praying for the client who had the breakthrough noted in the praises. It has been a long struggle, and the strength of the Lord to persevere is needed.

Please pray for a client who has a hard time finding support from a church family.

Please pray for the families who will be adjusting to having children going back to school.

Continually Rescued by Christ Jesus,



Ben Snyder

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