

According To God's Word

**The New Birth
The Baptism In The Holy Spirit
Would You Be Healed
Deliverance From Demon Bondage
The Occult**

ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD

Chapter - Title

One - New Birth

Two - Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Three - Healing

Four - Deliverance

Five - The Occult

CHAPTER ONE

THE NEW BIRTH What It Is and Why You Need It

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENT EVER ISSUED TO MAN?

“YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN”

Why? Because without it you have no hope of enjoying the glories of heaven or of escaping the terrors of hell. Have YOU been born again? God spoke to us through Jesus and said, ***"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again' "*** (John 3:7). Jesus answered and said to him, ***"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"*** (John 3:3).

WHAT THE NEW BIRTH IS

IT IS THE WORK OF GOD by which each one of us, as a hell-deserving sinner, can receive a new life. It is a second birth, a spiritual birth. Jesus answered and said to him, ***"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"*** (Romans 3:23). ***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*** (Romans 6:23).

The new birth is not a religion, it is
not morality, it is not reformation.

It is a mystery words cannot explain, but a reality you cannot explain away. ***"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit"*** (John 3:8). Jesus spoke those words to Nicodemus, a well educated religious leader, who was doing his best to gain heaven. Just as Nicodemus could not understand or explain the wind, so no man can really understand or explain the new birth. You do not have to understand all the mysteries of God. If religious Nicodemus needed to be born again, so do you. How do you expect to make it to heaven without being born again if Nicodemus couldn't?

It is with you as it was with Nicodemus. Keeping the law, going to church, joining a church, being religious, being baptized, or living up to a creed will not save you. There

will be many in hell who did all of these things. Will you? Regardless of your denomination, “You must be born again.”

The wind is a reality no man can explain away, only a fool will say, “I don’t believe in the wind. I have never seen it, I can’t understand it, so there just isn’t any such thing as a wind.” Many Bible rejecting, faith destroying “explainers” are denying the reality of the new birth. What they cannot understand they say just doesn’t exist. They say the new birth is just an “emotional experience.” When they get through explaining the new birth there isn’t anything left of it. This is the failing wisdom of man. ***But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14).***

Thank God, no matter what the modernists say, the new birth is a reality no man can explain away! Ask the man who has been born again if there is anything to it! You cannot see the Holy Spirit. You cannot explain Him. But see His mighty power make the prostitute pure, the liar honest, the drunkard sober, the blasphemer pray, the fearful brave, the addict set free, and then try to deny the reality of it!

When some people are asked if they are a child of God, they say, “I hope so,” or, “I think so.” “I’m trying to be as best I can.” Suppose you asked John Jones if he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jones, and he’d answer, “I hope so,” or, “I think so,” “I’m trying to be as best I can.” You would question his mind! He is not their son because he tries to be, but because he was born into their home. If you are a child of God, it is not because of your trying, but because you have been born into His family. If you are not a child of God, you actually have no right to pray, “Our Father”

The physical life begins by birth. The spiritual life begins the same – not by joining a church and becoming religious. You cannot join the family of God. You must be BORN into it. Born ***“not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:13).***

A birth is the coming into being of a new life which has the nature of its parents. When you were born the first time, you were made a partaker of the nature of natural man. When you are “born again” you become a partaker of the divine nature. ***“by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (II Peter 1:4).*** Is this true of you? Do you have the divine nature? No matter what kind of a religious profession you have made, no matter how good a person you may be morally, unless you have been made a partaker of the divine nature

by receiving Christ, you are not saved. ***“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: (John 1:12).*** Some people don’t like the word “saved,” but “saved,” is God’s word! Jesus Christ is our Savior. ***“He that believes and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).*** When you receive Christ you are saved, converted, born again – call it what you will, it is the key to heaven.

But what about all the good things I have done? Won’t this get me to heaven? Not according to God’s Word, ***“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).***

Be sure you are born again! ***“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you are disqualified” (II Corinthians 13:5).*** Do you meet the test? Can you sense His presence within yourself? There may be a more spectacular change in the life of one who is a cursing blasphemer, but even in you who have not been down deep in sin, there has to be a change when you are “born again.” There will be a new attitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ, His Word, His people, and a new attitude toward prayer. Are you SURE you have been born again? ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold all things have become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).*** Have you become a new creature?

HOW TO BE BORN AGAIN

1. ACCEPT GOD’S WORD: THAT HE LOVES YOU AND WANTS TO GIVE YOU AN ABUNDANT LIFE. ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish; but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*** ***“I have come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10b).***

2. ACCEPT GOD’S WORD: THAT YOU ARE A SINNER; THAT THIS SEPARATES YOU FROM GOD; THAT YOU MUST TRULY REPENT, or “turn away” from sin. ***“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).*** ***“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).*** ***“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to REPENTANCE” (II Peter 3:9).***

3. ACCEPT GOD'S WORD: THAT THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS IS GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR MAN TO GET RID OF SIN. *“. . . the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin” (I John 1:7). “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).*

4. ACCEPT GOD'S WORD: THAT JESUS CHRIST IS OUR ONLY CONTACT WITH GOD. *“Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me” (John 14:6). “For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus” (I Timothy 2:5).*

5. RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD BY YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION. *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12). “Behold I stand at the door and knock; If anyone hears My voice, and opens the door, I WILL COME IN TO HIM and dine with him, and he with me” (Christ speaking in Revelation 3:20).*

Do you feel a tug at your heart right now? This is how He knocks. Jesus wants in!

Will you receive Christ right now?

You can be saved in 30 seconds!

Open the door!

Pray now in your own words. God
knows your heart . . . Pray something
like this:

“Lord Jesus, I truly repent of my sins. I turn my back on them right now and look to you! I ask you to forgive me. I open the door of my heart and receive you as my Savior and my Lord. Take control of my life, keep me from evil and make me the kind of person you want me to be!”

This is the point where you take your step of faith in God's Word. Thank Him for coming in whether you “Feel Saved” or not! “Thank you Lord for coming into my heart and for hearing my prayer as you promised.” Your life will start to change from this moment.

ASSURANCE

Did you ask Christ into your heart?
Were you sincere?

Then where is He right now?
Christ said He would come in!
He is not a liar.

If your answer is “Yes, Christ is in my heart,” **YOU ARE BORN AGAIN.** *“He that has the Son has life (right now); he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.” “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God” (I John 5:12-13).*

REMEMBER, even though you may sense the presence of God right now, you may not tomorrow! You are not saved because you “feel saved.” Your faith must stand on God’s Word, not on feelings.

HOW TO BECOME STRONG IN THE LORD AND STAY STRONG IN THE LORD

THANK THE LORD EVERY DAY FOR SAVING YOUR SOUL – Jesus said, “. . . *He who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and manifest Myself to him*” (John 14:21). Expect a change in your life!

WITNESS – Tell someone at every opportunity what you have done – that you have accepted Christ as your personal Savior. This is very important. If you truly love Jesus, you will want to tell others about Him, and He will “manifest” Himself to you. Read *Romans 10:9-10*. *“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

ASK GOD to fill you with the Holy Spirit that you might be a powerful witness in every phase of your life – *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).*

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?” (Luke 11:13).

READ GOD’S WORD EVERY DAY – You are a new born babe in Christ – you need food – it comes from God’s Word. Start by reading the Gospel of John three times. Put yourself in the place of Nicodemus! The Bible will have new meaning to you now.

PRAY – Take time every day to kneel down and pray and praise His Name. Talk to God – out loud – just as you would to another person, and in the Name of Jesus.

SEEK THE FELLOWSHIP OF OTHER BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS. You will grow strong in the fellowship. By studying and praying together you will be drawn into the meat of God’s Word. You will be able to resist sin and receive the “Abundant Life.”

CHAPTER TWO

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

What It Is and Why You Need It

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST SINCE YOU BELIEVED?

The apostle Paul asked this very important question of twelve saved disciples of Christ at Ephesus. . . . *he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit” (Acts 19:2).* They were startled by the question. Later in *Acts 19:6 “And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”* This should have been expected since in all four gospels we are told that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Ghost.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

Power for service. *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you . . .” (Acts 1:8).* Power in witnessing, not only in words but in claiming healing, deliverance, in prayer, in understanding the Word and power to overcome sin and live a victorious life. *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for us as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered (Romans 8:26). “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14). “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). And Ananias went his*

way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God (Acts 9:17-20). Even Jesus healed because He was filled with the Holy Spirit. *“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).* It is the power for your specific ministry.

MUST I SPEAK IN TONGUES?

Yes. This is important! This is a gift from God. Why would you refuse it? To refuse tongues is to refuse to yield yourself completely to God. If you will not yield completely, you cannot be used completely. It is important that you speak in tongues.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Only for the ‘born again’ Christians. The Holy Spirit is not available to the world (the unsaved). *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you” (John 14:16-17).* If you are not sure you are born again, be sure, before you seek the baptism. When you have truly become one of God’s children, then *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him” (Luke 11:13).*

It is not only for the apostles, or Jews, or people who lived in the days of the apostles, but for all saved people in every age. *Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call” (Acts 2:38-39).* It is for all Christians that want a righteous life. *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6).*

A WORD OF ADVICE

Do not seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit if you do not honestly in your heart wish to be obedient to God and want Him to guide your life.

Once we learn to tune in to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we become a target for Satan, and he may try to confuse us by supernatural leadings. Most people have had some contact with the occult; that is, fortune telling, horoscopes, magic practices and games, spiritism, or false religious teachings. This occult involvement breaks the first commandment, is an abomination unto God and gives Satan legal access to our lives. ***“There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you” (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).***

Anytime one seeks supernatural answers without going through Jesus Christ, Satan has the right to answer. If one seeks the baptism in the Holy Spirit without first renouncing the entire occult involvement, he opens his life further to mental, physical and spiritual oppression. If you are seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit, it is vital that you confess your faith in Jesus, confess all involvement in occult sins, and promise to destroy all books and objects of the occult. ***Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver (Acts 19:19).*** Renounce Satan and all his works in your life and command him to depart in Jesus' Name.

We must pray for discernment, become educated in Satan's tactics and realize that all things supernatural do not come from God. ***Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1).*** Many persons have fallen into this deception as they in ignorance thought themselves immune to attacks because of the baptism. ***First Peter 5:8*** written to Spirit filled Christians tells us to ***“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*** We do not state this to discourage anyone. We have no need to fear, simply be alert to resist Satan and he will flee. ***Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7).***

We also have the assurance of God's Word that if God is your heavenly Father (you are born again), you will not receive anything evil when you ask of Him, but He will give you the Holy Spirit. ***"If a son asks from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:11-13).***

HOW TO RECEIVE

You may wish to have Spirit filled Christians lay hands on you as Paul did to the twelve believers at Ephesus. ***And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:6).*** Or you may wish to wait upon the Lord as the 120 did on the day of Pentecost. ***When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).*** Or you may just listen as Cornelius did. ***While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God (Acts 10:44-46).*** Praise God for His variety!

Raise your hands to the Lord, close your eyes and let your mind dwell on Jesus. Be happy in Jesus, as you ask your Father in heaven for what He has promised you. Start praising His Name. Raise your voice to Him. He will not force you to speak in tongues. As the Lord places a strange word in your mind, speak it out boldly, your lips may stammer, but as you boldly repeat the word, the Spirit will give you more words. Sometimes only a few words come initially, but as you continue to speak forth in faith the Lord will give you a complete vocabulary with which to praise God.

THE NEW LANGUAGE

The new language which the Spirit has given us is not only a sign of the initial reception of the gift of the Spirit, but also of His continuing presence. You do not have to wait for a special 'anointing' or sense the presence of the Holy Spirit to pray in tongues. It can be used at will and should be used continually to build yourself up.

God's gifts are given for a purpose. Practice this new language of the Spirit until it becomes as natural as breathing. As you do, you will experience a new peace and joy of knowing the presence of the Lord.

God's Word tells us that praying in the Spirit 'edifies' us, or builds us up in the Lord. *He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church (I Corinthians 14:4).* God's Word tells us also that we build up our faith by praying in the Holy Ghost. *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20).* You will later find this is one of your weapons in repelling the attacks of Satan.

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

St. Paul lists in I Corinthians 12, nine gifts or manifestations of the Spirit. These are the supernatural tools or equipment for Christian service. Any Spirit filled Christian can manifest any of these gifts as the Spirit directs.

1. THE WORD OF WISDOM is a supernaturally given revelation of God's direction and guidance for a specific situation. It tells us what God wants us to do about the situation.

2. THE WORD OF KNOWLEDGE is a revelation of a piece of information which cannot be known in a natural way. It is God's diagnosis of a problem, a sickness, or other situation.

3. THE GIFT OF FAITH is an instantaneous complete assurance of God's willingness and ability to act in a given situation. Faith cancels doubt and this is essential to the gifts of healing and working of miracles.

4. GIFTS OF HEALING are special anointings of the Holy Spirit which enable us to bring God's healing power to those who are sick.

5. THE WORKING OF MIRACLES is a special momentary gift of authority which enables us to perform miracles in the Name of Jesus Christ.

6. DISCERNING OF SPIRITS is a supernatural gift which enables us to discern the difference between the Holy Spirit, the human spirit, and evil spirits. It is not the discerning of character nor of faults.

7. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY is an anointing of the Holy Spirit to speak the words of God. It is always for our direction, up building and encouragement. Sometimes it may be for predicting future events, if God wants us to know them.

8. THE GIFT OF TONGUES is a supernatural means of God's communication with His people. It is a message given in a language unknown to the speaker and is always used in conjunction with the gift of interpretation. The gift of tongues is not to be confused with the use of tongues as the sign of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, or with tongues used in private prayer and intercession, or with some foreign language used as a means of communication between people.

9. THE GIFT OF INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES gives back in one's own language the meaning of what was said in the gift of tongues. These two gifts operating together are equivalent to prophecy.

The exercise of any of these gifts requires cooperation between us and the Holy Spirit. He gives the gifts as He wills. He lets people know in a variety of ways when they are to exercise one of them. For the spoken gifts He will sometimes put in our mind the first few words. In the case of healing, often the hands begin to feel anointed. To heal, work miracles, or cast out demons we must be willing to lay hands, speak a word of command, or do anything else as He directs us.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Immediately when we receive the gift of the Spirit, He begins some house cleaning in our lives. Things which used to bother us no longer do so. Fears, irritations and resentments begin to fall away. We begin to see people differently, more as God sees them.

The Spirit will also show us some more obstinate wrongs in our lives, some sins we hardly realized were there. When He does this, we have two alternatives. We can put up a fight, making life miserable for us, or we can turn these things over to Him to be removed and replaced with better things. If we choose the latter, He will continue this process with one thing at a time, just as fast as we will let Him, until we become mature persons, made over into His image.

We do not try to make ourselves over. We have already tried that unsuccessfully all our lives. The Holy Spirit is in the sanctifying business. He is the one who can clean up our lives. All we have to do is let Him.

OUR PROPER RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE

1. To accept for ourselves these manifestations of His love, forgiveness for our sins, healing for our bodies, minds, and spirits and deliverance from all forces of evil.
2. To act as His agents in bringing these manifestations of His love to others.
3. To love God in return, to praise Him in the Spirit as commanded by Christ, ***“God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).*** Use your tongues to praise Him daily in your spirit, which now has a language to express its love of Him.

The gifts are tools for manifesting the love of God. But on the other hand, love is necessary for the proper use of the gifts. St. Paul emphasizes this in I Corinthians 13 by saying that if we speak “with the tongues of men and angels” and exhibit many of the other gifts, such as prophecy, word of knowledge, faith, miracles, etc., but do not use these in love (to edify or help our neighbor) our ministry is worthless. God’s gifts can be used or abused. We fulfill all of God’s commandments to us when we use spiritual gifts to the glory of God and for the benefit of His creatures.

CHAPTER THREE

WOULD YOU BE HEALED

How to Be Healed and How to Stay Healed

YOU CAN LIVE FREE FROM SICKNESS AND DISEASE IF YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD

Once we understand where sickness comes from, we can understand why we are able to get rid of it! God’s Word clearly reveals that both death and sickness originated with sin and now are being spread by Satan.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned

from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of one Man, Jesus Christ abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification of life.

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 5:12-21).

And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head (Job 2:6-7).

"So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound (think of it) for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" (Luke 13:16).

Think of all those Jesus healed. They were all "oppressed of the devil." *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him" (Acts 10:38).*

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you" (John 5:14).

Only when sin is taken out of the human race, will there be no more sickness. (Revelation 21). God's Word teaches that forgiveness of sins and healing of the body go hand in hand. Healing is just as easy to receive from God as forgiveness of sins. If you have need of healing, it is only right that you surrender your life to God if you expect

Him to heal you. The body is God's house as well as our own. ***Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (I Corinthians 6:19-20).***

Because it is God's house, we are forbidden to mar it, to defile it or to abuse it. ***Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are (I Corinthians 3:16-17).***

SATAN'S OBJECTIVE

Satan's primary objective is to discredit God. Spoiling our bodies is one way he operates. Created in the image of God, we are caught in the middle of this spiritual battleground. Satan ***"as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8)***. He will devour you with disease and sickness if you let him. Our great advantage is that God sent His Son to destroy the works of the devil. ***"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8)***. God through Jesus Christ will destroy Satan's evil works in your body!

Our failures come because of an imperfect understanding of God's Word. God's Word declares that, ***"You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32)***. Satan, your adversary, knows the truth better than you do. Until you discover and start claiming what is legally yours, Satan will continue his harassment and assault on your life. He knows your weak areas.

The Bible clearly reveals that God wills to be the "healer" of His people and declares His will to heal all those that obey Him. Christ's works of healing were not only to prove His divinity but was a part of His complete mission of fulfilling the will of God. ***"Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God" (Hebrews 10:9)***. ***"Great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all" (Matthew 12:15)***. Jesus Himself is a revelation of the will of God. He did the will of God; He healed all who came to Him. He has an unchanging priesthood. ***"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8)***.

In ***Matthew 8:16-17***, God's Word tells us that Jesus ***"healed all that were sick; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying "He Himself took our infirmities, and bore our sicknesses."*** If He bore them then they rightfully and legally belong to Him and for us to take them upon our body is to be taking something that does not belong to us. In the material realm if one takes something that does not

belong to him, he is classified as a thief. The same thing applies in the spiritual realm. If Christ took our sins, then sins do not belong to the believer and as long as the believer has sins, Christ's atonement means nothing to him. If Christ took our sickness and pain, then they do not belong to the believer, and for a believer to have them is illegal and Christ's death in bearing them means nothing. ***"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for he will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)***

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (John 1:7-9).

At the hands of unbelievers, Jesus, our LAMB, was beaten. On His body deep furrows were plowed by the awful Roman lash as it literally tore pieces of flesh from His back. ***THESE WERE THE STRIPES*** by which Isaiah and Peter say, ***"WE WERE HEALED."*** And they were laid on His BODY. This was the bearing of our sicknesses, and so the provision was made for the healing of our body. They nailed Him to the cross and pierced His side. His blood ran down on the ground, ***". . . shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28).***

Jesus our Lamb suffered in two ways. He shed His blood on the cross for our salvation from sin, and He bore the stripes on His BODY for our healing from sickness. If you have let Him take your sins, won't you let Him take your sickness? Healing is a part of your salvation; do not be cheated out of it any more than you would permit yourself to be cheated out of forgiveness of sins.

In Deuteronomy the 28th chapter, we find sickness given as a part of the "curse." But ***Galatians 3:13*** declares that ***"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law."*** Look for a moment to the sicknesses specifically stated in Deuteronomy 28: plague,

consumption, fever, inflammation, severe burning, emerods (Hemorrhoids), the scab, the itch, madness, blindness, confusion of heart, strike you in the knees, in the legs, severe boils, all the diseases of Egypt, and as if these were not enough, verse 61 adds “every sickness and every plague which is not written in the book of this law.” Is there anything left uncovered? If you are carrying a disease, you are carrying a part of the curse. This should not be. Deuteronomy 7:15 tells us that diseases belong to those that hate God.

God has set us free from the curse of the law through Christ Jesus our Lord, for “whosoever will” meet the conditions and believe the Word. We may except ourselves, saying, “It is not His will,” but God excepts no one. He is no respecter of persons. His promises are to all. ***“Is anyone (not someone) sick among you?” (James 5:14).*** God is as willing to heal as He is to forgive sins. The only hindrance in getting the full benefits of Calvary is unbelief and lack of appropriation of the blessing which Christ died to give to all men.

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:4-5).

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses” (Matthew 8:16-17).

. . . who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed (Peter 2:24). Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:14-16).

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

The faith that receives from God is based upon the knowledge of His will. We cannot definitely take healing by faith, if there is any question whether it is for us. With proper knowledge of the will of God, we should *not* pray: “Lord, heal me, if it be Thy

will.” “If” implies doubt, and doubt cancels faith. Never be guilty of praying a useless, unbelieving prayer concerning anything that God has promised. If you truly feel that it is God’s will for you to be sick, you have no business going to a doctor trying to get rid of the will of God! The will of God is expressed in the Lord’s Prayer: – “Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.” Is heaven filled with sick people?

Our will also has a part in the question of healing. Will we take that which God has willed to give us? ***“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7).*** When our “I will,” meets His “I will,” the work is done.

HOW TO BE HEALED

You have the right and authority to claim healing from God when you are a born again Christian. ***For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them (Matthew 13:15);*** when you are diligently listening to God . . . ***and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26);*** when you are attending to God’s Word. ***Son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to all their flesh (Proverbs 4:20-22);*** and when your faith is unwavering. ***But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord (James 1:6-7).*** Now don’t give up if you don’t have enough faith – you can get it! Not everyone believes perfectly every time. ***“ . . . faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).*** Fill yourself with the appropriate word of God! ***“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord my strength, and my redeemer.***

Speak the following verses boldly, over and over, and you will become a changed person. Your life will become hidden in Christ. Don’t read them quietly, but read them aloud! You are building your own faith! Break your silence with God’s unchanging Word:

Never confess that **I can’t Say:**

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me . . ." (Philippians 4:13).

"The Lord is the strength of my life" (Psalm 27:1).

"Oh Lord, my strength, and my fortress, my refuge in the day of affliction" (Jeremiah 16:19).

Never confess that you lack Say:

"My God shall supply all of my needs according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

"No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

Never confess that you fear. Say:

"For God has not given me the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Never confess that you lack faith Say:

"God has dealt to each one a measure of faith" (Romans 12:3).

"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:10).

Never confess your weakness, or the supremacy of the Devil Say:

"When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19).

"Behold I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

Never again confess defeat Say:

Greater is He who is in me, than He who is in the world" (I John 4:4).

"Now thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ" (II Corinthians 2:14).

"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

Never again confess your sickness Say:

"Jesus . . . by whose stripes you were HEALED!" (1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5).

“I am the Lord that heals you” (Exodus 15:26).

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul . . . who heals all your diseases” (Psalm 103:1-3).

“In my name, they will lay hands on the sick, and they WILL RECOVER” . . . (Mark 16:18).

NOW CLAIM WHAT IS YOURS!

When believers agree together, things begin to happen. Join with others in agreeing upon your condition, pray one for another, get anointed with oil. ***And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them (Mark 6:13)*** and, ***Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:14-16).*** Jesus said that healing is “Children’s Bread.” If sinners can get the crumbs (and many are being saved and healed at the same time), you are entitled to your share. ***But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table” (Matthew 15:25, 26).***

“Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Tell Satan, **ALoud** that he is overcome by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of your testimony! ***“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death” (Revelation 12:11),*** that you are washed clean by the blood of Jesus and that by His stripes *you are healed*, and you refuse to accept his baggage which belongs to those who hate God.

As you win the battle and symptoms disappear, prepare for the counterattack! Satan does not give up easily. He will attack with a pain of an old symptom in the healed area to try and strike fear and doubt in your heart. This is a test of your faith. It is vital that you do not deny your healing and accept the condition again. Immediately strike back with the Word of God. When you resist him he must flee! Repeat the faith building verses. The more you say them, the more you believe. The less you say them, the less you believe.

Jesus exercised no power in His ministry that every true believer cannot have today. True believers can heal the sick and cast out devils! They can perform miracles and raise the dead. Many will say these things were only for the Apostles, just to get the

church started. No, my friend, this is what you were meant to be and do! Jesus said, ***“MOST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, THE WORKS THAT I DO HE WILL DO ALSO; AND GREATER WORKS THAN THESE HE WILL DO, BECAUSE I GO TO MY FATHER” (John 14:12).*** When we believe this, we see miracles.

CHAPTER FOUR

DELIVERANCE FROM DEMON BONDAGE

How to Be Free and How to Stay Free

***WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL ON THE NAME
OF THE LORD SHALL BE DELIVERED
JOEL 2:32 (KJV)***

Christians can live free from mental torment, fear, jealousy, hatred, lust, pride, self-pity, addiction, gluttony and all other forms of bondage, oppression and defilement! There are two main causes for man's inner problems. The first is what Paul calls 'the flesh,' or 'the old man.' That is man's carnal, unregenerate, rebellious nature which is influenced and buffeted by Satan. The second cause of inner problems is evil spirits, Satan's angels, which Satan uses to fasten upon some aspect of 'the flesh' and which will not relinquish their hold unless compelled to do so.

The majority of Christians today are almost totally ignorant of the nature of evil spirits. Because many are fearful of things beyond man's understanding, they choose to ignore this portion of God's ministry, and as a result multitudes are needlessly living in torment. Much of the ministry of Christ was devoted to casting devils out of tormented people. Jesus states in Mark 16:17 that if we are true believers these signs shall follow us, "In my name they shall cast out devils." This should be a part of our ministry to non-believers.

The remedies provided in Scripture for the two conditions are entirely different. The scriptural remedy for the believer's fleshly nature is complete surrender to Jesus Christ. . . . ***knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (Romans 6:6a).***

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:11).

Clearly, correct diagnosis becomes of great practical importance. We need to know what we are dealing with in each case. Is the problem caused merely by oppression – ‘the flesh’? If so, we must get the person to commit his life fully to Christ. ***“Our old man was crucified with him (Christ) (Romans 6:6a) . . . likewise you also reckon also yourselves to be dead, (Romans 6:11). . .(those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. . .” (Galations 5:24).*** Is the problem possession? If so – the scriptural remedy for evil spirits is to cast them out. ***For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” (Mark 5:8). “And these signs will follow those who believe; In My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues (Mark 16:17). For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed (Acts 8:7).*** This is totally scriptural for non-believers. The two remedies cannot be substituted for each other. You cannot ‘cast out’ man’s fleshly nature. Nor can you ‘crucify’ an evil spirit, or reckon it ‘dead.’

DISCERNMENT

There is a danger that some people will attribute all personal problems to the activity of evil spirits. Each of the extremes – from total ignorance to indiscriminate labeling – is undesirable and harmful to the cause of Christ.

There are two principal ways to guard against such error. First, we must apply to ourselves the same standards of discernment that we would apply to others. If we have allowed the Holy Spirit to search every area of our own minds and hearts, seeking the cause of our problems, we are less likely to be hasty in our assessment of other people and their problems. Second, we must remember that every sincere Christian must renounce all known evil and make a wholehearted personal commitment to Jesus Christ. When a person is not willing to meet this requirement, there can be no permanent solution to his problems.

There are three main identifying marks of evil spirits. *They enslave, they defile, they torment.* If a person has renounced evil and committed his life to Christ, but has still not found peace, the problem is very likely due to the influence of evil spirits. The sooner one recognizes this force and accepts the right way of being freed, the sooner he can return to a normal, happy existence.

There are a number of different areas within man's personality which Satan attacks. One main area is that of attitudes and emotions. Oppression here leads to all types of mental disturbances. Another is sex. Oppression here leads to obsessing urges, perversion, etc. Another is appetites and desires, which under the influence of evil spirits develop into addictions to food, alcohol, tobacco, pills, drugs, etc. Another area is that of religious beliefs and experiences, including contact with the spiritual world through channels other than faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ. In the last area, many professing Christians have disobeyed God's Word to avoid sorcery and the like and have become involved in contacts with mediums, fortune-telling, horoscopes, Ouija boards, ESP., etc. Continuing such contacts almost invariably brings the influence of an evil spirit upon the person, visitations by apparitions, noises, etc.

The Bible reveals that Satan may seduce a child of God away from the protection of the blood of Jesus, entice him to miss God's will, and drive him on to death or self-destruction. When Satan with his demonic spirits gets in control of some phase of the Christian's life, the Christian becomes confused and defeated and must seek help.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons (I Timothy. 4:1).

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure (II Corinthians 12:7)

Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us (I Thessalonians 2:18).

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:11-12) . . . “Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices” (II Corinthians 2:11).

Satan is out to render you ineffective as a testimony for Jesus Christ. *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world (I Peter 5:9).* He will do his best to devour you by weakening you to a point where you sin, giving Satan legal rights to your life. *“Give no place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:27).*

DELIVERANCE

A number of conditions must be met by an individual if prayer is to bring permanent deliverance from demon bondage: Humility; Honesty; A willingness to confess all known sin; A willingness to turn from all sin and contact with evil spirits; Forgiveness of all persons; Complete surrender to the Lordship of Christ in every area of life. Surrender in particular must be observed if the deliverance is to be permanent.

The individual in need of deliverance can follow a systematic method of liberation by the following:

1. Verbal confession of faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Verbal confession of the sins of world, mind, body or occult involvement, which gave Satan legal access to your life.
3. Break Satan's legal right to your life by renouncing each sin and its effect upon your life as a lie of the devil. ***But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God (II Corinthians 4:2)***, and claiming the truth from God's Word concerning the situation. For "fear," read and claim ***II Timothy 1:7, For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind***, etc.
4. Command the demons to go in the name of Jesus!

When the oppression is severe, it is advisable to have several present to come against these powers of darkness. Prayer for deliverance should be made only by born again, Spirit filled believers. In Acts 19:13-16, the unbelieving seven sons of Sceva experimented and met disastrous results. A practical and necessary thing is to learn to use the blood of Jesus in the presence of the Destroyer. Plead the blood of Jesus over all present, sing choruses of the blood of Jesus. This is preparation and protection, as we do not wish the demons to attack us. There is nothing like a freshly applied blood line. Believers have nothing to fear. Demons cannot get through the blood. If they could, they would be saved.

There may be manifestations as you plead the blood and give commands but our authority stands. ***"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19)***. The spirits may speak to you. Many come out by moaning, coughing, vomiting, writhing, yelling, great yawns, tears, spitting up foam or blood. Astonishing? It happened with Jesus and early believers! Don't suppress it – to hold it in may prevent your deliverance.

Remember that demon spirits are ‘beings’ with wicked intelligence that seek a body in which to express themselves. They are Satan’s angels. ***So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (Revelation 12:9).*** When they leave, evil afflictions leave. Addictions, perversion, cancer, apparitions go!

HOW TO STAY DELIVERED

It may be true that your deliverance was won by the prayer of others, but unless you now take action yourself, it can be lost in a moment of defeat. You will never be completely happy or permanently healed until you learn how to personally stay free by God’s power. Satan’s power is not cancelled out by the presence of Christ within us. The situation is serious enough for our Savior to ask: ***“I pray, Father . . . that You should keep them from the evil one” (John 17:15).***

Our Lord Himself gave a very solemn warning when He said in ***Matthew 12:43-45*** ***“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty . . . Then he goes and takes with him 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.”*** Jesus is teaching here that when a person is born again and delivered from an unclean spirit, that it will try to return. Jesus said the man was empty. He had not done his part. Remember! Jesus remains only by your consent. You must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. If you are not born again and are not meeting God’s conditions and are not reading God’s Word regularly, you are in a dangerous position. Your body is a temple. When your sign says ‘VACANCY,’ demons are free to enter. Christ is no longer present. When you are born again, your sign says ‘NO VACANCY’ and they cannot enter. If you do not have the baptism in the Holy Spirit, seek it! ***“You shall receive power when the Holy Ghost has come upon you . . .” (Acts 1:8).*** And you need God’s power!

“Abstain from all appearance of evil”(I Thessalonians 5:22). Philippians 4:8-9 tells us peace will be with us if we think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtue and praise. Why? Because Satan will attack you through your mind if you read evil words; through your eyes if they dwell on evil sights, and through your ears if you listen to evil. Be careful what you allow your mind to think, your eyes to see, your ears to hear, your mouth to speak and your body to do. It is no sin to have an evil thought or to hear an evil word. The sin comes if we choose to dwell upon it or obey it rather than take the ‘way of escape’ by resisting Satan. Jesus resisted Satan by quoting Scripture to him!

Break your silence often, praising God, singing hymns, quoting Scripture and praying in tongues. You may have to do this dozens of times a day until Satan sees you mean business. It is important to pray in tongues as God's Word tells us in ***1 Corinthians 14:4 He who speaks in tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.*** This 'edifies' us, or builds us up in the Lord. Jude 20 tells us praying in the Holy Ghost builds up our faith! ***But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.*** This is praying in the perfect will of God for you. ***Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27).***

Memorize the 23rd Psalm and repeat it often aloud. Many have been delivered and healed by this alone! ***"Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).*** Staying delivered is in your hands, according to God's Word.

"And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the lamb, and by the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11). Overcome Satan by telling him what the blood of Jesus Christ does for you, and that his lease on your life is broken.

As often as you are oppressed, repeat the following from the word of God **ALoud** and with **Authority**:

"My sins are forgiven through the blood of Jesus.

I am redeemed by the blood of Jesus . . .

Out of the hand of Satan.

I am justified and made righteous . . .

By the blood of Jesus.

The blood of Jesus protects me from evil.

I belong to Jesus Christ, God's Son . . .

Spirit, soul and body.

Because of the blood of Jesus . . .

Satan has no more power over me.

No more place in me.

Jesus said these signs shall follow believers,

"In my name shall they cast out devils."

I am a believer . . .

And in the name of Jesus
I bind all evil spirits!
I command them to leave me!
According to the Word of God . .
And in the name of Jesus!

CHAPTER FIVE

THE OCCULT

OCCULT AND THE CHRISTIAN

Seances	Automatic Writing	Clairaudience
Pendulum Healing	Psychic Portraits	Crystal Glazing
Dream Analysis	Rosicrucianism	Yoga Meditation
Reincarnation	Devil's Pentagram	Astral Projection
Sorcery	Person Programming	Divination
Ouija Boards	Transcendental Meditation	Fortune-telling
Satan Worship	Spiritualism	Parapsychology
Numerology	Table Tipping	Tarot Cards
Clairvoyance	Great Seal	Alchemy
Voodoo	Talismans	Telepathy
Witchcraft	Fetishes	Astrology
Black Arts	Materializations	Tea Leaves
Levitation	Scientology	White Magic
Colorology	Black Mass	Phrenology
I Ching	ESP	Kabala

And Many More

WHAT IS OCCULTISM?

Occult is defined as knowledge beyond human understanding: mysterious, secretive, hidden or concealed from view. *“The secret things (hidden knowledge) belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong unto us” (Deuteronomy 29:29).*

God and Satan are the only two sources for power, hidden information, knowledge, supernatural help, guidance or healing. Many are drifting into the occult because they

are spiritually in need. Man cannot exist in a spiritual vacuum. He will either have Christ or Satan, but he will not have an empty soul.

The occult is very religious and many through it hope to find themselves, a reason for their being and to fill a void in their soul. They try to find God, but are never given the assurance, peace and harmony which can only be found in Jesus. The modern occult movement is a do-it-yourself religion. Man is looking to a power or force other than the living God to satisfy his life. A Christian should *not* seek guidance or power through any other means, only through the Scriptures and prayer in Jesus' Name.

There is another way to obtain the desired help or guidance, and that is through the door of occultism. Behind this door the powers of darkness work through the occult media directed by Satan. Some have found out to their horror and dismay that Satan is the one who is willing to reveal supernatural things and give help. Many are discovering that the real source of their guidance and supernatural power is demonic.

If you've never experimented or dabbled with any of the occult practices listed at the beginning of this chapter, then God's command may be summarized perfectly in one word – DON'T! Participation or involvement in any way with these practices listed is disobedience to God's Word. The Scriptures forbid man from having any contact with or to seek help from these sources. Seeking supernatural experiences from any source other than God is idolatry and is a clear violation of the First Commandment. ***“You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me” (Exodus 20:3-5).***

The Apostle Paul warns that idolatry is “fellowship with devils and provokes the Lord to jealousy.” . . . ***the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He? (1 Corinthians 10:20-22).*** Scriptures forewarn us of the increased occult activity; that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons. God's Word states plainly and gives us detailed occult practices that God calls abominations.

Seeking help from the occult is equivalent to calling upon another God. It is insulting to God who made heaven and earth to consult with any of the occult for guidance when you can inquire of Him. People who dabble with the occult are

recklessly flirting with demonism. Satan is called “the god of this world.” . . . *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them*” (II Corinthians 4:4). God’s people are warned that they are to have no other gods before Him.

“When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shalt not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter to pass through the fire or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you.” (Deuteronomy 18:9-12).

The sentence of capital punishment was in effect on witches (sorcerers). *“You shall not permit a sorceress to live” (Exodus 22:18)* or wizards (clairvoyant or physics). *“A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them” (Leviticus 20:27).* To have any dealings with spiritism is to be defiled and unfit to appear before God to worship HIM. *“Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them; I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:31).* God is against that soul who goes after familiar spirits, mediums, or wizards and God will cut him off among his people. (For further studies read: Leviticus 19:26, 31; 20:6, 7; 1 Samuel 15:23; 28:3, 7; II Kings 21:5, 6; 1 Chronicles 10:13; II Chronicles 33:6; Isaiah 2:6; 8:19; Jeremiah 27:9, 10; Zechariah 10:2; Malachi 3:5; 1 Timothy 4:1; II Timothy 3:8).

In *Isaiah 47:13*, the Lord challenges the astrologers, stargazers, monthly prognosticators (horoscope followers), to try to save Babylon from his curse. *“You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, and the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from what shall come upon you.”*

WHAT DOES OCCULTISM DO TO YOU?

Many have allowed themselves to become ensnared in the diabolical web of occultism. In their search for guidance, freedom, or quick solutions from their troubles and sorrows, they try to find a way out, but become more deeply involved.

The autobiography of King Saul is for our teaching and admonition. (Please read 1 Samuel 28.) He had a good beginning, but later on he disobeyed God's command and God no longer answered his prayer. In his distress and confusion he turned to a medium (witch of Endor) for guidance. The end result was ***"So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the Lord, because he did not keep the word of the Lord, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance. But he did not inquire of the Lord; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse"*** (1 Chronicles 10:13, 14).

Occult involvement, whether done innocently or not, is disobedience to God's Word. When men ignore God's warnings and enter a forbidden realm, they may witness spiritual phenomena. Occult oppression, subjection and possession are the inevitable penalties to all who traffic in the realm of the supernatural.

How often the statement is made, "there is nothing wrong in playing a harmless game. ." or "go ahead. I dare you to try it." "Surely if one does not believe in the occult there can be no harm or after effects." Many Christians believe that they are immune to the spiritual consequences which follow occult involvement. You may be a victim of occult bondage and oppression because of former participation. Whether done innocently, in fun or not, you have opened the door to the powers of darkness. Even though such occult activity may have occurred many years ago, time and place have nothing to do with it, you still have opened the door.

Many Christian youth groups are playing with Ouija boards, table tipping and automatic writing in Sunday School. A Christian attended a seance because her boyfriend dared her to. She suffered depression, nightmares, insomnia, suicidal tendencies, family discord, illness and hostile resistance to Biblical truths. For years she was unaware that the source or the cause of her problem was because she had been involved with the occult. She was reaping what was sown in a moment of weakness, all because of a dare! ***"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap"*** (Galatians 6:7). If Satanic and demonic deception is to be avoided, strict adherence to the truth of God's Word must be maintained. This pertains to Christian and non-Christian alike, ***"For I am the Lord, I do not change"*** (Malachi 3:6).

HOW TO RECOGNIZE OCCULT OPPRESSION

The following evidences and manifestations are an indication of oppression or bondage by demon spirits. Caution must be used, for some of these symptoms may stem from other causes. Proper diagnosis is needed. (See the chapter on Deliverance.) Long periods of gloominess, depression, unpredictable behavior,

uncontrollable passions, sexual lust, appetites, temper tantrums, defiant, uncontrollable hatred or suspicion, jealousy or resentments, delusions, compulsive lying, gambling, stealing, obsessive thoughts of self-destruction – and even fear of dying! Blasphemous thoughts against the blood of Christ, God or Holy Spirit, speech and behavior abnormalities, religious delusions, seeing apparitions, hearing voices, and chronic physical ailments that do not respond to medical treatment or prayer, etc.

DELIVERANCE AND LIBERATION FROM OCCULTISM

1. Confession of Faith in Christ.

Victims of occult domination must, with all sincerity, trust Christ and confess Jesus as Savior. Jesus is the only deliverer from the powers of darkness. You must call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and be reconciled to God before dealing with the problem of occult involvement. You must be determined, because Satan does not let people go easily. It is only through the blood of Christ and your open and honest confession of Jesus as Savior and Lord that liberation will come.

2. Confession of Occult involvement.

The occult involvement and transgression must be confessed to a merciful God who will not abandon His children to the Wicked One. By confessing the specific sins of occult involvement, you unmask the enemy and expose the strategy by which you were held in bondage. Confession means to agree with God about the sin. Say the same thing: “God you hate this. I do too.” If sin is not confessed, Satan remains concealed and protected behind the unrecognized or unconfessed sin, making him free to continue his work of oppression and confusion. *“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).*

3. Renounce the Devil and Command Him to Depart.

This is essential when a pact or agreement has been concluded with the powers of darkness. Satan’s contentions in your case is that he has a right to enter because you have opened the door for him. You have granted Satan access through occult involvement. Such an agreement must be annulled and can only be dissolved by a conscious verbal act of repudiation on the part of the one subjected. You must give a direct command to Satan himself to depart in the Name of Jesus. (Not a prayer or request, but a COMMAND!) Make it clear once and forever that you are taking back the place, the agreement, the lease and the pact that you gave to Satan.

Those who are liberated must realize that deliverance is a walk as well as an experience. The ground taken from Satan must be safeguarded for Christ. After

deliverance, it is necessary to walk in the will of God according to the Word of God. The riddance of occult objects, charms and literature is indispensable to a sustained emancipation. ALL objects are to be done away with and destroyed once and for all.

And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver (Acts 19:18, 19).

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--(Ephesians 6:10-18).

Study and stand on the Word of God daily. Above all, do not rely on feelings or appearances. Satan knows he is defeated and because God's Word says it, – You believe it, and that settles it!