

WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

Is The Deliverance Ministry Scriptural?, Part 1

Thursday, July 28, 2022 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching

OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

FACILITATION OF LESSON

Sermon Title: “Is The Deliverance Ministry Scriptural,” Part1

POINT 1

This week we are beginning our study of the topic, “Is the deliverance ministry scriptural?” To begin our study let’s examine the purpose God gave the five-fold ministry gifts to the church. The answer is found in the Book of **Ephesians 4:11-13**:

*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto **a perfect man**”*

In verse 11, the Apostle Paul reveals God’s gifts to his people. The apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Then Paul reveals the purpose for the gifts in verse 12, “*For **the perfecting** of the saints...*” The word “*perfection*” is development. He’s literally talking about them growing up. The purpose God has given the fivefold ministry gifts to His people is **for their development**. For their growth!

So, he says in **verses12-13**, “*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto **a perfect man** unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ”*

We see the word “*perfect*” again and it means *complete, mature, fully developed, develop to the end*. With this definition verse 13 would read, “*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the*

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*Son of God, unto a **perfect** (complete, mature, fully developed, develop to the end) **man**.*” Through the feeding and impartation of the Word and through the anointing on the fivefold ministry; people are developed. You can’t be developed any other way!

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God give gifts to the church? What are those gifts?
2. What does it mean to be perfected? And how are we perfected?

Notice what the Apostle Paul goes on to say in verse 14, *“That we henceforth **be no more children**,”* What are the characteristics of a spiritual child as described by the Apostle Paul in this scripture? They are *“tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to **deceive**.”* Those are the characteristic of a natural child and a spiritual child. Why? Little children will believe anything you tell them. A big characteristic of being a child both spiritually and naturally is that you are unstable.

If you are a child spiritually and naturally you are what the Apostle Paul says here, *“...tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind [every blowing changing wind] of doctrine by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in **wait to deceive**.”* This is the enemy’s primary weapon, Deception! And through deception he divides and he destroys. This is how he works! We want to make sure you are not deceived!

QUESTIONS:

1. What are the characteristics of a child in your own words?
2. What is the enemy’s primary weapon? What are the results?

That’s why we’re studying the topic, *“**Is the deliverance ministry scriptural**.”* The reason we’re studying and answering this question is because many Christians today are being taken in by the devil’s deception in the so-called **“deliverance ministry.”** Much of what is happening today under the guise of “deliverance” is excess and error.

Any kind of deliverance must have its foundation and practices firmly grounded in the Word of God not in human experience. Much of what is going on today in deliverance ministries cannot be found in the bible but is based on human experience and excess. Actually, the enemy is working through some in the so-called deliverance ministry in the Body of Christ to get many good people off track and diverted from what God desires to do in their lives.

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Now despite the error that is being taught about deliverance and demonology, deliverance is scriptural. If you are a Christian, healing and deliverance belong to you. But you need to realize that the word “*deliverance*” doesn’t just mean deliverance from demons. Actually, **freedom from anything** that would try to bind you is part of your redemptive rights in Christ. For this reason, you should never allow anything from Satan to bring you into bondage, because your complete redemption from Satan’s dominion has already been provided for you by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus bought and paid for our redemption on the cross of Calvary. For the believer, that redemption includes deliverance from any satanic bondage – spirit, soul, and body.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it important for us to study this subject?
2. How is the enemy using this subject against Christians?
3. What should we realize?

POINT 2

Healing and deliverance are part of our covenant rights when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. In **Matthew 8:16-17** it says, “*When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the **spirits with his word**, and **healed** all that were sick.*” Notice it says, “*He cast out the spirits and he healed the sick. 17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities** (WEAKNESSES), and bare our sicknesses.*”

He took them. It’s already been done! And in **Luke 10:19** it says, “*Behold, I give unto you **power** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over **all the power of the enemy**: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*” We already have the power or authority over all the power of the enemy. Another passage of familiar scripture regarding healing is **1 Peter 2:24**, “*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*” He did this 2000 years ago!

QUESTIONS:

1. How did Jesus establish our covenant rights?

Because deliverance is included in our redemption, it is scriptural to minister deliverance to those who are sick or oppressed by the Devil. But in ministering deliverance, we should help people first and foremost

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by getting God's word into them so faith will rise up in their own hearts. People can be healed and delivered just by acting on the word for themselves. And if God wills, we can also minister to sick and oppressed people by supernatural manifestations of the Spirit of God. But it's important to teach people what the Word of God says first, so they can receive their healing and deliverance for themselves and know how to hold on to what they receive from God. Their own faith plays a vital part in that; otherwise, they won't know how to stand against the wiles of the Devil for themselves when he tries to rob them of what they receive from the Lord.

God may choose to use supernatural manifestations of the spirit to set people free, or he may not. But His Word always works when people know what the Word says and act on it for themselves. The Gospel according **John 8:32** says, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" It didn't say "*set you free*" it said "*make you free.*" That's talking about keeping you free. That's why you should teach people to rely on the Word to be made free from Satan's oppression and bondage – not on spiritual manifestations.

QUESTIONS:

1. What should we do first and foremost when it comes to delivering people? Elaborate!
2. How does their own faith play a part in their deliverance?

POINT 3

There are errors and extremes in the deliverance ministry. There are several areas in particular in the so-called deliverance ministry today that have no scriptural basis. For example, there's the erroneous teaching that most Christians have demons in them that need to be cast out. But you can't find **even one** example in the New Testament of the early church dealing with devils in Christians. All of the people the apostles and the early church cast Devils out of were unbelievers. That ought to tell us something! Although it's not possible for a Christian to be possessed by a Devil in his spirit, a believer can be oppressed **in their mind** and **in their body** by demons.

Yet most of the vast numbers of Christians, just a small percentage of believers had a Devil in their mind or body. But most of the so-called deliverance ministries today claim that the majority if not all Christians have Devils that routinely need to be cast out. That's nonsense! When you are dealing with demons in people, really the only way you know that a demon is present is if the Holy Ghost reveals it to you and tells you to do something about it. Otherwise, you should just minister to the people by faith in God's Word and by the anointing of the holy spirit. Both ways are scriptural!

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QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the errors of deliverance ministries? Why is this wrong?
2. How would you know if someone is dealing with a demon spirit?

We can see a scriptural example of this in Acts 16 when Paul dealt with that evil spirit in the damsel. **Acts 16:18 reads, “And this did she *many days*.”** Paul didn’t immediately just try to cast the Devil out of her, even though that Devil harassed him for many days. The passage continues “*But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.*” It was only when the Holy Ghost revealed to Paul, what to do, that he ministered to the girl and cast the Devil out of her.

In other words, deliverance is not something we take upon ourselves. We don’t just go out seeking devils to cast out of people or just decide to deliver someone. Deliverance should be done by the Holy Spirit’s direction. Of course, we can pray for someone who is oppressed by the Devil and stand with him in rebuking the Devil.

QUESTIONS:

1. When and how did Paul deal with the evil spirit?
2. Can we just go up to someone and cast the devil out of them? Why or Why not?

Ultimately, however, believers are going to have to learn how to stand against the Devil for themselves. The point is that you can’t just look at a person and decide that since he is acting a certain way, he must have a demon. It isn’t scriptural to try to categorize demons from your own mental understanding or to determine that certain demons always act in certain ways. A demon can affect the way a person acts, but the Holy Spirit would have to show you that a demon is involved, because it could just be the flesh too. You can’t just figure it out in your mind, it has to be spiritually discerned. In other words, true deliverance isn’t just a matter of saying that a particular problem or illness, either mental or physical, is always caused by a demon.

Be careful of trying to label certain patterns of behavior as demons, such as demons of jealousy, gluttony, greed, and so forth, when it may just be works of the flesh. It’s true that if people indulge in the works of the flesh, they can open the door to the enemy, but the bible doesn’t mention demons by those particular names.

QUESTIONS

1. According to what we just read what is unscriptural when it comes to dealing with evil spirits?
2. What should we be careful of?

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CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
 - a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian and the ministerial staff.
 - b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

Have you reached out to your circle today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. Join us **Monday, July 25, 2022 at 6:30 pm for Command, Praise and Worship Day**. Service will be held at the church. Join us as we command the safety of the entire Caribbean from hurricanes, earthquakes and natural disasters and welcome are peace be still season.
2. Generation 6:20 Youth Service – **Friday, August 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** The cost for Friday Night Live is \$1.00. For more information See Minister Francis.
3. Would you like to become a Word of Faith member? Join us for membership class. The date has been changed to **Saturday, August 6, 2022, 9:00 am until 1:00 p.m.** To register contact the church office at (340) 774-8617 or email wordoffaithvi@gmail.com.
4. Join us for **Holy Communion, Sunday, August 7, 2022 at 10:00am**. If you are joining us online prepare your communion elements in advance so that we can partake together.
5. Single with Purpose is having a “Mini Retreat” at “The View” Single Ladies and Single Men! You are invited to come out, **Friday, August 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm** for an extraordinary evening of Conversation, Games, Food etc. There will be a \$20.00 charge (in advance) per person. For more information, see Minister Bachelor in person or email her at singlewithpurpose2019@gmail.com. Sign up in the back. See you then!

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6. Baby Dedication Service, **Sunday, August 14, 2022 at 10:00 am.** To register call the church office at (340) 774-8617 or email wordofaithvi@gmail.com
7. Join us for Water Baptism at Brewer's Beach, **Sunday, August 14, 2022**, immediately following service. To receive an information packet contact Minister Abbott.

OFFERING

- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL
