

THE MINISTRY OF DELIVERANCE

These notes are taken from " I Saw Satan Fall " by Dom Benedict Heron OSB

INTRODUCTION

If you don't believe in the existence of personified evil, then reading the Gospels will make for uncomfortable reading. The Four Evangelists show Jesus face to face with the cosmic conflict between good and evil. Jesus had a deliverance ministry, Luke 11: 14, Now he was casting out a demon that was dumb; when the demon had gone out, the dumb man spoke, and the people marvelled driving out demons and setting people free as he had promised when he quoted from Isaiah in Luke 4: 18 - 21 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.....to set free those who are oppressed."

There are many people, Christians among them, who deny the existence of the devil and demons, making out that they are a figment of our imagination. But Ephesians 6: 12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

1. Deliverance should be seen as an extension of Prayer for Inner Healing. This implies that a prayer of Deliverance should not be said before a prayer for Inner Healing. If prayer or prayers for Inner Healing do not produce a result, then pray for Deliverance. HEALING 1 was all about Inner Healing. **You do NOT GO INTO the Healing Ministry and, more so, you do not go into the Deliverance ministry. You are pushed into both by God.**

2. But Deliverance exists in its own right. It is more than a prayer for Inner Healing.

3. First let's see what Deliverance means. There are many types of harmful, bad, evil spirits. There is a whole **range or gradation** of evil from the smallest vices or imperfections to the greatest of all which is possession by the devil. Possession is most uncommon, perhaps one in a hundred million people or less. Small habits of sin can be seen as evil or even something like smoking, if it is something I cannot give up, if I am bound by it, I am not free. So these are the two extremes. An analogy - when we say someone is sick, that could mean a sore throat or the last stages of cancer. Christ came to set us free and that's what he wants to do if we are not free. Luke 4: 18 - 21

4. The Devil and demons mentioned in the New Testament. Here are a **few** scriptures verses to look at. Luke 4:1, + 4:13; 22:31 Matthew 16:23. "Get behind me Satan" Mark 4:15, John 13:2 + 13:27. Ephes. 4: 27, 6: 11 ; 1 Tim. 3: 6 , 2 Tim. 2: 26, James 4: 7, 1 Peter 5: 8,
1 John 3: 8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the work of the devil .

5. Jesus (and his disciples) often cast out demons Matthew 8:16, 10: 1 + 7, 17:18,
Sistine chapel Matthew 12: 28, Luke 11: 20 Mark 3: 15, 5: 1 - 13 demoniac 9: 25 + 29.
Luke 9: 1, **10: 17 – 20** Acts 5:3, 16:16-18. **19: 11 - 20**

6. The Devil attacks the Individual, the Family and small groups, the Nation and the World, the Christian Community. *(At present he is also attacking especially married couples, and priests)*

7. So if someone is experiencing strong temptations or trials of, say, anger, pride, lust, fear, discouragement, alcoholism, depression, *ADDICTIONS, gambling (added by Fr Nicholas)* especially when there is no apparent cause, there may be some degree of direct demonic attack. When someone has a serious drug problem, a really uncontrollable temper or is seriously involved in adulterous activity or pornography, worshipping money, gambling, always hypocritical, strongly tempted to suicide, or involved in the occult, there is more than likely some demonic bondage present. (McAll p 75, 77)

8. This demonic bondage is often called demonic oppression, obsession or infestation. The devil has partial control and leaves other parts of the person free, so in many ways the person seems good and is good. *It is important to remember this.*

9. Ordinary measures to counteract the above or measures to avoid getting into such situations:

Concentrating on Jesus and Holiness, *Prayer and the Sacraments, Praise, Repentance*, avoid deliberate sin, *the Our Father, Prayer to Our Lady, read Scripture*, establish a relationship with the Good Angels and our Guardian Angel and *with the Christian Community, Spiritual Counsellors, Holy Water, The Sign of the Cross, Crucifixes, Holy Pictures, Medals*. Remember, it is Christ who saves - not these objects, and above all put on:

THE ARMOUR OF GOD. *The following may be helpful: (from **EPHESIANS 6:11-17**)*

(1) I place upon my HEAD the HELMET OF SALVATION as a protection against all thinking, speaking, seeing, hearing, feeling which is not of you. (Christ)

(2) I place upon my CHEST the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS as a protection against all unrighteous thoughts, all fear and anxiety, all sickness and all harm to the body.

(3) I place round my WAIST the GIRDLE OF TRUTH that I may be truthful at every level of my being.

(4) I place on my FEET the SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE that I may be the messenger of your GOOD NEWS to others.

(5) I take in my LEFT HAND the SHIELD OF FAITH with which to quench all the flaming darts of the enemy.

(6) I take into my RIGHT HAND the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT with which to attack the strongholds of the enemy.

10. REBUKING EVIL SPIRITS. Mark 6: 7, 12 + 13. *And he called to him the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.... So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them. Mark 16:17. And these signs will accompany those who believe; in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues....*

According to the present discipline of the Catholic Church, solemn exorcism of the possessed is reserved to a priest (an Exorcist) appointed by the bishop. However, lesser forms of deliverance prayer are permitted to Catholics, indeed we all pray for deliverance when we conclude the Our Father. The new Catholic Catechism states (2851) "*In this petition, evil is not an abstraction, but refers to a person, Satan, the Evil One, the angel who opposes God.*"

11. **What can be done by any Christian?** One can ask Jesus to deliver a person from a spirit of anger, lust or fear for example. Such a prayer is not normally said out loud as it might frighten, unless of course the individual is asking for such a prayer.

12. The following method is found to be helpful:

(1) Start with praise and intermingle praise with the rest of the prayer. Praise is very powerful.

(2) Prayer for protection of everyone present. Thus "Jesus, through your Precious Blood, protect John and all of us present, from all harm, evil and attacks of the devil. Amen. One could also ask Our Lady, the saints and the angels to protect with their prayer all present. The prayer to Holy Michael the Archangel, would be appropriate.

(3) ASK Jesus to bind any evil spirits in the person who is being prayed for. For example: "Jesus, please bind any evil spirits in John." Or "Jesus, please bind any evil spirit of anger or of fear in John." (Exorcists have found that if they first "bind" the spirits they are often easier to cast out afterwards.) It's also far safer for the one who is praying.

(4) Then ask Jesus to cast out any evil spirits from the person in question. For example: "Jesus, please cast out any evil spirits in John and command them not to return." Or "Jesus, please cast out any spirit of fear in John and command it not to return."

(5) **Very important.** Pray for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, for the departure of evil spirits can leave a vacuum, and one does not want them to return. For example: "Jesus, please fill John's whole being with your Holy Spirit, so that there is room in John for nothing which is not of you." *Fr. Nicholas always adds the **light** of the Holy Spirit.*

(Christopher Neil-Smith - explain - lady I took to him).

After his prayer of deliverance he asked me to pray a prayer for light. She preferred my prayer to his!!!

The ordained priest prays slightly differently: after praise:

Father Nicholas version is:

(2) *Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to put a ring of protection around us with your Precious Blood to keep us from harm. Holy Michael, the Archangel, be our defender, Mary, you're our mother, be our guide and our protector.*

(3) *In the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ and with His power and with His authority, I bind any evil spirit from doing any harm to John, Mary or anyone connected with us.*

(4) *In the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, with His power and with His authority, I cast out any spirit of fear...etc..*

(5) *Jesus, please fill John and Mary with the light and power of your Holy Spirit.*

13. Sometimes **places** need a deliverance prayer of one kind or another.

London, Soho, (Heron page 77/78), M25, Houses, Bermuda Triangle (McAll p 59/61)
Roads (p 61)

14. There is no use trying to cast out evil spirits from someone who does not want to repent
e.g. from the occult.

15. WARNING. Children in school are playing with ouija boards and tarot cards. Some
Halloween parties go too far. Fortune telling stalls in parish fetes. (Heron page 115)

16. In St. Gregory the Great's short life of Saint Benedict there are many references to the
devil. *See separate sheet.*

17. See separate sheet for information about the **Medal of St Benedict**

FOOTNOTE

Although the devil and his demons can give us a difficult time, as they did to Jesus during His
temptation in the wilderness - if we are truly trying to follow Jesus and to trust in Him, then we
have nothing to fear from the power of darkness.

We read in the Letter of St. James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and
he will flee from you.*

And in Ephesians 4:26 *Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger and
give no opportunity to the devil.*

And St. Paul writes (Romans 16:19) *I would have you wise as to what is good and guileless as
to what is evil, then the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*

So in truth Satan and the demons have more to fear from us than we have from them, if we
keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and if his praises are on our lips and in our hearts. Alleluia!