

Deliverance Ministry Training

By Steve Koncz

(Note: Emphasis added on some quotes)

After some 20 years of praying with people who have had varying degrees of demonisation, I want to share with you what I have learned. Some will know little or nothing about this type of ministry. For some, this study can be seen as further training in deliverance ministry. Some are extremely prejudiced against this ministry. If this is the case for you, all I ask is that you look at this material with an open mind and a prayer for wisdom and discernment. Not everything our Western SDA church leaders believe is necessarily 100% true. Think for yourself, allowing yourself to be guided by the Bible and the writings of Ellen White. Leave a little room for experience, which can add meaning and valuable content to theory. There is room for growth in understanding, particularly in this area.

While each case of demonisation is different, and fixed formulas often do not work in practice, there are some basics and principles that are useful in every situation. I will attempt to detail these, and explain several situations I encountered and what I learned from them. In this study, I am bearing my soul in how I practice spiritual warfare. Some will no doubt use this material to condemn me, but I share it nevertheless for those who will be blessed and assisted to improve and develop their ministry to the demonised. I recommend that your ministry not be restricted to deliverance alone. The Lord Jesus gave us the example of a *balanced* ministry, which every true Christian should emulate as closely as possible, as God has gifted us.

Typical Response to Those with Demonic Problems

What do most of our ministers, elders, and laypeople do when they encounter those with demonic problems? Few can even recognise the symptoms. Most will only offer a prayer and a pat on the back. Some are so cowardly and ignorant that they will refer these poor souls to “the Pentecostal preacher in the other church”. We must never refer these people to Pentecostal/Charismatic ministers. They may well end up with worse problems than before. Although they call on the name of Jesus, their methods, doctrines, and practices may place these people only in further bondage, temporarily disguised as freedom. It is *our duty* as born again Christians in God’s remnant church to do all in our power to save from utter ruin those oppressed by the devil.

“There are those who will not make a charge upon the enemy when required of God to do so. They will do nothing until others have fought the battle and gained the victory for them, and then they are ready to share the spoils. How much can God count upon such soldiers? *They are accounted as cowards in His cause.* This class, I saw, gained no experience for themselves in regard to warfare against sin and Satan. *They were more inclined to fight against the faithful soldiers of Christ*

than against Satan and his host. Had they girded on the armor and pressed into the battle, they would have gained a valuable experience which it was their privilege to have. But they had no courage to contend for the right, to venture something in the warfare, and to *learn how to attack Satan and take his strongholds.* Some have no idea of running any risk or venturing anything themselves. But somebody must venture; someone must run risks in this cause” (3T 316).

What would you think of a soldier in battle who knew virtually nothing about his enemy, of his power, abilities, strengths and weaknesses, and methods of attack? What would you think of a soldier who came prepared to fight with bows and arrows, when his enemy had hand grenades, tanks, missiles and nuclear weapons? Is this not the condition of far too many in our church? We must be wearing the “whole armour of God” (Ephesians 6:11), and know how to make effective use of “the weapons of our warfare” (2 Corinthians 10:4).

If every converted Christian understood this subject, and practiced it as the need arose, they would certainly be useful to God in setting the captives of Satan free. As well as this, they would find a great personal blessing in this ministry, for it broadens your spiritual insight and strengthens your faith. You will be in awe of the power and wisdom of God, and see over and over again that He is literally protecting and using you. The great controversy between Christ and Satan will be a living concept, as real as any earthly war, as opposed to mere book knowledge. You will come to know God as *your* personal friend, who answers many of *your* prayers directly. You will also see how evil, how wicked and foolhardy are Satan and his demons. You will gain a view of Satan’s devices and kingdom in a way that very few Christians do. This, by the way, is what Satan fears the most (GC 516).

God has not called us to merely be super salesmen of the gospel, but also to be spiritual soldiers who know how to use the weapons of our warfare skilfully against the forces of darkness. Deliverance was an important part of the ministry of the Lord Jesus and His early disciples. 35% of Mark’s Good News is about our Lord Jesus Christ in direct confrontation with evil spirits. The Bible is the record, from cover to cover, of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Jesus urged this ministry upon His disciples as a valid part of His *threefold gospel commission*. It has been practiced throughout Christian history, including the time of Ellen White. It is practiced today, like it or not, and will continue to be practiced until the close of probation.

“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and *gave them power and authority over all devils*, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick” (Luke 9:1,2; see also Matthew 10:1).

“After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also.... “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.* Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven” ” (Luke 10:1,19,20).

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils;...” (Mark 16:17).

“The Saviour’s commission to the disciples included *all* the believers. It includes *all* believers in Christ to the end of time” (DA 822).

“In every age the true church of God has engaged in decided warfare against satanic agencies” (ST, Series B, No.2, p.5).

“Satan takes possession of the minds of men today. In my labors in the cause of God, *I [Ellen White] have again and again met those who have been thus possessed, and in the name of the Lord I have rebuked the evil spirit*” (2SM 353).

“*Souls possessed with evil spirits will present themselves before us. We must cultivate the spirit of earnest prayer, mingled with genuine faith to save them from ruin, and this will confirm our faith*” (SP-M 89).

Why Should We Bother to Help the Demonised?

Isn’t it their own fault, anyway? In many cases, yes, it is their own doing. They flaunted their “freedom” to choose evil, eventually being taken over by the source of that evil. Many are ensnared by the devil unwittingly, through occult involvements based on curiosity or even a desire to help humanity.

Many are not personally guilty, though. People can be demonised through the sins and occult involvements of their ancestors, having demons from birth onwards. They can enter through parental “dedications” as commonly practiced in pagan countries, and by Satanists, Mormons, Freemasons, Christian Scientists, etc. Demons can invade a person through child abuse, rape, and trauma. Evil people can send spells and curses against them, which the demons carry out, and few have any idea how to resist demonic attack, particularly children. They think they must be going mad (and may well end up in a psychiatric hospital). Demons can come in through a Pentecostal/Charismatic laying on of hands, through religious rituals, oaths, being “blessed” or “healed” by a Spiritualist/New Ager. There are many ways that demons can deceive and invade people with no fault of their own.

But whether deliberately enslaved or not, who of us can say in all honesty that *we* have never deliberately sinned? All are guilty before God, according to the Scriptures.

Jesus never blamed people for having demons. He did not condemn people even if they made bad choices. The idea that demonisation comes about only through conscious choice is false. We Christians are far too good at shooting our wounded! The Godhead, in compassion and mercy, set in motion the great plan of salvation, which cost Them great suffering and heartache. The Son of God took our sins upon Himself, and suffered and died in our place. The Father and the Holy Spirit also suffered, and continue to suffer intensely, until the controversy is finally over.

God's atonement is for the *whole world*, including those who have demons. No sinners are excluded by God. He loves us all, despite our depravity and utter unworthiness. God offers forgiveness, grace, mercy, and His unconditional love to *anyone* who wants out of Satan's kingdom, and who is willing to meet the conditions. His nail-scarred hands are held out in peace to the victims of Satan, no matter how evil their past has been.

“None have fallen so low, none are so vile, but that they may find deliverance in Christ. The demoniac, in place of prayer, could utter only the words of Satan; yet the heart's unspoken appeal was heard. No cry from a soul in need, though it fail of utterance in words, will be unheeded. Those who consent to enter into covenant with God are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature. “Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? . . . Thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.” Isaiah 49:24, 25.” (MH 93).

“Our ransom has been paid by our Saviour. No one need be enslaved by Satan. Christ stands before us as our all-powerful helper” (1 SM 309).

Four Good Reasons to Be Involved in This Ministry

- (1) **Obedience to Christ:** (Luke 9:1,2; 10:1,17-20; Matthew 10:7,8; Mark 6:12,13)
- (2) **To follow Jesus' example:** as Jesus ministered to the lost, including the demonised, so must we. He loved and ministered to the unworthy, even those who crucified Him. He cast out demons from many
- (3) **Compassion:** These dear lost souls *desperately* need the help that only our church can truly give. Love and compassion drives us to minister to them
- (4) **To witness God's power and enliven your Christian experience:** You will experience the “exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power”(Ephesians 1:19). You will never be the same again after seeing the victory of Jesus over the powers of darkness. It will breathe new life into your own Christian experience. Also, what you learn in helping others will help you in your personal battles with the enemy.

Why Is There So Much Criticism of This Ministry?

There has been a sustained denigration of this ministry by many in church leadership in the industrialised nations of the world, mostly in America and Australia. We are essentially materialists in our culture, thinking that only what can be seen is real. So for the most part, we act as if there is no spiritual realm. While as a whole we are comfortable with the Godhead, many are *very* squeemish about discussing other areas in the spiritual realm, such as demons, the occult, the power of Satan (limited as it is), deliverance, the authority of the believer over Satan, etc.

“Not in the ways of ease, of earthly honor or worldly conformity, are the followers of the Master found. They are far in advance, in the paths of toil, and humiliation, and reproach, *in the front of the battle “against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”* Eph. 6:12, R.V. And now, as in Christ's day, they are misunderstood and reproached and oppressed by the priests and Pharisees of their time.” (DA 508).

Often the criticism comes from those who have had little or no experience helping those with demonic problems, and who would never have the faith to launch out in spiritual warfare and to use their authority in Christ to set the captives of Satan free. For this reason alone it is difficult to take most of their criticisms too seriously, since most of these “armchair” critics have never faced demons directly and broken their power.

My answer to these theory based critics is, “When you’ve worked with at least 5 demonised people, and had some success, let’s talk again.” If they are willing to do so, I have no doubt whatsoever that their theories (if incorrect) will melt away from the heat of the battle experience. They will discover that they too must go creatively beyond a superficial understanding of the subject in order to set people free in Christ. D.L. Moody once said in response to someone criticising his evangelistic methods, “I like the way I do it better than the way you don’t do it!”

Despite this deficiency in our church, those who see the bigger picture have a strong ground force of lay supporters, and, I am pleased to state, an increasing number of pastors. Some of the criticism is, of course, valid. Undeniably, there are false ideas and practices within the ministry as a whole. However, let us not make the mistake of “throwing out the baby with the bath water”, or to put it another way, refusing to use money, because you found some counterfeit notes. There is a valid methodology for this ministry, which I have sought to learn and to practice. Like any ministry, there is a *learning curve*. You make some mistakes along the way. By God’s grace, you learn from these and rectify them. If you believe that some are making mistakes in this ministry, show us all by example that there is a better way. Don’t rob God of such souls for His kingdom by refusing to pray with demonised people because to your way of thinking some in this ministry are practicing it in the wrong way. Many who

will be close to God in heaven for all eternity will once have been seemingly hopeless slaves of the enemy. They can be saved, like you, by the blood of the Lamb. The fight for their souls is usually far greater than for most people, but this is the challenge of unselfish service that Jesus has modelled for us.

If you feel that anything I write is mistaken, and you can prove me wrong either through the Word of God, the writings of Ellen White, or experience, I am most interested to hear what you have to say. Please contact me and tell me how to improve. All I ask of you are two things: (1) read the *context* of the material that purportedly contradicts my methods, and try to understand the actual situation being addressed, and (2) don't come with mere theory. Practice what you believe, and if that works in real life, I will gladly learn from you. It is easy to be an ivory-tower critic, scoffing at those who dare to take on the powers of darkness in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do your methods work to deliver souls burdened with demonic invasion? This is the true test for your theories. If I am wrong, show me from *experience* how to do it right. I like what I do (though erring at times) much better than what most of the critics do for these demonised people, which is usually nothing (or even worse, do nothing but criticise and discourage!). Jesus came to set the captives free; so should His disciples.

Who Should Be Involved in This Ministry?

It may seem rather obvious, but it is important to stress that not every Christian should be involved in the deliverance ministry. While it is true that Jesus' commission was to *all* His faithful believers, there are certain conditions for success in this ministry.

There is a certain amount of *knowledge* needed to be successful, the lack of which accounts for many a failure. A surface knowledge about this subject can be dangerous, as it can result in fear of the powers of darkness. Like the children of Israel after the reports from the spies, they were afraid because of the size of their enemies and their fortified cities and weapons, and unwilling to take the land. The demons can put up a convincing show of power, and they will capitalise on fear tactics. When you understand enough about demons to KNOW that they are weak in comparison to the holy angels, and of course, to God, then you can "take the land" from under their feet through faith in Christ and the promises of His Word. You will be both willing and able to "attack Satan and take his strongholds"(3T 316). We need to *learn* how to do this, as it certainly doesn't come naturally. The carnal heart runs from demons as from a fire or a flood. A heart of faith, if Jesus commands it, will walk straight through the fire, and the flood will not overtake him/her, for "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"(Psalm 46:1).

Also there is a certain *attitude* that is necessary in spiritual warfare, i.e. your attitude towards God, the holy angels, people, and the powers of darkness. Jesus' disciples had their failures in this ministry, and it is worth analysing the reasons for these. We can gain a lot from failure, for it is the stepping stone to success, provided we are willing to learn its lessons.

Luke 8:26-35 and Mark 5:1-13 illustrates what I mean. There is a much more detailed account of the situation in *Desire of Ages*, pp. 337-339. Ellen White elaborates on the scene, where the disciples were too afraid of two demonised men to minister to them.

“The disciples and their companions *fled in terror*; but presently they noticed that Jesus was not with them, and they turned to look for Him. He was standing where they had left Him. He who had stilled the tempest, who had before met Satan and conquered him, did not flee before these demons” (DA 337).

Satan’s Use of Fear Tactics

The disciples fled in terror at the sight of the two demon possessed men. These men looked more like ravenous animals than fellow human beings, ready to tear the disciples limb from limb. This was one of their early experiences in their deliverance ministry. They learned a valuable lesson that day from Jesus – Satan capitalises upon fear tactics if he can. I have learned over the years that such fear tactics are common, and are largely *bluff*. When you resist the devil on behalf of those who cannot resist, the demons may try to frighten you off. There may be threats and attempts to hurt you, your loved ones, or the demonised person physically. Were the demoniacs able to hurt Jesus? Holy angels protected Him. They will also protect you as you put your faith in Christ and the Word of God in ministering to the demonised in obedience to the Lord.

For example, a group of us prayed for Pablo in Jan.2002, the son of a Satanist high priest, who was possessed by many very powerful and particularly evil demons. He was known to be extremely violent. When the first demon manifested, Pablo’s hands reached forward to choke Jimmy Galindo (“Mishael”), as the demon in Pablo said angrily to him, “You traitor!” His hands could come no closer, though the demon was filled with malice and hatred, and would have murdered Mishael if he could. The angels of God protected him. The whole group of 13 Satanists flew all the way from New Zealand to kill Pablo (and us if possible) before his deliverance. They could get no closer to us than a few blocks away, we found out later. God’s holy angels protected us all during that whole experience, which greatly encouraged all those involved.

I once heard Pr. J. R. Hoffman tell of a time when he prayed for a professional boxer who had been invaded by demons. As the demons manifested, they used the boxer’s skills and strength to attempt to intimidate and injure this godly old pastor. The boxer threw a powerful punch at him, but his fist stopped just short of the old pastor’s face. The boxer was dumbfounded, looking quizzically at his fist. There was an invisible force stopping him from hurting the pastor. He threw another punch, but it also fell just short of the pastor’s face. Each time, the pastor did not make any attempts to duck or in any way to protect himself. The boxer then said, “You sure serve a powerful God!!” Pr. Hoffman was then able to minister to the boxer, when the boxer recognised the existence of a more powerful force than that which controlled him. True

Christianity is more than doctrine, as important and essential as that is. When people see the living God at work, they do more than just listen – they are changed.

God's Personal Promises for Protection

There are many promises of protection by God from harm by the powers of darkness. Here are just a few of these:

“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*” (Luke 10:19).

“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and *delivereth them*” (Psalm 34:7).

“...he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and *that wicked one toucheth him not*” (1 John 5:18).

In my experience, and others in this ministry with whom I am familiar, I have never known of anyone being harmed. Yes, the demons threaten and may even attack, and may even cause temporary pain. However, in every case I have been involved in and have heard about, where the participants follow correct procedures (guided by the Bible and the writings of Ellen White), no one has actually been harmed.

Of course, the promises for God's protection are not unconditional, any more than the other promises in His Word. Fanatical and unbalanced practices render these promises void. I once read in the newspaper about an “exorcism” (I hate that word, as it smacks of cultish religious fanaticism, with a Roman Catholic flavour) where they were forcefully pouring some fluid down the demonised person's throat via a funnel. The person was tied up with ropes, and other such ridiculous practices, the sum of which ended up killing the person. No wonder the deliverance ministry gets bad press, and a bad reputation even in the church. With “friends” like that, who needs enemies?!

Back to the disciples' occasional failures in deliverance, and their *learning curve*. A more explicit example is found in Matthew 17: 14-21.

“And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a *certain* man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you,

If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting”.

Jesus specifically pointed out several weaknesses – there was a *lack of faith* and *unbelief*, and an unnamed *perversity*. Also, to rid the person of these types of demons, there was a need for *prayer* and *fasting*. Ellen White elaborates on the perversity that Jesus mentioned, and in the process, also explains what it takes to be successfully involved in this ministry:

“It was an object lesson of redemption,—the Divine One from the Father's glory stooping to save the lost. It represented also the disciples' mission. Not alone upon the mountaintop with Jesus, in hours of spiritual illumination, is the life of Christ's servants to be spent. There is work for them down in the plain. *Souls whom Satan has enslaved are waiting for the word of faith and prayer to set them free.*

The nine disciples were yet pondering upon the bitter fact of their own failure; and when Jesus was once more alone with them, they questioned, “Why could not we cast him out?” Jesus answered them, “Because of your *unbelief*: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by *prayer and fasting.*” ***Their unbelief, that shut them out from deeper sympathy with Christ, and the carelessness with which they regarded the sacred work committed to them, had caused their failure in the conflict with the powers of darkness.***

The words of Christ pointing to His death had brought *sadness* and *doubt*. And the selection of the three disciples to accompany Jesus to the mountain had excited the *jealousy* of the nine. Instead of strengthening their faith by prayer and meditation on the words of Christ, they had been *dwelling on their discouragements and personal grievances*. In this *state of darkness* they had undertaken the conflict with Satan.

In order to succeed in such a conflict they must come to the work in a different spirit. ***Their faith must be strengthened by fervent prayer and fasting, and humiliation of heart. They must be emptied of self, and be filled with the Spirit and power of God. Earnest, persevering supplication to God in faith – faith that leads to entire dependence upon God, and unreserved consecration to His work – can alone avail to bring men the Holy Spirit's aid in the battle against principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in high places.***

“If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed,” said Jesus, ‘ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove.” Though the grain of mustard seed is so small, it contains that same mysterious life principle which produces growth in the loftiest tree. When the mustard seed is cast into the ground, the tiny germ lays hold of every element that God has provided for its nutriment, and it speedily develops a sturdy growth. *If you have faith like this, you will **lay hold upon God's word, and upon all the helpful agencies He has appointed.** Thus your faith will strengthen, and will bring to your aid the power of heaven.* The obstacles that are piled by Satan across your path, though apparently as insurmountable as the eternal hills, shall disappear before the demand of faith. “Nothing shall be impossible unto you” ” (DA 429-431).

This counsel is so helpful, showing what it takes to overcome the powers of darkness. The requirements for victory indicates who should be involved in this ministry: unbelief and lack of faith, jealousy, bitterness, negativity, fear, and a carelessness about this type of ministry forfeits you from victory. Don't attempt to attack Satan's strongholds if you are negative and/or if your faith is weak. Prepare yourself properly through prayer and confession of your sins and weaknesses. Fast if the need arises (at worst, it will do your health and will-power a world of good). Fill your mind with the promises of God, and be positive. The Lord Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8), and if your faith is fully in Him, He will use even you in this mighty cause. I have often marvelled that God has been able to use *me* in this ministry, with all my weaknesses. I remind myself that He spoke through a donkey in Old Testament times, so He can use even me.

Qualities Needed for Success in the Deliverance Ministry

The qualities that I believe are needed for success in the deliverance ministry are:

- A deep and total commitment to God and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and a daily walk with Him. Daily put on the whole armour of God and claim your union with Jesus, daily consecrating yourself to God, making a full surrender to Him.
- A willingness to take risks for God and to be used by God according to *His* will (as opposed to your own will). Expect that there will be times of extreme discomfort, anguish, perplexity, frustration and tiredness in this ministry.
- A lack of fear for demons. Trust in the protection of God and His holy angels; give no heed to the devil's threats. Pray, claiming God's promises for protection, and leave the consequences all in His hands.
- Faith in Christ and the Word of God. Your faith will be *truly* tested! You need a complete dependence in God, and an unshakable trust in the victory of Jesus.
- A willingness to go on the *offensive* against the powers of darkness. In spiritual warfare, the best defence is to go on the offence.

- The ability to pray earnest, fervent and persevering *real* prayers of faith (as opposed to mere religious platitudes, which go no further than the ceiling). Persevering prayer is foundational to the use of all the other “weapons of our warfare”(2 Corinthians 10:5), and the key in the hand of faith to enlist God’s agencies to force the powers of darkness to relinquish their ground and control.
- Self-control, so as to be willing to fast and pray for however long is necessary. Do not tolerate or lightly dismiss sins of the flesh. Worldliness and a casual attitude towards sin will bring your downfall in this ministry.
- Perseverance. Demons are highly resistant to your ideas of them leaving their “home”, and it takes *time* to evict them. You must be patient with Satan’s victims, as his control over them is strong and not easily broken. Even after deliverance they may need various types of help.
- A full recognition of the terrible solemnity of taking on the powers of darkness in the name of Jesus. You must not be presumptuous or trifling. Never treat Satan or this ministry lightly; it is deadly serious, hard work. These demons will destroy you if they can.
- Knowledge of and meditation on God’s Word. You should have a careful and thorough doctrinal knowledge of the truths of God’s Word, particularly on the ground of our victory in the Lord Jesus Christ. Scripture memorisation should be a practice of your daily life, so that the “sword” is ready for use.
- Humility before both God and others. Never think of yourself as an “expert”. No one is indispensable. Seek God’s glory only and always. The demons are unpredictable and crafty, and every case is different. A constant dependence upon the Holy Spirit for wisdom and guidance is necessary.
- An emptiness of self, and a willingness to quickly repent when you fall into Satan’s snares, so that the devil has no active ground within you.
- The infilling of the Spirit and power of God.
- A recognition that God’s angels are with you in this, though usually unseen, doing the fighting against the powers of darkness for you.
- An ability to minister to *individuals*. You need to be able to minister without fixed formulas (except for the basics), and to let the Holy Spirit guide you. Each person is unique, and what worked for one will not necessarily work for others.
- An unwillingness to let the demons ensnare you through curiosity. Don’t let demons volunteer information to you, as this is spiritualism. Don’t be drawn into unnecessary conversation with the demons.

Obviously not every Christian should be involved in this ministry, not because God has not called them, but because of a spiritual unfitness for the task.

Avoid Being Alone in this Ministry If Possible

There will be times when you must, of necessity, go alone to pray for demonised people. It can sometimes be hard to find people with enough faith and no unhealthy fear of the devil who are willing to go with you. Sometimes the call comes at very

inappropriate times too, when most sensible people are fast asleep! The reality is that few people care enough to inconvenience themselves.

Jesus sent the disciples out two by two to carry out His gospel commission (Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1). There is a divine principle of *partnership* throughout the Holy Scriptures, starting from Genesis 1:26 – partnership in the Godhead between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The heart of deliverance is prayer ministry, and mutual agreement empowers our prayers (Matthew 18:19). God’s presence is promised in human partnership: “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:20). Along with unity, team ministry in deliverance provides the strength of diversity and the multi-talented gifts of the group. A team has a far greater chance to relate to the victim than any single individual, because of personality types, life experiences and histories, and differing spiritual gifts.

It can be quite remarkable how well a dedicated team can work together to accomplish far more than individuals could. One leads (not necessarily always the same one), while others pray, one listens for God’s direction, while another discerns. One comforts the victim, assuring him/her of God’s protection and love, while another encourages the team. Each uses his/her own unique spiritual gifting, according to the anointing and leading of the Holy Spirit, for the united goal of setting the captive of Satan free in Christ. It can be a wonder to behold.

The most effective ministry I have ever been involved in was when we had a team of 7, when we prayed for Pablo. We had enormous prayer support, as much as perhaps 300 or 400 people praying from around the world. As well as this, team accountability helps to protect both the individual receiving ministry, and the individuals in the team. Demons will seek to entrap and accuse those involved in deliverance ministry. There is often no better way for Satan to destroy a pastor’s/layperson’s reputation and calling than to entrap him/her in a sexual scandal. A demonised, emotionally wounded, mentally confused and controlled person of the opposite sex can be an effective tool in the hands of Satan to destroy the single person in deliverance ministry. This usually cannot occur when a team is always involved, keeping each member of the team accountable. Shared debriefing between team members after deliverance sessions can be very insightful learning experiences, raising the level of combined understanding, and which can also bond the team together. Another blessing of team ministry is that it protects individuals from the sin of pride. In a team, each person is as essential as the others. God alone receives the glory, and no individual (or group).

There are serious dangers in going alone. Many reading this study will know of former Pr. Peter Saunders. He had been a successful minister, baptising a number of people over the years. He had successfully prayed with a number of demonised people also, which resulted in their deliverance, studies, and consequent baptism. I joined him in this ministry a few times myself. We all have our flaws. Unfortunately Peter had a few fatal flaws that made him vulnerable to be deceived by Satan and eventually to be

kicked out of the ministry. I am his friend, but so that you will hopefully not fall to the same fate, I share with you the truth.

Peter habitually broke one of the “rules” of ministry. If at all possible, don’t study with or pray with in a deliverance sense, *alone*, any person of the opposite sex. To do so opens you up to temptations that can be overmastering. Peter had studied for months with Robyn, a pretty married woman, and she was baptised. Recognising her demonic symptoms, he prayed for her deliverance alone with her. He ignored God’s counsel to “abstain from all appearance of evil” (1 Thess.5:22), going alone time and time again. An emotional/physical attraction developed over time that both of them should have resisted. He had succumbed to treating sin lightly and excusing his faults, rather than dealing with them faithfully. Like the disciples when they failed, he was careless in regard to the sacred work committed to him. He was somewhat “burned out” in his ministry, having overworked, having had much criticism from some church members and fellow ministers, particularly over his deliverance ministry. His own marriage had been stale for years. Satan succeeded in breaking up the two marriages, and uniting Peter to Robyn in an adulterous relationship. Sexual temptations are one of Satan’s chief tools in his arsenal of weapons to destroy God’s people, particularly ministers. Peter sent me an invitation to his wedding, but prior to the wedding, I pleaded with him not to go ahead with it. I told him point blankly that it was Satan’s snare that he had fallen into, and that it was a mistake he would later regret. They are now married. It cost Peter his ministry and the respect and authority he had as a minister and soldier of Christ.

We all make mistakes in life, and I hope that you will treat Peter and Robyn with the love of Jesus, showing them compassion. What they have done is wrong and not to be condoned, but they may never return to Christ fully under a fierce cloud of condemnation. People need to be loved, despite their weaknesses and mistakes, and pointed to the sin-pardoning Redeemer. I hope that God can sort it out in time. The whole experience has grieved my soul more than words can say. For the moment, I have lost a brother in Christ, and a brother in the deliverance ministry.

Who Should Join You in Your Team?

From experience I have learned that success can be forfeited by having people present during the deliverance who are:

1. **Not converted/hypocritical** – their spirit can really “put a spanner in the works”. Their unbelief, criticism, negativity to Jesus and Christianity, etc. can thwart the presence of the angels and the effectual working of the Holy Spirit. God does not go where He is not wanted, and nor do the angels. The Holy Spirit is grieved by disunity.
2. **Just curious** – don’t have people there who are just curious to see what happens, who won’t join in with prayer, praise, and resisting the powers of darkness. They can be used by demons to thwart the ministry, and to gossip idly and ignorantly later on.

3. **Cherishing doubts about this ministry** – doubt is a type of negativity that Satan can make great use of, especially to discourage you and the group, and dampen your zeal. Now, no one is perfect in the absolute sense of the word, except the three Persons of the Godhead. You need not seek perfection in your team members, because you will not find it in them, and if you are honest, in yourself either. We are all flawed in many ways, but despite this, God chooses to use us, despite our weaknesses, to contrast to His mighty power and strength. But nevertheless, choose your team members *wisely*.

Choose those who are converted, who have faith, who have a serious degree of sanctification in their lives, and who are willing to learn, and to listen to God's counsels. Choose people who are humble and don't want to exalt themselves or take the glory from Jesus to themselves. Avoid fanatics, as they will go their own way, and bring the ministry into ill repute. Choose humble, gentle, loving Christians, whose desire is to serve God, whatever the consequences to them personally, even if they have to be severely inconvenienced and suffer. This ministry takes a great degree of self-sacrifice. It can be most unpleasant at times. Don't choose people who want to be comfortable and to live an easy, lukewarm life. Many of our pastors are against this ministry, and I believe that they are grieving the Holy Spirit. Taking such ministers along to "observe" usually thwarts the victory for the demonised.

While praying with a demonised SDA woman once, we all reached a standstill. We had been praying for her over a number of sessions by then, and were tired, and somewhat frustrated. There were no spoken complaints, but several in the group had harboured negative feelings about the progress and complained inwardly. God impressed a number of the team members to confess before the group their murmuring, grizzling, and complaining. After prayers of confession and asking for God's and each others' forgiveness, we noticed an instant difference. There was immediate progress again. The Holy Spirit was not poured out at Pentecost until the disciples were all of one accord, and had each humbled themselves before the others, confessing and forsaking their sins. You need people in your team who are humble learners at the feet of Jesus.

If you believe that you are called to do this ministry, think twice, and then lots more! There are some attempting to do the deliverance ministry who should be serving God in other ways, to put it mildly. The ministry has a bad reputation, largely because many who "have a go" at it do so for the wrong motives. If you have the attitude that the demons are easy to overcome, may I humbly state that you are greatly mistaken. They are powerful spirit entities that can harm you if you practice this ministry presumptuously or ignorantly, and are not protected by God and His holy angels. Look at the experience of the seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19:13-17. If you are flippant, and disrespectful of authority (including demonic authority), this work is not for you. The Bible warns against this attitude (Jude 1:8-10). If you are fanatical, judgemental, overbearing, critical, negative, or seek to be popular, forget this ministry. By just being involved in this ministry, many will think of you as a fanatic, and this

will limit your work, which is exactly what Satan wants! You will probably be shunned by many SDA's, usually the ones who don't study much for themselves, and sometimes even by those whom you'd most expect to back you in this ministry – those who believe in the Bible and Ellen White's authority as God's messenger. Also, if you are unwilling to follow God's counsels in this ministry, go elsewhere. It can be dangerous to ignore God's counsels and to go your own way.

It is a very serious thing to challenge the powers of darkness. They are powerful beings, bent on destruction. They have a degree of authority to legally attack us, particularly if we give them ground, or a place in our lives. “Neither give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:27), warned the apostle Paul. Cherished sins give Satan ground in our lives, and act as a wedge to give demons influence and power in our lives (see the context in Ephesians 4:25-32). Demons often succeed in destroying peoples' lives, even the lives of committed SDA's.

“We carefully secure our houses with bolts and locks to protect our property and our lives from evil men; but we seldom think of the evil angels who are constantly seeking access to us, and against whose attacks we have, in our own strength, no method of defense. *If permitted, they can distract our minds, disorder and torment our bodies, destroy our possessions and our lives.* Their only delight is in misery and destruction. Fearful is the condition of those who resist the divine claims, and yield to Satan's temptations, until God gives them up to the control of evil spirits” (GC 517).

The Resistance of Demons to Leave

I once discussed the deliverance ministry with an old retired missionary pastor. He had had a few encounters with demonic activity in his ministry, and understood the importance of taking the authority of Jesus to rebuke the powers of darkness. However, he had the idea that all that is necessary is to give the demons “one short, sharp rebuke, and out they all come like scared rabbits.”

I find this belief quite remarkable – in its naivety. Even the Lord Jesus Himself could not get the demons to always leave immediately. Look, for example, at the account of the demoniac of Gadara in Mark 5. When Jesus questioned the leader of the demons about his name (Mark 5:9), a surface reading of the text may give the impression that He asked once and received an immediate answer. However, the Greek verb *asked* (eperotoa) is the imperfect active, indicating either a continuous action or a repeated action. A more accurate rendering of the Greek would read, “And He *kept on* asking him, ‘What is your name?’ ” Several Bible translations render the text this way. Also, the demons begged Jesus *repeatedly* not to send them to the pit (Luke 8:31). In other words, a more careful examination of the internal evidence simply does *not* support the idea that the deliverance was instantaneous.

Those involved in the deliverance ministry have found that while it occasionally occurs that the demons will leave with a single command, this is the *exception* rather than the rule.

An example of this leaving quickly may be the case when Paul rebuked the demon of fortune-telling in the slave girl from Philippi. Paul had put up with Satan's sophistries through this girl for many days, and finally he had had enough. "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*" (Acts 16:18).

Experience has taught us that it usually takes hours, even days. In some cases, the battle may continue over months, but not all in one go, fortunately! If you are interested to know the reasons why it takes longer than just a simple rebuke to evict demons, read my study entitled, "Answers to Objections Regarding the Deliverance Ministry". Ask me and I'll gladly email or photostat this document for you.

A pastor who was in the process of casting out an extremely resistant demon heard the demon wail, as though in tears, "This is my home! This is my home!" (see Luke 11:24). Why would they leave easily? They regard their human habitation as their own possession. They've worked hard and long to possess that person, perhaps for years or decades. They may have been working in that family line for generations. Demons with higher authority above them hold them responsible, and will use fear, terror, and torture to try to keep their underling demons in their human habitations, doing the work assigned to them. There are serious consequences to the demons for failure in their given assignments. But apart from any consequences, how keen would you be to leave your own home if some stranger, an enemy, and a weak-looking one at that, were to come to your door and tell you to get out? You would fight tooth and nail to stay, wouldn't you? If you got evicted, you would do all in your power to get your home back again too. Demons, who are powerful and intelligent spirit beings, are no different. They can be defeated, but they're no push-over.

In deliverance we have a *battle between the good angels and the evil angels*. It is not merely a battle between God and the demons, which would, of course, end instantly. God does not simply command the devils to leave and it is done. It appears that God has chosen not to intervene directly in most cases. Instead, He works out His will in deliverance *through our ministry and that of the angels*. And the devils, who are the fallen angels, don't just meekly give up and run out like scared rabbits!

"Could our eyes be opened and could each see the *conflict* of angelic agencies with the satanic confederacy what astonishment would come upon the soul...We should see *battles going on between the two armies, as real as those fought by opposing forces on earth*" (ST, Oct.10,1894).

“Satan will not yield one inch of ground except as he is driven back by the power of heavenly messengers” (GC 559).

Many pastors and laypeople in the church have no more to offer those who are demonised than a dutiful perfunctory prayer, and a pat on the back, telling them that God will help them. You can't give what you don't yourself have. Armed with considerably more knowledge about this subject, they could instead be very useful to these precious souls for whom Christ died. My prayer is that one day, our brethren will open their minds enough that they will actually *train* our pastors and workers in how to genuinely help these desperate people. We all must understand that the great controversy between Christ and Satan is not just something airy-fairy happening generally out there in the universe somewhere, but that we are each directly involved in it on a daily basis. Even Christians are not immune from demonic harassment, control, and even possession.

Dangerous Passivity

Passivity in the war, or doing nothing when you should be fighting, is treason against the government of God. In many of the underdeveloped countries, our ministers and converted laypeople know all too well the nature of the spiritual battle, and that the enemy can be overcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They see the obvious workings of Satan on a regular basis. They actively resist the powers of darkness, and take their God-given authority to rebuke and cast out demons. However, we in the developed countries are so well “educated” that we hardly even believe in the power and interference of demons in our everyday lives. It all sounds too hocus-pocus, the realm of fanatics. This has been part of the reason for the reluctance of ministers and church members to be involved in this ministry. A dangerous, criminal attitude of passivity in the face of demonic activity has taken control in many of our Western churches. No doubt, this is one of the reasons why there is virtually nil growth in our membership in the industrialised and highly sophisticated nations.

The passive way that most of us offer wishy-washy prayers and “leave it in the hands of God” is a cop-out that is not at all helpful to those being attacked by Satan. Yes, it is in God's hands, but the way He handles it is to tell us to “**Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Definitive resistance, on the ground of the victory of the Lord Jesus over the powers of darkness on the cross, claiming His promises, fervent prayer and active faith, praise to God, fasting, forcefully taking back ground given to Satan, is what actually works.

Not Every Demonised Person Can Be Delivered

Another lesson that I have learned from experience is that you really cannot help everyone who needs/wants deliverance. Even Jesus left many demonised people as they were. Think of Judas, one of His own disciples. The Bible specifically states that Judas was invaded by none other than Satan himself for a short time just before he committed suicide (Luke 22:3). But long before this, he had a demon of selfishness (5BC 1102; DA 294-295). We need to accept the fact that God, though infinite in power, deliberately limits Himself in many ways. He respects the freedom of the human will, refusing to override our own choices. Judas' wilful cherishing of selfishness, pride, love of his own opinions, and deception, forfeited to him his freedom from demonic bondage.

King Saul went down that same road, till the "demon of jealousy entered the heart of the king" (PP 650). Many of the scribes and Pharisees were under demonic bondage also, in a far worse state than the two demoniacs at Gadara. These two knew how wretched they had become, and understood their need, and that the One who stood before them could save them from a life of hell and final damnation. Though they could not so much as speak their own words, Jesus recognised their hearts' cries for mercy and help, and willingly gave it. However, the demonised, deceived religionists of Jesus' day despised Jesus and all that He stood for, feeling themselves to be right, claiming that the Lord of glory was the one who had a demon! They were in a worse state than the two demoniacs of Gadara because they were totally blind and deceived in regard to their own spiritual condition.

Over and over again the Word of God repeats the refrain, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded" (James 4:6-8). "...God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:5, 6).

The demonised person has a vital role to play. He/she is not just a passive suppliant, receiving freedom without any personal effort. God does not work this way in relation to our personal battle with Satan. The implied wording is "[YOU] Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [YOU] Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

"Those who have tempted the devil to tempt them will have to make *desperate efforts* to free themselves from his power. But when they begin to work for themselves, then angels of God whom they have grieved will come to their rescue. Satan and his angels are unwilling to lose their prey. They contend and battle with the holy angels, and the conflict is severe. But if those who have erred continue to plead, and in *deep humility* confess their wrongs, angels who excel in strength will prevail and wrench them from the power of the evil angels" (1T 301).

Experience in spiritual warfare has taught me the great wisdom and insight of Ellen White's understanding of the supernatural battle, and what it takes to be victorious in Christ. Demonised people who are willing to be humbled before God, and also to humble themselves before those praying with them, confessing their sins, not holding anything back, willing to conform their lives to God's standards, come through the deliverance process quickly and cleanly. But those who hold back, making all sorts of conditions, refusing to confess their sins to God and to give them up, and to humble themselves, refusing to agree to live by God's ways, either cannot be delivered, are not delivered of all the demons, or the demons re-enter after deliverance. After deliverance, if the demons find that the Holy Spirit has not come into that person's life, they will return, bringing more and even worse demons with them. Thus the final state of that person becomes worse than before (Luke 11:24-26).

The Conditions for Deliverance

In general, it is better to not even begin to pray with those who are unwilling to meet the conditions for deliverance (unless God convicts you otherwise). Here, in summary form, are the conditions that need to be met by those who are demonised if they are to be successfully delivered, and to maintain their freedom in the long run:

- They must be willing to make a complete surrender of their lives and whole beings to the Lord Jesus Christ
- They must make a complete break with idolatry, occult practices, false religion, and with Satan's agents (demonic and human)
- They must repent of all their sins. It is also very helpful to repent for the sins of their ancestors on behalf of the family lineage
- They must forgive those who have harmed them and let go of bitterness
- They must do their part – be bold and spiritually aggressive (Matthew 11:12), cooperating in resisting Satan, for eternal life is at stake!

For a thorough explanation of the conditions for deliverance, I refer you to my study entitled, "Preparing for Deliverance". Now, of course, I don't recommend that you show those who are demonised this list and insist that they accept it or else. God's attitude is, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 1:18). Our attitude must be the same. We must pray with these people, be patient with them, treating each one as an individual. They need to be gently reasoned with, with not a semblance of coercion or force. We must work with the demonised as God works with us, with gentleness and respect, allowing them to decide and use the power of the will.

Those who are not ready to truly submit themselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, and cling to their false conceptions, standards, and sins, must be loved and respected. They have a right to their own choices. They need your continued prayers, but wait for the right timing before you pray with them for deliverance. If you try to pray for them in the deliverance sense when they are not ready for this, the demons usually refuse to go, with every legal right to remain. You will only waste your time and theirs, and frustration is the result. Some of those for whom I have prayed for deliverance clearly

fall into this category. Not all failures are the fault of those who are praying for the demonised.

One young person who was plagued by terrifying demonic activity in his life wanted to be free. However, he wanted freedom totally on his own terms. He wanted to get rid of the fear tactics that the demons used that made his life hell on earth, particularly during the night, but he was most unwilling to get rid of the things that drew the demons to him in the first place, i.e. the heavy metal music, the use of drugs and alcohol, his wicked and ungodly companions, pornography, masturbation, fornication, evil and violent computer games, etc. There is a price to pay for freedom. The end result is all entirely for the demonised person's own good, and brings him/her ultimate happiness and peace. However, it requires a willingness to be sanctified, to be brought into harmony with God, His Law, and the principles of heaven.

They, of course, will feel that they could never be holy and in harmony with God. They know all too well the evil that resides within them. So you need to tell them gently that God is a loving Father, far more loving and compassionate than any human father or mother, and that He is patient, and will not take them faster than they can go. He will give them the strength needed to overcome, but they will need to exercise their wills and put their faith in God, and be willing to be made willing, even though freedom seems impossible. All things are possible with God (Matthew 19:26).

I will elaborate a little on one of the conditions here, since it is so vital to freedom from demonic control. *Those who are demonised must forgive those who have harmed them, no matter what was done to them.* God's forgiveness, which is freely offered to them, is on the condition that they forgive those who have harmed them (Matthew 6:14,15). If they want God to answer their prayers, they must forgive others, as God has forgiven them in Christ (Mark 11:25,26).

Unforgiveness/bitterness towards others opens up the doors to hatred and anger, which are akin to murder in God's eyes (Matthew 5:21,22; 1 John 3:15). Also it can result in resentment, depression, criticism, and other severely negative feelings and behaviours, which lead to destructive relationships with those to whom they are harboured. Cherishing these negative emotions/thoughts draws demons to you (AA 559), so if you want to get rid of the demons, you must of necessity also give up what draws them. Thus, one of the first steps to freedom is forgiveness.

Forgiveness is not to be seen merely as an emotion; it is a *decision*, as is love. They don't necessarily ever *feel* like forgiving those who have harmed them, but they are commanded by God to forgive them, nevertheless. They must decide to forgive out of obedience to God, choose to do it, and then actually do it. They forgive as much *for themselves*, and of course also for God, as for those who need their forgiveness. Unforgiveness and bitterness are a terrible spiritual burden on those who hold them, leaving the mind in a state of negativity that pushes God's angels and God's Holy

Spirit away. It grieves God, and leaves these people who refuse to give it up in a prison-house of negativity, surrounded by devils.

It is not enough for them to merely ask God to help them to forgive these people, because that still comes short of actual forgiveness. They need to ask God to remind them about those to whom they have unforgiveness, or negative, critical thoughts (including themselves, and perhaps even God, if they have a grudge against Him). It is helpful for them to write a list of the names of those whom they need to forgive, and to then speak their forgiveness *out aloud*, in the hearing of the demons. The demons cannot read our minds (1SM 122). When the demons hear them confessing and repenting of their sins, and forgiving those who sinned against them, they know then that their legal right to possess them is broken. God's promise is, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Stand firm on God's Word.

Until the demonised person is willing to take this crucial step of forgiveness for all those who have harmed him/her, there is little point praying in a deliverance sense. Instead, if possible, work with the person to get him/her to the point of readiness for deliverance. Talk faith to these people. Tell them about God's miracles in the Bible, and the modern miracles you know about or have played a part in. Help them to believe that God loves them, cares about their problems, and is willing to help them. Do what you can to help them with their perceived problems and needs, relieving their suffering, so that they know that you care about them as individuals. Your care will help them to believe that God cares, since you represent God in their eyes. Tell them true stories of forgiveness. Tell them about the Lord's forgiveness for those who crucified Him (which includes us all).

A crucial lesson that I've learned is that each case is different. The demonised person has his/her peculiar problems, weaknesses, personality, and demonic involvements. Some will have been deceived into demonic control, while others deliberately and coldly made the decision to sell themselves to Satan for some perceived advantage. Both types can be delivered, provided they are willing to meet God's conditions and resist the devil. The demons themselves are also quite different. There is as much difference amongst the demons as there is amongst our human race. Some demons are easy to evict, while others can be extremely difficult. Think of the difference like the roots of a tree. When the tree is young, it's easy to pull it out of the ground. When it's well established, with an extensive, long, thick root system, weaving through deep, hard soil and rocks, it takes enormous effort to uproot it. This principle is found in Daniel 10:12-21 and PK 571,572, if you wish to study it further.

I believe that there are no experts in this ministry, simply because every situation is different. You learn from every experience. Also, knowing how to resist the devil is a gradual process. There are times when you reach a complete impasse, and all progress ceases. The demons refuse to leave, and all the rebuking and commanding in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, prayer and fasting, etc., seems of no avail. At such

times don't give up, though the temptation will be strong. There may be some legal ground for the continued presence of the demonic stronghold, which has not yet been discerned. When this is cleared away, usually you get a breakthrough again.

Legal Demonic Rights

Our group prayed for a woman once who had been to India during the 1960's hippie era, had practiced Eastern meditation, had been involved in various forms of the occult, immorality, smoking marijuana, etc. The demons spoke directly out of her mouth, saying that they refused to go. The Lord impressed one of us to enquire if she still had some of the occult memorabilia she bought in India. She had an interesting piece of Indian furniture, which was clearly a symbol of pagan worship, with its brass gods and goddesses. After a few more enquiries along this line, she gladly told us that she still had marijuana in her house, as well as some rock music (from rock groups clearly into Satan's kingdom) and demonically inspired books. After we explained to her the Lord's injunction to destroy all the objects that belong to the devil (Acts 19:19; Deuteronomy 7:5,25,26), she happily agreed to do so. She went home and collected a pile of these demonic "magnets", and together we all went down to the backyard. As she threw them on the fire, she told us that demons were wailing and screaming angrily in her head. Some of the occult items were not able to be burned, being made of metal, so she destroyed them with a hammer. I like to let them do this personally, as a statement to the demons of their genuine intentions to renounce Satan and turn to Jesus. It is important to not simply throw such items in the bin, as someone can still get their hands on these things, potentially affecting them and giving Satan ground in their lives. The only sure way to cancel any continued demonic power over these objects is to destroy them. If it is an issue, encourage them not to let the cultural or sentimental value of such abominations deter them from doing the only thing that can break the legal demonic power over them. Never use force; this is not God's way.

In another case where we were at a temporary standstill, the Lord impressed the demonised woman's son to go to the bedroom and to bring out a box full of things that she owned that belonged to the enemy. She had cherished these things prior to wanting to be freed from Satan's terrible grip. There were books, music and jewellery that clearly had Satan's influence over them. The books and music were easily destroyed. Looking at the jewellery, I noticed several items that appeared very suspicious. Several items were from India, one with an ornate silver design that I could not figure out, with a green stone and several red stones surrounding it. It had an evil look about it, but there was nothing I could pinpoint as obviously from Satan.

We prayed for God to reveal to us the real nature of this jewellery, and instantly the woman looked at us with a typical demonic glare, characteristic of when demons manifest. Her eyes were glazed, and it was as though her eyes looked through us, rather than at us. She pointed robotically to the green stone, saying in a very creepy, different voice to her normal voice, "The eye of Satan". Several other pieces of jewellery also were pointed out in this way. I asked what the design symbolised, and she pointed to one, saying, "Bats, a symbol of Satan." I looked closer, and then it

clicked that the design was bat wings joined together in an intricate design in the jewellery. I asked, “Is all jewellery of Satan?” She looked at me, and it was obviously the enemy speaking through her again, being forced to admit the truth, and the demon answered, “All jewellery is of Satan.”

Make of this answer what you will, but the truth about jewellery is clearly taught in the writings of God’s servant, Ellen White. Some types of jewellery are clearly worse than others, i.e. some jewellery has a direct demonic origin, used for invocation of demons or for demonic protection (charms, voodoo amulets, etc). Then there is the “grey area”, where the jewellery is for adornment, meant to pander to human pride and vanity. The Bible and the writings of Ellen White speak strongly against both of these. I am convinced that it simply is not God’s will for faithful Seventh-day Adventists to wear jewellery this side of heaven. The only exceptions are simple and inexpensive watches. While even wedding rings are frowned upon usually, in some cultures God has allowed them for practical purposes, such as to instantly reveal one’s married status. I will not go into detail about this subject here, as it is not the place. However, we found that as soon as this jewellery and the other “demonic magnets” were destroyed by the woman, we had instant victory over the demons, who prior to that refused to leave. I have learned that when the demonic ground is taken away, either through confession of sin or by destroying satanic objects, the demons have no more legal right to stay, and are then able to be cast out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Always search for legal demonic rights when you have difficulty casting demons out. When you discover these, discuss the principle of legal rights with the person, explaining that certain objects and places “belong” to Satan, since he inspired them, or they were dedicated to him, and thus he owns them. Certain cultures have it as part of their religion to deliberately dedicate items and places to their “gods” (i.e. demons), which they serve and worship. Those who own such objects or visit such places give “ground” or a place to Satan. Thus, Satan has a “legal right” to harass them. Given enough ground, there is a point when demons can enter a person and legally inhabit them. This is one of the ways that people can become demonised/possessed.

Demonic Doorways

It is most important at the interview stage to identify and write down all the demonic “doorways” that allowed to person to become demonised. These doorways fall basically into 3 categories:

- (1) **Inheritance** – demons can be placed into someone prior to birth, at birth, or immediately after, due to the actions and demonic involvements of the child’s parents.
- (2) **Sexual Sins** – demons can be passed from one person to another through sexual sins. Sexual molestation/incest is one of the most common childhood doorways. This is always followed by a cycle of early sexual involvements and increasing promiscuity over the years.

- (3) **Occult Involvements** – even casual flirting with New Age/occult practices can result in demonic invasion, although this is not necessarily the case for everyone. Serious involvement always results in invasion. Examples include divination, paganism, freemasonry, witchcraft, satanism, astrology, séances (and other methods of spirit contact), hypnosis, acupuncture, occultic games/toys, all role playing games (the intense visualisation brings the person into contact with evil spirits), the higher levels of martial arts, extreme Roman Catholicism (calling upon the “saints”, “Mary”, etc), yoga (spiritual side, Eastern meditation, crystals, idolatry, chanting, certain types of rock music, ESP, astral projection, blood contracts, etc, etc.

One of the questions that I believe can be legitimately asked of demons is, “What legal rights/doorways do you have in _____?” You usually get the truth too, which can be verified by the person.

Freemasonry

Kraft tells of a protestant pastor (not a SDA), who joined the masons to gain respectability in town. He had accepted this group’s front of being a benevolent organisation, and didn’t know its satanic connections. Kraft was casting demons out of this pastor, and asked a demon when he came in. “When he cursed God!” was the demon’s answer. This surprised the pastor so much that he asked when that was. The demon then told the pastor that all the Masonic commitments that he had made were to Lucifer, the god of Freemasonry. If you doubt this, contact me, and I will give you a quote from one of Freemasonry’s vocal officials.

If the person you are praying with was involved with the Masons or had relatives in the ancestral line who were involved, this doorway for demonic entrance can be closed during the deliverance by specifically renouncing this sin. Here is a sample prayer:

“Loving Father, in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, I humbly ask you to cleanse me from everything I have inherited from both my mother and father. I refuse to retain anything from Satan in my life. Please break those lines of inheritance now and forever. I renounce all involvements, curses, and dedications of my ancestral line in Freemasonry, confessing these as sin. Please forgive my ancestors of these abominations in Your eyes, and sever me and my family from these. I choose only the Lord Jesus and His righteousness now. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

(Note: Forgiveness here is in the sense of the family line. We recognize that the guilt of sin is not passed on from the father to the son but the effects of sin are passed on. See Exodus 20:5 “...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.” Re sins of the fathers:- See Nehemiah 9:1-2, Nehemiah 1:1-6, Daniel 9:1-20, Leviticus 26:39, 40

After praying to God to break this demonic doorway, then the person is to make a declaration or statement to the powers of darkness to tell them about the new situation. For example:

“In the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, I now command every demon who has come into me through my inheritance to get out of me at once! In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I break and cancel all oaths, curses, and dedications taken by my ancestral line

Degrees of Demonisation

You may never have realised that there are different *degrees* of demonisation. Let me explain what I mean. The Bible states that Mary had 7 devils, which Jesus cast out (Luke 8:2; 16:9). Now Mary was not the sort of demonised person most think of when they think of a “demon possessed” person. She likely lived in an ordinary home, lived in an ordinary way (except for being a harlot), and would likely have wanted to attend the synagogue (if the men had allowed it, which they wouldn’t, considering her reputation in that severely male dominated culture). It was Simon, a hypocritical Pharisee, who led her into sin in the first place (DA 567), which ended up in her being possessed by 7 devils. If you had lived then, you would have walked past her and even sat next to her and likely not even suspected that she had a demonic problem.

She wasn’t thrown down on the ground. She didn’t foam from the mouth, gnash her teeth, or become rigid, or shriek out profanities. She was not “suicidal” (i.e. the demons attempting to kill her), like the demonised boy in Mark 9:17-29. She did not live in tombs, cut herself, or have supernatural strength, so as not to be able to be bound, even by chains. She was able to speak her own words, unlike the demoniac of Gadara (Mark 5:1-20). To look at him would make many brave knees knock. Mary, in stark contrast, was pretty and inviting. She obviously did well as a prostitute, for she was later able to lavish the Saviour with very costly perfume (John 12:3), which cost a year’s wages. She had 7 devils in her, whereas the demoniac of Gadara had a “legion”, i.e. anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 (GC 515).

It is obvious that the more demons in a person, the more likely it is that the person is under more severe control. As well as this, some demons are worse, or more evil, than others. The Lord Jesus taught this in Luke 11:26. It may surprise you that someone like Mary Magdalene was probably inhabited by demons that were less evil. They were content to have her live an immoral life, bringing both her and the immoral men in her life down. The demons would often let her be herself, quietly withdrawing from obvious possession. Demons don’t always manifest their presence, often hiding within their victim. They were happy to spend their time using Mary to entice weak men, and otherwise pretty much left her alone to live her own life. Demons can be passed on through sexual intercourse, which is how it can happen through child abuse and rape. Satan would have used her very successfully as his tool to demonise many men.

“It is his policy to conceal himself and his manner of working” (GC 516). Demons can, if they wish, do a good job of hiding within their victims. Sometimes even the demonised person doesn’t know of their existence! With others, they fully know of their existence, and are harassed continually, night and day, like the demoniac of Gadara, who got not a moment of peace. These were clearly more evil than the demons within Mary, for they enjoyed tormenting him continually, and making him mutilate his body, and scaring people out of their wits. They hated human beings so much that they had the poor man living in tombs, away from most people.

I’ve come across demons that are literally filled with hatred, both for the Lord Jesus, and for those on His side. They seethe of their malice and are vicious and deadly, and would murder you if you were not protected by God. The chief demon in Pablo, who I discussed earlier, was like this. He wanted to choke Mishael, and his voice was very evil. At first he growled like a lion, and then he spoke through Pablo’s voice like a cross between his voice and a snake.

In contrast, I’ve come across demons who were actually sorry that they followed Lucifer. One demon I was in the process of casting out said he would leave and not return. I usually never speak to them, except for getting the necessary information out of them to get them out. This demon was actually apologetic, and said that he didn’t want to hurt the one he was in. On this rare occasion, I asked the demon a question that didn’t relate to him being cast out. I said, “You don’t seem like the others I’ve come across. Jesus warned you about Lucifer, and the end result of following him in his rebellion. Why did you follow him? It seems so foolish to me.” This demon hung his head in shame, saying, “You’re right; we were deceived. I wish I had not believed Lucifer.”

I actually felt sorry for this demon, as ridiculous as that may seem. This was the only time I have ever felt this way towards a demon. Most of them are so nasty and rebellious that it makes you feel disgust towards them. However, even such “less evil” demons are beyond repentance and redemption. This is very important to note.

I once met two “SDA’s” who felt that they had a valid deliverance ministry. The fact was that they were the worst fruitcakes I’ve ever come across attempting to do this ministry. They actually believed that the demons could be rehabilitated in a place like purgatory, where they would stay till they had totally repented, and were then allowed back to heaven. They thought that their main task was, not to deliver people, but the demons! On top of all this foolishness, they claimed to be the two witnesses of Revelation 11:3. Instead, they were just two witnesses to their own ignorance and self-deception!

The Bible nowhere indicates that demons can repent or be redeemed. I did a study of the subject for them in the Bible and the writings of Ellen White, which they claimed to believe, and showed them a number of very clear references to prove that demons are lost and irredeemable. For example:

“Satan, the chief of the fallen angels, once had an exalted position in heaven. He was next in honour to Christ. The knowledge which he, as well as the angels who fell with him, had of the character of God, of His goodness, His mercy, wisdom, and excellent glory, made their guilt unpardonable. There was no possible hope for the redemption of those who had witnessed and enjoyed the inexpressible glory of heaven, and had seen the terrible majesty of God, and, in presence of all this glory, had rebelled against Him. There were no new and wonderful exhibitions of God's exalted power that could impress them so deeply as those they had already experienced. If they could rebel in the very presence of glory inexpressible, they could not be placed in a more favourable condition to be proved. There was no reserve force of power, nor were there any greater heights and depths of infinite glory to overpower their jealous doubts and rebellious murmuring” (Redemption: The Temptation of Christ, pp. 18, 19); 4BC 1163.2, 3).

To all this evidence, they answered, “We know better than Ellen White.” The power of the human mind to deceive itself is phenomenal. Never underestimate it. Our only protection is a love of the truth, and a correct interpretation of the Bible, the writings of Ellen White, and the writings of others who are in harmony with these two major sources of truth. These “two witnesses” ended up breaking up a few years later in violent circumstances. He was so abusive that she had to take out an A.V.O. against him, which he broke many times. He deliberately smashed up her car in an angry tantrum. He is virtually uneducated, and arrogant as well, an awful combination! Both have serious spiritual/emotional problems. This ministry is blackened by such people.

Severely Limit Your Speaking to Demons

Asking questions not relating to the person's deliverance is *very* rare for me. My principle in this is to speak to demons only in relation to getting information from them that is relevant to getting them out, or to the person's continued freedom. If I went too far in the above case, may God forgive me. If you think I need to be rebuked, I accept the rebuke gratefully, and I am determined not to ask such questions again.

Jesus asked the demon, “What is your name?” This is an example of the type of question that will help you cast the demon out. Knowing his name means that you single him out from all others. If you say, “Demon, come out of him”, you could be addressing him or any of the others in the person. If you single that demon out by name, there is no escape. Otherwise, he could just hide behind the other demons. If he is a powerful demon, he may trick you by sacrificing a weak demon and sending him out in his place. It is the difference between calling out, “Hey you!” in a crowd, or “Hey Jennifer!” Hardly anyone will take notice of the first call, but all the Jennifers will turn around and listen to the second one.

Through relevant information, you not only single that particular demon out, but also help the demonised person to understand how he/she became possessed, and know

what to especially avoid in the future so as not to become repossessed. Some other questions we occasionally have asked demons are, “When did you come in?” “What is your assignment from Satan?” “What legal ground do you have in him/her to be interfering in this person’s life?”

When casting out demons, we must ever keep in mind that they are God’s enemies and ours. They have no love for us, despite some being less evil than others. Jesus talked to demons; He is our example in all things. Paul also talked to them, directly rebuking and commanding them to come out. Notice that neither the Lord Jesus or the apostle Paul asked God to cast the demons out. They instead took their God-given authority and ordered them out. Paul said to the demon, “I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her” (Acts 16:18). In Ellen White’s writings, there are many, many references which explain *how* to talk to demons, i.e. in rebuke, in order to get rid of them. For a full explanation of this, refer to my study entitled, “How & Why You Need to Rebuke the Devil”. In it I quote many inspired statements showing how to resist Satan and his demons successfully. This is done by rebuking Satan, and giving him your testimony of your love for Jesus and your trust in His merits, and by using truth to tear down Satan’s lies, particularly using the Word of God like a sword.

Note that the type of speaking that I am talking about is *not* casual or friendly conversation, for this would be wrong. The Bible warns against contact with demons in a friendly way, to consult them, as was done by the witch of Endor (1 Samuel 28). The witch regularly held communion with the spirits, trusting them, heeding their statements, and was in harmony with them. She was used by demons as a spirit medium, to deceive and destroy people. She succeeded with many, including King Saul, who came to consult who he thought was the dead prophet Samuel. The Bible calls consulting with familiar spirits an “abomination” unto the Lord, and God absolutely forbids it (Deuteronomy 18:9-14). In stark contrast, rebuking demons and getting that little bit of information from them in order to get them out and keep them out successfully is the very opposite of friendly conversation.

Some argue that we should *never* talk to demons, since Satan their leader is the “father of lies”, and thus you can’t believe a word they say. Every Scriptural account of demons speaking portrays them as telling the truth, but of course, they lie also at times when it serves them, as we human beings also sometimes do. For this reason, we don’t trust their answers, unless it is verified by checking up on them with the person, the Bible, or the writings of Ellen White. The better you understand the truth, the better you’ll be at “rubbish detection”.

You will discover as you become involved in this ministry that over and over again the Holy Spirit and the holy angels force the demons to reveal things to us that are against their own best interests. Basically the reason it is necessary to talk to demons at all is that it is often the only way to get the information you need to get the demons out. By talking to them you also know if they’re still there or have been cast out. Unless the person displays some obvious symptoms, how else would you know? Remember, they do their best to conceal their working and their presence.

Anyway, who came up with this “rule” that under no circumstances can you ever talk to a demon or allow them to talk? They are intelligent beings like we are. You talk to your human enemies, who may also be wicked liars at times. The Lord Jesus spoke to them and they responded (see for example Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:23-27; Mark 5:1-20; Mark 9:25). In the last text, Jesus had the father right there to ask relevant questions, which is mostly not the case when ministering to the demonised. Demons communicate with each of us regularly. They put thoughts into our minds on a daily basis. The apostles and disciples also spoke directly to demons. Ellen White did, as seen in her statement, “Satan takes possession of the minds of men today. In my labors in the cause of God, I have again and again met those who have been thus possessed, and in the name of the Lord I have rebuked the evil spirit” (2SM 353.2).

The *general rule* is to not communicate with them, except to quote Scripture to them, and when rebuking and commanding them to cease something, and when commanding them out. They may try to drag you into a conversation, offering information to you. Unless the Holy Spirit convicts you that such statements have been forced out of them by God or His holy angels, rebuke them immediately, commanding them to desist, to stop speaking, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Never put up with their chatter. If you command them to be quiet, God’s holy angels will force them into quiet submission. This is what is needed in most cases.

Discussions or arguments with demons are totally unnecessary, and worse still, sinful. Never allow the person being delivered to fall into the sin of becoming a medium, allowing the spirits to speak through them as they choose to. God strictly forbids this (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). If demons try to start up a conversation, rebuke them immediately. Say, “Demons, you are not to speak unless you are asked a question, or unless the Holy Spirit tells you to speak.”

Ellen White teaches us, giving us example after example of *how* to speak to demons. Let me give you just one such quote, so you can see what I mean:

“When Satan tells you that the Lord has forgotten you and will not regard you with favour, **tell him** you know in whom you believe; **say to him**, “Get thee behind me, Satan. Jesus gave His own life for me. He suffered a most cruel death that He might save me from being overcome by your temptations. I believe in Jesus. I know my Saviour loves me, and I love my Jesus. I rest in His love, notwithstanding my imperfections. God has accepted His perfection in my behalf. He is my righteousness, and I trust in His merits. I am His repenting, believing child. He has taken away my sin-stained garments and covered me with the robe of His righteousness. Clothed in this garment I stand before the Father justified. I am of that number who are addressed as the ‘elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit’ ” (1 Pet.1:2) (12MR 34,35).

Another aspect of the reasoning against any type of talking to demons is based on Ellen White's injunction not to "parley" with Satan. She states clearly, "It is unsafe to enter into controversy or to parley with him" (3T 483). This too, of course, is accepted by most SDA's involved in the deliverance ministry, including myself.

Several issues are involved here, so let us take them one by one, and see what Ellen White is really trying to say. Firstly, many people assume that it is the same thing to *consult* demons, as is done, for example, in a séance or by a channeler, as *opposing* them in *rebuke* or *command* to drive them away. In both cases there is direct dialogue between people and demons. The two are actually *opposites*, as already explained, as are fire and water, or darkness and light. The evidence for this is found in both the Bible and Ellen White's writings.

Let's look briefly at Mark 5:1-19 from this perspective. When Jesus and His disciples came ashore to Gadara, a demon possessed man met them. Notice that *Jesus spoke to the demons*, saying, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"(5:8). Clearly, the demons did not immediately leave. The demon in charge spoke to Jesus (5:7). Clearly, there was dialogue between Jesus and a demon. Jesus then asked the demon the question, "What is your name?"(5:9) The demon in charge answered His question, and continued to speak to Jesus, begging Him not to send them out of the country (5:10). Then Jesus allowed all the demons to talk to Him. They begged Him to send them into the swine (5:12). Jesus again spoke to them, giving them permission to do so. It is clear that there was a considerable amount of dialogue between the Lord Jesus and these demons.

We cannot assume that this was the *only* dialogue between Jesus and these demons either. This is because Scripture was written to mention *briefly* some of the main things spoken or taught. For example, look at Jesus' dialogue with Nicodemus in John 3:1-21. You can read it in about half a minute or less. No doubt Nicodemus talked with Jesus for *hours*, but the whole content of their conversation was not placed into Scripture. See also John 21:25, which states that many of the things which Jesus did, and therefore also said, were not recorded. This has been called the principle of Scriptural brevity.

We can trust the example of the Lord Jesus Christ. "He is our example *in all things*" (4T 42). I would never claim to live up to His glorious example in all things, but I certainly desire to. He has given us His example of speaking to demons in order to resist, rebuke, and command them to leave.

Now, note again please how this is the *very opposite* of parleying with demons. The Concise Oxford Dictionary's definition of the word parley is: "Conference for *debating of points in dispute, esp. discussion of terms...(with enemy, etc)*". In His dialogue with these demons, Jesus did not debate with them or discuss terms. In deliverance we make no deals with the enemy. We give them no leniency. They are the avowed enemies of Christ. But as in Christ's deliverance ministry, so too in ours;

there can be *two-way communication*. Jesus' talking with the demons, like ours in deliverance, consisted of *opposition*, as necessary, in order to get them out.

As is sometimes the case in other places, Ellen White's writings are used to support an idea that she is actually not stating. This can be done by ignoring the context. If you read the context of her statement against parleying with Satan, she is actually admonishing us to *resist the devil*, particularly in the area of presumption. Here is her statement in context:

“It is unsafe to enter into controversy or to parley with him. For every advantage that we give the enemy, he will claim more. Our only safety is in rejecting firmly the first approach to *presumption*. God has, through the merits of Christ, given us sufficient grace to *withstand Satan* and be more than conquerors. *Resistance is success*. “*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*” *Resistance must be firm and steadfast*” (3T 483).

Ellen White was not warning us never to talk with demons, but rather, that we must not make any presumptuous deals or compromises with the devil. Instead, we are to resist him firmly, steadfast in the faith. And it is this type of resistance that will bring us success in our warfare with Satan.

You may wish to check the following references, which similarly teach us how to resist the devil by talking to him directly in *opposition*, in order to force him to leave: HS 132; 13MR 149,150; Testimonies on Sexual Behaviour 50; 1 Sermons & Talks 189; ST 8.18.1987, The Christian's Privilege, pr.5; ST 3.18.1989, The Substance of Things Hoped For, pr.5; YI 7.8.1897, Soldiers for Christ, pr.2; RH 8.5.1890, We Should Praise God Now, pr.6; RH 9.20.1892, Walk Not in Darkness, pr.11. There are many other such quotes. Ask for my detailed study on this if you are still not convinced! It's called, “How & Why You Need to Rebuke the Devil.”

In a day when Satan has virtually complete control of this earth, and far too much control in our beloved church, faithful SDA Christians would do well to take seriously what every demon knows:

“Satan related to his angels that Jesus had given His disciples power to cast them out, rebuke them, and heal those whom he should afflict” (1SG 79).

If only we took that as seriously as the devils do! And believe me, *they do*. They know that *you* (if you are a born again follower of the Lord Jesus) have the *authority in Jesus' name* to rebuke and cast them out, and to heal those whom they directly afflict. Unfortunately, most SDA's are tragically ignorant of that fact. Unfortunately, most of our ministers would rather run a few kilometres than deal with a demon possessed person. We are too used to the life of plenty and ease.

When casting out particularly difficult and resistant demons, insist on your authority to cast them out, quoting the texts from God's Word. Use Scripture as the Lord Jesus did, like a sword, to cut and hack their resistance to pieces. Never argue with them. Quote the Word of God. Even then, they will usually not leave easily, I've found.

Do Not Allow Physical Demonic Manifestations

Demons sometimes want to put on a great show of their power. You must not allow this, and you can stop it almost immediately by rebuking them in the name of the Lord Jesus. Command the demon to stop what he is doing immediately. If necessary, repeat your command until there is obedience.

Demons like to manifest their power over the person they are indwelling in many ways. Here are a few examples to show you what I mean. They may choke the person, stop him/her from breathing, bend the body backwards or against a wall, make them hurt themselves in some way, such as bashing the head against a wall, or cutting him/herself, etc. A useful command is, "Release him/her immediately, demon, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Be specific if possible. If the demon is stopping the person from breathing, you can say something like, "Release his/her breathing mechanism right now, demon, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!"

Demons may try to intimidate you with fear, aggression, threats, pain, etc. Immediately resist such tactics to dissuade you from casting them out. Command them to stop whatever they are doing. You can say, "I bind all of you demons, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. You cannot harm me, for I have the whole armour of God on, and I am born of God, and the wicked one touches me not [1 John 5:18]." Study the section on pages 13-15 about the reality of the armour of God in my study entitled, "Destroying the Power of Curses". This study discusses situations when the armour can actually be used physically.

The Weapons of Our Warfare

Some of God's 'weapons' come under the general category of *worship*. It is through various aspects of worship that we consciously come into God's presence, where all our authority against Satan rests. In worship, we sense God's love, and often hear His voice. Satan hates genuine worship. Now for some details.

Prayer

Prayer to God enlists His help, giving Him a *legal right* to tear down the strongholds that Satan has built. Prayer can remove the spiritual blinders from peoples' eyes. It can create a formidable "No Fly Zone" over the seeds that have been planted in peoples' hearts. Prayer can protect them from Satan snatching the seeds.

Fasting

When we know that we are dealing with a particularly difficult case, or have already prayed for someone and still did not succeed in casting the demons out,

we always spend considerable time in prayer, and then come back to the person while fasting.

“I saw that we must keep close to Jesus and fast and pray if we could not get the victory over the powers of darkness” (MR 309, p.201,202).

Why Does Fasting Help in Spiritual Warfare?

I can think of a few reasons: (1) Fasting keeps your mind active and clear

(2) It shows in a physical way the spirit of unselfishness, death to self, and humility (Psalm 35:13)

(3) There is some spiritual power it provides that we are not aware of. Jesus said that some demons do not come out except by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:21; Mark 9:29). Let me know if you find out why fasting affects demons this way.

Fasting does not mean just drinking water. It includes drinking juices, and even very light amounts of food. When we get together to pray for someone's deliverance, if we have chosen to fast, we usually bring fresh juices (apple, orange, vegetable juice, etc.).

“For certain things, fasting and prayer are recommended and appropriate. In the hand of God they are a means of cleansing the heart and promoting a receptive frame of mind. We obtain answers to our prayers because we humble our souls before God” (CD 187.6).

Here is a good place to have the Declaration of Faith prayer for printing:

My Declaration of Faith in Jesus Christ

I believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the Son of God and my Saviour. I believe that He is God, equal with the Father, and that He came down from heaven, and became flesh as the son of man. I believe that my rightful inheritance in Jesus Christ, because of His shed blood at Calvary for all sinners, includes deliverance from every evil power. I now state my desire to be completely free from the control of the powers of darkness, in the name and by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God my Father.

Prayer of Commitment to Jesus Christ

Heavenly Father, I confess that I am a sinner. I repent of the sins which have controlled my life, and I reject the dominion of sin over me. I want to be fully Your child. By the grace and power of Your Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I cancel out and choose to be free from every hereditary, cultivated, or transferred demonic power that has molested me physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally, morally, sexually, socially, financially, or in any other way. I reject anything in my character that is unlike the Lord Jesus Christ. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I cancel out, disown, reject, and renounce all the sins and demonic working that has been passed down to me through my ancestors. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I cancel out all satanic curses, spells, and incantations against me and my family. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I cancel out any satanic spiritual relationships that bind me to any other people. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command all the hosts of darkness who are in or around me to leave my presence. I renounce you Satan, and all the powers of darkness, along with all your works and ways, and I close every door that I have ever opened to the Devil through any occult practice, belief, or reading, including [list, if any, your occult practices and beliefs]. I now take back all the ground that I have ever given to the Devil, and give it rightfully to the Lord Jesus Christ, my Saviour. I am a child of God by right of creation and redemption, through the blood of Jesus. I ask that the blood of Jesus, shed for my sins at Calvary, cleanse me from all unrighteousness, and sanctify me. I choose of my own free will the rightful claim of the Lord Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Saviour. I resolve with my whole soul, body, and spirit to be totally and eternally signed over and committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is able to give me complete deliverance from all the powers of darkness, and I claim that deliverance now. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Amen.

Use this prayer each time you begin to pray for someone's deliverance. Every Christian would do well to say this prayer sincerely, out aloud in the hearing of the whole universe. I have included it in this study, since it has proven to be a most vital tool in my deliverance ministry. This is the prayer previously mentioned that was used in Pablo's deliverance, and also with virtually every person I've prayed with. Believe me, Satan and his demons absolutely *hate* this prayer. It often flushes them out into the open, preventing them from hiding and attempting to make you believe they're not really there at all.

The Weapon of the Blood of Christ

Do you know how demons see genuine Christians? They see them as covered in Jesus' blood. They fear the blood of Jesus. We sing songs about the blood of the Lamb, but most of us have never seen its spiritual warfare significance.

It is by our testimony for Christ and the blood of Jesus that we are to specifically overcome the devil (Revelation 12:11). It is at the cross, where Jesus shed His precious blood, that Satan was disarmed (Colossians 2:15). It is through the blood of Jesus that we may in spirit enter into the Most Holy part of the heavenly sanctuary, where our Saviour is ministering His blood now (Hebrews 10:19,20). We are specifically taught to resist Satan by telling him of the blood of Jesus:

“When Satan points to your filthy garments, repeat the promise of Jesus, “Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37. ***Tell the enemy that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin***” (COL 205, 206).

Learn off by heart, or know at least where to find the important texts about the blood of Jesus in God's Word. Some of these are mentioned on pp.34, 35. When confronting devils, the grounds for your authority over them are the righteousness of Christ, His victory upon the cross, and the blood of Jesus, which covers sinners who receive Jesus as their Saviour.

What Can You Do When Demons Attack People Physically?

When demonised people read this prayer, I have seen some remarkable demonic resistance, such as trying to choke the person, stop the person from breathing, making the person go unconscious, etc. These are all delaying tactics, in attempt to prevent the person from making this thorough commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and renunciation of the powers of darkness. This only happens occasionally, though.

When such things happen, don't panic. In Christ you have the authority to take control. Simply rebuke the power of the enemy in the name of Jesus. For example, a demonised man was praying the above prayer. He suddenly stopped breathing, and was going very red, and obviously looked quite distressed about it. Wouldn't you?! I stated out loud, "Demons, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I command you to release his breathing mechanism, and let him breathe normally." In the background, God's holy angels go into instant action to protect the person, doing for the person what you can't do. The man instantly took a deep breath. The demons tried this trick a number of other times, and each time after being rebuked in the name of the Lord, were instantly under control. If the person goes unconscious, rebuke the enemy, saying something like this: "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I command you to release _____ (person's name). Stop putting him/her to sleep." Lightly pat the person on the face or hand, and say something like, "Wake up. Everything is all right, and God is in control." The demons are not usually good at instant obedience! You may have to make such commands a number of times. They are rebellious, and the angels of God force them to obey, sometimes taking time. Keep rebuking them calmly and with utmost confidence in the power of God. Use the Word of God against their attacks like a sword and your faith as a shield. The holy angels ensure that the demons obey you, as much as they hate to.

Get the person to read the entire prayer out loud, even if you have to pray to God and rebuke the devils all the way through it. When a demonised man once finished this prayer, a demon that manifested said, "He didn't mean it!" What would you have done? I decided to say, "Demon, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I command you to go back down. I want to speak to _____ (his name)". Instantly he looked up directly at me, and it was obvious that the demon was no longer manifesting, and I had him back again. I asked him if he meant the prayer that he had just read, and he answered that he certainly did. I then commanded the demon to manifest again by saying, "_____ (demon's name), I command you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to come forward." He did, and I said to him, "You heard him. He meant every word of it. Now, because of what the Lord Jesus has done for him, dying for him on the cross, and because of this man's commitment to Jesus and renunciation of you and all the other powers of darkness, I command you to come out of him." He didn't leave instantly. It required more prayer, claiming of the promises of God for the man, and more rebuking of the powers of darkness, but this demon, along with the others, did leave. The man now has a measure of freedom that he had never previously known prior to his deliverance. In this man's case, I don't think all the demons are gone. This is in God's hands. I'm quite sure that we will pray for him at another occasion, during which I expect God will have a total victory.

Each problem and seemingly impossible situation you confront is a call to prayer. We determine to keep fasting as long as is necessary, as God impresses us.

The Weapon of the Word of God

“By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the word of God. Only by the word could He resist temptation. “It is written,” He said. And unto us are given “exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” (2 Peter 1:4). Every promise in God's word is ours. “By every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” are we to live. When assailed by temptation, look not to circumstances or to the weakness of self, but to the power of the word. All its strength is yours. “Thy word,” says the psalmist, “have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.” “By the word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.” (Ps. 119:11; 17:4)” (DA 123.4).

In my experience one of the main ways to destroy the grip of Satan in a demonised person's life is by claiming the promises of the Word of God for that person, out aloud, with his/her consent and cooperation. The Bible is literally full of promises for virtually every possible need, and they are all ours, since we are united to Christ. You can buy books of God's promises, and you will find these very useful in deliverance ministry. I have several such promise books.

Pastor Glenn Coon states that there are 3,573 promises in the Word of God. I've never tried to count them all to check up on him, but I have seen the power of God's promises to cut and hack Satan's attempts to argue and resist expulsion to pieces. I have found that there are a number of Bible passages that are *particularly* powerful against demonic attack/possession. Use these when you are under personal attack or harassment, and when you are in prayer for deliverance. Here are the texts that I have found particularly powerful:

- Revelation 1:4-8,12-18; 4:1-11; 5:1-14; 7:11-17; 12:1-17; 15:2-4; 19:11-16; 20:1-15; 21:1-7; 22:1-21 (glory and power of the Lord Jesus Christ)
- 1 John 1:9; 2:1,2; 3:2,3; 3:8,16; 4:1-19 (forgiveness, justification, love)
- Hebrews 1:1-14; 2:6-18 (victory over him who had the power of death)
- 2 Timothy 1:7-10 (Jesus banishes fear, death)
- Colossians 1:9-23; 2:6-10,15 (Christ is head of all principalities and powers; He overcame all demons at the cross)

- Philippians 1:6; 2:5-13; 3:12-14; 4:13,19 (glorious humility of Jesus; every knee shall bow)
- Ephesians 1:3-23; 2:1-10; 3:14-21; 6:10-19 (we are accepted in the Beloved; all things in subjection to Christ; whole armour of God)
- 2 Corinthians 5:21; 10:3-5 (weapons of our warfare)
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (spirit of heaven – agape love)
- Romans 1:16-18; 5:6-21; 6:1-23; 8:1-17,35-39; 10:9-13; 16:20 (cleansing by Jesus’ blood, justification; soon crush Satan under your feet)
- John 1:1-5,11-14; 14:12-14 (Jesus is God; we shall do what Jesus did)
- Luke 4:1-19; 8:26-39; 9:1,2; 10:17-20 (Jesus’ victory over Satan in the wilderness; mission; deliverance of demoniac of Gadara; commission to disciples and the 70)
- Mark 1:23-27; 9:17-29 (deliverance of man in synagogue and mute boy)
- Malachi 4:1-3; Revelation 20:10,12-15 (Satan’s future)
- Isaiah 10:27 (anointing oil); 53:4-6 (Jesus’ substitutionary suffering and death on the cross)

I’ve underlined what I consider are the most powerful in resisting, rebuking, and casting demons out. Now, of course, these texts are only a fraction of those in God’s Word that are useful in silencing demons, cutting their arguments and lies to pieces, tormenting them, and thus forcing them to leave.

The better you know the Word of God, the better you can wield it in battle against the enemy of souls. God’s Word serves many purposes, and there are many ways to use it. God meant it to be used this way in spiritual warfare, for He described it as “the *sword* of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17). Of course, God’s Word was not meant to be used as a sword or “club” to hit *people* over the head with, but it is used effectively this way for demons.

Active Faith in the Form of “Spiritual Violence”

Don’t think for one minute that you can be gentle and passive with demons and hope to overcome them. They cannot be treated as you would treat people, for whom Christ died and can yet repent and be saved.

“Spiritual Violence Brings Reward - With the great truth we have been privileged to receive, we should, and under the Holy Spirit’s power we could, become living channels of light. We could then approach the mercy seat; and seeing the bow of promise, kneel with contrite hearts, and *seek the kingdom of heaven with a spiritual*

violence that would bring its own reward. We would take it by *force*, as did Jacob. Then our message would be the power of God unto salvation. Our supplications would be full of earnestness, full of a sense of our great need; and we would not be denied” (5BC 1090).

“A deep sense of our need and a great desire for the things for which we ask must characterize our prayers, else they will not be heard. But we are not to become weary and cease our petitions because the answer is not immediately received. “The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force”(Matt. 11:12). *The violence here meant is a holy earnestness, such as Jacob manifested.* We need not try to work ourselves up into an intense feeling, but calmly, persistently, we are to press our petitions at the throne of grace” (RH February 9, 1897, “The Prayer That God Accepts”).

This quote refers to the “spiritual violence” with which we may seek God’s help. Jesus must have smiled when Jacob wrestled violently with Him all night, but Jacob was blessed for it. Should we try to defeat the powers of darkness with any less spiritual violence? The battle is not physical, as the Word of God says, but Scripture states that Satan’s strongholds must be fought for, pulled down (2 Corinthians 10:4,5) and destroyed (1 John 3:8). In a spiritual sense, demons must be wrestled (Ephesians 6:12), beaten back, driven away, and *forced* to leave. They surely wouldn’t leave otherwise. These are all warfare terms, explaining what “spiritual violence” means. And this is not just something Christians do occasionally when helping people with demonic problems. “So long as we are in this world of sin, we must engage in a *constant spiritual warfare*” (20MR 170.1). The Christian life, lived as God would have it, is a *warfare*.

“The Christian life is a battle and a march. In this warfare there is no release; the effort must be continuous and persevering. It is by unceasing endeavour that we maintain the victory over the temptations of Satan. Christian integrity must be sought with resistless energy and maintained with a resolute fixedness of purpose. No one will be borne upward without stern, persevering effort in his own behalf. All must engage in this warfare for themselves; no one else can fight our battles. . . .” (NL 60).

The Weapons of Singing & Praise to God

“Our God is mighty. I saw that singing to the glory of God *often drove the enemy away*, and praising God would *beat him back* and give us the victory. I saw that there was too little glorifying God, too little childlike simplicity among the remnant”(18MR No.1302 11:1).

While fighting for peoples’ deliverance, we have always found that these two *weapons*, singing and praising God, have helped greatly in forcing the enemy to give up their strongholds. Don’t under-estimate the power of God’s simple weapons. Praise God out aloud in the hearing of the demons. Praise Him for His glory and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, His shed blood at Calvary, our redemption in Him, His triumph over all the powers of darkness and our deliverance from them. Praise God for every victory in spiritual warfare. Praise to God in word and song become a part of every true Christian’s daily life, and are powerful weapons to wear down and subjugate particularly stubborn demons to force them to leave.

Why Do These Spiritual Weapons Force Demons to Leave?

Think about it. If you are willing to put yourself in the demons’ “shoes” for just a moment and use your sanctified imagination, think about the mental torture it puts them through. In heaven they once loved God, and joyously sang hymns of praise to Him and happily also spoke their praise to Him with heartfelt gratitude. They have perfect memories. They remember all too well the streets of gold, the pearly gates, the glorious happiness that shone in their lighted-up faces and that filled their hearts. They remember the peace and plenty, and the wonderful spirit of happiness, love and truth. Now, in rebellion to God, they have lost everything. When you sing praises to the Godhead, and speak of Christ’s mercy, grace, righteousness and power, it is agonising for them to hear it. To hear you glorifying God, as they once did, but now won’t because they hate Him, is like piercing them with a spiritual sword. They can only take so much of it, and then they actually weaken and *want* to leave! I once heard a demon scream at us while we praised God, “Shut up! Shut up! I can’t stand it! I’m leaving!” We didn’t stop, of course. We sang and quoted Scripture and glorified God all the more energetically! We knew we were on the right track, and soon the demon gave up all resistance, and when we gave the command, he quickly departed. The principle of effective resistance is to do precisely what they hate.

Here are some suggestions or guidelines of how to carry out this ministry when you have someone who meets the conditions. I have learned many things from hard experience. You may find these suggestions useful.

Steps to Deliverance

(1) **Prayer**: When you are called to minister to demonised people, start by praying for them away from their direct presence. Ask God to convict them of sin, righteousness and judgement (John 16:8-11). Out aloud, rebuke and bind the powers of darkness for them (Matthew 16:19), and claim the promises of God for salvation, cleansing, and conversion for them. Pray that God will lead you, give you wisdom, and faith to believe that God will use you. Claim God's promises for authority in Christ over all the powers of darkness. Confess *your* sins, and claim God's promises for cleansing and protection. Make sure your relationships with others are right and that you harbour no negative feelings or thoughts towards others. Be in a state of forgiveness yourself, and forgive those who have harmed you.

(2) **Interview**: Whether your initial interview is by phone, computer, or in their presence, you must *make friends with them*. Be warm, loving, and kind to them. Love is the heart of the gospel of salvation and the principles of the kingdom of heaven. Try to understand as much as is practical and necessary about their history, current problems, and spiritual state. Get them to answer the questionnaire, assuring them of their confidentiality in this, explaining that it is very useful when taking Satan's strongholds and ground. The most important thing you need to know about them is the demonic doorways that have been opened. It also helps to know as well their other sins. List all these on paper, as in the heat of deliverance, many important doorways can be forgotten and thus not dealt with, perhaps allowing the demons to hide and stay undetected. Be as methodical as possible, so that all doorways are dealt with. All these need to be repented of prior to deliverance. Repentance does not need to be done necessarily in your presence, so long as it is done. Repentance prior to deliverance usually results in a much quicker deliverance, because the ground that demons have to stay is taken from them, and given to the Lord.

If it is evident that they are not truly repentant for their sins, delay the deliverance, pray with them, asking God to bring them conviction for sin, faith in God, and a desire to resist Satan and to destroy all the works of iniquity in their lives. Wait on the Lord then, whether it takes days, weeks, months, or years. Each person must be handled as an individual, and there are no set rules about how long to wait or to give up on waiting. If they make excuses for their sins, or are unready to give up their powers from Satan, the deliverance will almost certainly be a failure, or the demons will only return later anyway.

Pray with them, being positive about the ability of God to help and heal them, and encourage them to go forward with Jesus, and to turn their backs to Satan and his evil ways.

Assess the degree of passivity they have. Those involved in the occult, particularly Eastern meditation, yoga, T.M., and those who have serious depression and suicide issues, can have very passive minds. They may have become used to blanking out their minds, thus allowing demons to take over. It can be helpful with such people to

coach them about regaining mind control prior to their deliverance, if possible. This will help in the speed and success of the deliverance, as well as after it to keep the demons out. As a general rule, the less passive a person is, the quicker the deliverance will be over successfully, and the less likely it is that they will fall prey to reinfestation. Their co-operation with and surrender to the Lord, and their deliberate resistance of the enemy within makes all the difference in their deliverance.

Get them to read the Declaration of Faith prayer and ask them if they want to surrender their lives to Jesus and renounce Satan and his ways. If they don't want to, demons may be blocking them from doing so. Bind the powers of darkness stopping them from making a commitment to Jesus. Ask again, and then try to lead them to Christ. Don't go ahead with the deliverance until they are ready to submit themselves to Jesus and renounce Satan, and repent of their sins. If they can't speak it, ask them to nod yes to this. After they have submitted themselves to God, get them to repent of their sins out aloud, in the hearing of the demons.

When issues of bitterness, unforgiveness, and other areas of emotional clutter are dealt with prior to deliverance prayer, this severely weakens the demonic hold, making deliverance much easier. Demons are much like rats, which love and stay around garbage. Except in cases of inheritance, and a few other exceptions, it is spiritual and emotional garbage that allows demons to enter a person and to stay there. The demons 'piggyback' onto human problems. The strength of the demons is largely in the amount and type of garbage in the person. Those with plenty of garbage usually have strong demons (more power to work within them), and those with less garbage will usually have weaker demons (less power to work within them). Getting rid of this garbage seriously weakens the demons, or their influence in that person's life. These spiritual/emotional problems need to be dealt with, either before or after deliverance. If they are able to be dealt with prior to deliverance, then the demons have nothing to cling to, i.e. no legal ground. This is why good, sound Christian counselling can work hand in hand with deliverance, each profession assisting the other. The great advantage of dealing with all the spiritual/emotional garbage (inner healing) before deliverance, if possible, is that the deliverance process can be consequently so much easier.

(3) Prayer: Before confronting the demons, after prayer for yourself, ask God for protection from all the powers of darkness for all those involved and their loved ones. Claim His promise in Luke 10:19. Ask God to fill the place where you are praying with His holy angels, His Holy Spirit, and that Jesus will direct the entire time of prayer. Ask that God would place the whole armour of God upon each person there. Ask God to bind up the mouth of Satan, so that he can't give orders. You may have decided to fast this day. The whole deliverance time needs to be filled with prayer, frequently communicating with God and praising Him. Ask God to banish every demon from the house who is not directly involved with this person. Bind every demon there. "According to the Word of God in Matthew 16:19, I now bind every evil force assigned to _____. You will not attempt to escape or leave until you are told

to leave.” This is to prevent some from temporarily escaping, only to return when you are gone. Pray to the Lord, asking Him to direct the order that the demons manifest, according to His will. Before starting, it can be helpful to forbid the demons through a direct command from causing any violence or vomiting. Let each person in the team pray out loud, and finally the person being prayed for, if he/she can. The demons may not *let* him/her. If they can pray, get the person to ask God out aloud to do what he/she wants God to do for him/her (giving God the *legal* right to intervene). It can be helpful to have a bucket close by (in case of vomiting, spitting, etc.), a packet of tissues, blanket, and pillow. A blanket/sheet is helpful for modesty, particularly if the person is a female wearing a dress. There are times when these things really come in handy. Once again, don’t pray with a person of the opposite sex by yourself, unless it is absolutely necessary. Satan has brought many a dedicated Christian down by breaking this common sense rule. Bring other dedicated SDA Christians whenever possible.

(4) Anointing with Consecrated Oil: I use olive oil that has been prayed over to dedicate it to God for His holy use. This oil is never to be used for anything other than prayer for deliverance, healing, protection from Satan, cleansing haunted homes and objects, and so on. I keep it in a separate small container/bottle, and have it in my car, where it is always available. I usually begin the deliverance by anointing the person on the forehead, inviting the Holy Spirit to take full charge of this person’s deliverance and future life, and that the Holy Spirit will drive out all the forces of darkness. I also ask God to bring to that person any physical, emotional or other healing He wants to give. When I know what particular demonic strongholds they are under, I bless that person (the opposite of the curse they are under), particularly inviting the Lord to bring into the person’s life the opposite of these strongholds. For example, if they have a stronghold of fear, I bless the person with faith and courage, claiming Bible promises for these. I always give the person Jesus’ favourite blessing, “Peace be with you” (Luke 24:36; John 20:19,21,26). I then invite the Lord Jesus to come into this person. The demons may try to prevent the person being anointed, trying to squirm away or make the person dodge the oil. Just persist, if necessary, commanding the demon hindering you to stop it. This is often the point where the demons first manifest in an obvious way.

(5) Prayer of Dedication: If the demons don’t manifest through anointing, they often do when you get the person to read “My Declaration of Faith in Jesus Christ”, on page 34). If you encounter demonic resistance to the person reading the prayer, rebuke the powers of darkness. If the prayer doesn’t flush the demons out into the open, keep at it. Making the demons manifest can be difficult and frustrating when you first start. If they don’t manifest, then there’s no proof that they are even there. They do their best to hide, knowing that if they are exposed they will be forced to leave. Many of the lesser/weaker demons have degraded into characters rather like mischievous children. Their presence within a person can be sometimes seen in a mischievous or evil look in the eyes, the facial expression, the tone in the voice, or something said through the person’s voice that gives their presence away. When detecting such things, I sometimes coax them out by saying something like, “You’re there, demon. I know

you're there. You caused him/her to and to get involved in What is your name? In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to answer – what is your name?" At this point you may well get the demon's name, and a surprised comment like, "How did you know I was there!?" If they continue to try to hide, keep at it. I sometimes say, "Do you hear me, demon? In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, do you hear me, demon? You will answer, you will not hide, you will not run away. You will answer my question – do you hear me?" Usually by then you will get something like an angry, "Yes, I hear you!" They don't like to be exposed like this, as the game is over for them then. Get the demon's name, so that you can specifically order him out.

(6) Dealing with the Demons: There are some obvious signs of demonic manifestation, such as a rolling back of the eyes, rapid eye movements, an extremely evil look in the eyes, a tear coming down, a glassy stare, a change in the countenance of the person (even the facial *structure* at times), spastic movements of the face and body, a particularly evil expression, aggressive behaviour, obvious mental turmoil showing on the face (ask the person to tell you what he/she is experiencing), tremendous pain (rebuke the demon causing this), the demon answering you directly, loud laughter or mocking by the demon, etc.

Take immediate authority over the demons. Though you will occasionally come across some particularly evil, powerful, and nasty control freak demons, never let them be in charge. If they laugh or mock you, read to them from the Word of God about their fate in the Lake of Fire (Malachi 4:1-3; Revelation 20:7-15). Remind them of their defeat by the Lord Jesus Christ at the cross, and that you will one day walk on their ashes, and take their place in heaven. It'll soon shut them up. "I am addressing all the demons assigned to _____. I am giving you orders in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth." You need to learn how to take command, as a General does in the army, navy, or air force. The kingdom of darkness is ruled like an army, and the demons understand the principle of authority. Tell them that they and their master Satan have been defeated by the Lord Jesus Christ. I sometimes go into detail about these defeats, and then order the demon to admit these facts. Tell them that Jesus died for _____'s sins, and has covered _____'s sins with His blood, shed for _____ at Calvary. Tell them that the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth has given you and your team the authority to rebuke and cast them out. Tell the demons that because _____ has confessed his/her sins to God and renounced them and the involvements with Satan, _____'s sins are covered by the blood of the Lamb, and the demons no longer have this legal ground, and must come out of _____. "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth I take away from you your assignments from Satan and your high ranking superiors, I smash your works in _____'s life, and I cancel every form of ownership you have had in _____'s life. I claim _____ for the Lord Jesus Christ, as His possession alone, bought by His blood at Calvary. You cannot have _____ any longer." At this point you may make the command to cast them out. "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth I command you and

all the demons under you to come out of _____, and go to the Pit, or wherever else the Lord Jesus Christ sends you.”

How Do You Know If the Demons Have Left?

When the demons leave, it is not uncommon for there to be a physical manifestation of the fact. Some of these that I have seen are long exhalations from the mouth or nose, a scream, frothing at the mouth, vomiting, etc. I usually have a box of tissues ready during deliverances, as well as glasses and a jug of water for drinking, and a large plastic bowl and towel, and a blanket/or sheet (for modesty, if necessary). If the person states that he/she has to get rid of the demon in the toilet, perhaps through an evacuation or vomiting, make sure that someone of the same sex goes with the person to guard against the possibility that this could be a demonic ploy to get the person out of your reach, the door being locked, and the demons making the person cut him/herself or do some other type of damage, or even commit suicide while you're waiting patiently.

Some involved in the deliverance ministry say that you should never depend on such physical manifestations of the exit of demons. Their reasons for this is firstly that since demons are spirits, you can't see them. Secondly, the demons can fake the physical symptoms of leaving. You need to keep these things in mind, and above all, ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit to know when they have left. If the person has truly repented then the demons must leave when they are commanded to do so, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give this time, as the demons don't necessarily leave at the instant this command is given.

There Is Not Just One Way to Do Deliverance

One of the problems with some of the critics of this ministry is that they think there is only ONE way to carry out this ministry. They're sure that *their* way is the *only* way, despite how little most of them know about the subject. While there are norms and guidelines and some hard and fast rules for this ministry, I have come across a number of valid deliverance ministries over the years. Each of these individuals/teams have slightly different methods within that framework. Who can say that their methods are the best? I have learned new things as the years roll by and improved my methodology. As mentioned previously, all of life is a learning curve. The way the apostle Paul did his deliverance ministry is clearly different to how the Lord Jesus did it. Could you imagine Jesus putting up with the demon possessed fortune-teller screaming next to Him for many days (Acts 16:8)? Paul must have had a great deal of patience. I certainly wouldn't. Ten minutes would probably be about all I would put up with.

How to Handle Lies From Demons

Don't trust what demons say unless it is clearly the truth. If you suspect that a demon is lying to you, say, "I command you to look straight into the eyes of the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will answer me as you will answer Him on the Judgement Day. Now tell me the truth." You often get a different answer then.

Handling Difficulties

Difficulties will arise at times when you encounter particularly powerful and resistant demons. Listen actively for the voice of God to impress you what to do next. To get more leverage to force them to leave, speak out aloud your confidence in the power of God, quote the Word of God to them, sing and speak God's praises, pray out aloud fervent prayers of faith. Enlist the prayers of others by phone, email, internet, etc. The more people you have praying while in deliverance, the more easily you will cast the demons out. Ask God to send you more fresh and powerful holy angels to minister to you. In particularly difficult cases, I ask the Lord, if it is His will, to send us the archangel Gabriel. When he is present, the demons jump!

The demons know all too well that as representatives of the Lord Jesus, we have the authority to rebuke and evict them. They also know that we often don't know how to use the power/authority we have been given. So they use whatever tactics they can to prevent us from casting them out. The secret of evicting them is to see through their bluff tactics and arguments, and to continue to use the authority and power we have in Christ.

One of their tactics is to speak in the first person in the mind of the person they're inhabiting. For example, they say, "I ought to kill myself", "I hate myself", "I don't believe that demons can live in Christians," etc. The way to solve this problem is to forbid the demons to speak to their victim in the first person. Then usually the thoughts turn into "You ought to kill yourself", "you hate yourself", etc. Often the first step to deliverance can be when the person realises the real nature of their problems as being demonic invasion. The demons can use their hiding tactics so cleverly within people that they are totally unaware of their influence and presence. During deliverance, when they hear words coming out of their own mouths, such as "She belongs to us! You can't have her!" Suddenly the person's eyes are opened, and this may be the first step to deliverance.

It can help to command the manifesting demon to say the extreme opposite virtue to their assignment from Satan. For example, if the demon's name is Death, force him to say that Jesus Christ is "the way, the truth, and the **LIFE**." They hate having to do this, and you may have to force the words out of the demon one word at a time. It can be like extracting a tooth, they hate this so much. Once the demon has said it, it is often then easy to cast him out. They usually hate to be reminded how much they gave up in following Lucifer, and that they were deceived by him. They hate the principles of love and kindness, especially when you express love for the one possessed.

Some are very sensitive to their defeat at the cross, and reminding them of it can be very helpful. “You were there at the cross, weren’t you? You remember it like it was yesterday. Picture how you looked into the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, seeing how much love He had for the human race, even for those who crucified Him. There was nothing you or your master could do to Him that could change His love and sinlessness. You were defeated by Jesus at that cross, every one of you, weren’t you?” Make them admit it. You will win as long as you cling to God in faith, use your delegated authority in Christ, use the Word of God and His truths as a sword, pray continually, confidently give God praise and the glory, and stand firm on the finished victory of Jesus at the cross.

Get the demonised person to rebuke the devil, and to tell Satan he wants him and all his demons to go and never to return. Enlist the person being prayed for to fight against Satan with you, and to plead with God for His mercy and help. At this point (after a thorough repentance and anointing) the person may establish his/her own authority over the demons within. They may need a little encouragement at this point, since they may have been so used to subservience to the power of the demons within that they don’t realize their new status in Christ. In Christ they now have more power than the indwelling demons! Establishing this authority at this point over indwelling demons to get them out will be a crucial part of the training they need to keep the demons out.

Let your eyes of faith see beyond the present difficulties to the bigger picture – Christ is victorious! True faith believes that God will overcome Satan’s present deluge of resistance and harassment. Let God be God; let Him lead and take care of the situation in His timing. Don’t retreat or quit when victory is temporarily thwarted. Don’t shrink back in the heat of the war. The battle intensifies only because the demons are putting up a last ditch effort to save their home from being plundered and given to Jesus. The God of heaven will give you success (see Nehemiah 2:20). Believe God’s promises; you are invincible in Christ, so long as God has a purpose for you.

“The Lord declares that the gates of hell shall not prevail against His church. Every sincere member of the church may include himself in these promises and say, ‘I am the Lord's. In His strength I am invincible.’ Then do not put on a doleful attitude and misrepresent my Lord, and act as though He had insulted you by giving you promises that He does not fulfill, as though you are having a hard time and are left alone to battle against the powers of darkness. He says, “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:18). . . . Do you individually believe these words? Or do you treat them as idle tales? Do you grasp them by faith, and accept them and rejoice in them? This is eating the flesh and drinking the blood of the Son of God” (Manuscript 42, Oct. 25, 1890, "Diary"; UL 312.5,6).

Always keep a state of order. Don't allow a situation of bedlam to arise, in which there is a huge noise and commotion. This is one of the many pitfalls that the Pentecostals/Charismatics often fall into. Don't all be rebuking the demons at the same time. When one gets tired, another one can continue to weaken the demonic stronghold. Never allow the demons to make you impatient or angry, as then you would give them an advantage, being on their level. Should this happen, immediately confess it out loud to God, in their hearing. The demons will go, but they are no push-over. You need to use heavenly wisdom and authority to expel them, and to be patient until God gives you the victory. It will all be worth it in the end!

Testing to See If the Demons Have All Been Cast Out

When it looks as though the last demon has been expelled, the person usually has a look of great relief and peace upon the face. They have gone through a severe physical trauma, as the exit of demons has been described as being like a sharp knife being pulled through them. It is painful and emotionally exhausting. The person may say that the demons are all gone now. Don't take that at face value, as the demons sometimes try to hide. Some of them are either really quite stupid, or they think we are. One said to me, "We're all gone now!"

This is one of the ways to test to see if there are any demons left. Say something like, "If there are any demons left inside _____, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I command you to come forward and manifest your presence." Another test is to get the person to read the prayer of dedication and renunciation of the powers of darkness, and/or a few chapters from the beginning of the book of Revelation. Anoint the person with the oil. If none of these things flush the demons out into the open, you can be reasonably sure that they are all gone, or that the Lord wants you to come back to prayer for that person at another time. Let God lead you.

If the battle becomes prolonged over a long time, if there is a general consensus by the team to stop and to continue prayer at another time, no problems. Deliverance is often a *process*, and victory often does not come in one prayer session. Freedom from Satan is often not an instant fix, but comes in stages, as the person learns to recognise Satan's temptations and attacks, and puts increasing faith in God, allowing Him to break each stronghold and put on them the pieces of the whole armour of God, and uses the weapons of our warfare. Assure the person that he/she is in God's hands, and that He will protect him/her till you meet again. Pray specifically for the person's protection till next time, and then pray regularly each day for them. Keep in regular contact with the person. Teach the person to put his/her trust in God, not in people, and to turn to Him in prayer to thwart the attacks and control of Satan. They must use their own wills to resist the devil.

At times I have made the demons admit that both I and the person they have been in control of have authority over them in Jesus Christ. It would be funny if it was not so serious, but to get these confessions of truth out of them is a battle in itself. Each word can be as hard for them to say as it is to extract a tooth! To get this out of them,

though, severely weakens their hold upon their victim. It also teaches the victim that in Jesus the demons are no longer in control of him/her. They can choose Christ and thus overcome Satan. They will learn the cost of giving in to Satan, and that although the battle is hard, victory is theirs when they resist Satan in Jesus' name.

If there is no demonic manifestation after prolonged attempts, trust in God. Either there are no demons in the person to manifest, or this may not be the right timing, or the situation God wants. People may be there who shouldn't be, or the prayer team is not adequately prepared to handle it, and God is mercifully delaying it. The person may not be ready yet. Spend some quality time with the person in prayer and counselling. Pray that God will work powerfully in that person's life, and fill him/her with the Holy Spirit, and break every type of demonic bondage.

Other Reasons for Difficulties in Casting Demons Out

When you strike difficulties, the reasons may be:

- **Cherishing of Sin by the Person** – discuss that person's sins with them. Present Jesus and the cross to him/her from Scripture. Expect the Word of God and the gospel to have a major impact, then pray with the person, binding the powers of darkness that seek to blind the person's eyes from the truth and stop the person from making a commitment to Christ. Tell Satan and his demons out aloud that they can no longer have this person, that you are claiming the person for Christ, that the blood of Jesus covers the person, and pray for the Holy Spirit to flood the person's heart, mind and every cell of his/her body. Discuss demonic "ground" in the person's life – as mentioned previously
- **Bitterness/Unforgiveness** – this is frequently the root of the problem. Sort this out before trying to evict the demons.
- **Particularly Powerful Resistance by the Demonic Forces** – it makes your job more difficult when Satan decides to put up a huge fight to resist your efforts to help someone.

"Satan and his angels are unwilling to lose their prey. They *contend* and *battle* with the holy angels, and the *conflict is severe*. And if those who have erred continue to plead, and in deep humility confess their wrongs, angels who excel in strength will prevail and *wrench* them from the power of the evil angels" (MYP 60).

"Every man is free to choose what power he will have to rule over him....Those who will consent to enter into covenant relation with the God of heaven are not left to the power of Satan or to the infirmity of their own nature. They are invited by the Saviour, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me" Isa. 27:5. The spirits of darkness will battle for the soul once under their dominion, but angels of God will contend for that soul with prevailing power. The Lord says, "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered?...Thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the

mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children” ” Isa.49:24,25. (DA 258,259).

Remember, when the forces of darkness put up a significant fight, that you have all the hosts of heaven on your side. There are two good angels for every one evil one. Don't give up or weaken, if at all possible, as this is what the devils are hoping for. Don't expect such spiritual warfare to end instantly; it usually takes time. Try to picture in your mind the battle between the good and the evil angels – battles are never instant. Be patient, keep praying and claiming God's promises in faith, fully expecting God to win. The only way He won't is if the person being prayed for chooses to side with evil, or is deceived by Satan's threats/fear tactics. Assure the person of God's willingness and ability to protect him/her and others who are being threatened.

- **The Fault of Those Praying** - another reason, as already mentioned in detail, is the cherishing of darkness or sin by those who are praying with the demonised person. This can be instantly solved if these people are willing to humble themselves before God in repentance, out aloud in the hearing of the demons.
- **Doubt** – Pr John Shaw told of a deliverance experience he and other ministers were involved in for a nurse at the Sydney Adventist Hospital. It didn't take just one quick command to evict the demons, he discovered. It took hours. When he was able to get close to casting the demons out, the demons succeeded in filling her mind with doubts. This held the deliverance process back, for the demons then wouldn't leave. The pastor told her stories of God's power and desire to help her, encouraging her with the promises of God. Unfortunately, this kept up for quite a while, in rounds of doubt and faith, till faith finally overcame. Finally, she put her trust and faith in the Lord Jesus, then when the pastor commanded the demons to leave, they left. Success was not easy, he found.

This is Ellen White's explanation of such experiences, well worth considering for its insightful instruction in relation to spiritual warfare for others:

“Satan will call to his aid legions of his angels to oppose the advance of even one soul, and, if possible, wrest it from the hand of Christ. I saw evil angels contending for souls, and angels of God resisting them. The conflict was severe. Evil angels were corrupting the atmosphere with their poisonous influence, and crowding about these souls to stupefy their sensibilities. Holy angels were anxiously watching and waiting to drive back Satan's host. But it is not the work of good angels to control the minds of men against their will. If they yield to the enemy, and make no effort to resist him, then the angels of God can do but little more than hold in check the host of Satan, that they shall not destroy, until further light be given to those in peril, to move them to arouse and look to

heaven for help. Jesus will not commission holy angels to extricate those who make no effort to help themselves.

If Satan sees that he is in danger of losing one soul, he will exert himself to the utmost to keep that one. And when the individual is aroused to his danger, and, with distress and fervor, looks to Jesus for strength, Satan fears that he will lose a captive, and he calls a reinforcement of his angels to hedge in the poor soul, and form a wall of darkness around him, that heaven's light may not reach him. But if the one in danger perseveres, and in his helplessness casts himself upon the merits of the blood of Christ, our Saviour listens to the earnest prayer of faith, and sends a reinforcement of those angels that excel in strength to deliver him. Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before His strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles. He continues to call legions of evil angels to accomplish his object. And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armory of heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host fall back, well knowing that their battle is lost" (1T 345, 346).

Pr. Shaw said that before he arrived a group of ministers went to the demonised nurse, and were instantly confronted by the demons when they entered the room. The demons derided and mocked them through the nurse's voice about their cherished sins. Their faith shrivelled, and they were of no use to the poor nurse. Sometimes the demons can outwit people this way. Many of them are far more intelligent than most of us. The surprise factor caught the ministers off guard. Perhaps they expected instant victory, and instead found that the demons knew of their sins.

"All their righteousness is "as filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6). Satan uses against them his masterly accusing power, pointing to their imperfections as evidence of their weakness. He points scornfully at the mistakes of those who claim to be doing God service" (TDG Ch.218).

What do you think the ministers should have done? I think that they should have all knelt down and confessed their sins to God, and claimed the promises of God for forgiveness and healing in the hearing of the demons. This would have foiled the demons' strategy, and then the pastors could re-enter the battle, not in their own righteousness, but in the righteousness of Christ. The **ONLY** way demons can be overcome is through the *imputed* righteousness of Christ. You come against them, not in your own name or supposed strength, which means less than nothing to them, but in the all-conquering name of the Lord Jesus Christ, in *His* power and righteousness. Tell the demons this specifically.

"When *Satan* tells you that the Lord has forgotten you and will not regard you with favour, **tell him** you know in whom you believe; **say to him**, "Get thee behind me, Satan. Jesus gave His own life for me. He suffered a most

cruel death that He might save me from being overcome by your temptations. I believe in Jesus. I know my Saviour loves me, and I love my Jesus. I rest in His love, notwithstanding my imperfections. God has accepted His perfection in my behalf. He is my righteousness, and I trust in His merits. I am His repenting, believing child. He has taken away my sin-stained garments and covered me with the robe of His righteousness. Clothed in this garment I stand before the Father justified. I am of that number who are addressed as the 'Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit' ". " (12MR No 929, pp. 34,35).

“In ourselves we are sinners; but in Christ we are righteous. *Having made us righteous through the imputed righteousness of Christ*, God pronounces us just, and treats us as just. He looks upon us as His dear children. Christ works against the power of sin, and where sin abounded, grace much more abounds. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God’ (Rom.5:1, 2).

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Rom. 3:24-26). “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8)” (1SM 394.1,2).

This is a most essential fact to understand when you resist the powers of darkness, whether it is for yourself, or for those who cannot resist for themselves. We are told in Scripture that even Judas cast out demons (Luke 9:1,2). Does that surprise you? It shouldn't. Every believer in Christ who comes in the name and imputed righteousness of Christ, has the *authority* to cast out demons. The authority is not in ourselves, but in Him whose name we come in. It is something like a policeman/woman standing at a street corner directing the traffic. No one argues with the police directing the traffic; we do as we are directed, because of the authority they have through the government they serve. The government has delegated authority to them to act in this way, and we are bound to obey that authority, so long as it does not impinge on the highest authority, which is God. Similarly, the Lord Jesus Christ has given every born again believer the delegated authority to resist, rebuke, and cast out demons, in the name of our Saviour Jesus. The demons recognise this authority, although you will at times get tested upon it by some demons.

At such times, have the Word of God open, and quote to them the texts that show that you have this authority (Luke 9:1; 10:17-20). Tell them that the Lord Jesus overcame them all through His spotless life. He overcame their master Satan in the wilderness temptation. He cast out demons during His earthly ministry, and He continues to do so now. He overcame them *all* at the cross (Colossians 2:15). The devil didn't understand the cross until it was too late; but he understands it now, and he needs to be reminded that you do too. He overcame them in His glorious resurrection from the dead. Now He sits in heaven at the right hand of God the Father, "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:21-23). Christ has already defeated all the demons. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and through our union with Him, we all share His victories. Tell these stubborn demons that you belong to Christ's church, and that in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, they must submit to you. They do, although very unwillingly. Don't expect instant obedience; they're not good at that. Remember, they obey only because the holy angels force them to, and this takes time. While you're waiting, keep claiming the promises of God, keep praying, and sing the praises of God with *enthusiasm* (as an old colporteur friend of mine used to say).

If demons try to argue with you, resist the temptation to argue back. We have no business arguing with them at all. There are two good reasons for this: (1) many of them are a lot more clever than we are, and could outsmart us in an argument, and (2) the *only* way to beat the demons' deceptions is through the truths of the Word of God. Restrict your resistance to their deceptions to quoting the Word of God, as the Lord Jesus did. This is how He overcame Satan; it is the only way you will too. Refuse to argue, and make the Word of God your only argument.

Don't raise your voice and scream at them either, as this only puts you on their ground/level. That's how they behave, as you, no doubt, will find out. Speak calmly, lovingly, and respectfully. They hate it, for they hate all the traits/fruits that come from the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:22,23). We are to avoid everything that smacks of the kingdom of Satan, such as accusations, strife, hatred, wrath, anger, etc. (Ephesians 5:19-21). Nevertheless, be firm with them. They may try to bargain with you. One demon, for example, said that if I let him stay, he would not harm the person in any way whom he had possessed. Absolutely refuse to make any bargains with them. They're liars and won't keep their word. They'll say anything if they can get off the hook. Never trust a demon; they are deceitful, bent on deception and destruction. There are degrees of wickedness, but they are all wicked.

The Names of Demons

One of the criticisms of this ministry are the unusual names that the demons go by. Some of these names seem so odd, and too strange to be believable. Here are some examples: Fear, Murder, Hatred, Suicide, Anger, Bitterness, Depression, Kill, Violence, Blasphemy, Destruction, Alcohol... To us, these are not really names, but

appear to be instead their assignments. Ellen White has some light for us in this area: “Satan *assigns* to each of his angels a part to act” (EW 90). She identified a number of such demons by these assignment-names:

“demon of intemperance” (CG 401); “demon of greed” (Ed 92); “demon of ambition” (LHU Ch. 5); “demon of passion” (PP 668); “demon of selfishness” (5BC 1102); “demon of unkindness” (YRP 53); “demon of cruelty” (PH 141:2); “demon of appetite” (2MR 112 140)

The name of the demon in charge that Jesus spoke to in the demoniac of Gadara was “Legion”, which was an assignment description (Mark 5:9). He was in charge of a legion of demons in the poor wretch. The demons that I have confronted often have such assignment-names. They seem strange to me also. It would be like calling me “Registered Nurse” or “Handyman” rather than “Steve”. But should we expect everything in Satan’s kingdom to make perfect sense to us and to match our ideas? Some of the demons I have come across, and by the grace and power of God, have cast out, have real names like we do. The head demon that was assigned to Pablo at birth by his Satanist parents was called “Nekrimah”, which some of you will recognise as of Greek origin for death. There was “Sheol”, “Johannum”, whose assignment was violence, and “Moksha”, whose assignment was murder. Of course, they all once had names from God when they served Him in heaven. Now in their depraved state, they have abandoned these, and no doubt have names given to them by Satan or other high level demons. Bible names usually had real meanings. No doubt this is what heavenly names are like too, describing a person’s traits, or an attribute of God, for example. In this case, it may not be so strange after all. If a demon’s main trait is hatred, there is a logic in calling him Hatred. It would assist them to faithfully carry out their wicked assignments by being called the assignment that Satan has given to them, being a constant reminder of their work.

Some have taken great exception to the idea that there can be demons taking a name such as Asthma, exclaiming with absolute certainty that this is surely fanaticism beyond belief. Are you so sure that you have a perfect understanding of Satan’s kingdom? We know so little about the kingdom of darkness that we would do well to show just a little humility and respect to those of experience.

Does not the Bible clearly teach that demons can cause *physical ailments*? Think of the physical attacks upon poor Job. Satan arranged to have some of his animals stolen, and most of his servants slain. His sheep perished in a supernatural fire. He sent a mighty wind to destroy the house, killing his sons and daughters. Then he afflicted Job with painful sores/boils from his feet to his head. Also, did not the demons in the demon possessed boy cause him to be deaf and dumb (Mark 9:25)? Is it so strange that demons can cause other physical illnesses too, like asthma, etc?

Although it can be helpful, it is not necessary to know all the names of the indwelling demons. Demons can also be commanded to come out by the doorway sins that

allowed their entrance. If they have had familiar spirits, these need to be commanded out by name individually. The demonised who have had familiars should know these names, and be able to tell you, and it is likely that they are lying if they say they don't know these names. It is also unnecessary to command them out one by one.

Some Helpful Books

I have read many books about the subject of deliverance. Some, of course, are better than others. Some I would never recommend to anyone. There are a few I will recommend though. Here they are:

- **Victory on the Battlefield, Setting Captives Free**, by Pr. Vaughn Allen, 1993, Teach Services, New York, ISBN:0-945383-52-5.

This is the best SDA source of Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy material on the subject of spiritual warfare that I know of in book form. This godly SDA pastor, Pr. Robert Vaughn Allen Gale, who ministers in California, shares some of his fascinating and extensive experiences in praying with demonised people, and there is much help for anyone interested in understanding the deliverance ministry. It is very balanced and sound in doctrine. Unfortunately, this book is difficult to obtain, due to the resistance by some in high places in our beloved church to this ministry. See me if you're interested; I may be able to get you a copy, or lend you mine.

- **The Bondage Breaker**, by Niel T. Anderson, 1990, Harvest House Publishers, Oregon, USA, ISBN: 0-89081-787-1.

This book is available in most Christian bookshops, and is a sound presentation of the subject from a less confrontational perspective. This Baptist minister believes that the demons can be resisted/evicted through a 7 step program, which can often be done by demonised people without the help of others. I have found that these steps are helpful for everyone with demonic problems, for the steps lead the person to make a total commitment to the Lord Jesus and a total renunciation of the powers of darkness. There are specific prayers for those who have been abused, those who have had curses placed upon them, those involved in witchcraft, satanic ritualistic abuse, etc. I offer one proviso. Always *check* after they have gone through the 7 steps if the demons are still there.

I once made the mistake of working with a person for the duration of time it took for her to go through the 7 steps. She had so many bad memories, so many sins to confess, so many people to forgive, etc, that it took her 3 days! When she was finally satisfied, I tested to see if any demons remained, saying, "If there are any demons in _____(her name), in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth I command you to manifest and show yourself plainly." I had to give this command a number of times (remember, they usually try to hide in the initial stages). Then a cheeky smirk came over her face, she opened her eyes and laughed, and out of her voice a demon said, "How did you know I'm still here?!" I spent another day and a half with this

woman, and I was unsuccessful in casting them out. When I finally gave up in frustration, the demon scoffed, “I’ve got a lot more time than you’ve got!” To this day, I still am not sure of the exact reasons why her deliverance was such a dismal failure. I have a few ideas, though. For example, though she is an unmarried SDA from the Reform Church, she had an active sexual relationship with a man (of all things a drug trafficker, who was later put in prison). At the time she was unwilling to give this illegitimate relationship up. She refused to heed God’s warning:

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?”
(2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

One of the conditions for deliverance is a willingness to give up known sin and to repent. At times like this, I believe that the Holy Spirit still convicts the person of their sins, but in keeping them they forfeit their freedom. This is why even the Lord Jesus could not free Judas and many other demonised people within His reach. Her boyfriend was placed in jail eventually, and now she has moved right away from the area. Perhaps some day she will seek deliverance again.

I never chase after people or tell them that they are demon possessed (even if I am convinced that it is so). For one thing, I’m busy enough without doing this, but more importantly, if they need to be chased or convinced, then you will not have their total cooperation, which is crucial in winning the battle for their souls and bodies. When they come humbly seeking for help, pleading with God for mercy and grace, then and only then are they ready.

Other books by Niel T. Anderson that are helpful are “A Way of Escape”, “Victory Over the Darkness”, and “Helping Others Find Freedom in Christ.” There is a lot of excellent counselling training in these books, specifically for helping those afflicted with demons. These books really are good value.

- **The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare**, by Dr. Ed Murphy, 1992, 1996, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, USA, ISBN: 0-7852-1151-9

This exhaustive study of the subject of spiritual warfare, with its 626 pages, is well worth purchasing. It goes into detail about every mention of the subject in the Bible, and has excellent counselling and training material, and is filled with real life experiences of ministry to the demonised. It is very balanced and sound, taking in many practical considerations. I highly recommend it.

- **Defeating Dark Angels**, by Charles H. Kraft, 1993, Sovereign World Ltd, Kent, England, ISBN: 1-85240-046-3.

Charles Kraft is a man with a great deal of light on this subject. His books are very helpful, and I have lots of places underlined in my copy. I find his material spiritually sound and very inspiring, even though he is not a SDA at this point.

- **In the Name of Satan – How the Forces of Evil Work & What You Can Do to Defeat Them**, by Bob Larson, 1996, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Tennessee, USA, ISBN: 0-7852-7881-8 (pbk)

Another excellent book, filled with priceless resource material. There are lots of case studies, and a section on multiple personality disorder which is helpful, and which few other books deal with.

Information Helps

When you first talk to/meet people who have demonic problems, you may well know nothing at all about them. For this reason, it is very helpful to interview them with a view to understanding the nature of their problems, history, strengths and weaknesses, etc. What you need to definitely know are the direct connections that they have had in the occult. It also helps to know if relatives are or have been involved in Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, witchcraft of any type, and other occult activities. As the Bible says, generational sins affect the children, “visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me” (Exodus 20:5). Demons are very reluctant to give up any ground that they have gained in a family line, and seek to keep the chain going through successive generations. Such information can be helpful because these are all areas in their lives that need to be confessed and repented of *prior* to deliverance. They should also confess the sins of their family line, as Nehemiah did (Nehemiah 9:2). This breaks the power of the demons to claim *legal rights* over their victims.

For this reason I have developed an easy questionnaire for people to fill out. Most people with demonic problems tick *many* of the boxes, indicating involvement in many occult activities and sins. Some have ticked all but one box in the Personal Sins column. Note that this is *not* a confessional to you (as done by Roman Catholic priests). It merely gives these people an opportunity to jog their memories and to confess their sins to God, and help you know which demonic strongholds need to be broken. It can help you verify demonic names, and have a handy reference of the person’s history when combating demons. Your memory is not perfect, and such a list prior to and during deliverance can be very helpful to assure a complete repentance and to refer to when rebuking demons and smashing their strongholds. These documents can then either be left with them after their deliverance, as a reminder to the dangers of such involvements, or be kept in strict confidentiality, or destroyed, as they wish.

At times Satan tries to block the memories of their past, so that they will not be able to confess their sins. They say there's something there in their minds they know they need to put on the list and to repent of, but they can't bring it to mind. At such times, we pray out aloud, asking the Holy Spirit to bring conviction of sin into their hearts and minds. We claim the promises of God in John 16:8 and, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23,24). If they are able to speak (sometimes the demons will not allow them to), let them read the promises and ask God to bring these things to mind. Then wait a while for God to impress them. Otherwise, I like to open the Word of God at the promise, lift the Bible up towards heaven in my hands to God, and claim it for the person, as God's servant Ellen White taught. This was called the ABC's of prayer by Pr. Glen Coon. You ask (Matthew 7:7), believe (Mark 11:24; 16:17,18), and claim the promises (John 11:41).

After asking, then believing God, we should "return thanks to God that we have received. We need look for no outward evidence of the blessing. The gift is in the promise, and we may go about our work assured that what God has promised He is able to perform, and that the gift, which we already possess, will be realized when we need it most" (Ed 258).

I always have a notebook and pen during deliverance to take notes. I write down demonic names, the demons that have been cast out, and any helpful information that the Holy Spirit forces out of the demons, etc. I take notes of relevant things said by the person, and others in the team, things I learn from the experience, answered prayers, etc. These notes help you accurately tell of the experience later, and help you when writing it up as a testimony.

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11). To overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb is an inspirational experience. You will never forget it when you witness and take part in Christ's victory. With decent notes, you can write up an inspiring account of Jesus' victory over the devil. Others will then see that they need not stand idly by helpless before the onslaught of demonic power over those whom they know or come into contact with. Thus, Satan can be overcome again and again, as others are inspired to put on the whole armour of God and to take up the weapons of our warfare. The Lord Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Should His remnant church be doing anything less?

This is the questionnaire, which you may print. Use it before and during the deliverance. You will find it most helpful when taking the ground from demons. You can tell the demons that the person has repented of, that Jesus' blood covers these sins, and thus that their legal rights are broken.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND WEAKNESSES

Tick any activities below that you have been involved with in any way (eg. have an interest in them, have books about them, or practiced any of these):

DOORWAY SINS

(Ground for demonic entry)

- fantasy games
- astral projection
- ouija board
- table lifting
- speaking in a trance
- automatic writing
- visionary dreams
- telepathy
- ghosts / haunted house
- materialisation
- clairvoyance
- fortunetelling
- tarot cards
- palmistry
- astrology
- dowsing rod
- pendulum
- hypnosis
- healing magnetism
- magic charming
- witchcraft / shamanism
- black / white magic
- Satanism
- mental suggestion / ESP
- blanking of the mind/trance
- UFO's
- fetishism
- sex with demons
- speaking in tongues
- channeling
- spirit painting
- seances
- near death experience
- laying on of hands
- reincarnation
- hearing voices
- levitation
- firewalking
- acupuncture
- rebirthing
- TM / yoga
- E.S.P

CULT / RELIGION

(Ground for demonic entry)

- Christian Science
- Unity
- Scientology
- The Way International
- Unification church
- Mormonism
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Children of God
- Swedenborgianism
- Worldwide Church of God
- Unitarianism
- Freemasonry
- New Age
- Spiritualism/Spiritualist church
- Druidism
- Buddhism
- Hare Krishna
- Bahai
- Rosicrucianism
- Science of Mind
- Hinduism
- Voodoo
- Eckankar
- Roy Masters
- Silva Mind Control
- Father Divine
- Theosophical Society
- Islam
- Satanic churches/ covens
- Pentecostal / Charismatic church
- Roman Catholicism
- any secret society
- message movement
- Arica
- Macumba
- martial arts
- pantheism
- Indian gurus
- Sufism
- American Indian religions
- paganism
- others _____

PERSONAL SINS

(Symptoms of Demonisation)

- street drugs / smoking
- drunkenness
- smoking
- fornication / adultery
- homosexuality
- hatred
- contention
- jealousy / envy
- murder
- temper tantrums / anger
- orgies
- heresies
- sadomasochism
- lust
- pride
- appetite weaknesses
- selfishness
- lack of faith / unbelief
- cruelty/torture/sadism
- violence
- thieving / kleptomania
- cowardice
- lying/ deception
- heavy metal/rock music, etc.
- fear
- swearing / cursing
- blaspheming God
- masturbation
- child molesting
- gossip
- unforgiveness
- pornography
- bestiality (animal sex)
- bitterness
- perfectionism
- boasting, vanity
- self righteousness
- hard heartedness
- flirting
- self mutilation
- obsessive thoughts
- sexually abused / incest

PERSONAL SINS (cont)
(Symptoms of Demonisation)

- animal/human sacrifice
- abortion
- blood contract(s)
- self defence (higher levels)
- drinking blood
- incense to idols, etc.
- ritualistic sex
- cannibalism
- taking a satanic name
- church desecration
- incantations, spells, curses
- blood brother/sister pact(s)
- satanic ritualistic abuse
- abortion
- baby dedication to Satan
- "salt protection" ritual(s)
- secret name/number
- black hole ceremony
- black mass
- cage tortures
- seals
- yokes
- power ceremonies
- inserts, curse-pins
- satanic poisoning
- involvements by relatives
- occult/horror movies
- rebellion
- dissociation (MPD)
- sins of relatives
- others

Are You Afraid to Become Involved in Praying With demonised People?

Fear is a natural response when coming into contact with the powers of darkness. I have felt fear at times. We must rise above it though. Courage is not necessarily the absence of fear, but the mastery of it. The way to do this is through faith in Christ, and through a correct knowledge of both the infinite power of God, and the limited power of Satan. If your knees knock, kneel on them! The mighty are no longer so mighty when confronted by the *Almighty*. I like to refresh my mind on a regular basis of such texts in God's Word as the following:

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”
(Psalms 27:1)

“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee” (Deuteronomy 31:6).

“The eternal God *is thy* refuge, and underneath *are* the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee;”
(Deuteronomy 33:27).

You will receive great encouragement also from Genesis 18:4; Psalms 50:15; Numbers 10:35; 23:23; 1 Samuel 17:47; 2 Kings 6:16; 2 Chronicles 16:9; Psalms 18:1-3; 50:15; 60:12; 118:17 and Isaiah 49:25. Memorise as many promises as you can as essential preparation.

I so much appreciate Ellen White's understanding of spiritual warfare, and the vast body of instruction that she left us on this subject. Here are a few relevant quotes:

“The people of God must be prepared to withstand the wily foe. It is this resistance that Satan dreads. ***He knows better than we do the limit of his power and how easily he can be overcome if we resist and face him. Through divine strength the weakest saint is more than a match for him and all his angels, and if brought to the test he would be able to prove his superior power.*** Therefore Satan's step is noiseless, his movements stealthy, and his batteries masked. He does not venture to show himself openly, lest he arouse the Christian's dormant energies and send him to God in prayer” (5T 293.4).

“Man is Satan's captive and is naturally inclined to follow his suggestions and do his bidding. He has in himself no power to oppose effectual resistance to evil. It is only as Christ abides in him by living faith, influencing his desires and strengthening him with strength from above, that man may venture to face so terrible a foe. Every other means of defense is utterly vain. **It is only through Christ that Satan's**

power is limited. This is a momentous truth that all should understand. Satan is busy every moment, going to and fro, walking up and down in the earth, seeking whom he may devour. But the earnest prayer of faith will baffle his strongest efforts. Then take “the shield of faith,” brethren, “wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” ” (5T 294.2).

“Henceforth Christ’s followers are to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; that victory He desired them to accept as their own”(MH 94).

After praying with a few demonised people, seeing the hand of God working for my protection, seeing prayers answered sometimes instantly, seeing God’s power over Satan and his demons, I soon learned that *there is no need to fear Satan or his demons*. They act fiercely at times, but it truly is largely bluff, and in any case, if you have Christ and the holy angels with you, if the Holy spirit is in you, if you are a child of our heavenly Father, if you go trusting in Him and claiming His promises for protection, no harm, other than what God allows, will befall you. You have angelic protection, for you go in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Post Deliverance Counselling

After the person is delivered, it is usually helpful to spend time in grateful prayer and counselling. Discuss what happened and what they learned. Satan will be furious that his demons have lost this person to Christ, and will send demons after him/her to try to reinfest and reconquer him/her. The Lord Jesus specifically stated that when someone is delivered, seven other even stronger demons try to reinfest that person (Luke 11:24-26). They need to realise that the battle to keep them out will be harder than it was to get them out in the first place. They must reap what they have sown (Galatians 6:7-10), part of which is the demonic attempts to harass them and to return. For some this can be intolerable, but they must continue to resist the demons. This side of the kingdom, we are all harassed by the enemy; there is no rest from resisting the devil (at least for lengthy periods of time) till Jesus returns. We are on the battlefield still, involving daily battles.

You need to keep in regular contact with these people for a while. Left to themselves, they may still be weak in faith, in fear of demons, and ignorant about spiritual warfare, and may succumb to a strong demonic attack.

Teach them that demons can cause physical symptoms from the outside, just as they can from the inside. They must not give in the ploy of the demons to trick them into thinking that they are not delivered at all. They must stand in faith that this is not so. They must rebuke the demons frequently, taking authority over them on a very regular basis.

They need to be taught how to abide in Christ, to trust in Him, and their new authority in Christ. The wolf turns away when the sheep stay close to the shepherd. Teach them to pray regularly, consecrating their lives to God each morning, to regularly study God's Word, and memorise God's promises. Encourage them to read Ellen White's writings, especially the basic inspirational books, such as Steps to Christ and the Desire of Ages. Try to involve them in a prayer group, if you know of a suitable group. Christian fellowship and bonding with strong Christians who understand spiritual warfare will cement them to Christ and the truths that set them free, and provide them with a place of nurturing, till they grow strong themselves. Teach them how to fight the spiritual battle, using the authority of Jesus' name. They now have power over the enemy and his agents in the name of the Lord Jesus. They must become spiritual warriors if they are to survive and not return to Satan's camp. Give them my helpful study entitled, "How and Why You Need to Rebuke the Devil". "Staying Free After Deliverance" is a 22 page long study, which is also well worth giving to those whom you have prayed with in a deliverance sense.

Tell them stories of faith, courage, angelic protection, and the power of God over Satan. Get them to read the Gospel of Mark in particular. Teach them that if they fall into Satan's snare and sin again, that God still loves them. They belong to Christ, and are His beloved children. They are united to Christ. Show them how to pray for forgiveness, claiming the promises of God for forgiveness and healing. Tell them that God knows that faith and strength comes with exercise, and that there will be times when they will fall. But through Christ, they can be forgiven, healed, and in time become victorious over every hereditary and cultivated tendency to sin.

It can be a good thing to give the person an empty "Blessings from God" book, in which he/she writes down the date of the deliverance, what God did for him/her, answered prayers, how it felt, what was learned, etc. The demons will attempt to return. When the dark cloud of Satan's doubts come, the person can read it and be encouraged. I sometimes tape sessions, so as to have a record of demons speaking and God's victory for them. This can be helpful, for sometimes the demons try to block the person's memory, or convince the person that it was all a farce, that there really were no demons, that nothing happened at all, and that you are their enemy. Church members and even ministers can be used of Satan in a similar way. The tape provides proof of what occurred if necessary.

The two most important things for the person who has been delivered to remember for future success in keeping the demons from reinfestation, is to stop sinning, and to resist the devil. The doorways that allowed the demons to enter must never be reopened. Teach them to become obedient to the Lord, not in the way they were to the demons, but as a sign of gratitude for freedom, and as a response of love and respect for God. All true believers are also obedient to the Lord's commands (John 14:15,21; Matthew 7:21). Also, when the demons present themselves for re-entry, they must be strongly resisted and repulsed (James 4:7). Unless both these principles are kept vigilantly by the person, they will eventually be reinfested.

Teach them to overcome passivity. The mind is like a muscle, needing plenty of exercise to be fit and healthy. If it is not exercised for a long time, and the will strengthened, it becomes fat, lazy, and weak. At first, it will be painful to strengthen the mind that has become passive. Warn them that if they allow their minds to go passive again, the demons can re-enter. Should he/she allow the mind to go blank, as soon as this is realized, he/she must immediately confess this sin, and command any demons that may have entered to leave immediately, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Some of the best ways to strengthen a passive mind are Scripture memorisation, maths timetables, and the practice of using the will.

A Particular Frustration of The Ministry

One of the worst frustrations in this ministry can be the lack of understanding and compassion by church members, and even ministers, for those who have been prayed for. They can be ostracised and criticised, and be called “of the devil”, avoided in church, etc. Satan’s purpose in all this is to so discourage the person that they will give up the spiritual battle, or leave the church, and be left to flounder alone or in the false doctrines and practices in other churches, or without church fellowship at all. This happened to the nurse who was prayed for by Pr. John Shaw. She experienced so much criticism and enmity from her local church members that she became totally discouraged, and joined the Church of England. God forgive these church members for their ignorance and heartlessness.

Some Final Words of Encouragement

Australia and USA are the two foremost countries where there is a dire need of spiritual warriors, where ivory tower criticism reigns. Satan and his demons all too often have their way both outside and inside the church. My great dream is to see an army of pastors and laypeople equipped for battle. I dream that they will turn their weapons away from their fellow church members, and away from other churches, to the real enemy, the forces of darkness. Will Avondale College and other training institutions around the world one day welcome seminars for their trainee ministers on this subject? Time will tell. May the revival predicted by God come quickly. Let those of us who see the light not fear the faces of the critics, but move forward in the strength of Christ.

The great controversy between Christ and Satan continues to rage in the hearts of men and women. God’s call to His remnant church to cast out devils is a call to rise up to the standard of Christ’s victory at the cross over all the forces of darkness. We take our God given, delegated authority over all the forces of evil, and by the Spirit of God “enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods...and bind the strong man and then...spoil his house” (Matthew 12:29). It is God’s battle, not ours, and He will direct it, teach you, and use you to bring about freedom in the lives of many a captive of Satan.

The Lord Jesus invites you to enlist in God’s army. We fight, not as soldiers do in an earthly sense, that men may die, but on the contrary, that they may live. Our strategy

is love, truth, and the spiritual armour and weapons of God. Our General is the Lord Jesus Christ. We have His mighty angelic hosts on our side, and His weapons are powerful to destroy the works of the devil. Our commitment to the cause of Christ must be sure. Satan will be defeated in the lives of many for whom you have fought, and Christ will be glorified. For all eternity, these renewed wrecks of humanity will be grateful to God and to you for setting them free. Our reward will be great. It is a glorious privilege to be involved in the deliverance ministry. May you find it so. I certainly have.

Written by Steve Koncz,