

Chapter 16

Deliverance *And Inner Healing*

To this point I have not said much about Satan and his demons and their part in our problems, except to mention how God uses Satan to accomplish His purpose in His children.¹ However, Scripture is clear that Satan and his demons are real.

Demons can in fact be present in a person who is a child of God, and the demons can be causing trouble. How can this be, since the person is "saved" and is "filled" with the Holy Spirit? Even though a believer is "filled" with the Holy Spirit, they are not like the "Honey Jar." They are like the "Honeycomb."² Inside the "Honeycomb" there are places where the person has allowed Jesus to reside, but there are also places of darkness, which are parts of the heart that have not yet been "healed" (in a sense, evangelized). These places are filled with bitterness, judgment, and blame; and Jesus is not presently living in those places. If He were, there could be no darkness there, because it would have to flee. *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.* (1 John 4:4).

We Have Protection

It is very important to recognize that the circumstances of a child of God and an unsaved person are profoundly different. Unbelievers do not belong to God, and so God cannot intervene in their lives to the same degree as He can with those who belong to Him. Unbelievers do not have the Holy Spirit living in them, and so Satan has much more access to them. They are also helpless regarding getting set free from his influence. On the other hand, believers actually belong to God. God treats them as His children. Part of this New Covenant is that God protects them from evil, and part of it is that He is committed to changing them into His image. This process involves eliminating the places of

¹ See Chapter 6, "God Is On Your Side."

² See Chapter 3, "Remove All The Bad Roots."

darkness in them and then actually filling those places with His Spirit. If there are any demons present, or if there is any demonic influence, they are evicted as a part of this process of sanctification. See Chapters 2, 3, and 5.

How Did Demons Get There?

How did the demons get inside a person in the first place? The person sinned, and this created a dark place in a part of the "Honeycomb." The place of darkness is an invitation to Satan to spread his influence into the person, because he has a legal right to be in that dark place. If a demon is present, it is important that we know this, because it needs to be evicted.

How To Get Rid of the Demons

If demons are present, they are there because they have a legal right to be there. Therefore, the first thing to be done is to take away their legal right. That is done through Inner Healing. The sin is confessed and repented of, and Jesus washes the person clean of the sin.

The person then asks Jesus to come into that place in his or her heart and to take up residency there. Jesus then moves into that place in the "Honeycomb," and the demon has to leave; because God is stronger than demons.³ Darkness and light cannot coexist in the same place; so that when the light comes, the darkness must flee. So then, when commanded to leave, demons must leave. When Inner Healing happens first, there is generally no big fuss or mess when the demons are evicted.⁴

When Jesus dwells in that place in the person's heart, as long as the person does not again sin in the same old way and bring darkness back into that particular place, Satan and his demons have no place there. They cannot return because the place is inhabited by Jesus.

³ **1 John 4:4**, *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

⁴ **John 8:12**, *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

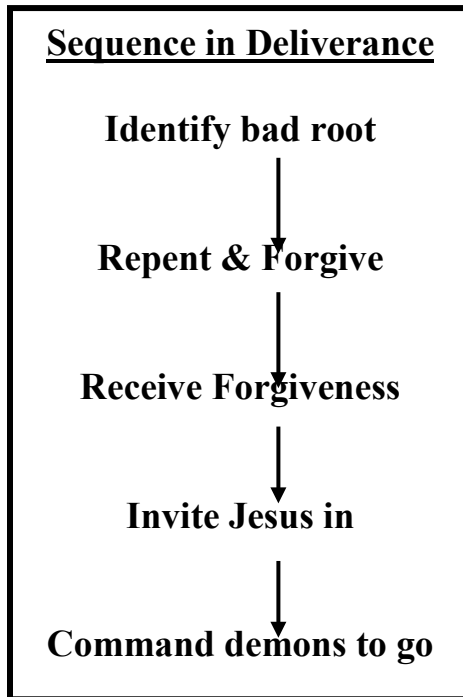
2 Corinthians 4:6-7, *For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*

1 John 1:5, *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

Deliverance Without Inner Healing is Dangerous

Great damage can be caused to a person if demons are commanded to leave (in the name of Jesus) without first having Inner Healing occur. Christians do have authority in His name to command demons to leave, and they must obey. If Inner Healing does not happen first, there might be a big battle, but ultimately they have to leave. In this case, since Inner Healing has not yet occurred in that place, darkness still has a legal right to be there. Eventually the demon will return, find the place still open for their occupancy, and will move back in. What is worse, this time they will bring along some of their fellow demons. Therefore, when Inner Healing does not precede deliverance, the person will end up being worse off than before. Scripture warns of this in Luke 11:20-26.⁵

⁵ Jesus said in **Luke 11:20-26**, *"But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own place, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it swept and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."*



Except for the last step (Command demons to go), this diagram is simply a recap of the sanctification process discussed in the prior chapters of this book.

Summary

Satan and his demons are real. We need to recognize their power and to know we cannot stand against them in our own strength. However, as children of God, though we need to recognize Satan's power, we do not need to fear him. We have the most powerful ally in the universe on our side, and we belong to Him. God is fully committed to changing us into His image. He knows everything about us, including the presence of demons or the influence of darkness in us. God protects us from Satan, and in fact uses him to accomplish His purpose of sanctifying us. When we cooperate with God and walk out our process of Inner Healing, at the right time Jesus will show us the area of darkness through which Satan influences us. When we repent, forgive, and are forgiven, Jesus does the

rest of the work. Satan has to flee, and Jesus moves in. Thus the focus in our Christian lives needs to be on Jesus and our own sanctification, not upon Satan.

This chapter is a very brief summary of this issue. My purpose in introducing this topic is to simply show the relationship between deliverance and Inner Healing, not to exhaustively delve into deliverance. Others have written about it more extensively. One excellent book on this topic, is Deliverance and Inner Healing by John and Mark Sandford.