

“The Importance of Deliverance”

The word deliverance defined; is the process of being rescued or liberated. Over the years deliverance has been seen as intimidating, embarrassing and unnecessary. Just the mention of the “D” word sends many people running for cover. Further, the act of deliverance, or the process that we so amply refer to it, is not identified specifically in the Bible. For your benefit this is a modern definition for what is referred to in the Bible as, “Carrying your Cross” (Matthew 10:38). *That said* I want to once again talk to you about deliverance and the peace and joy that it brings.

The truth is our walk of faith must be matched by an ethical lifestyle. We can't claim to be led of Christ all the while holding onto ungodly behaviors. As we match our ethical condition to the faith that God requires, deliverance occurs. More importantly deliverance (liberation) happens whenever there exist an ungodly attitude or inappropriate behavior that is unbecoming of a Christian.

Galatians 5:19-21 speaks to these ungodly lifestyles.

“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery (seduce or corrupt); idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord (lack of harmony), jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissension's (disunity), factions (causing discord) and envy; drunkenness, orgies (unrestrained sexual indulgences) and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”

Many times we look at ourselves and say; “There is no way I can have victory over my sinful nature.” The truth is that by ourselves we can not overcome these bondages. However, with Christ all things are possible!

Just as we experience Faith and Repentance in our daily Christian walk, could we accept deliverance (Carrying or Cross) as a key to victory as well? Is it possible that there exists a realm of deliverance that is more freeing than intimidating?

While I fervently believe Christians can open doors to demons and fall head long into sin, I do not believe demons can inhabit the regenerated spirit of man that was activated by God at the point of Salvation. Man is a tripartite being; he is comprised of body, soul and spirit. It is in the soul of man (man's mind) that we find open doors to the demonic. If you are a Christian that is driven by the soul (mind) you are susceptible to the onslaught of Satan and his minions. The only way we can overcome what we have opened to Satan is to choose to shut the door to him and surrender our lives to the Holy One (Jesus Christ). After we close the access point to our enemy, we must choose to allow the Lord to lead us by His precious Holy Spirit (Romans 7:14-25; 8:1-17).

So the key to deliverance is surrendering to the Lord and then allowing, with your partnership, an intimate relationship with Him to develop. So deliverance is, therefore, an instrument given to us by God, to remove any form of impurity that hinders our relationship with Him or that would sabotage His purposes for our lives. It is a daily

process of repenting over our sinful activities, asking the Lord to forgive us, and allowing Him to remove the sinful connection. We are then given the task to keep the door closed to that sin.

Colossians 3:5-11 says:

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality (habitual Immorality), impurity (Physical Impurity), lust (uncontrolled desire), evil desires and greed (An evil desire for more), which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of such things as these: anger (Sudden Anger), rage (Long lasting anger), malice (The viciousness of the mind from which all the individual vices spring), slander (Foul talk) and filthy language (obscene language), from your lips. Do not lie to each other (Bare false witness), since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being (Ongoing) renewed in the knowledge in the image of its creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.”

The language in this scripture, “Put to Death,” is derived from the verb nekrosate, meaning literally “To make dead.” It suggests that we are not to simply suppress or control evil acts and attitudes. We are to “Slay Utterly,” our old way of life.

To “Slay *utterly*,” means we have to get aggressive about whatever binds us to that old lifestyle. This means that we cannot “flirt” with our sin. We must put it under the blood of Christ and LEAVE it there.

I recall a story several months ago that was on the news; it was about a young climber that had a terrible climbing accident. Apparently, he was climbing up the side of an incline and his foot gave way and he fell several feet into a hole with a large boulder falling on his arm wedging him securely against the rock. After several days of pondering what to do the young climber took his knife and cut off the lower portion of his arm that kept him bond to the rock. He then walked several miles for help. Although he lost his arm he did not lose his life.

Matthew 5:29 says:

“If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

C.D.F Moule says this: Christians must kill self-centeredness and regard as dead all private desires and ambitions. There must be in his life a radical transformation of the will and a radical shift of the center. Everything, which would keep a Christian from obeying God and fully surrendering to Christ, must be surgically (spiritually) excised.

I am not purposing we cut off whatever portion of our bodies that offends the Lord nor do I believe the Lord was conveying this. However, the aggression that it took for the young man to sever his arm from what held him in bondage is what I want us to look at. We need to stop looking at our sins believing that they aren't all that bad and/or that the mercy of the Lord will cover them. It's time for a good reality check. What we are playing with or ignoring is keeping us from receiving fully what God has for us. Furthermore, we

have read in Galatians and Colossians that sin doesn't limit itself to just sexual immorality or idolatry. It can be wrong attitudes, wrong motives, or selfishness to name a few.

Case in point if no one enjoys your company; you may need deliverance. If everyone else is consistently wrong, you may need deliverance. If you feel as though you always need to be in control of a situation, you may need deliverance. If at the point of a major breakthrough everything around you collapses, you may need deliverance. Finally, if you feel as though every one ultimately rejects you, you may need deliverance.

Deliverance is really just surrendering to the Lord. It is agreeing with God that something is separating us from Him and then standing in agreement and in partnership with Him that it must be removed from our lives. Deliverance is also a sign of covenant with God. Many times I believe total breakthrough doesn't occur because we haven't properly allowed the Lord to liberate us. Joshua 5: 1-17 accentuates that point (Turn and read).

Isn't it true we cross over our Jordan's and sometimes think we can go straight to our victories? However, we see that the children of Israel went first to Gilgal (deliverance or circumcision) then they proceeded to Jericho. We cannot charge forward without first allowing the delivering hand of our Lord to cut away whatever keeps us from Him. We must allow Him to cut away-unnecessary baggage, because it could be that baggage that keeps us from our total victory. Victories in the Lord are never won through a haughty spirit but rather a contrite one. When we are broken and contrite the Lord is released to work on our behalf and Deliverance is the venue the Lord uses to humble us enough so that He can use us for the higher purpose.

Conclusion:

So deliverance is an instrument given to us by the Lord to set us free, it is not our enemy. As we change our view of deliverance and embrace it in our everyday lives, we will see tremendous breakthroughs. I have learned that the closer I get to the Lord the more deliverance He takes me through. Rather than viewing this tremendous asset negatively accept it as another tool the Lord has given us that will set us free!

Pray:

- Remove the fear associated with deliverance.
- Bind off the religious spirit that hampers the flow of deliverance.
- Impart the joy of being set free.

Some of this information was taken out of "The Expositor's Bible Commentary" Frank E Gaebelein general editor.

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