

Text: Ephesians 6 and various others

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Title: Demonic Deliverance Exposed(Part2)

Five Clear Biblical Truths About Demonic Deliverance

1. The Gospel, normal faith, and prayer are sufficient for deliverance from demons.
Luk 9:37-45 Mat 17:14-23 Mar 9:14-32
2. Normal Christian living is the protection against demonic harassment.
Eph 6:10-20
1 Joh 5:18; Rev 12:11; Rom 8:38-39
Mar 16:17, 20; Rom 16:19-20
3. There is not a demon behind every trial.
Joh 9:3; Job; Gen 50:20; Jam 1:14
4. The verses about demons don't mean what you think they do.
Joh 14:12, 13-14; Mat 7:21-23; Mat 12:25
& Mar 3:27; Mat 12:43-45;
1 Thess 2:18; 2 Cor 12:7-10
5. Demons promote explicit heresy and sin (as do modern Deliverance Ministries).
Jude

1 John 5:19-20

INTRODUCTION

Christians can, and must, have clarity and confidence in conviction regarding demons and demonic deliverance ministries.

Last week started clearing up our understanding of demons and demonic deliverances.

BODY

As an outline, we have **Five Clear Biblical Truths About Demonic Deliverance.**¹²³

We understood **the first clear Biblical Truth about Demonic Deliverance** to be that ...

1. The Gospel, normal faith, and prayer are sufficient for deliverance from demons.

From **Luke 9:37-45**; **Matt 17:14-23**; **Mark 9:14-32** we were convinced of those three truths.

The **Gospel** of Jesus Who died for the forgiveness of your sins is sufficient – nothing is more powerful.

A **normal faith** in God Who rules over all demons is sufficient – deliverance is not only for the spiritual elite.

Normal prayer to God is sufficient – no additional anointing, knowledge, or formulas is needed. **123**

The next **Clear Biblical Truth about Demonic Deliverance** goes even further.

2. Normal Christian living is the protection against demonic harassment.

TURN to Eph 6

Eph 6 contains the most detailed set of instructions on a Christian's engagement in spiritual warfare.

Some verses in Scripture are difficult to interpret at first, ...

... but if you first go to clear passages like this one, then all the other passages become more clear too.

READ Eph 6:10-20

(Discussed at length at homegroup last year – if need notes, let me know)

Let's make the obvious observations:

The main point is "*stand strong*", not "cast" or "bind" (V. 10, 11, 13, 14a).¹

Again, as last time, we see a transition to **Gospel work** as the defining task of ministry (v.19-20).

The solution to a demonised person, is the Gospel, not special ministry!

And once that person is saved, then all the other normal Christian living things mentioned here ...

... are the safeguard against demonic activity.

These are still just general observations, but so far it appears that all the details seem to be about normal Christian living!

Nothing here smells of deliverance ministries.¹

Let's look at the details quickly.

Six weapons

1. **14a Truth** - Tightly control all you do in terms of spiritual truth, not error or hypocrisy.

Don't get entangled with or distracted by deception, lies, and false spirituality – truth.

2. **14b Righteousness** - Your general spiritual fitness is measured by your general righteousness.

When you worry about righteousness, then specific attacks of Satan are squished by your reputation alone!

3. **15 Gospel readiness** - All temptations and trials are opportunities to put the Gospel on display in a peace-making kind of way.

The best starting point about spiritual warfare is "Let me tell you about Jesus who died for the forgiveness of your sin!"

4. **16 Faith** - If you strongly believe God, who He is, and what He says about everything, ...

... you will not be hurt by spiritual attacks on your faith.

Be mindful though, that this is not some mystical faith in a mere man or his ministry – this is Faith in God)

5. **17a Salvation** - If your faith is true saving faith, then no spiritual attack will ever destroy your faith.

Salvation is your protection against the rulers of darkness – not weekly deliverance rituals.

6. **17b Scripture** - Know the Scriptures, be able to use them in accurate, precise and relevant ways, ...
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... and you will be able, not only to stand firm, but also to take on spiritual opposition.

Bible verses, not tricks are the way you respond to the work of the devil and demons – ...

... Just think of the three most famous of all Jesus' interactions with the devil – even Jesus answered with Bible verses!

All 6 these weapons are given us by God – not one of them came from another man or training program.

This means even the most baby Christian is capable of standing strong amidst spiritual dark forces. **123**

But, in addition to the six weapons, there are also...

Three activities

1. **18 Prayer** – depend on the Holy Spirit to take care of other spirits – ...

... don't opt for your own expertise and supposed skills.

2. **19 Gospel clarity** – fix your theology and spiritual focus – ...

... Christians are Christ-experts, not demon-experts.

3. **20 Bold evangelism** – share the Gospel to get people delivered from demons, ...
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... then point them to all the above to stand strong as a believer

These six weapons and three activities affirm what we observed at the beginning:

Normal Christian living is all the protection from demons that you need.

1 Jo 5:18 puts this same reality in terms of obedience

"We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him."

If you live obediently to God, then God takes care of your spiritual protection. 123

Its almost like hiring a security company to protect you against criminal intruders – ...

... except that for spiritual protection, you hire God! – not a deliverance ministry. 1

In **Rev 12:11** we read of how believers conquered Satan – that great evil accuser of the saints – they conquered Satan ...

... "by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony".

It doesn't mean they "speak the blood of Christ over themselves", not at all – the blood of the lamb is the OT picture and NT reality of forgiven sins!

The Gospel of the forgiveness of sins, and their normal Christian testimony ...

... is already the defeat of all demonic activity for a believer. 1

No wonder in **Rom 8:38-39** Paul exclaims

***"For I am sure** that neither death nor life, **nor angels nor rulers**, nor things present nor things to come, **nor powers**, nor height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation**, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* **123**

You might ask then – if normal Christian living is the protection against all demonic activity, ...

... then **why were there then all those exorcisms in the Bible?**

Good question, with a simple answer.

First, there are not nearly as many exorcism accounts in the Bible as you think.

Although every NT writer mentions the existence of the devil or demons, ...

... actual exorcisms are limited to the earthly life of Jesus, and for a short time thereafter, ...

... to the ministry of His thirteen Apostles.

The four Gospel accounts and Acts are the only books which mention "casting" out demons!

All the rest of the NT explaining Christian ministry has NOTHING to say about exorcisms! **12**

And it comes as no surprise to us really.

Satan's greatest victory was the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3.

The only real challenge to Satan since then was the life of Jesus – the Son of God.

If Satan could get his many demons to overthrow Jesus' life and work, then the rebellion against God would have been complete!

The only reason there were so many demons in Jesus' time is because, well, Jesus was there! ...

... Satan sent in all his troops. **123**

You might ask then, why does **Mark 16** talks about all believers casting out demons?

Isn't casting out demons part of **normal Christian living**?

In **Mark 16:17** Jesus commissions the twelve, saying that those who believe their preaching will cast out demons.

The chapter ends in **v20** by saying that this was fulfilled in the disciple's lifetime.

The exorcisms in the book of **Acts** confirms that this was linked to the Apostle's ministry.

The silence in the rest of the NT about believers casting out demons affirms that "casting" and "binding" demons is NOT a normal Christian practise, ...

... even though it was common among those who heard the actual Apostles preach. **12**

The occurrences of exorcisms in the Bible are relatively few, ...

... and do nothing to change the clear Biblical teaching that normal Christian living, not exorcism, ...

... is the protection against demonic powers. **123**

There is one mention of a command to Christians in light destroying Satan.

READ Rom 16:19-20

Some quick questions of interpretation:

Who crushes Satan? God, not you.

How is Satan crushed? "*under your feet*"

What does that mean? Well, looking in the text for an answer the only option is really "your obedience"!

What is the clear command regarding your role as a Christian in all this? "*Be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil*"

Keep focussing on obedience, excel in knowing what is good (Jesus, obedience), do not try to be a demon-expert!

For application today we can say: "Know what the Bible says, and be innocent of participation in all demon ministries."

The only clear command to believers in a demon-context is not a command to exorcism at all – ...

... rather, it is an ordinary Christian living command.**123**

Let me say it again, **Normal Christian living is the protection against demonic harassment.****123**

Third, and this one will be very quick, the third clear Biblical truth regarding demonic deliverances ...

3. There is not a demon behind every trial.

A demon CAN be behind a particular disaster, but that doesn't mean a demon is always behind every trial.

Disasters, temptations, sinful responses, enslaving habits, health issues, disabilities, poverty, on the like ...

... is not always because a demon is afflicting that person.

There is not a demon behind every trial.**12**

Even while on earth, Jesus rebuked those who thought some sort of great evil was behind the disasters of life.

In **John 9** we read of a man born blind.

Jesus says that God's purpose was behind that disasters – God, not a demon!**1**

The same with **Job**.

Even though Satan had a hand in it, and will thankfully be judged for it, ...

... we read that it was God's purposes which were behind Job's trials.

That is why both the story of Job and of the man born blind are some of the greatest faith stories in the Bible!**1**

Joseph in **Gen 50:20** understood that same glorious truth – ...

... disaster is often just an occasion for God's to display his power to do us good.**1**

In **James 1**, we are encouraged to look at our own sinful hearts if we want to find the true culprit behind our sinful struggles.

James 1:14 says your own desires are so wicked and influential that a demon doesn't even need to add his evil schemes.**12**

The problems of life are primarily because of sin, not demons.

Therefore the solution to the problems of life is the forgiveness of sin, and the stopping of sinful actions, ...

... again, normal Christian faith, and normal Christian living. **12**

There is not a demon behind every trial. **123**

Fourth **clear Biblical truth regarding demonic deliverances...**

4. The verses about demons don't mean what you think they do.

Different believers are confused about different verses regarding demonic ministries – ...

... and false teachers keep changing the verse they butcher most, ...

... but here is a sampling of some of the verses that don't mean what they are said to mean.

I'm going to race through them a little this morning – but hopefully not so quick that you do not receive some clarity on the verses you are confused about.

(If you are quick with finding verses, read along, else, just jot it down for now, and check it at home – get back to me if not 100% clear.)**123**

First, not a particular verse, but again what about “all those exorcism stories”.

A simple rule of interpretation to clear those up for you is simply that just because Jesus and His true Apostles did it, ...

... doesn't mean every Christian should.

Historical accounts are exactly that – accounts of what DID happened, ...

... not a prescription of what SHOULD happen to every Christian.**12**

To get to specific verses, let's begin with **John 14:12** The “**greater works**” passage.

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and **greater works than these will he do**, because I am going to the Father. ”*

Jesus said the works we do will be greater.

But, the reason they are great is because He is going to the Father.

The only "greater" than makes sense then, is greater in extent, not greater in terms of more demons, more power, more miracles.

Jesus was leaving to go back to Heaven – His ministry only reached Israel, but the apostles' and subsequent believers ministry to almost the whole world already!

The "greater works" seem to be in terms of extent, not power. **12**

Continuing in **John 14** we come to **vv13-14**
"ask in Jesus name" verses

*"Whatever you ask **in my name**, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything **in my name**, I will do it"*

"in the name of Jesus!" has been turned into a pagan incantation used by deliverance ministries, ...

... but that is blasphemy, not rightly using the Word!

Just before saying this, Jesus is speaking of believing the truth about Jesus (**v10**).

The very next verses is about a love for Jesus (**v.15**)

"in the name of Jesus" is a reference to a true believer praying for something in light of the truth of Jesus and because of a personal love for Jesus.

"In the name of Jesus" is not the magical words for a deliverance ministry. **1**

Matt 7:21-23 are more "in the name of Jesus" verses – this time specifically linked to casting out demons – ...

... but it isn't good news.

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy **in your name**, and cast out demons **in your name**, and do many mighty works **in your name**?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"*

Use Jesus' name for the sake of obedience, prayer and love, and God will answer.

But use Jesus' name as a magical phrase to cast out demons, and you will meet the same fate as the demons on judgment day.

Shouting Jesus' name and stopping at just the right moment for effect is at best cheap deception, or at worst, witchcraft; it is not Christianity. **12**

Another verse often used by those who think demons need to be bound ...

... before any further spiritual ministry can be accomplished is found in ...

Matt 12:25 & Mark 3:27 "Strongman"
argument

"But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house."

Often used in the sense of "before we can share the Gospel or help a person with spiritual and emotional problems, ...

... we need to drive out the stronger Satanic force." **1**

Jesus spoke these words to prove that the exorcism He did were truly of God.

The Pharisees had accused Jesus of being empowered by Satan, and Jesus said it makes no sense, ...

... because before you can plunder Satan's house, you need to take care of Satan himself.

Since only God is more powerful than Satan, the works of Jesus must be from God, and Jesus is indeed God's Son.

If a real demon is cast out, then God is at work.**1**

The strongman verse is a verse proving that Jesus is the solution to demonic oppression – all else is futile!

This "strongman argument" vindicates only Jesus' work – it has nothing to do with human deliverance ministries.**12**

A few verses later **Matt 12:43-45** we find the "**seven more evil demons**" verses ...

... also commonly quoted by deliverance ministries.

"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then

it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

I've never understood when people use this passage to justify demonic exorcisms.

The whole point of this passage is that delivering a person from a demon is futile without a clear Gospel presentation.

A person freed from a demon but never submitting his life to the lordship of Jesus is not only as unregenerate as he was, ...

... but is now likely to sink even further under demonic deception and destruction!

The whole point here is that even if you can truly deliver a person from a demon, ...

... that your ministry is still useless until you preach the Gospel of faith in Jesus Christ.

It is only a wicked generation that loves the signs and wonders of demonic deliverance ministries ...

... and cares nothing for true faith in Christ.

Just before this passage Jesus says that the wicked people of Nineveh who had no signs done among them – ...

... they just had Jonah's preaching – those Nineveh converts will judge the exorcism-loving generation of Jesus' day (v.41) ...

... who were so distracted by demons that they missed Jesus altogether.

The verse used be deliverance ministries is in reality their own judgment. 12

The last part of Scripture that I want to mention is everything from Romans 1 to Revelation 22.

It is an argument from silence, but a very striking one.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts are history books – telling us not so much what we SHOULD do, ...

... but what other (mostly Jesus and the Apostles) DID do.

But, from Romans, throughout the rest of the NT, we are clearly told what we MUST believe and what we MUST do.

And not once is any instruction on specific to demonic warfare given.

Demonic activity is acknowledge in all those books, but not once is any instruction given on how to engage with demons.

Eph 6 has something to say about spiritual warfare – but all it says is be a faithful normal Christian!

Satan and demons are occasionally mentioned, ...

... but with a striking absence of everything that typifies modern deliverance ministries. **12**

There are two passages in particular that I want to mention.

Passages that talk about demonic harassment, but are absolutely silent regarding special delivereance. **1**

One is **1 Thess 2:18**

"we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us."

As an apostle, Paul was given the insight to know that this one trial was indeed the work of, not only a demon, ...

... but of Satan himself.

What did Paul do to Satan? Nothing!
Absolutely nothing.

He kept making new plans, and then finally wrote this letter as Plan B.

The next verses are about Paul's rejoicing in the faith of the Thessalonians.

Even if the devil is behind your trial, and even if you are the Apostle Paul, you still don't engage Satan.

Just stand firm – maintain your love for the saints, ...

... and if one act of service comes to nothing, invent another way to minister to the saints. **12**

The other passage I want to draw your attention to is **2 Cor 12:7-10**.

Again, Paul is given insight into the demonic nature of a personal trial.

His response? Prayer.

When that didn't work – more prayer!

He just kept on praying – not once does he rebuke the demon – and this is the Apostle Paul! **1**

You see, we love a care-free life, and deliverance ministries cater to that selfish desire with a quick fix – ...

... remove the demons, your life problems are over.

But that is not the Christian perspective on trials at all, is it?

Instead, Christianity teaches that suffering is part of this sin cursed life – and Paul demonstrates in this passage ...

... that even if a demon is behind it all, it is still part of God's plan.

A Christian's focus is to be faithful endurance relying on the grace of God, not instant deliverance from a false teacher.

Listen to Paul as he concludes that section in v.10

*"For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*12

Normal Christian living, and normal prayer trusting God's plan is the solution to demonically produced difficulties.123

The point in all this is: A deceiver will use the Bible, but use it incorrectly.

Don't trust repeated quotations of a verse – go find it yourself, read it from the Bible, study the passage around it, get clarity.

All the common verses used to promote demonic deliverance ministries do not really mean what they are said to mean – ...

... sometimes quite the opposite.

Deceivers obscure truth to maintain their ministries.

Scripture doesn't obscure truth; Scripture clarifies truth.

READ your Bible yourself – don't blindly trust a friend or preacher quoting Bible phrases. **123**

The last **Clear Biblical Truth about demonic deliverance** is that..

5. Demons promote explicit heresy and sin (ironically just like modern deliverance ministries).

The result of demons at work and the result of deliverance ministries are ironically very similar.

1 Tim 4:1 calls false teachings about Christianity "*teachings/doctrines of demons*"

The common Church History title for false teachings about Christianity is the term "heresy" – ...

... and those teaching heresy are called "heretics".

Today they are glorified into "the anointed one".

Deliverance Ministries today abound in all kinds of heresies – teachings that explicitly contradict the Scriptures.

The most common heresy is that the **Gospel** of Jesus Christ **is no longer enough** – a deliverance team is also necessary.

Whenever you are told, or witness a ministry where the Gospel on its own is not enough for spiritual deliverance, ...

... then you are no longer part of the true faith! **1**

The doctrine of **holy living is also denied** by deliverance ministries.

Since they no longer believe sin to be the problem, but demons, they have no room for teaching obedience and godliness.

A false assurance of being demon-free is enough – ...

... you still live in sin, you still end up in hell, but at least you are declared “demon free – 7 day guarantee”.

This means that there is no longer an **emphasis on repentance and forgiveness**, ...

... for all the attention is directed to a demon.

That is no longer Christianity, it is either cunning deception or common witchcraft! **12**

Some of the famous deliverance ministry leaders openly contradict the doctrine of the Trinity, ...

... the full human-and-divine nature of Christ, the sufficiency of Scripture, and the victory accomplished on the cross.

These are heresies of the most basic sort! **123**

But not only are both demons and modern deliverance ministries known for twisting the truth of Scripture, ...

... but both demons and modern deliverance ministries promote overt sinfulness.

The little book of **Jude** makes a big deal of this.

When you find a ministry known for rebuking demons, then the sin of arrogance is always present.

Demons are easily bound by Jesus, but they are still much more powerful than men.

Jude says that when a mere man commands demons to do this and that, that that man is both ignorant and boastful.

When you combine ignorance with pride, you get arrogance.

Only arrogant men are quick to raise their voices in order to rebuke a demon.

Deliverance ministries thrive on arrogance – ignorance of what Scripture teaches combined with a self-promoting pride.

The sin that caused Satan to be condemned for all eternity is the very same sin ...

... parading on the stages of deliverance ministries.

Jude v16 says *"These are grumblers, fault-finders [NIV], following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage."***12**

Christians rightly resist the devil when he tempts us to sin, ...

... but modern deliverance ministries not only give in to that devilish temptation, but make it the trademark of their reputation.**1**

In **Jude v11** a woe of curse is pronounced on such men and their ministries – ...

... they are associated with the likes of murderous Cain, the false prophet Balaam, and the rebellious family of Korah. **12**

The book of Jude is a warning against the **heresies** and **sins** that deliverance ministries promote.

Instead of following such ministries for spiritual deliverance, **Jude** concludes in **vv24-25**

*"Now to him **who is able to keep you** from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, **dominion**, and **authority**, before all time and now and forever. Amen."*

God is able to protect you from demonic oppression.

God will indeed keep you safe, and one day present you faultless before Him.

God has all dominion and authority. **12**

When the character of ministers and the nature of their ministries resemble the heresies and wickedness of Satan ...

... more than they exalt the truth and holy perfections of Christ, then something is seriously wrong.

Don't be confused.

Be Biblically clear.

CONCLUSION

So, putting it all together, how should we as Christians think about demons and demonic deliverance ministries?

It might be helpful to make a series of summary statements on our beliefs regarding modern deliverance ministries.

1. We believe in the current reality and activity of Satan and demons.

Demons exist, the Bible says so.

2. We believe that God is Lord over Satan and demons too.

God created them, God currently limits them, and God judges them at the end.

There is no God VS Satan battle – Satan fights ferociously, God doesn't fight, God judges and thereby wins.

(No 'cosmic battle', yin-yang, Greek mythology, good VS evil fight).

3. We believe that Scripture is the only authoritative source of knowledge on demons.

Scripture doesn't contain nearly the wealth of supposed facts that deliverance ministries claim as true.

4. We believe that 'casting' and 'binding' Satan or demons common in the NT Gospels is not to be a normal practise in Christian ministry.

5. We believe that modern demonic deliverance ministries are unBiblical, unnecessary, and unhelpful in solving people's problems.

6. We believe that all modern demonic deliverance ministries are either a grand display of deception

and fakery, or a grand display of paganism.

To put it in different words: if the spirit behind all modern demonic deliverance ministries is not the Holy Spirit, ...

... then it is either the preacher's own sinful human spirit faking it, or a demonic spirit putting on a show.

7. We believe that Christ is the answer to all demonic activity.

And on this note I want to close with...

1 John 5:19-20

"We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life."

AMEN SING & BENEDICTION