

Session 1

The Bride Needs Deliverance

I. Introduction

- a) Greetings to all who will participate in this study on deliverance. It is my prayer that God will use the eight sessions of teaching and ministry contained in this module to help you break through habitual sin, spiritual bondage, and defilement of flesh and spirit so as to go free from strongholds—but even more importantly to prepare you as Christ’s bride for the wonderful purpose God has for you.
- b) We are not living at this time in history by accident. We were born for such a time as this. By God’s sovereign choice, we live in days of destiny in which God is preparing His church for an end-time harvest of souls, as a worthy bride for Jesus, as a mighty army of end-time intercessors and messengers and ultimately for eternity.
- c) Deliverance is an essential part of God’s work in our generation. It is extremely important to recognize that deliverance is not simply a tool to set people free from the bondages of the evil one. Even though deliverance does accomplish this purpose, it is much more than a tool to provide freedom. It is part of what is necessary to prepare Christ’s bride for the awesome things God has purposed for her both now and throughout eternity.
- d) Therefore, since deliverance is extremely important to this objective, I encourage you to be diligent in your study and to strongly desire to go completely free. The more you put into this topic, the more you will receive. The more willingly you deal with the roots and causes of the issues that you face and the more you earnestly desire freedom, the more liberty you will experience.
- e) Therefore, be blessed as you study and go free!

II. Jesus will return for a bride without spot or wrinkle.

- a) Paul wrote to the Ephesian church, “...that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless” (Eph. 5:27). This statement is made by Paul in the context of the bridal relationship the church is to have with the Lord. At His second coming, Jesus will present to Himself a bride who is without spot or wrinkle.
- b) Although a new concept for some, many have known for years that we live in a time in which God is preparing His end-time bride. The bride is being prepared to be presented without spot or wrinkle to Jesus at His coming as well as being prepared for her unique assignment in the end times and throughout eternity.
- c) We won’t attempt to re-teach here the entire topic of our bridal relationship with Jesus. You can read about it in our Lifeschool classes, *Understanding the Bride of Christ*, *The*

Overcomers, and Prophetic Vision for the End Times. But we will say this: God is preparing His bride to be the eternal wife of the Lamb in the most intimate of spiritual unions, to be the eternal partner of Jesus forever, to dwell with Him eternally in the New Jerusalem, and to be by His side as the increase of His government takes place throughout eternity.

- d) Moreover, the bride is not only being prepared to be presented to Jesus at His coming, she will also be used in partnership with the Lord in the unique days leading to Jesus' second coming. Like Esther, the bride will be used in cooperation with the Lord to resist the antichrist and to bring about the transition to the reign of Christ on the earth during the Millennial Kingdom.
- e) The scriptures teach that God has great plans for His bride, both now and throughout eternity. Because of the truth of these statements, the Holy Spirit is at work in all who will permit His work to make them holy and blameless without spot or wrinkle, and *deliverance* is an important part of the Lord's work of preparation.

III. Understanding the Need for Deliverance.

- 1. My journey in understanding deliverance forms the foundation for this class.
 - a) I want to start this class by sharing some testimonies and stories of my personal journey related to the topic of deliverance. The things I have learned in my years of involvement with deliverance will be helpful in understanding how it is needed to prepare Christ's bride. As I write this, I am 70 years of age and I have been walking with the Lord now for about 40 years. Almost immediately from the beginning of my new life in Christ, I was fascinated with the topic of deliverance. In my early years as a believer, I was in a church that did not believe in deliverance so it was very difficult for me to learn about it. My only way of learning was to read a number of books on the subject.
 - b) However, one real life situation while still at the evangelical church at which I began my ministry embedded in me forever the need for deliverance. While I was associate pastor there, the senior pastor called a series of what was labeled "cottage prayer meetings". Some were held in homes and some at the church. I remember attending one at the church. There was a small group of about 10-12 people gathered at the front of the worship room and as we began to pray one of the ladies in attendance fell to the ground and began to foam at the mouth. I had been reading about deliverance and at that point had never attempted to cast out a demon. When the situation arose, my belief was that we needed to pray for the lady and more specifically pray for her to be delivered. I remember the setting like it was yesterday Those in charge ignored my plea and called 911. The EMT's came and took her to the hospital and she was placed in the psych unit. Later, she and her husband divorced and essentially her family fell apart. I have always wondered what would have happened if rather than calling on the wisdom of man we had joined in unity and faith and attempted to cast out the demons with which she battled. Even though I am not sure what would have happened, I knew at that time that I wanted to be a part of a church that believed in and more importantly participated in deliverance.

- c) A few years later, the Lord called my wife and I to start the church with which we are now connected. We both believed strongly in the importance of deliverance yet at the time we started the church even though neither of us had ever cast out a demon. Three events in the early years of our church helped me to begin the journey of deliverance.
- d) First, my wife and I went to visit a friend's church for a service being led by some guest ministers from the Ivory Coast in Africa. The church in the Ivory Coast faces deep witchcraft and the Christian ministers there have great authority over demons. At that point in my journey, I wondered if a Christian could even have a demon. I had heard some say "yes" and some say "no". I got my answer at that service. There was a man there that I knew. He was most definitely a believer and a member of a well-known Christian music group. The ministers from Africa called people to come for ministry and he came to receive prayer. As they began to pray, a demon clearly manifested in him, and these African pastors easily cast it out. As it exited the man, he let out a loud, blood curdling scream. I am not sure what others thought, but I had my question answered. Christians can have demons. This led me to think that if Christians can have demons, the church needs to be delivering them.
- e) The second event that formed our understanding of deliverance was what we now call the "Tammy Whammy". I had still never cast out a demon. So, my wife and I prayed that God would teach us about deliverance. God again quickly answered our prayers. His answer was to send us a severely demonized woman named Tammy. We did not know it at the time, but Tammy was a satanic plant who was trying to destroy ministries and pastors. To be honest it was a nightmare working with her. We met her through our oldest son's friend who knew her from a psych hospital in which they both had been placed. After she was discharged, we took her to get deliverance from a ministry with which we were associated at the time. It was exciting to see the power of the blood, the name of Jesus and the word. The demons in her most definitely bowed to the power of Jesus through these biblical tools. Following the deliverance, she had no place to stay, so naively we made arrangements for her to stay at the home of a couple who went to our church. Tammy played havoc with the family, my wife, and I and others in our church. Certainly not totally coincidentally, the husband in the house where she stayed at later died of cancer, another man who was involved with her divorced his wife after having an affair with a much younger woman and my wife got thyroid cancer (thankfully she fully recovered). We finally got rid of Tammy by sending her to a live-in ministry center in Mississippi. We learned very valuable although painful lessons from our encounter with Tammy. Even though this was a difficult time, we learned the power of the blood and the name of Jesus and of the word of God and became even more determined to learn to minister in deliverance.
- f) The third example strengthened our faith to start doing deliverance. I had still had not ever cast out a demon myself. But that changed one day at church. An active member of our church and a longtime friend came forward one Sunday for ministry. I had given a word of knowledge for those struggling with addictions to come for ministry. I did not know it at the time but she struggled with an addiction to cigarettes and wanted to go free. She came for prayer. As I began to pray for her, her hand began to go rigid and she gripped me on my wrist. I knew what was happening. She had a demon. I have to confess. I did not have faith the demon would leave, I just hoped it would. But God was faithful and the demon came

out, she fell limp on the floor and she went free from the addiction. To my knowledge, she never smoked again. After that incident, we had a lot of deliverance in our services—in fact, almost every week for several years.

- g) I grew in confidence and understanding about deliverance over those early years of pursuing it. I remember one more instance. A friend of mine, Bill Furler, and I took a team to Fiji on mission. On the trip, we split up and I took half the team to one church and he took the other half to another. The church we went to was comprised of people who had immigrated from India. Most had a Hindu background and in their past had worshiped many false gods. Once again, I saw the power of God and the importance of deliverance. At this church we were to minister for two straight nights. The first night after teaching, I gave a call for ministry. A man came forward who I thought was coming for salvation. But when he got to the front of the church rather than praying to receive Christ, he jumped on me and tried to choke me. The elders of the church pulled him off and the service ended. The next day before the evening service the team was invited to a church member's house for dinner. It was a very nice dinner but to my surprise it was his house! I had a chance to talk with him and told him his need to renounce false gods and accept Jesus. That night at the service, he came to the front again, accepted Christ and renounced his past life. Immediately he began to manifest demons. For forty-five minutes he flopped around like a fish and hissed like a snake, but at the end of the time he got up and said I am free. The pastor sent me a picture of his church members a few months later and he was right there among them. He had been powerfully delivered.
- h) Also for about 20 years, our friend and spiritual father, Noel Mann, came to our church every year or two and ministered. I have never met anyone with such a strong anointing for deliverance. Each year, he would minister in deliverance and each day he ministered there was powerful manifestation of God's power to set people free.
- i) Over the life of our church, my wife and I have performed deliverance on quite a number of people also. We have done it and still do it primarily in counseling sessions. We have found that to be the best way for us to do it as it is less embarrassing to the recipient and allows more time for deeper ministry.
- j) We have learned a lot over those twenty years of deliverance ministry, and we have put the things we have learned into this manual as a way to help you go free and to learn to minister in deliverance yourself.
- k) Let me say this as we begin. There are a lot of approaches to doing deliverance. Our view is if they work, then great. What we share in this manual is the way the lord taught us and has used us at times powerfully to set people free. Therefore, while we don't oppose any biblical approach, what we are sharing is what has worked for us.

IV. Truths Learned from my Journey in Deliverance

1. The first truth is that deliverance is much more important than many in the church think.

- a) There is a large percentage of the church who doesn't acknowledge deliverance at all. Many evangelical churches act as though those pages of the gospels don't even exist. Moreover, many in the church who know there is a need for freedom from the lies and wounds of the enemy now think that deliverance is somehow old fashion. Even though the gospels are filled with examples where Jesus ministered healing and freedom to people by casting out demons.
- b) In recent years, there has been a movement in the charismatic church away from deliverance toward the healing of the soul as a replacement for the actual casting out of demons. I will use an example to explain what I mean. A few years ago, a man ministered at the church I pastor on emotional healing. In his teaching, he shared that he used to do deliverance but he said no more. He stated and believed that the healing of the soul through replacing the lies of the enemy with the truth of God's love and the healing of wounds inflicted by others was all that was needed. He laughed as he said that there was no need to yell at demons because they were not hard of hearing. While that is true, there is no need to yell at them, one thing I have learned is that emotional healing—which I totally support when done in accordance with the scriptures—does NOT replace the need for deliverance.
- c) Many in the church either never believed in it or are moving away from deliverance as though it is not necessary and in a way old fashion. Many either ignore it altogether or suggest that inner healing is all that is needed. One thing we have learned is that deliverance is very much needed in the body of Christ and is much more important than many in the church know or want to believe. And if we want to see a bride prepared, we must believe in its importance too.

2. The second thing I learned is that deliverance is needed for much more than for freedom from bondage.

- a) When we first began to get interested in deliverance, it was more to see the power of God demonstrated in a real, biblical and exciting way. I remember when we first began to see demons come out of a person with a similar manifestation to something written in the gospels. It was very exciting. In the beginning days of our doing deliverance, it was more for the experience of doing it than to help people go free.
- b) As time went on, we began to be motivated by helping people go free from *bondage*. Many believers are in bondage to an addiction, depression, anger, rage, sexual immorality or a myriad of other bondages and they need to go free from these things.
- c) In more recent years, we began to see other reasons for deliverance—specifically *purity* and *authority*. First John 3:2-3 reads, "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." Our journey to become like Christ includes a pursuit of purity, and purity includes, but obviously is not limited to the purification of our body, soul and

spirit that comes through deliverance. Demonization will not only keep us in bondage, it also imprisons us in impurity.

- d) We also learned over our years of doing deliverance that demonization can limit one's spiritual authority. Jesus' message to the church at Thyatira very clearly connects overcoming (in this case Jezebel) to authority over the nations. It reads, "He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received *authority* from My Father" (Rev. 2:26-27).
 - e) We are granted authority over things as we develop a close, personal relationship with Jesus and as we overcome the issues in our own lives—and at times those issues we must overcome involve deliverance.
 - f) Therefore, we began to see an even greater need for deliverance than just going free from bondage, and that is to prepare people to live a life of purity and to have an increased authority in their prayer life and ministry.
3. The third thing I learned is that deliverance is needed to prepare God's people to become His bride.
- a) Again, if you aren't familiar with our view about the bride of Christ, I refer you to our Lifeschool materials, *Understanding the Bride of Christ* and *The Overcomers*. Both of these classes provide a lot of information about the call to become the eternal wife of the Lamb.
 - b) However, briefly the believer's approach to our bridal relationship with Jesus is as follows. Every born again believer is betrothed to Jesus as His bride (2 Cor. 11:2). As such, every born again believer is the bride of Christ. But the one who will become the eternal wife of the Lamb so as to partner with Him forever is the believer who has made himself or herself ready (Rev. 19:7). As Revelation Chapters 2-3 as well as many other scripture references state so very clearly, making ourselves ready requires a believer to overcome issues so as to become fully mature. In our teaching, we state that to overcome, one must overcome the world, our flesh and the devil. For our purposes, a significant part of our overcoming the devil is to go free from his strongholds and from demonization. If we are to fully mature so that God possesses us as His bride (1 Peter 2:9), we cannot be possessed by the devil or his demons. Therefore, in order to become a pure bride for Jesus we must pursue freedom from demonization.

V. Keys to Receiving Deliverance

1. The first key to receiving deliverance is admitting you most likely need it.
 - a) I have listed five keys to receiving deliverance in this section. We will address these points in later sessions, but I want you to see them now as we begin so you can focus on preparing yourself to receive deliverance.

- b) I could not begin to count the number of times we have given an invitation to people to come to the altar to receive deliverance for a specific issue and people who I absolutely knew needed ministry in that area did not respond. Even though it is puzzling to me that they didn't see it, they must have believed they did not need deliverance. Here is the point.
- c) The only way you will ever receive deliverance is if you start from the premise that YOU need it!
- d) Demons can't just enter someone without a cause. There must be a reason. However, the reason can be from a variety of sources—not just from sin in your own life. Demons can demonize you from trauma, offense directed toward you and even from the sins of prior generations. We will go into detail about entry points in Session 6; however, I want to make the point as we begin that almost every believer has allowed the demonic realm legal entry through one of the many entry points. It may not have been through sins from your present or past lifestyle. It may have been the result of things done to you or things practiced by past generations. Even so, you still have the demon. It may not be fair, but from our experience that is the way it works.
- e) The point is that the first key to effective deliverance is for you to admit that you not only might have a demon but that you almost certainly do have demons and that you need deliverance.

2. The second key to receiving deliverance is desiring to go completely free.

- a) When we first started to do deliverance, my wife and I believed in it so strongly that we wanted everyone to receive it. Although somewhat of an exaggeration, we would almost sneak up on people and try to cast demons out of them. What we soon discovered was that if someone did not really want deliverance, then nothing would happen.
- b) A lukewarm attitude toward going free or a passive or indifferent attitude accomplishes nothing. Those performing deliverance on you are merely helping you go free. They can't force their will upon the demons. It is only your choice and determination to go free that can initiate a real and lasting deliverance.
- c) Therefore, as we begin we encourage you to allow the Holy Spirit to put in you a deep desire to go completely free. You might not know what is there, but you must have the attitude of "Lord, if I have demons and I probably do, I want them all gone". Develop this attitude and start asking now for the Lord to set you free.

3. The third key to deliverance is to deeply and thoroughly deal with entry points.

- a) Like I mentioned, we will explain entry points in much detail in Session 5; but, it is important to realize that to get meaningful deliverance you must deal with entry points. One premise we draw from is that the truth encounter must precede the power encounter. There is often a need to evict a demon through the power of the blood, the name of Jesus, and the word, but prior to evicting the demon we must address how it got there and respond to its legal reason for being allowed to demonize you. For example, if the entry point is your sin

then you must deeply and thoroughly repent of the sin. If it is through participation in the occult or a generational issue, you must repent and renounce the issue.

- b) As we begin, it is crucial for you to understand that demons are legalists. Therefore, they respond to the reversal of how they entered you legally. You must respond to their legal entry by responding in truth of the reason they are there. Then and only then can the power encounter be effective to cast out the demon.
4. The fourth key is understanding that deliverance is normally progressive.
- a) What do I mean by the above statement? Deliverance is more like peeling an onion than an apple. An apple has one peeling and then the meat of the fruit. With an onion, there is one layer and then another and then still another. Deliverance is more like the onion. There are usually several levels of deliverance for the same issue. Maybe it is because a person does not know the depth of it and therefore does not deal with the truth of it in sufficient depth or as we get closer to the Lord the demonic becomes more noticeable. Whatever the reason, often people have to be delivered of the same issues on multiple occasions.
 - b) Commonly, this occurs over a period of years. Deliverance will take place then a few years later, the Holy Spirit will bring up the need for more deliverance. Often it is for something you have already been delivered of. The point I am making is this.
 - c) Even though you have already received ministry for a particular spirit, you might need more ministry for it a year or more later. So, don't think that since you have already received a lot of deliverance you don't need it now. You may not need it, but it is just as likely that you will need it. So be open to more deliverance so you can go free.
5. The fifth key is to not fear deliverance or fear exposing your personal issues.
- a) Many times when my wife and I have met with people in a counseling setting to do deliverance, the person we are ministering to will be gripped with fear. We always try to tell people to not fear because there is nothing to worry about. Going free from demons does not hurt and doesn't have the manifestations you see in horror movies or on TV. There is really nothing to fear. Some fear the experience thinking it will be painful or frightening.
 - b) Others fear exposing themselves to those performing the deliverance. Rest assured that those who have ministered in deliverance have heard it all on more than one occasion. We live in such an immoral, corrupt culture that anything someone might have done in their past, a lot of others have done likewise. God doesn't excuse it for sure, but those ministering deliverance will not judge you and are not to be feared. Plus, you don't have to share every detail with the ministry team anyway. It is important to know the general issues, but responding in truth is between you and the Lord.
 - c) So, relax and be glad you are going through it without anything to fear.
6. As we begin this study, have the same attitude that Paul wrote about to Corinthian church.

a) Paul wrote this to the Corinthian church,

For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. (2 Cor. 5:1-5)

b) As you can observe, Paul is calling on the church to passionately pursue our heavenly clothing (bridal garments) with great burden so as not to be found naked at the coming of the Lord. He then goes on to write two chapters later, "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1). Notice that Paul included the idea that part of perfecting holiness is cleansing ourselves from all defilement of spirit. For sure, part of cleansing ourselves from defilement of spirit involves deliverance from demons. Let's be like Paul, longing to be clothed with Christ and as part of that longing let us desire to go free from all defilement of spirit by embracing the power of Christ to set us free from all demonic defilement.

c) Let the deliverance begin!