

How the devil works

What is Spiritual Bondage?

An inner demonic influence by which a person's will is bound to some degree, such that they are unable to freely choose the good in certain situations. It involves some degree of consent to demonic influence.

- Behavioral: a repetitive sin that one cannot break free from, e.g., compulsive lying, gambling, porn
- Cognitive: an obsessive pattern of thought, e.g., an urge to harm oneself
- Emotional: an uncontrollable negative emotion, e.g., fear, guilt, jealousy, rage
- Relational: an unhealthy attachment to a person or object

What causes spiritual bondage?

- Occult practices
- Sins, especially repeated or grave sins
- A wound or trauma, which leads a person to believe a lie

What is demonic oppression?

A lesser form of demonic influence than spiritual bondage, in which there has not been consent. The will is not directly constrained.

- Obsessive thoughts
- Emotional harassment
- Physical harassment

What about getting cursed?

“When an ungodly man curses his adversary, he curses his own soul.” - Sirach 21:27

What is demonic possession?

A rare and extreme form of demonic oppression in which there has been a significant loss of control over one's body.

What is full consent of the will?

Deliverance in the Mission of the 12

## Deliverance in the Ministry of the 70

### Deliverance in the Early Church

- “The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.” - Acts 5:16
- “The multitudes with one accord gave heed to what was said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs which he did/ For uncles spirits came out of many who were demonized, crying with a loud voice; and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. - Acts 8:6-7
- “...handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from [Paul’s] body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.” - Acts 19:12

“Jesus was born by the will of God the Father for the salvation of believers and the destruction of demons. And now you can learn this by what you see with your own eyes. For throughout the whole world and in your city [Rome] there are many demoniacs whom all the other exorcists, sorcerers and magicians could not heal, but whom our Christians have healed and do heal, disabling and casting out the demons who possessed them in the name of Jesus Christ who was crucified under Pontius Pilate.” - St. Justin the Martyr, Second Apology 6.5-6

“[Christians] perform miracles in his name for the well-being of others, according to the gift each one has received from him. For some truly drive out devils, so that those who have been cleansed from evil spirits frequently believe in Christ and join the Church. Others have foreknowledge of things to come: they see visions and utter prophecies. Still, others heal the sick by laying their hands on them, and they are made whole. Yes, moreover, the dead have even been raised up, and remained among us for many years.” - St. Irenaeus, Against Heresies 2.32.4

“[The casting out of demons,] we may observe, they do without the use of any curious arts of magic, or incantations, but merely by prayer and simple adjurations which the plainest person can use. Because for the most part it is illiterate persons who perform this work; thus making manifest the grace which is in the word of Christ, and the despicable weakness of demons, which, in order to be overcome and driven out of the bodies and souls of men, do not require the power and wisdom of those who are mighty in argument, and most learned in matters of faith.”

- Origen, Against Celsus 7.4

“By that grace [of the Holy Spirit given in baptism] we are given power in all purity to heal the sick, whether of body or mind, to reconcile enemies, to quell violence, to calm passions, to rebuke demons... punishing them with sharp blows until, with loud shrieks and struggles, they flee in terror.” - St. Cyprian, Letter to Donatus

“We who have been reborn through the sacrament of baptism experience intense joy when we feel within us the first stirrings of the Holy Spirit. We begin to have insight into the mysteries of faith; we are able to prophesy and speak with wisdom. We become steadfast in hope and receive abundant gifts of healing. Demons are made subject to our authority. These gifts enter us as a gentle rain. Little by little they bear abundant fruit.” – St. Hilary, Tract on the Psalms, 64.14-15

*Exorcism*: the expulsion of demons from a person who is demon-possessed through the spiritual authority Jesus entrusted to his Church, performed only by a bishop or a priest authorized by the bishop, using the liturgical Rite of Exorcism. (CCC 1673)

#### Exorcism vs. Deliverance

- Public exorcism (Solemn or major exorcism)
  - The expulsion of demons from a person who is demon-possessed through the spiritual authority Jesus entrusted to his Church, performed only by a bishop or a priest authorized by the bishop, using the liturgical Rite of Exorcism (CCC 1673; canon 1172)
- Minor exorcism
  - Liturgical prayers for liberation from demonic influence during the preparation for or celebration of Baptism
- “Private exorcism” = deliverance
  - Done by any of the faithful through their baptismal authority in Christ

*Deliverance* (from Latin *deliberare*, to free from): helping a person break free of demonic influence in the power of Jesus’ name.

- Major Exorcism
  - Individual possessed by evil spirits
  - a liturgical rite of the Church
  - Requires bishop’s authorization
  - Minister is a bishop or duly authorized priest
  - confrontational
  - relatively rare
- Deliverance
  - individual is oppressed or afflicted by evil spirits
  - no set form of prayer
  - may be done at will
  - minister is any baptized person
  - usually “non-confrontational”
  - Common

*Adjuration*: A solemn command

Can lay people command demons?

- Scripture
  - The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you.” – Luke 10:17-19

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us.” Jesus replied, “Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. – Mark 9:38-39

- St. Thomas Aquinas  
It is not, however, lawful to adjure them for the purpose of learning something from them, or of obtaining something through them, for this would amount to holding fellowship with them: except perhaps when certain holy men, by special instinct or Divine revelation, make use of the demons’ actions in order to obtain certain results....” – Summa Theologica II-II, q. 90, a. 2
- St. Alphonsus
  - Solemn adjuration is licit only to a minister of the Church ordained to it and with express permission of the bishop.
  - Privately, adjuration is licit to all.
    1. Private adjuration is commanding demons to leave in the name of Jesus. – Alphonsus, Opera Moralia Omnia, I.492
- 1985 Vatican Document on Deliverance
  - Canon Law must be observed, especially the provision that exorcisms may be performed only by priests with the permission of the local bishop.
  - Lay persons ought not to use prayer of Exorcism of Satan and the Fallen Angels published by the authority of Pope Leo XIII.
  - Public meetings in which demons are “questioned directly and their identities sought to be known” ought not to be permitted.

Who can do deliverance ministry?

- Every Christian can practice “self-deliverance,” i.e., command demons to leave in the name of Jesus, any time one experiences severe temptation or some form of demonic oppression
- All those living a mature, stable Christian life can do deliverance in an informal way for family members, friends, or occasionally others such as a person they are evangelizing
- Only a few are called to deliverance as a ministry. They must be screened, trained, and accountable to Church authority.

**Homework:** Based on Dr. Healy's presentations from class, write a one-page paper that would demonstrate how you would respond to someone in the church who argues that lay people have little or no business being involved in deliverance ministry. Your response should include what you consider the most three compelling points on this topic.

**Suggested Reading:** Please see your syllabi for the suggested reading calendar