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Free

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Christ

Pablo Bottari



Acknowledgments

To my dear Lord, my God, who has led me to understand His truth.

To my beloved wife, Margarita, and my children, who have always supported me in this ministry.

To my pastors, Pablo Deiros and Carlos Mraida, for having encouraged me to write this book.

To my friends and coworkers, Mario Tucci and Martha Jergarabedián.

To Carlos Annacondia, for having been an instrument of God and an example, both to me and to the church of Christ.

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Foreword

Soon after we began our ministry in Argentina, something special took place—our crusades to reach the lost drew huge crowds of people, and in every meeting people began manifesting demons. In those days, we were neither equipped nor prepared to deal with these demonic

manifestations. Our will and desire to see individuals set free was greater than our spiritual authority. Nevertheless, with much pain and many failures, we gradually began to witness the fruit of our labor. Some people were dramatically delivered. Still it was not enough—it was like drops of water in the middle of a great river.

We prayed, asking God for a strategy, a way to minister more effectively. God taught us a lot, but we still had much to learn. We wanted God to show us specifically how to help each person. The true and real Teacher in every area of ministry is the Lord Jesus Christ.

In 1985 Pablo Bottari joined our ministry team. Pablo had been my barber, and he would ask me many questions about deliverance as he cut my hair. Pablo was a gift from heaven. Day after day he would minister deliverance, first to one, then to two and finally to hundreds of people. Pablo displayed great compassion—a quality that is essential to the ministry of deliverance. Without mercy for souls we cannot devote ourselves to the ministry of deliverance, because it is about compassion, sacrifice and prayer. You cannot do it any other way.

As I watched Pablo minister, I noticed other vital qualities as well: effort, dedication and commitment. At night, following our crusade services when times of ministry would begin, everyone would seem to disappear quickly. But Pablo always stayed until very early in the morning, lovingly helping those who were oppressed by the devil.

At a crusade in Córdoba, Argentina, I sensed the Holy Spirit's leading to ask Pablo to be in charge of the tent of deliverance. This tent, which measured approximately 60 feet wide by 230 feet long was filled every night with demonized people. Great patience was needed to work in there. Loud screaming, tortured gestures and violent behavior were demonstrated by many of the demonized. Individuals who ministered to them, usually members of the local churches, would spend long hours in deliverance ministry there. Yet these poor souls were still not delivered. I knew this was due to a lack of knowledge—both on our part and on the part of those who were working with us.

Although some pastors disagreed with my decision to hire Pablo because he wasn't Pentecostal and didn't speak in tongues, I told them that Pablo's meekness, not only in ministry but also in teaching others how to minister, qualified him for the task. Every time these pastors confronted me, my answer would be the same. Eventually they understood. Speaking in tongues is not the only evidence of the Holy Spirit. We must never forget about love, peace, patience, gentleness and all the rest.

Pablo had the necessary fruit for this task. Besides, it was apparent that individuals were being set free through his ministry. For me, that was enough evidence that he was the right person to be the coordinator of the tent of deliverance for Message of Salvation Ministry.

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From that moment until 1996, Pablo was the key person in charge of that area within our ministry. Every day we learned new things about deliverance, and we are still learning. I believe that Pablo is one of the most knowledgeable individuals in the area of spiritual deliverance in the world. His experience doesn't merely come from what he has read or learned from others. Pablo Bottari's authority is derived from successfully ministering to hundreds of individuals every day.

We are living in a time when we must quicken the preaching of the gospel. Through the teachings in this book, Pablo has poured out everything the Lord has given to him. Those who have a passion for suffering souls in bondage will be able to learn to minister deliverance in a short period of time and help many people in need.

—CARLOS ANNAONDIA
INTERNATIONAL EVANGELIST AND SPEAKER
MESSAGE OF SALVATION MINISTRY
(Ministerio Mensaje de Salvación)
ARGENTINA

Preface

Latin America is hungry for God! Believers have incredible opportunities to be witnesses of our faith in Christ. Restrictions of the past are gone, and a new spiritual hunger is attracting massive numbers to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to our churches.

FREE IN CHRIST

Never before have we been more aware of the proximity of the returning of our Lord in all His glory. Thousands of Christians in Argentina and around the world today agree that we are living in the End Times. Believers have a renewed sense of urgency and responsibility to preach the gospel to those who still don't know the Lord. Evangelistic and missionary efforts are being mobilized as never before so that everybody has an opportunity to be saved. However, seductive counterfeits and distortions of gospel truth have dramatically increased as well. Surrounding the false teachers is a cloud of false witnesses—all of them promising health, prosperity and happiness.

Evangelistic efforts are being challenged as never before with a greater and bolder resistance by the forces of evil. The kingdom of darkness is not ready to lose the power it exercises over millions of people. Satan and his demons have become more aggressive, blatant and evident.

This rise in satanic activity takes place in a time when Christians have become increasingly conscious of the enemy's work. All human beings, Christians and non-Christians alike, are subject to the seductive work of Satan. Roots of bitterness, spiritual bondage and oppression can affect many Christians, robbing them of victory in Christ. And unbelievers are alienated from God and heading into destruction because of the horrendous work of the devil.

Today, more than ever before, we understand how

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much we need to exercise great power and authority in the name of Jesus as we bring people to the freedom in Christ. If we are going to win the world for the kingdom of God in this generation, it is important to be willing to fight all the necessary battles. Christians must be involved in the spiritual battlefront, the ministry of deliverance and the task of inner healing.

Few servants of God have gathered as much experience in these fields as Pastor Pablo Bottari. In the following pages, he pours out the insight of more than a decade of pastoral work and counseling. Considered as one of the best-known experts in all Latin America in the field of deliverance, Pastor Bottari is the most appropriate person to produce this material. It promises to be of great help to many who have decided to honor the Lord with a ministry focused on the wholeness of the human being. This book provides a valuable tool for equipping the reader to fulfill his or her ministry.

It is my prayer that in these End Times the Lord may find us preaching the gospel boldly, bringing healing in the name of Jesus with compassion and breaking the chains of oppression with great power and might.

—DR. PABLO A. DEIROS
PASTOR OF THE CENTRAL BAPTIST EVANGELICAL CHURCH
(*Iglesia Evangélica Bautista del Centro*)
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Introduction

During the powerful move of the Holy Spirit that we have seen in the last few years, the topic of deliverance has become very popular. This move of the Holy Spirit has seen many awesome signs and wonders accompanying the giving out of the gospel. Jesus spoke of these manifestations when

He presented the Great Commission to His disciples:

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

—MARK 16:15–18

In this book it is my desire to pour out to you what God has revealed to me through my many experiences of ministering deliverance. I want to put the ministry of deliverance into the hands of those to whom it really belongs—the members of the church of Jesus Christ. This book is not the result of the super ability of a man—it is the fruit of the wonderful patience, mercy and love of God.

Deliverance is a risk-taking ministry, and many errors have been made. Many well-intentioned individuals have made regretful mistakes—including myself. In the beginning, our greatest mistakes were made as we tried to minister deliverance to individuals with strong demonic manifestations. Through many prayers, tears and blunders, the Lord began to reveal a proper and

effective way of ministering deliverance according to the Word of God.

Many times I fell to my knees asking God to forgive me for my excesses while ministering. The Lord, who is rich in mercy, who is always good and constantly patient, forgave me every time. Together with my team we started to learn and acquire valuable experiences under God's leading. The Divine Teacher, Jesus Christ, has supported me in this ministry.

When challenged by the forces of darkness I take hold of God's promise: "Your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard" (Isa. 58:8). I believe in this promise. Therefore, I am not afraid of what the enemy can threaten to do to me. Satan is a liar, and he has been defeated already.

My only purpose for writing this book is to recover many lives who, for lack of this deliverance ministry, are sick, afflicted, joyless, tormented, conquered and in bondage. We, the servants of God, have a great responsibility to help those whose lives have fallen under the power and influence of the forces of darkness, because we have the answer in Christ.

—PABLO BOTTARI

Called to a Deliverance Ministry

The early years of my life were a preparation for the work to which God would someday call me. My childhood was spent in Italy—the land of my birth—during the years of worldwide war. My family was forced to flee to the mountains for refuge from the constant bombings near

Pistoia—our hometown. I was unable to erase those images of war from my mind for more than forty years—until God graciously replaced the horrible, negative images with His own image, full of glory and love.

In 1949, when the difficulties of life in Italy became too great, we moved to Argentina where my parents operated a hair salon. Here God prepared me further for the ministry of deliverance and pastoral counseling. As I listened to problems, joys and challenges, my barber's chair became the place God shaped my communication skills. Later He would add the sharp instrument of His truth, building a tool that could sever the devil's strongholds from tormented lives around the world.

The death of my beloved father when I was sixteen years of age turned my world upside down—and tested my faith. Though I had been raised in church, I had no personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It was not until five years later at the age of twenty-one that I understood my need of God's forgiveness. Overwhelmed by a sense of brokenness and sin, I accepted Jesus into my life. From then on I became deeply involved in the work of God and in the service of the church.

After several years, I married my wife, Margarita, and we began attending the Christian Evangelical Church, known today as the Open Door Church (*Iglesia de la Puerta Abierta*). I became a deacon, and we started raising our son and daughter—Gabriel and Lizy.

Despite my work for the gospel, I still sensed that there was something more. Years of prayer for revival had kindled a flame within me that remained very much alive. I yearned for God's power to be manifested in my life in a stronger way.

A TOUCH OF GOD

In July of 1984, a very strong hailstorm broke some of our kitchen windows. As I worked to repair them, I inadvertently blocked a heater's ventilation pipe. An odorless accumulation of carbon monoxide filled the house. My wife and daughter were sleeping, and I was cutting my boy's hair. Suddenly Gabriel and I felt ill with terrible headaches, so I decided to open the windows. Realizing that something was wrong, I shook my wife awake. But when we tried to do the same with Lizy, she didn't budge. She lay there unconscious and barely breathing. We were terrified.

I pressed her tiny chest, forcing her exhale. After seven or eight frantic attempts, Lizy started to breathe normally again. Within minutes, professionals arrived and rushed us to the hospital where we were all treated for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Back home, we gratefully thanked God for our lives. We opened our Bibles to 1 Peter 1:7 and read, "These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

A flash of insight went through me. In those blessed moments of pure thanksgiving, I realized that God had spared us for His divine purpose. We were called by the Divine Master to serve Him in the glorious work of His kingdom.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVIL

Two months after the tragic event that nearly killed us, God placed a person in our path who would completely change the way we perceived God. God's divine purpose for our lives began unfolding.

One afternoon a woman who was tormented by demons visited our church. Despite their best efforts, the valiant attempts of our pastors and deacons to help her failed miserably. We were ill equipped to deal with problems involving the demonic realm. We were in over our head, and we knew it—we just couldn't help her.

A pastor shared that Carlos Annacondia, a preacher known for casting out demons in the name of Jesus during his evangelistic crusades, had scheduled an evangelistic crusade at a nearby city. We all decided to attend.

The first crusade I attended was in San Justo, in the Province of Buenos Aires. More than twenty thousand people crowded into a huge lot filled with bright lights that made it look like a fairground. Praise music, different than any I'd heard, was sung, and the atmosphere was charged with joy and reverent worship.

Nothing was familiar to me. The meeting lasted

several hours. I was accustomed to well-organized, hour-long services with a couple of hymns, followed by prayer and then a short sermon. Nothing in my church experience prepared me for what I experienced there.

I noticed a huge tent near the meeting area. Someone told me that it was where demonized people received ministry, and others who were oppressed by the enemy received deliverance from oppression.

In the crusade services, Evangelist Carlos Annacondia rebuked demons, and individuals who appeared completely insane began to shriek, howl and collapse to the ground, exhibiting spectacular manifestations. They were taken away by groups of stretcher-bearers and ushers who carried them out in convulsions, spasms, crying, vomiting and, in some cases, violent fits. It looked like a scene from Dante—an invisible battlefield. Often two or more ushers struggled to carry a single individual.

I witnessed dozens of people being healed of tumors, blindness, bone diseases and deafness—even other supernatural marvels such as teeth being filled.

I was perplexed by the thousands who streamed forward to the altar to receive Christ after a very simple evangelistic message. All the eloquent sermons and polished homilies I had heard never produced even 10 percent of the response I witnessed there. An unusual touch of God rested upon this short, energetic man whose raspy voice boomed with spiritual authority and power.

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All of this was too new to me. I understood very little of what was going on and had many questions. What puzzled me the most was the "fallings." As the preacher prayed for them, many fell to the ground as if they were fainting—with no one touching them! Despite my many questions, I had to admit that I could sense the mighty and distinct presence of God in that place.

THE NEXT DAY

We returned the next day. Near the end of the meeting, Carlos Annacondia prayed for those in attendance to receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit, encouraging them to lift their hands to the heavens. My wife, my children and I decided to lift our hands up with the others.

In that moment, Margarita fell down as she was touched by the power of the Holy Spirit. Margarita lay on the floor, her hands lifted up to the heavens and her face glowing with radiant peace. Both Lizy and Gabriel were frightened, and Lizy began to cry. "Don't be afraid—everything is all right," I reassured my children. "Your mother has been touched by God."

When Margarita wobbled to her feet a few minutes later, I asked her what had happened to her. She explained that although she had remained aware of her surroundings, she felt as if she were in another dimension. The presence of God had been so strong that she didn't want to come back to her senses. I recalled the Scripture verse that says, "Test everything. Hold on to the good" (1 Thess. 5:21). So I silently told

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God, "All right, Lord, I accept the challenge."

That very same night I singled out the crusade coordinator. I told him of Margarita's experience, asking many questions. I was genuinely curious about everything I saw. The coordinator introduced me to the vice president of the crusade, who arranged for me to receive a special visitor's identification card.

When I returned wearing the ID card, I was able to visit freely many areas of ministry. In the deliverance tent, I watched those who entered screaming and disfigured leave with a radiant glow of peaceful calm. I was overwhelmed by the change.

THE CALLING

I thought about the deliverance tent continually after that. I met Floro Olivera, a pastor of a church from our denomination, in the deliverance tent. I asked him what he thought of it all. He said the evangelist, as well as all those who worked in the crusade (most from a Pentecostal background), were brothers and sisters in Christ. Although he didn't agree with all that was being done, still many of those saved souls would stay in his church. He added:

"I don't know if you will like what I'm about to tell you, but we are the Pharisees of this century. We are full of knowledge, but we lack the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Therefore God shames us by using a very simple, humble man who may not have all the knowledge that we have, but who is filled with the Holy Spirit."

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His words were exactly what I needed to hear. I was able to see that a very humble man was being used by God to lead thousands of souls to the feet of Christ. There was evidently something operating beyond human knowledge—it was the power of God.

After that meeting, we gathered with some other believers at the tent of deliverance. Those who had been ministering were drained physically, emotionally and spiritually. The ministry time was long and exhausting. Our ministry brothers asked us to pray for them, and Pastor Floro prayed and laid hands on each one of them.

At that moment a young lady in her twenties approached the group. When the pastor laid hands on her, she started to tremble. I thought, *This trembling woman must be manifesting a demon*. But to my surprise, she was being filled with the Holy Spirit. She began speaking in tongues—another experience that I didn't understand. Pastor Floro interpreted the tongues. Addressing us, he said:

"The Spirit of God is speaking. Get on your knees and humble yourselves before the Almighty."

I had no idea what was happening.

"What do we do?" asked the deacon who had come with me.

I spoke up, "If the Lord wants me to get on my knees, I will."

We knelt down while the young lady continued to speak in tongues. Pastor Floro interpreted what she was saying. The words had to do with the passage in

2 Chronicles 7:14 that says, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Still I didn't understand. When the young woman finished quoting the Bible verse, she exclaimed, "Holy! Holy! Holy!" She burst into beautiful song in a sweet soprano voice.

I grew up in a family with many singers, and I had sung lyrical songs for a long time. But this young lady sang like an outstanding soprano. When she finished, we stood up, and she started to speak in tongues once again. Again Pastor Floro interpreted:

"The Spirit of God is speaking. Get on your knees and humble yourselves before the Almighty."

As we bowed lower, I whispered, "Lord, I can't go any lower than this."

Once again Pastor Floro interpreted the text in 2 Chronicles 7:14. A feeling of brokenness swept over me. Suddenly I understood that God was calling me to serve Him. Even though I feared the misunderstanding that awaited me, I wanted to serve Him with all of my heart. A sense of comfort rose within my heart, and I sensed that God was reassuring me. He would never abandon me, and even in the most difficult situations, He would give me the strength to remain faithful to Him. Pastor Floro continued interpreting and declared:

"Fire from heaven, a great revival and then persecution."

The young woman ended by saying, "Holy, holy, holy . . ."

This time she did not sing.

After having bowed down before the Lord, we stood up again. Then the pastor told me, "I feel that the Lord is telling me to lay hands on you to receive the anointing so that from now on, you can also lay hands on others and pray—even for your pastors."

As he prayed and laid hands on me and on the others around me, some fell under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, while others manifested unclean spirits.

The wife of one of the owners of the company where I worked suffered terrible migraines, sometimes lasting a week. She told me about it so I offered to pray for her, and she accepted. I simply placed one of my hands on her head and rebuked the pain in the name of Jesus. Minutes later, she said the pain was completely gone. God had healed her.

A few days later my mother came to visit us. As we were saying grace before breakfast, I responded to an inner prompting and rebuked the devil. Instantly my mother fell down. I lifted her limp body and took her to our bedroom, gently placing her on our bed. I didn't know how to help her regain consciousness.

I felt very scared, but she recovered quickly. Later, I learned that she had been feeling depressed. The power of God was at work.

THE CONFIRMATION OF THE CALL

After the crusade, Pastor Floro Olivera invited me to sing at his church's anniversary celebration and to share what God was doing in my life. When I arrived, I slipped quietly into my seat at the back. But as soon as Pastor Floro saw me, he urged me to come up front and share. Afterward I sang a hymn thanking God for everything He had done for me, for things I didn't even deserve.

Because of the anniversary celebration, there were seven or eight pastors from Harvest Evangelism Ministry. Ed Silvano was among them. When I finished singing, he approached me and publicly said that the Lord had shown him that he must anoint me and pray for me, because God was going to give me a widely recognized public ministry.

As usual, I didn't understand anything, but I remember telling the Lord, "All right, Lord, if this is what You want I'm not going to put up any walls." I knelt down, and they prayed and laid their hands on me while dedicating me to a ministry still unknown to them. But God knew—and He was getting ready to thrust me into a ministry that would glorify Him as thousands received deliverance and found freedom and victory in Christ.

My First Experiences

I had been very impressed by what I had experienced in the San Justo crusade. Eager to respond to God's call on my life, I attended the next crusade at San Martin, in the Province of Buenos Aires. I recognized the brothers at the deliverance tent from a previous crusade. My dear friend, José

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Cuevas, was among them, so I invited him for lunch. His hair was pretty long, so I offered to give him a free hair cut. That evening when the crusade coordinator saw him, he told him, "José, you look very elegant."

"Of course," he said. "Pablo has cut my hair."

"Oh, are you a barber, Pablo?" the coordinator asked me. "Could you cut my hair, too? I don't have time to go to a salon to have it cut."

The next day I brought everything I needed to cut the coordinator's hair, too. As I was doing it, María, Carlos Annacondia's wife, passed by with her children. The coordinator suggested that since I had all my tools with me, I should cut the children's hair.

I met Carlos Annacondia's family and began developing a personal relationship with him as his barber. I was able to share what God was doing in my life.

I learned many things related to the deliverance ministry, and my own ministry in the deliverance tent grew. I was eager to learn all I could about this area of Christian service.

Annacondia would finish rebuking the devil in the name of Jesus during the services, and two to three hundred people would arrive at the tent shortly thereafter manifesting all kinds of problems. I witnessed one young Spanish-speaking lady who arrived manifesting a demon that spoke German—as if that spirit had inhabited a Nazi. Such unusual experiences only increased my desire to learn more about the deliverance ministry.

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① PABLO BOTTARE SPOKE IN TONGUES

My First Experiences

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ME

I continued seeking more of God, deeply desiring Him to anoint me with His Holy Spirit. During a crusade at Paso del Rey in Buenos Aires, everyone spoke of the importance of receiving new tongues through God's touch. Halfway through the crusade, my desire was fulfilled.

The next morning when my clock radio went off, Carlos Annacondia was praying and preaching on the radio station my radio was set to! While the evangelist prayed in tongues, he said words in heavenly languages that I didn't understand, and the incident stayed in my mind for the rest of the day.

I prayed to the Lord, saying, "My God, I keep hearing those foreign words over and over, and I don't even know what they mean. But my soul praises You, Lord." Something special happened. I felt God's presence with intensity.

That same day, I shared my experience with my friend Tomás, a Pentecostal pastor. I told him how I longed for God to anoint me with His Holy Spirit. He said, "All right, why don't you pray for me, and I will pray for you. Let's put our hands on each other's shoulders."

We started to pray, and I started to worship the Lord and couldn't stop. Soon I was repeating the same words I had heard that morning on the radio. As I drove away, I continued to glorify God in tongues.

When I told Carlos Annacondia about my experience,

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he assured me, "You were baptized with the Holy Spirit."

I believe that was the first time I was touched by the Holy Spirit. I realize now that many special touches of the anointing are available to us all, and I have been touched by God on several other occasions.

After the crusade in the City of Moreno, there was one in the Haedo area, also located in the Province of Buenos Aires. I prayed and fasted daily during that crusade. Afterward, Carlos Annacondia and a Baptist pastor, Eduardo Lorenzo, commented on the reactions of other church leaders. As we spoke of many rejections and oppositions, Carlos said that the Lord was giving His church time to wake up. Believers must take their authority to minister in the powerful name of Jesus. He turned to me and said, "Tomorrow you will publicly pray for others alongside of me."

My whole body began to tremble. I was just a nobody, I protested. How could I do such a thing? He was insistent.

So I asked, "Do you sense this is from God?"

"Without a doubt," he said.

"I accept the challenge," I responded.

I started to pray with him that same day. Carlos would pray facing one section of the audience, and I would pray facing the other. We did this for several nights. Then some other pastors did it while I prayed for the children. One of the ladies would gather them near the platform, and I would pray for each one of

them with joy. Many would fall under the power of God.

At the end of that crusade, I was invited to the closing meeting and dinner offered by the local pastors for the Message of Salvation team. I was invited to join the "official" team members as they received prayer. Without realizing it, I was becoming part of the team of Message of Salvation Ministry and the ministry of deliverance.

Annacondia began sending people who needed deliverance to me at a crusade in Rosario, Argentina. To my astonishment, as I ministered to these individuals they would get well. God was confirming my calling to the ministry of deliverance, and it was wonderful to see so many individuals get free.

THE PIRANHA KID

During one service, a young bus driver approached me after running out of Annacondia's meeting. He told me that as the powerfully anointed evangelist prayed, a very powerful force had driven him away from the presence of this man of God.

"The Lord is greater than anything seems to be controlling you," I reassured him. "God can set you free."

As we prayed, his face twisted with hatred. He told me that as a child he'd been known as the "Piranha Kid." Whenever he got into a fight, it would be to the death. Intense hatred ruled his mind, and blind rage fueled his attacks against those who challenged him.

Finally, after years of darkness, this young man freed his soul from all the events of his past. He renounced hate, as well as the reasons for it. Perspiration poured from his body as he fought against that wicked force. Finally, through confession, renunciation, the power of the Word and prayer in the authority of the name of Jesus, the Piranha Kid was set free.

Since then this young man has sent me letters about his church work, his marriage and his total freedom from the past.

Another young man had become known as "the Rosario Lion" because of the unusual way a demon would manifest in him. He attended another crusade for several nights in a row, growling and roaring like a lion each night as he manifested a demonic spirit. Later I learned that he hated his mother intensely, which had opened his soul to this demonic force. When Carlos Annacondia ministered to him, he forgave his mother, renounced his hatred and was finally set free.

VICTORY IN LA BOCA

At the end of 1985 there was a crusade in the area of La Boca, which is located in Buenos Aires. Among the precious fruits that remained was a very young girl who once wanted nothing but to die. Today, she attends a church in that city.

I found her sitting in the middle of a lot. As we talked, she shared her story with me. She had developed a brain tumor after a motorcycle accident, and

surgery to remove the tumor had left her paralyzed. The devil had filled her life with his demonic possession, and whenever the devil was strongly rebuked, she manifested in a very violent way, even though she was paralyzed. As we ministered deliverance to her, God healed her body partially and healed her heart completely.

She was transformed into a vessel who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and today she is a blessing in the kingdom of God. The devil lost his foothold in her life. Also during the La Boca crusade, Edgardo Mancini, a well-known dentist in that area, attended the crusade. He was amazed as he watched the power of God perform tooth fillings. As a result of the investigation he did to verify the fillings, his life was forever changed.

One night late after the meeting, Carlos Annacondia was celebrating his birthday with the rest of the team. Suddenly a group of young people approached them and started to manifest. When Carlos began to deal with one of them, a young man picked up a blunt object and threatened to hurl it. Before he could throw it, I shouted at the demon, "I bind you in the name of Jesus!" Instantly, the young man fell to the ground, touched by the power of God. That night, besides celebrating Carlos's birthday, we celebrated the spiritual deliverance of those young men.

THE CÓRDOBA CRUSADE

Carlos placed me in charge of the deliverance tent at

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the Córdoba, Argentina, crusade in 1986. I arrived there in an old Bedford bus that had been converted into a mobile home, and parked it near the tent.

When Carlos suggested that I oversee this ministry, my legs started to shake. "This is too big a responsibility!" I protested. But once again he was insistent. I asked him, "Is this from God?"

Carlos expressed total confidence. "I'm sure of it," he said.

I felt ill equipped, but launched out despite my uncertainty. God showed His approval by compensating for my lack of knowledge with His grace and power and by using me mightily for His glory.

All the experiences, in addition to our mutual knowledge of God's plan for my life, led Carlos, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to give me increasing responsibility.

LIGHT TO MY MIND

I began to grow as I ministered at the tent of deliverance to people whose lives were bound in deep darkness and hopeless despair. "Lord, how do I do this?" I humbled myself before the Lord and asked every time I didn't understand something. Faithfully, the Lord taught me and gave me the guidelines on how to minister deliverance.

As I learned a practical application for the Bible texts I had studied for years, the teachings of the Bible came to life. Each time I cried out to the Lord asking for wisdom,

My First Experiences

He always answered me. More than one million souls in bondage have received ministry in the deliverance tent, thirty thousand of whom I have personally dealt with, but my attitude has never changed. I have sought to humble myself before the Lord completely, to depend on the Holy Spirit absolutely and to believe in the authority He has given me as His own child to cast out demons and overcome dark powers.

I learned that there is more to ministering deliverance to these souls in bondage than rebuking the demons and commanding them to depart in the name of Jesus. For many that was not enough. Often all we succeeded in doing was to increase an individual's suffering—the violent manifestations that would occur sometimes lasted several hours.

I knew that I needed God to train me and empower me to minister deliverance effectively. I prayed earnestly for His guidance, and I sought direction from the Holy Spirit for my future ministry. Our Teacher—the wonderful Holy Spirit of God—answered my prayers and equipped me for my ministry.

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Common Factors About Bondages

① REMOVE THE
LEGAL RIGHTS

God began to teach me a whole new way of ministering deliverance. I discovered that when I ministered from a spirit of love and pastoral concern, gently asking questions about each person's life, I could learn what was holding an individual in bondage. After dealing with hundreds of

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people, I realized that there are some common factors involved in certain types of bondages. Becoming aware of these principles for ministering deliverance will enable us to be more effective.

DEMONIC OPPRESSION UPON CHRISTIANS

In my twenty-nine years of experience as a church-goer and believer, I had never seen or heard anything related to the deliverance ministry. But when I considered how many people I knew who had suffered from oppression—having experienced some oppression myself—I realized that there was much to be gained through this ministry.

As a young believer I remember experiencing a distressing feeling that something was wrong with me. It almost felt as if someone were pulling my hair. My ears were ringing, and my heart was beating wildly. When I visited several doctors, they found nothing to explain my uncomfortable symptoms. I had no answers to explain what was happening to me. Several pastors encouraged me to pray and trust in God, but no one seemed to know how to help me.

I decided that my symptoms were caused by a demonic attack. Therefore, I confronted Satan directly—something I had never done before. I told him that I belonged to Christ.

“If you make one of my ears ring, make the other one ring, too. No matter what you do, I belong to

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Common Factors About Bondages

Christ! If you pull my hair, pull even harder—because I belong to Christ!” I declared. Even if Satan found a way to kill me, I knew I still had the victory.

Now I understand that I was being oppressed by a spirit of depression that was rooted in resentment I felt over a work-related issue. The Lord used many experiences in my own life and in the lives of others to teach me how the kingdom of darkness works and how to overcome these evil forces. We have not been left defenseless before the powers of darkness.

I remember what happened to me during a meeting of pastors and leaders where miraculous healings were discussed. Everyone was arguing about whether miracles were for today. I kept silence until it was my turn to voice my opinion. Then I asked, “What are you—servants or lords?”

No one answered.

“We are servants,” I continued, “and servants don’t question their Lord. They obey Him. If the Word of God tells us to lay our hands on the sick so they will get well, I obey the command. Why don’t we lay aside all our arguments and begin to put that which the Lord tells us to do into practice?”

If we are determined to serve the Lord with all our hearts, we have the promise that He will be with us. (See Matthew 28:19–20.) Jesus Christ Himself will help us to accomplish His mandate. If we are committed to do what He wants us to do, He will be with us in power!

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HIDDEN HATE

One time we ministered to a pastor's daughter who was overwhelmed by hated and resentment because her father had not been a good example in her life. Those feelings were so strong they were destroying her. She had leukemia and suffered from arthritis. Her brother-in-law was assisting in the crusade and insisted that she needed ministry.

We prayed and rebuked the demons for several days in a row. But nothing happened. It wasn't until the fifteenth day that she finally manifested. It was so violent that it took five or six people to hold her down. The hatred had been deeply buried inside her. Only when it surfaced could she confess the reasons why she hated her father so much. She renounced her hatred and was set free.

As we recognize the reluctance of deeply rooted bondages to manifest so that we can deal with them, we must be persistent in allowing God time to do His deep work within each person's life. Only then will deliverance take place.

FEAR BONDAGES

The psychologist wife of an evangelical preacher came into the tent for deliverance at one of our crusades. By the time I approached her, the people ministering to her had rebuked every spirit they sensed was involved in her bondage—but without any visible results. They

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① WHICH OPEN DOOR
WHAT LEGAL RIGHTS
WHAT → STRONG HOLD

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had even rebuked the "spirit of psychology"!

The ministry team requested my help. I explained that there were three possible reasons why a believer would manifest a demonic spirit. It could be hatred, tremendous fear or some unbroken vow with the devil. In her case, I suspected it was fear. So I asked her, "Were you ever tremendously afraid?"

She told me that at thirteen years of age she had gone to visit her uncle and aunt. They were not at home, but her twenty-year-old cousin was there. He tried to force her to have sexual relations with him, and had fondled her. She screamed until some neighbors came and rescued her. Some time later her cousin was put into an institution, but the woman could never overcome her fear. Although she was now married and had children, her past trauma hindered her from enjoying normal intimate relations with her husband.

When she renounced the fear and hatred, she was set free. My wife was with me, helping me to minister to this girl. She experienced such an overwhelming sense of freedom that she wanted to kiss my wife's hands. Placing her hands on her chest, she wept and repeated, "I can't believe it! I don't feel the oppression anymore!"

As ministers to those in bondage, we must learn what opened the door in an individual's life for the demonic to enter. Rather than focusing on the effects of oppression and bondage, it is essential to understand the causes.

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SEXUAL BONDAGES

For instance, at the Córdoba crusade, I leaned how sexual bondages often take place. When a certain young woman who had been separated from her spouse came to the tent having terrible demonic manifestations, our efforts at deliverance seemed to fail. I discovered that she had been under the care of a trained psychologist in the past.

I asked her, "What do you feel, or what do you see?"
"I can't stop thinking about my psychologist," she answered.

Led by the Lord, I asked her if she had had a sexual relationship with him. When she said yes, the Lord reminded me of the Bible verse that says, "And the two will become one flesh" (Mark 10:8). Illicit sexual relationships unite separate individuals into one flesh, so that demonic spirits that dominate one can also dominate the other. (See 1 Corinthians 6:16.)

DEMONIC VOWS

Making conscious or unconscious vows with the devil also creates spiritual bondage. It is necessary to discover the reasons why the person made such a vow. That means that it is not sufficient to know the problem. We must understand the source of it.

One day, Carlos Annacondia asked me to come to Mendoza, Argentina, to help with a difficult case. As the ministry team had attempted to bring deliverance to

① WHAT LEGAL RIGHTS

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② BUT... PABLO IGNORED THE DEMON PREFERING TO GET THE HUMAN TO DISCOVER/CONFESS THE LEGAL RIGHTS

a woman there, the demon inside of her would manifest and mock them, saying, "You can't cast me out!" or "You can't do this, fatso!"

When I arrived and began to pray, I rebuked the demon in Jesus' name. It declared, "You have no authority to drive me out!"

Aware that I did not have full understanding about this situation, I said to the lady, "Sister, there is something that happened to you or that is happening to you right now that you haven't told me about." However, she provided no helpful insight.

The demon manifested a second time and laughed at me. The same thing happened on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and still she was not delivered. I turned to a couple who ministered with me often and told them, "Don't leave this woman alone until she tells you why the demon has the authority to stay."

Late that night, the woman made a confession. She said she was a believer, and she had an unsaved brother whose wife had died. His two daughters attended church with their aunt. This man decided to remarry, but he married a witch. When the two girls discovered that their stepmother was performing witchcraft, they left the house and went to live with their aunt. The father went to get them, but they refused to go back home.

The stepmother threatened the man's daughters and cursed the aunt. The aunt became so terrified of what might happen to her from the curse that white spots

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broke out all over her body. When she noticed the spots, instead of seeking the Lord's help, she sought out "white magic," undergoing a cultic practice called the "umbanda ritual."

We were able to help her to see that by taking part in a demonic ritual, she had entered into what constitutes a "vow" with a demon. Realizing this, she renounced the vow. Afterward, Carlos Annacondia prayed and broke the curse. We prayed and rebuked the demon in this way: "Now, in the name of Jesus, unclean spirit who said that we didn't have any authority—you go!"

As it went, the demon answered, "I know, I know . . . you defeated me. I'm leaving!" And it left.

At another crusade a man manifested as a werewolf by howling and foaming at the mouth. At that time, military service was mandatory in Argentina, and in order to get out of military service he had made a vow with the "Difunta Correa," a mythical figure in popular religion who has a great number of followers in the Western provinces of Argentina. Her sanctuary is located in the Province of San Juan, and is a center of popular devotion, idolatry and the occult. This vow left him spiritually bound.

One day as he was riding his motorcycle across a hill, the engine broke down. He started to invoke the "Difunta Correa" so that she would help him. He saw a little hut, and walking toward it, he went inside. There he found a very old lady who invited him to drink

① VOW CAN REMAIN IN FORCE AFTER PERSON HAS ACCEPTED JESUS

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some "mate" (a typical Argentinean tea). The young man asked her if it was possible for him to leave his broken motorcycle there, but the old lady told him, "The motorcycle works."

Indeed, when he started it the engine purred. So he rode away. The next day he went back to that same place, and the little hut was no longer there!

He was exempted from military service—his ID read: "Exempted for being a werewolf." It was marked this way because on nights with a full moon he would run into the hills, manifesting demons in the most violent way.

In Argentina, as well as in other South American countries, the werewolf is a man—generally the seventh male son—who, according to popular tradition, is able to turn into a wild beast at nights when there is a full moon.

That was his condition when he came to the crusade. After listening to his story, we broke the vow he had made with the "Difunta Correa," and we obtained a degree of deliverance. However, he continued to experience additional fear and deeper bondages to the devil, which were the reasons behind his willingness to make such a vow.

Through this man's experience, I learned that every such vow has a cause and a root that need to be dealt with carefully. Such vows can affect Christians and non-Christians alike. A vow can remain in force after a person has accepted the Lord. But by God's power,

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these vows can be broken. The deliverance work of these crusades taught me how to fight against the bondages of hate, fear and demonic vows.

RITUALISM

In 1986 when I was just starting in the deliverance ministry, I felt as if I had hit a brick wall in trying to understand how to minister deliverance. I often cried before the Lord, asking Him to guide me. I made scores of mistakes before I finally started to achieve good results. Often, however, I would obstinately insist on doing something a certain way, until I would finally realize that it didn't work that way.

Around that time I met a lady who had gotten involved with the "macumba" ritual and had started living with a "pai" (the "father of saints," or the man who is head of the place where they meet). She had undergone an abortion, but that was not her only problem. Every time she received ministry, she wasn't set free—there was something she hadn't confessed. So I asked her, "Did you conceive your child under a ritual?"

Yes, she had become pregnant during a ritual. Doctors aborted the pregnancy at three months of gestation because an ultrasound revealed that the baby had an enlarged head. The head was so large that a C-section was required.

During our attempts at deliverance, a demon manifested in this woman and yelled, "You killed my child!" The wicked vow this woman entered into included

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offering this infant to the demon after it was born. The demon spirit was claiming its right because of this vow. This woman was set free, and the wicked ties were broken the moment she renounced the vow aloud in the mighty name of Jesus. When she was delivered, she acted as if she were giving birth.

Ritualism can maintain a strong hold upon an individual's life. But God's power can break through the power of the enemy, and ritualism can be broken and its victims can be freed in the mighty name of Jesus!

GROUP POSSESSIONS

Often individuals have asked what happens to a demon when it leaves a person. Is it possible for the demon to go into someone else nearby? My answer is always no. The demons in the Gadarenes could not enter any of the disciples who came with Jesus, or anybody else who stood nearby. (See Mark 5:5-20.) Even to go into the pigs, the unclean spirits had to receive Jesus' permission.

I have witnessed thousands of cases of demonic possession and oppression, and have only encountered a demon entering into someone nearby when individuals had made a vow together with the same demon.

For example, when five people played a demonic game causing a cup to move around the table by itself, a demon was actually jumping from one person to another. All five individuals had to confess their sin, and in the name of Jesus, renounce this demonic activity before all were set free.

D HAD A SON IN COMMON WITH THE DEMON

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Groups also become jointly involved in demonic activity when familiar demons, or familiar spirits, have influenced parents and children or several members of a group. Demons can also move back and forth between individuals who have been involved in carnal relationships.

One time a young man came who needed deliverance. He had practiced martial arts, and the demon manifesting in this man called itself by a Chinese name. As a group of ministry brothers prayed for him near the tent, the demon took hold of one of them.

I questioned: "There has to be an important reason why the demon has taken hold of you."
"No, no!" he replied. "Everything is all right between the Lord and me!"

But even as he was speaking, the demon started manifesting again. It continued until he confessed that he had been involved in homosexual relationships. After he renounced his sin and asked God to forgive him, I rebuked the demon in the name of Jesus, and the Christian was set free.

Through many experiences such as these I have learned that demons cannot affect believers unless they have been given authority through some unconfessed sin in believers' lives.

GOD'S POWER AND AUTHORITY

In eleven years of ministering deliverance in crusades with Carlos Annacondia, the most important thing I

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have learned is that the church of Jesus Christ is able to confront the enemy. Jesus gave the first Christians power and authority to cast out demons. We serve the same Lord and therefore have the same divine power. Deliverance is not a ministry reserved for the "highly gifted." It is the task that the Lord entrusts to all believers, no matter how humble or simple they may be. The main requirement is to carry it out in obedience and subjection to His authority. If we are ready to do what He wants, He will go with us. He will give us the power and authority in His name to break down the gates of hell!

AN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

At the end of 1994, we welcomed seventy pastors from Germany, Switzerland and Austria to the Downtown Baptist Evangelical Church in Buenos Aires, where I serve as minister of pastoral counseling. The pastors had traveled great distances to learn about the ministry of deliverance. The principle of subjecting our lives to the lordship of Jesus Christ powerfully impacted them.

Deliverance is no more complicated than this—it is yielding our lives to Christ as our only Lord. As the Holy Spirit moved in our midst, the pastors surrendered entire areas of their lives where there had been no victory. These servants of the Lord experienced powerful deliverance and healing—it was wonderful. Unhealthy soul ties and unresolved vows were broken,

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heavy yokes were destroyed and oppressions that had limited ministries for years came to an end. Above all, these men and women of God were filled with a powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit.

We realized the great need to offer in-depth ministry to church leaders to free them from bondage, oppressions and inner wounds. Such freedom would permit ministers to serve the Lord with greater efficiency, abundance, satisfaction and victory. Led by a fresh vision that God gave our pastors, Dr. Pablo A. Deiros and Carlos Mraida, we decided to conduct pastoral clinics. These special seminars for pastors and leaders would combine teaching with personal ministry. The results were astounding and long lasting.

From that moment on we conducted one pastoral clinic after another, in Argentina as well as in other parts of the world. My ministry reached even farther. No longer was I merely ministering deliverance to needy souls in bondage, but now I was teaching other ministers what I had learned. Through these seminars the Lord completed my ministry call and fulfilled the prophecy given to me at the beginning of my ministry.

I never thought I could teach anything, and I never dreamed I would travel outside of my country. And yet, at the beginning of 1996, at fifty-eight years of age, I stepped out in faith.

I had been ministering full time with Carlos Annandonia as part of the Message of Salvation Ministry

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team. Carlos prayed with me about my new direction, and before long opportunities to minister to hundreds of pastors and leaders opened up all around the world.

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uch has been written on the topic of demons, but few authors have provided practical steps to help the oppressed get free.

The process of casting out demons is called deliverance. This ministry is an important part of what God does in the

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life of an individual and consequently in the church. Jesus integrated the ministry of deliverance and the believer's call to evangelism in the Great Commission. He entrusted this task of deliverance to His followers, according to Mark 16:15-18:

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

The ministry of deliverance must go hand in hand with the ministry of evangelism. Both are a very important part of the church's mission as the bride of Christ here on earth. When we ignore this ministry, we remove a vital part from the body of Christ. As a result, spiritually disabled Christians are raised in the church.

WORSHIP IS MORE THAN A RITUAL

To worship God is one of the most beautiful things we can possibly do. True worship is more than a religious ritual, fasting and reading of the Word. We have been created "for the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:12).

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Worship includes praising, singing, praying and being in fellowship with God and other believers. Even more important than having the correct doctrines is having true compassion for the poor, the helpless and the oppressed. Our faith is false if it doesn't reach others. God wants our service to go beyond personal growth. He wants it to produce acts of goodness, love, justice and generosity.

We are in true communion with God when we obey His will. And what is His will? I find the answer to this question in Isaiah 58:6-7:

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

For him who carries out God's will, so well described in this passage, a whole series of promises are given next. I want to have them all!

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

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If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins, and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

—ISAIAH 58:8–12

There isn't a greater joy, at least for me, than to achieve a spiritual victory by snatching a soul, an oppressed life, from the hands of the enemy. There isn't a greater delight. Why? Because I'm doing the Father's will. He wants to restore the lives that Satan has under his yoke.

RECOVERING THE POTENTIAL

In the Book of Matthew we find in detail what the Lord expects us to do.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I

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needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

—MATTHEW 25:35–37

If we want to be placed at His right side with His sheep when He comes in glory, we have to do everything He commanded us to do. We have to carry out the ministry that Jesus gave each member of His church.

It is necessary to take the ministry of deliverance seriously and exercise it with the authority that Jesus has promised us. I believe that every church that ministers deliverance soberly will grow up healthy and will have the possibility of setting free those who come for help.

Many congregations are afraid of facing the ministry of deliverance. But it is necessary to understand that the church alone has received authority to perform this task. Consequently, it needs to recover the potential that should have never been lost. That potential is the awareness that we, as the church, are in a war against the enemy and that our task is to set lives free from bondage.

To assure our congregations that the enemy has nothing to do with the church of Jesus Christ is a very comfortable position—but not a convenient one. The church has been called to war, to fight. The church may be the context where we develop our communion with God and with our fellow believers, giving us what we need to grow by means of preaching, teaching and

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interceding for our needs. But it also needs to be the place where we are daily equipped for the battle that we entered the day we said yes to Jesus Christ.

The moment a believer accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, he becomes a child of God and an enemy of the prince of this world. Thus, as Christians, we are and will be involved in a struggle against the enemy until our time comes to be in the presence of the Lord.

Paul knew this truth very well, and he declared:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

—2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8

The apostle was convinced that he was fighting a constant, daily fight. Evil is growing and multiplying in an alarming way around us. Because of what we see and listen to through television, we become so accustomed to the manifestations of the power of the evil one that we don't pay any attention to them anymore—those images seem almost normal and natural to us. I believe that the enemy has devised this clever plan because he wants us to be so accustomed to his work that we pay little attention to his destructive action.

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A TRUTH THAT CAN'T REMAIN HIDDEN

As the church we have to be equipped to give an answer to those who want and need to be set free from Satan's schemes. If we feel the burden of ministry and want to help people with problems, we must acquire experience to be able to minister deliverance to the oppressed and bound by Satan.

After some time of working with our ministry, a Japanese pastor told me the following: "To go through a deliverance experience is better than hearing about a hundred others."

I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with well-known author Dr. John White, who wrote several books, including *Spiritual Warfare: The Fight*. Dr. White is a counselor, a psychiatry professor and a member of the International Community of Evangelical Students of Latin America (*Comunidad Internacional de Estudiantes Evangélicos en América Latina*). In 1987 he participated in one of the conferences in my country, Argentina. As we were dialoguing about the topic of deliverance, he asked me, "Have you seen more than a hundred cases of people manifesting?"

I smiled, because I see a hundred cases in one single evening or even half of an evening at our evangelistic crusades, even though I may not be directly involved in ministering to each manifestation. "Why do you ask me that?" I asked.

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1) AFTER YOU ACCEPT JESUS THEN NEED DELIVERANCE

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"Because I have only helped ten people who were manifesting," he replied.

When I realized the difference in the amount of cases, and consequently, the extent of my experience, I came to the conclusion that what I had learned and lived through was not something that should remain hidden and concealed. I have to pour it out and share it with the church of Jesus Christ. Therefore I believe that I must train many servants of God in this ministry of deliverance—a ministry that needs daily updating, not because of its resurgence, but because of its demands.

In the beginning of the church, when people became believers the usual thing was to minister to them according to the Word: "Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds" (Acts 19:18). Jesus Christ told the Jews who had believed in Him that they had to be delivered.

But we have stopped doing this. Consequently, the church has to recover this ministry that has been abandoned in some ways. It has to be brought up to date and provide the help that so many are requesting.

Satan acts in a shameless way in every aspect of life. He knows that the coming of the Lord is near, and so he is trying to launch his last projectiles and to drag as many as he can with him. But the church has the topmost authority on its side, the one that Jesus has, who inherited "the name that is above every name" (Phil. 2:9). We, the church, His body, are sent in that name.

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I describe the ministry of deliverance as an End-Times ministry. When the enemy is confronted with the reality of the return of Christ's coming for His church, he tries to take advantage of every possible situation and manifests in a totally open manner. He overplays his hand. We see this even in cartoons destined to reach little children. Everything has to do with dragons, demons, monsters and powers. The enemy's purpose is to instill these things into the children's minds so that in the future, when they see his destructive power, they won't feel bad about it, but will accept it as a normal, everyday thing.

We have to be faithful to the Lord and firmly believe that "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). We have to be prepared to boldly fight against the enemy.

THE OLD THINGS HAVE GONE

I know that the ministry of deliverance constitutes an important task. It is helping those who have been imprisoned in darkness to be free in Christ. If the church doesn't minister deliverance adequately, in spite of believing that Christ is their Savior, people will continue experiencing spiritual problems.

I often compare new believers with little toy airplanes that take off all right, but at the first obstacle, they plunge to the ground.

After receiving Christ, the new believer is up on "cloud nine" for some time. Then problems arise, real

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struggles take place and soon many get discouraged because they do not advance as they would like to in their Christian lives. It is at this point of a person's spiritual experience when deliverance is so necessary. If it doesn't get done, we will have an ever-increasing amount of unhealthy believers.

The apostle Paul affirms:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

—2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

The truth declared in this verse states that the new creatures are those who are *in* Christ—it doesn't say "those who have accepted Christ." To live *in* Christ means to obey the command to "submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you" (James 4:7-8).

The first thing is to submit to God. If we depend entirely on Him and live under Christ's lordship, we can resist the devil, and we will verify that he truly flees from us. It isn't until believers understand what it really means to place their entire lives under the ruling of Christ that they can honestly declare that "the old has gone."

If we renounce everything that is under the enemy's control from the very beginning of our new life, our growth will be normal and even. When we don't do so,

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we will develop into a deformed Christian, like a real monster.

Unfortunately, many new believers are taught that the Christian life is a long list of prohibitions. Thus, the expressions on their faces reflect worries and sadness rather than joy.

New believers need ministry to help them get rid of all those things in the past that prevent them from growing. Unless they achieve complete spiritual healing from the beginning, they will continuously encounter obstacles that will damage them.

Every vow that has been made with the enemy before knowing Christ has to be broken. Otherwise, as soon as the believer lowers his or her guard, the enemy comes back with an attack, demanding the fulfillment of their previous agreement.

True peace and real freedom will only come as we untie the bonds of ungodliness, loosen the burdens of oppression, set free the brokenhearted and break all yokes.

EXPERIENCES FROM THE PAST

Some time ago, I was talking to a man who had been involved for thirty years in spiritism. One day he met Christ, accepted Him as Savior and started to serve Him in the church. Suddenly, as we were talking, he started to sob. He said to me, "Pastor, when I pray for others and invoke the power of the Lord, people get healed."

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But I am tormented; I have no peace, and nothing goes well."

What was going on? No one had made him renounce the vows and oaths he had made while being a spiritist. Many believers are not brought to the awareness that they may have submitted to another lordship before knowing Christ. They must be led to renounce and break every vow made with the enemy.

Most of them have never broken the authority they had conferred to the devil. The enemy then holds, even though partially, that position of authority, and he asserts himself when needed.

I told this anguished believer to remain calm and to try to remember every oath and vow with the forces of evil that he had made in the past. He had been a leader in the Basilio Scientific School (a spiritist school). Even though he didn't want to play the role of a medium, he had made vows. When he renounced, in the name of Jesus, every oath he had made, he was set free.

WORDS THAT CURSE

There are many people who, when things go wrong, will say, "Why can't I die?" The enemy appropriates this expression, which constitutes a self-curse, and uses it against us. We have to renounce all those sayings.

The Bible affirms: "The tongue has the power of life and death" (Prov. 18:21). If we only realized that whenever we pronounce those inappropriate words, we are in bondage. Many are trapped because of

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saying such things! We have to watch what we say and not pronounce negative words.

Within our churches there are many believers who have spiritual problems. At times these problems are not too acute, and so there are no external manifestations. Therefore many don't realize the need for inner healing and deliverance until they hear us preach about the difficulties that arise from unloosened ties—ties that many have thought, by mistake, were nonexistent.

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Why Is Deliverance Necessary?

The Lord came to seek and to heal those who had problems. He didn't come to seek the *just*, but *sinners*: "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32).

When Jesus walked on earth, He was reproached for meeting with tax collectors

EVOCATE GOD'S PRESENCE
DEMON MUST MANIFEST
Why Is Deliverance Necessary?

and sinners. "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners?'" (Matt. 9:11). Jesus came to this world to rescue and recover sinners. His ministry is one of a true shepherd. (See John 10:7-21.)

What is the task the church has to accomplish? It is the one conferred by Jesus—preach the Good News, heal the sick and set those enslaved by Satan free.

Even though deliverance as a ministry is not found in the Scriptures, it is part of the pastoral ministry. I believe that to minister deliverance is a true pastoral task. It involves taking care of each sheep that is in trouble and seems to be going astray because of the ongoing attacks of the evil one.

Increasingly, the enemy is removing his mask. On television or in the movies, people are frequently manifesting demons. These scenes become a common thing after watching them over and over again. I believe that this is exactly what the enemy wants.

THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS ALL THINGS TO THE LIGHT

When during a service the presence of the Holy Spirit is invoked, those situations that were hidden will come to the light and manifest. Some congregations don't seem to recognize that we have to be prepared to minister deliverance. When someone starts manifesting, they run to give him oxygen or to attend to his physical needs.

If we don't rebuke and attack the enemy, he will remain peacefully hidden. Deliverance is a ministry

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that goes together with worship, prayer and preaching. When the Holy Spirit is in control of a congregation, everybody enjoys the presence of the Lord. No demon can remain quietly there. He will have to manifest.

The church has resources available to face the enemy's attacks. After seeing some of the excesses of certain individuals who minister deliverance, I can understand why many churches have decided not to be involved in this ministry. I myself lived many years as a Christian without incorporating this aspect of the gospel to my life. So I don't judge those who think differently than I do. Yet so many believers evidence the need for deliverance that our commitment to this ministry should increase even more.

Can Satan act freely for two thousand years while the church remains impassive? My answer is no! The fact that Jesus gave us authority to cast out demons and told us that if we preach the gospel, signs, wonders and miracles would follow invites us to consider this topic. We have to be ready to minister 365 days a year—not only in crusades or special events.

WHAT IS DELIVERANCE?

In the broad sense of the word, I believe that deliverance was God's desire for man since the fall. Shortly after creating him, God saw that man was oppressed, subjected to sin and lacking His grace and mercy. Thus, God elaborated a precious plan of deliverance.

Jesus came to deliver us, to remove the yoke of

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oppression and captivity from the hands of the devil. His desire was to deliver His creatures who are sometimes bound and committed to the devil.

Deliverance is not about shouting! It is focused on discovering what it is that is giving the enemy authority to remain in a person's life. God loves His children and wants to see them free. He longs to help them and give them the freedom they need.

God's real motive is to restore human beings to His image and likeness. (See Genesis 1:26-27.) The grace and mercy of God are evident in the ministry of deliverance. God provided the solution to the problem of satanic slavery in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him, God's deep desire to set His children free was manifested. Jesus Himself declared His ministry's redemptive purpose:

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

—LUKE 4:18-19

The Good News is God's redemptive plan of salvation and deliverance. God remembered the oppressed and came to set them free. Jesus Christ came to fulfill His Father's promises to rescue man from Satan's yoke; He came to undo the works of the devil.

Why Is Deliverance Necessary?

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

—JOHN 10:10

Some of Jesus' disciples thought that He was a revolutionary, and they were right. But His revolution was a spiritual revolution. Jesus Christ came to this world to set His children free from the power of the enemy. "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3:8).

The preaching of the Good News has never been separated from the need to drive out demons and to heal the sick. All three functions are included in this one command.

But it would seem that some of us, thinking that we are wiser than God, have at one point said, "The most important thing is to announce that the kingdom of heaven is at hand and that whoever believes in Jesus Christ will be saved. Who needs all the rest?"

Yes, it is true; those who believe in Jesus Christ will be saved and justified, but we somehow forget about all the other things that are included in the Great Commission.

THE SPIRITUAL HAS AN EFFECT ON OUR PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

Deliverance is the evidence that God wants us to live whole, victorious and healthy lives. It has to do with a great portion of our physical health. A person who is

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full of the presence of God and who lives free from all burdens and oppression enjoys a healthy life. When a person is delivered, there are no more physical problems. Let us remember that we are a unity of body, soul and spirit. Therefore, whenever one part is affected, the rest suffers.

Some years ago, I had an interview with a young Christian lady who had never been ministered to before. When she was eleven years old, she was raped; thus, she was carrying that burden since her childhood. The bitterness and resentment she was feeling affected her bones. The doctors could not find the source of her ailment. Since she wasn't sharing the anguish she was experiencing from that very painful event with anybody, her condition was getting worse every day.

She finally opened her heart and told me what had happened. As soon as she confessed the reason for her hopelessness, I was able to minister to her. As a result, she abandoned all resentment and forgave the man who had raped her.

From that moment on, the Lord started to heal her bones. After a few days, she was able to stop taking painkillers. She had been completely healed.

The Word of God states:

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

—PSALM 32:3

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Why Is Deliverance Necessary?

Many illnesses are related to the spiritual. It shouldn't surprise us that after forgiving those who have hurt us and after confessing our forgiveness, we are free, even from our physical diseases. The reason is the same again: Hate binds our lives and dries them, even physically.

As you read these pages, I pray that you will discover the importance of deliverance both in your life and in the life of your family and even in your own church. Jesus Christ came to set our lives free from sin and affliction, and He clearly told us: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Seek the freedom about which our Lord speaks so that you can enjoy God's blessings.

The authority Jesus gave to His twelve disciples to drive out demons and heal all infirmities hasn't been removed. On the contrary, He reemphasizes it in other Bible verses:

He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

—MATTHEW 10:1

When Jesus determined the mission of the twelve, He gave them instructions. Among the instructions was the command to preach that the kingdom of heaven was near. They were to "heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.

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Freely you have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:7-8).

If you consider yourself a disciple of Jesus Christ, then these words are also directed at you. Jesus is telling all His disciples that because they have freely received from Him, so freely they must give to others.

HEALING THE CHURCH

God has a double purpose for renewing His church in the area of deliverance:

- To heal the church
- To give an answer to those who are outside the church

Many ministers, pastors and leaders don't like to hear that the church of Jesus Christ is in trouble. But it is a sad reality. When we minister deliverance in crusades, 90 to 95 percent of those in need of help are believers. Many of them are Christians who have drifted away from the faith, but many of them are sitting today in churches. A high percentage of believers are still suffering problems from the past, and sometimes even from the present. In all honesty, this happens because we haven't ministered deliverance as we should.

When we offer pastoral counseling, those who come and share their problems are our own brothers and sisters in the faith—not those who don't know Christ.

When we question these Christians in order to

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Why Is Deliverance Necessary?

understand why they have spiritually failed, it is often astonishing to find out the things they have confronted in the past. In some cases their lives seem like a horror movie.

The church needs healing. Most of us haven't done anything in response to this need. We emphasize justification and teach about healing and the lordship of Jesus Christ, but we don't take it very seriously. Therefore, the believers who have had difficulties in the past will continue to have problems today.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S WORD AND PRAYER

Jesus declared:

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

—JOHN 8:31-32

This means that if we are consistent in reading the Word of God, if we introduce ourselves into it, if we search to find the truth that is found in it, the Word, by the Holy Spirit, will be revealed to us.

Through the regular reading of the Word and prayer, we can understand and let go of many situations from our past way of living. There are many important circumstances in our past that were a result of our own choices. They have left marks in us and have tied us

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to the enemy. To break those old vows we need more than conviction; we need ministry.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BODY MINISTRY

Let us admit that our churches don't offer the necessary ministry for the types of situations that need deliverance. Many people who attend our churches today have been witches or warlocks before knowing Christ. It is possible that they have never renounced their own vows. The same thing happens with people who have practiced spiritism for many years. They converted, but nobody has ever ministered to them. As a result, they live in torment since they continue living under yokes of ungodliness, carrying burdens of oppression. How have we helped them? We teach them to praise and to pray, but sometimes the torturing oppression under which they live will prevent them from being able to do these things.

LOOSING THE CORDS OF UNGODLINESS

Several years ago, a woman in a certain congregation was taking a class to prepare for water baptism. But she couldn't pray, and she couldn't read the Word. In view of this problem, the person who was in charge of discipling her asked my wife to minister to her. When she started asking questions, the woman shared her problems. So Margarita asked her, "What occult practices have you been involved in?"

Why Is Deliverance Necessary?

"I was the director of a center of spiritism," she answered.

She had been the medium in that place. Yet no one had told her what to do with her past. She was justified because of her declaration of faith in Jesus Christ, but no one had told her what to do with the problems she had as a result of the vows and covenants she had made with the enemy.

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice?

—ISAIAH 58:6

Together with my wife, we led the woman to renounce all the vows she needed to break. At a certain point as we were laying hands on her, she fell to the ground, and we heard a voice different from hers saying, "She is mine; she belongs to me. I'm not going to let her go."

But he finally had to let her go. Now this sister enjoys perfect communion with the Lord and supports our ministry with her prayers.

How to Minister Deliverance to Believers

W

e receive God's salvation through Jesus Christ, free of charge in every sense of the word. It couldn't be more complete. If a person who has confessed that Jesus Christ is his or her Savior and Lord dies, we are assured that person will go to heaven and enjoy God's presence for all eternity.

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But those who have made agreements with Satan previously, of any type—through petitions, invocations, promises and the like—have to renounce those commitments if they want to experience joy and victory in this world.

If one doesn't renounce or break those agreements, they will remain because they have a signature in the supernatural world. The one with whom the person has made the agreement—Satan—will claim the performance of the agreement. The consequences of sin are bondage, a broken heart, oppression and captivity. These things need to be dealt with through deliverance.

The enemy cannot harm these people's spirit, but he can hurt their bodies, emotions and thoughts. The Lord takes a person's spirit to change the mind and sanctify the body. Satan takes the body to ruin the mind and quench the spirit. His action is the exact opposite of Jesus' action.

Believers who desire to fulfill God's Great Commission must learn to minister deliverance to each other—to the body of Christ. This important ministry of deliverance was entrusted to the church—and it is the first order of business according to the sequential order of the signs that, according to Jesus, will follow those who believe (Mark 16:17-18).

Once I ministered to a lady who had accepted the Lord ten years earlier. This woman was almost destroyed by the oppression in her life. She couldn't endure the calamities that were taking place in her

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life anymore. Neither could she stand the oppression or the problems she had. Before her conversion she had been a sorceress. Since being saved, no one had ministered deliverance to her. Ten years after having abandoned her old life, the demons still tormented her. Her situation was terrible.

So as a part of our ministry to her, we started to break ties, works of witchcraft she had performed in the past and curses that she had pronounced over others. We began to loose those people's lives. She renounced every vow she had ever made.

A few days later, she gave me three axes and two knives. These were the elements she had used when performing the ritualistic sacrifices. How could she possibly have lived a peaceful life?

The Book of Acts tells us what happened in Ephesus after Paul announced the Good News.

Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.

—ACTS 19:18-19

Many that approached them believed, confessed and realized what they had done. After this, those who had practiced sorcery brought the books they had used in

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ACCUSED BE NOT HAVING ENOUGH FAITH

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their previous practices and burned them before all the people. They had received ministry.

Many churches believe that when people confess their faith in Jesus Christ, they are saved and everything is settled between them and God. This is true only in part. Our biggest mistake is to think that all has been done. If people who surrendered to Christ have been in contact with witchcraft, and we ask them if they have renounced those things, the answer usually is, "Yes, I don't practice those things anymore!" Yet the important thing is not to stay away from those practices. What matters is that those vows that have been made in the past and that bound us to other people or spirits are broken.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A SEALED VOW

A young mother with a little son had cancer. She didn't know the Lord, and because of her sickness, she decided to become part of the "umbanda ritual" cult. The unclean spirit that entered into her induced her to make the following vow: "I will heal you, but in seven years I will take your son away." She was so desperate to get healed that she sealed that vow.

Then she met the Lord and surrendered her life to Him. As the seventh year approached, she was very worried. Her son was already getting sick. Those in her church didn't understand the situation.

As part of our deliverance ministry with her, we had to lead this mother to renounce the bondage that had

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She tied her to the unclean spirit with whom she had made the vow. She had to break the yoke she put on her child when she handed him over to the devil.

Many churches are weak because its members are in bondage. You may ask, How is it possible for those who have known and accepted the Lord to be in bondage? The answer is simply this: Many people who have been trying to find a solution to the spiritual problems of believers in the church have found it easier to tell the oppressed, "Just accept the Lord, and everything will be all right." The reality is that we are surrounded by people who have accepted Christ but yet live oppressed lives, beaten and haunted by the enemy.

Many believers ask me, "Can you believe that such and such a thing is happening to me?" My answer is, Yes!

These believers have probably asked that same question of others who have responded by telling them, "No, if you have accepted Christ this cannot be happening to you!" Or, "Well, then you should pray more." Maybe they have even heard someone tell them, "My child, you don't have enough faith!"

So what should we do? Why can't we enjoy the freedom that the Lord has promised us? Why do we often sing, "Lord, I want to be like You," but then fail? God is not a liar. He is faithful. His redemptive work is complete, not partial.

When Christ ascended to heaven, He entrusted a

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complete work to us. That task is not just for one individual—it's for the whole church. As the church, our duty is to declare the Good News in its complete form. It may not be easy to stay two hours or more listening and helping a person to be free, ministering deliverance in the name of Jesus. It isn't easy at all. But God entrusted that work to us, and we have to accomplish it.

TIES FROM THE PAST

There are many people who, after receiving the Lord, manifest the presence of barriers, difficulties and problems. I often hear, "Pastor, I have been walking with the Lord for three years, but I feel like I'm going downhill."

My question usually is, "Have you ever been ministered to for deliverance?" In most cases the answer is negative.

Christians are saints in process. We are sinners, and the work of the Holy Spirit is to sanctify us. "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6).

Both men and women may carry horrible experiences with them when they receive the Lord. Many project those past burdens onto their marriages. Such was the case of a man whose father had no respect for his mother. He had watched his mother being constantly abused. Therefore the son thought that was normal treatment for a woman, and he brought that concept into his own marriage.

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Some husbands beat their wives and drink heavily. Many couples may be experiencing difficulties with their sexual relationship. Some husbands treat their wives brutally, demanding sex—sometimes even raping their wives. Some women see the sexual act as dirty and sinful because of past abusive experiences.

We find many of these cases within churches. For lack of adequate treatment, these people transfer their problems to their marriages. When they are healed, everything starts to work adequately.

People of all ages evidence problems that emerge from bad family images from their childhood or teenage years.

One girl told me that she had lacked a father figure at home. As a result, she had tried to find paternal protection in several different relationships. For fear of losing that protection, she had been pressured to have sex with her partners, which made her feel like a victim of abuse. She considered herself an object, not a person with human needs.

Because of the feelings of guilt and low self-esteem in girls like this one, they are often afraid to approach pastors or spiritual counselors to share their problems.

MISPLACED AUTHORITY

As I was ministering deliverance in a crusade, a man said to me, "I have been a Christian for seven years. I have a job and can put food on our table, but I can't move forward.

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I experience one problem after another, struggle after struggle. Nothing that I do seems to work out."

His words led me to ask him, "Before you met the Lord, to whom else had you given authority over your finances and your family's finances? Think about it together with your wife, write down the names and bring the list to me tomorrow."

The next day he brought the list I had asked him to prepare. On it I found names such as Difunta Correa, Ogun, Ceferino Namuncurá, Yemanya and others. These were the names of demonic personalities and occult idols used in various false religions. When we give authority to idols, God cannot intervene. He will not take authority over an area that we have entrusted to another.

We prayed together and renounced each one of the *pai* (false authorities) to whom he had turned. He owned an automobile tire repair shop. Later I found out that things had improved after his deliverance experience. God blessed him because he placed all the areas where Satan had reigned under Jesus Christ's absolute control.

AUTHORITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Satan can't bother a believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit. The fullness of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by its fruit—not by speaking in tongues. There is no Bible text that says that they will be known by speaking in tongues. But it does say that we will be

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recognized by our fruit (Matt. 7:16). One can speak many tongues and have no fruit. When the Word of God talks about fruit, it refers to results:

No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

—LUKE 6:43-45

Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruit that demonstrate the fullness of the Holy Spirit, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Early in my deliverance ministry, I ministered for some time without having received the gift of tongues. I had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, but I didn't speak in tongues. I used to pray to the Lord, "You know that I want to worship You in spirit and in truth."

Each time the Lord answered me, "I will not give you the gift of tongues yet. But I will give you authority."

CHRISTIANS MANIFESTING?

When Carlos Annacondia and I went to New Jersey

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to hold a series of meetings, I was invited to preach in a little church. After presenting the Word of God, I invited the congregation to pray and renounce past situations. Immediately, one of their members started to manifest.

When we ministered to him, he told us that he had been a warlock in Cuba. Then after coming to the United States, he had become a Christian. He couldn't go forward, so he went back to the world. Yet he had eventually come back to the Lord.

He also told us that no one had told him to break the blood pact he had made with Satan before knowing the Lord. How could this man live like that? With what authority could he survive within the church?

For many years, the church has only ministered deliverance in cases where there are manifestations of demons. All those people who had a background of witchcraft remained unchanged.

In 1990, while in the city of Miami, a young girl who had become a Christian two years before attended our crusade. Although she had been a Christian for some time, she didn't feel totally free. As I saw her walking toward me, I noticed her reluctance, and I thought she didn't want to receive ministry. She did—but she was thinking, *Here we go again; they will try to minister to me, and after hours of talking, nothing will happen.*

When I asked her what her problem was, she said, "Whenever they minister to me, I suffer, but they don't set me free."

"What happened in your life?" I asked.

She told me her story. When she was seventeen years old a spirit, through an invocation, took hold of her. Her family took her to a witch doctor to set her free. The warlock had sexual relations with her so that he could set her free. Many think that he was taking advantage of the situation, and it is true. But when we analyze the situation, it all makes sense. She becomes one flesh with him, so the spirit that dwelt in him could become a part of her. The warlock believed that the spirit tormenting her would have to come out of her when it was confronted by his own demonic spirit. But his solution to her problem didn't eliminate the spirit she had. Rather, now she was bound to the warlock's spirit also.

I led her to renounce all sexual bondage with the warlock, and all spiritual and physical authority he exerted on her. I broke the yoke and drove both spirits away. She was finally free.

When a believer manifests, many wonder, "Is he really a Christian?" Those who are filled with the Lord will rarely have spiritual problems. The Word of God asserts, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13).

We should not judge our brothers or sisters when they manifest demons. Glory to God that it is actually happening! Something that was ruining their lives, causing affliction and preventing them from fully enjoying the presence of the Lord can now be clearly seen. It is

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necessary that all that was hidden be manifested. The Holy Spirit has to be free to do what He wants to do, without any hindering walls that we put up.

The Lord will not come for a church with wrinkles or stains. He desires to find a clean church, dressed in fine linen.

You may be wondering how the Holy Spirit and an unclean spirit can dwell together in one vessel. Satan will rule in those areas of our lives where Jesus Christ is not ruling—where we have not given Him complete control.

In Galatians 5:17 we read:

For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

The apostle Paul explained this conflict between the Spirit and Satan in this way:

But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

—ROMANS 7:23

What is not of God is of the devil. Because the flesh obeyed the old master, the old man was enslaved to him, and our old nature resembled the devil. So the

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person who acts in the flesh is in the hands of the enemy. Every time that the old nature shows up, it is because it hasn't been crucified with Christ—it is still alive.

The Word doesn't say that when we come to the Lord the work of sanctification is complete. On the contrary, it says that He who began a good work in us will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ. We are holy because He is holy, but we are saints in process—we are being restored in a spiritual hospital. If the Holy Spirit doesn't do His work instantly, who do you think rules in the areas where He doesn't rule? Whether we like it or not, it is what the Word of God says. We belong to God; we love Him, and we are open to Him so that He can work in us to help us grow. I love God, but He is still working in me—the "Italian" in me hasn't died yet.

When we are able to understand the truth clearly, we surrender to God in the person of Jesus Christ. Consequently, everything will belong to God and not to the devil.

There are many situations that will surface later and reveal bits and pieces of our old nature. We need to renounce them. That is why Jesus had to rebuke Peter. After Jesus had explained that He had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things, that He had to be killed and on the third day be raised to life, Peter said, "Never, Lord! . . . This shall never happen to you!" (Matt. 16:22). Five minutes earlier he had told Jesus,

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"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v. 16).

Jesus Himself had said to Peter, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven" (v. 17). Only a few moments later, Jesus says to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan!" (v. 23). Was Jesus mistaken? No, but He was able to discern between God's revelation and the devil's revelation.

The gospel is for everybody, and we have to preach it in its entirety. Thus, we have to recognize that deliverance belongs to the church first and then to others.

Those within the church need to be ministered to first, since the battle cannot be won as long as those who need to fight are wounded. We have to be healed first, and then we will be able to heal others. If we are bound, we cannot set others free.

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How to Minister Deliverance to Unbelievers

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hen Jesus spoke of the signs that would accompany believers, he listed them in this sequential order. "In my name . . .

1. "they will drive out demons;
2. "they will speak in new tongues;

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3. "they will pick up snakes with their hands;
4. "and when they drink deadly poison it will not hurt them at all;
5. "they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well" (Mark 16:17-18).

Could the Holy Spirit, the author of the Word, be wrong in the sequence in which such an important ministry as the one that has been entrusted to the church is to be developed?

The Holy Spirit is never wrong. We are wrong when we try to manipulate that which God has established according to our own understanding and our own whim. Fulfilling the Great Commission is supposed to be a complete work, including both deliverance and the proclamation of the gospel. It is through deliverance that lives are snatched away from Satan's authority.

When the disciples were sent out two by two by Jesus, they returned, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name" (Luke 10:17). This word proves that they were rebuking and driving out demons while they were preaching the gospel.

When Jesus entrusted this ministry to them, He warned them, "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

Then Jesus expresses His joy for the work they are performing: "At that time Jesus, full of joy through the

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Holy Spirit, said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure'" (Luke 10:21).

The seventy were simply obeying what Jesus had told them to do. If the church loses this part of the mission, it will end up saturated with sick people. It will become a militia full of wounded and mutilated soldiers, incapable of fighting against the enemy. If the believers who form the church have not received the ministry, they are militarily inferior to Satan and his demons. This is the reason why it is necessary to minister to the church first. Then the church is prepared to minister deliverance to the unchurched.

The occult is flourishing like never before. It advances in an alarming way through different cults, especially through the spiritist cults such as the umbanda and quimbanda. This is happening in countries that are considered Christian countries.

In our churches, we have been simple spectators of all this satanic advancement for a long time. As a result, most people having spiritual problems caused by their involvement in different forms of occult rituals turn to those who offer them some magical solution. They eventually end up destroyed and locked up in some mental hospital. It doesn't make any sense that they turn to those who will harm them even further. The church has to be prepared to accept this challenge.

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We have the right answer to the problems of the soul. God will demand an explanation as to why we haven't given them the true answer to their problems.

① The church has been a mere spectator instead of having an active role in this reality. If we, God's children, bring answers to those outside the church, all the umbanda, quimbanda, spiritism, witchcraft, sorcery, magic and divination will come to an end. None of these things bring peace. We Christians have the right answer, and we have to commit to giving it to those who are anxiously searching for it.

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

—ISAIAH 58:6

If we have the answer they need, we cannot allow those who need true peace to turn to psychics, sorcerers and parapsychologists (modern witches). They use supernatural powers from the world of the occult. The secret things, the things that are hidden, belong to God. That is what Deuteronomy 29:29 says:

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

How to Minister Deliverance to Unbelievers

I have seen thousands of lives tormented by the enemy that, thanks to deliverance ministry in the name of Jesus, have instantly demonstrated a change of life. They found the answer to their spiritual needs in God. He has equipped us for this task. In Christ, He has given us all that we need to function adequately.

When God works, as He is evidently doing today, His children need to join Him in His wonderful and powerful task.

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

—LUKE 4:18-19

In this way, Jesus presented His ministry to the world, that same ministry He had handed over to His disciples. And you are one of them. He also gave His disciples authority: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12).

To minister effectively we need faith. We can't minister without it. The Gospels tell us that after Jesus' transfiguration, He came down the mountain and found a crowd surrounding His disciples. They were accusing them of not being able to heal a demonized boy. Jesus

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cast the demon out, and the boy was free. When Jesus and His disciples were alone, they asked Him, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matt. 17:20-21).

Jesus clearly warned His disciples that they couldn't minister without faith. But what can we do when there is no faith? We ask the Lord to increase it. If we realize we have little faith, we have to fast and pray, and then it will grow. This doesn't necessarily mean that by praying and fasting we will achieve something more powerful, because then it would be based on our merits. But from constant communion with the Lord, we will find that He will show us what problems are preventing an effective ministry.

The time we spend in prayer and fasting will increase our communion with God, and this close and prolonged fellowship will strengthen our faith. However, people will be set free because of God's power—not because we prayed and fasted much.

IN THE NAME OF JESUS

I think it is important to emphasize that the only way Jesus taught us to minister is in His name: "In my name they will drive out demons" (Mark 16:17). He didn't tell us to do it any other way.

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How to Minister Deliverance to Unbelievers

There are different opinions on how we should minister. Some cast out demons by the power of the blood of Christ; others, by the fire of the Holy Spirit; others command angels to do it. Some state, quoting the verse in Isaiah 10:27, that since the anointing breaks the yoke, all deliverance has to be done by the Holy Spirit. I personally believe that the anointing equips us for the task.

The Lord never told us to burn demons with the power of the Holy Spirit. We don't find any such command in the Bible. However, many minister by saying, "The Spirit is burning you, is burning you." The Lord didn't order us to burn spirits and demons. He commanded us to drive them out in His name, and as a result, the demons come out, just as it was ordained.

When we order the demons to come out in the name of Jesus, the whole spiritual world starts moving. We were not given authority to move the spiritual hosts. We were instructed to obey Jesus—who commanded us to drive them out in His name. Just that. As some people minister, they seem to be more interested in the demon than in the person to whom they are ministering. My understanding is that the process should be the exact opposite of that: We should consider the *person* and not the *demons*. The demons will be put under Christ's authority by invoking His name. Our task is to minister to people the best we can.

Evidently there are times when we will have to use physical force to prevent the demonized person from

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getting hurt. The important thing is to try to set those people free from the enemy's yoke.

We have to understand that we, as God's children, have to perform this task. He commissioned those who constitute His church. We are responsible for the work of deliverance.

We must be prepared for the demon's response when we mention the power of the blood of Jesus while confronting a demon in a person. My team and I have corroborated that whenever we declare that the blood of Jesus has power over that manifestation, the demons go crazy and hurt the person who is receiving our ministry.

Do we want the enemy to go mad and destroy a body or to stay calm and leave? Undoubtedly, we all want the demons to leave and free the person. We are not interested in seeing any manifestation, so the first thing we need to do is to hold the demons so the person can remain calm. When I do mention the power of the blood of Christ, I am prepared for what often happens next: Suddenly the demon, referring to the believer to whom I am ministering, will say, "He (or she) is mine."

However, I know that the person is already laying at the feet of Jesus. So I reply, "You are wrong; Jesus, the Son of God, has cleansed him from all sin with His blood. He isn't yours." The authority of the name of Jesus will prevent that demon from exhibiting his demonic authority.

How to Minister Deliverance to Unbelievers

The apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, pointed out the importance of the name of Jesus:

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

—PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

If there would be any other name in which we could minister, Jesus Himself would have said so. We should avoid using our own formulas. Let us rather remain faithful to the formula God gave us. In the person of Jesus Christ, God gave us authority over rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph. 6:12). If we minister in His name, nothing will harm us.

Don't use methods foreign to the Word of God. We need to return to the simplicity of what Jesus said. If we stand in front of the demons and tell them to leave in the name of Jesus, they will. I believe that it is unbiblical to minister in any other name but the name of Jesus.

CONSTANT DEPENDENCE ON THE LORD

When we minister deliverance, we face very serious problems; therefore, we need to depend on the Lord

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in prayer. As we keep ourselves connected to Him, He patiently and powerfully works *in us* and *through us*. He does the work!

Our adversary is very clever. But the Holy Spirit is on our side: "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

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Four Steps to Knowing If a Person Needs Deliverance

Through long experience in this ministry of deliverance all over the world for many years, I have developed ten steps as a helping guide for deliverance ministry. I believe they are consistent, simple and effective.

The first four steps refer to situations

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in which people manifest during a time of prayer. If people come and tell us that they are suffering oppression at the hands of the enemy and express the desire to be set free, those four initial steps are unnecessary, because it will be evident that the individuals are already aware of the problem.

In this chapter we will take a look at these first four steps. The following chapter will deal with the steps of presenting the plan of salvation to the people to whom we minister deliverance and with discovering what areas of bondage each person has as a consequence of sin. In chapter eleven we will discuss four steps that must be completed to bring each person to a point of total deliverance and freedom in Christ.

When people are not yet believers, the first thing that we have to do is introduce them to the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must always remember that standing right before us is a soul that is suffering and needs Christ. It is the person who will make the decision to accept the ministry of deliverance. God does not deal with people without their participation.

It is a terrible mistake to treat people mercilessly by frightening them and screaming at the demons that are holding them prisoners. We are not ministering to demons—we are ministering to people who are precious to Christ.

During the time of ministry, we have to be respectful, prudent and chaste. If we hurt those to whom we are ministering, they will close their hearts and leave. We

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must minister with love and respect. It is important for us to remember to express the kind of love that is described in 1 Corinthians 13.

In the following pages we will take a look at these first four important steps to an effective deliverance ministry.

1 STEP

Make Sure That the Person Is Manifesting

There are three different types of evil manifestations in people. Analyzing each one of them will help us to determine the level of manifestation of the person to whom we are ministering.

OPRESSED ✓

We believe that people are oppressed when the devil exerts an externally strong pressure to get them to open their hearts so he can come in. The demon is not inside yet, but he is oppressing the person from the outside in order to enter.

For example: If the devil oppresses someone with fearful thoughts, and that person allows fear to control

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his or her life, Satan has achieved his objective.

The oppression works through temptations and persecutions. In many cases the demon uses this type of oppression to exert pressure on Christians and thus get them to go back to their old sinful lifestyles. This is the reason why the Bible tells us, "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

TORMENTED

This is the next step after oppression. In this stage, the person has already opened the door to the devil, and he has come into his life. From that moment on, the devil is working from the inside.

The tormented person is not necessarily demonized. The manifestation is partial and not complete. The devil has taken only one area of the person under satanic influence.

POSSESSED OR DEMONIZED

The person that is possessed or demonized has lost complete control of his or her life. The devil leads the person's actions. The person is not conscious of his or her actions and doesn't remember what happened. The possession is such that the person can't remember what he or she has just done.

The devil has taken the person in the three dimensions of the body, soul and spirit. He comes in through the mind, which he later obstructs. Then he takes hold

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of the body. Finally he quenches the spirit. But God who is just can give the person a moment of awareness and opportunity.

If such a case manifests, we have to complete each one of the initial steps that we will describe below. The person has to have the opportunity to renounce all demonic possession.

Such was the case of the demon-possessed Gerasene, according to the story found in Mark 5:1-20.

When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

—MARK 5:2-5

The demon-possessed have an antisocial and violent behavior. They don't see or hear what you may be telling them. Only the mercy and love of God can set these people free.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WHEN FACING A MANIFESTATION?

We have to find out the level of awareness that the

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① POSSESSION = EVIL SPIRIT IS IN CONTROL OF THEIR FREE WILL

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① How POSSESSED ARE THEY

person in need of deliverance has. The demonic manifestation doesn't necessarily imply that the person has lost awareness and self-will. So it is important to determine what is the degree of manifestation.

There are two possible situations that can emerge when facing deliverance.

The first possibility is that the person who has come closer to God in church or in a meeting will start to experience internal sensations of oppression both in the chest and in the throat. Then the person declares that certain areas in his or her life need to be set free. In that case, we have to understand that the person is conscious, and we must be careful with our choice of words during the prayer time so that the individual may be free and not afraid.

Those who haven't had any contact with the spiritual world don't understand the truth that we know about demonic bondage. So you will have to carefully and lovingly explain the situation and offer the person the possibility to be set free from all ties.

The second possibility is that individuals will start manifesting the moment they receive prayer. The situation will be identified through observing several signs that will be described below. These people need to be taken to an isolated place, away from people's curiosity.

It is extremely important to discern through the Holy Spirit the degree of awareness such people have. It is our first contact with them, and they are extremely scared because of all that is happening inside. There

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is a force handling and dominating the body, turning it uncontrollable. Consequently, we have to help them not to feel attacked but handled with love.

What is our true desire? That people may be set free from the hands of Satan while accepting Christ as Lord and Savior. If these are our reasons for wanting to help, our love will contain them and help them to take the necessary steps toward their liberation.

If we don't act that way, people will experience extreme fear. As a result, we will be filling them with anxiety instead of leading them to freedom.

During these types of manifestations we may find that:

- People don't remember anything. They are blocked, clouded and the unclean spirit is manifesting. The person is not participating in this first process of deliverance ministry. Later we can help them to regain control of themselves so that they may be the ones making the decisions. When they come back to their senses, they frequently ask, "Where am I? What has happened to me?"

- Others are totally conscious, but the spirit that is in control of their will doesn't allow them to act on their own. In this step, even though it may seem easy, it is very important and necessary to be sure of the degree of manifestation in the person before binding the unclean spirit.

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There are times when we will not find out the person's degree of consciousness until we take authority over the spirit that is in control. At that point, the person will show some understanding of what we are saying.

We have to be extremely cautious in our dealings with these people. We have to be careful not to rebuke the demon right away, since in most cases these people are conscious, and they feel tortured by the way the demon is treating them. We should show them compassionate love and respect.

MANIFESTATION SIGNS

These are some of the signs that evidence demonic manifestations:

- Loss of control of their movements
- Disfigured face
- Sudden movements
- Hostile look (difficulty in opening the eyes)
- A glassy look
- Oppression in the chest and other parts of the body
- Blockage
- Nervous and sarcastic laughter

At times, these signs will not be directly related to the degree of consciousness of the person. We have to depend continually on the Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance to avoid mistakes.

There are people who manifest and consequently

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withdraw. Their eyes are closed, and they appear to be unconscious, like someone who has had a blackout. This usually happens to those who are fearful. They seem to be unconscious and destroyed. If we begin to rebuke the demons, they continue to run away from the situation by remaining in that particular state.

Those who have to minister to such cases come to me and say, "Pastor, I have been rebuking and binding demons for an hour, and nothing is happening. The person is not delivered." When this happens, it is evident that the person is conscious, even though it doesn't appear to be so. He doesn't want to return to reality when we ask him to do so. My specific advice is that they need to start telling these people, "Jesus loves you."

One believer, while ministering deliverance to a young woman, put my advice into practice. A few minutes later, she returned, saying, "Nothing is happening. She is not free." I approached the young girl and told the believer who was praying with her to repeat once again that Jesus loved her, but to do it lovingly this time. The girl was not an inanimate object but a person, and she had to be addressed as such.

Quietly, I sat by the girl and started to tell her, "Jesus really loves you. There are no coincidences with God. You are here because there is a purpose for your life. God wants to heal you and deliver you from your present circumstances. Do you have a spiritual problem? We are willing to help you. Don't hide. That is not going to help you solve the problem. God really

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wants to work in your life. Trust in Him. Open your eyes." She finally opened her eyes and was free.

People understand what is going on. But they don't want to face reality, so they hide and withdraw. Therefore, the fact that people may be manifesting doesn't mean that they are not conscious. They can understand everything we are saying, even though they can't speak.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Do not start rebuking and casting out demons every time there is a physical manifestation. If the person is conscious, there can be a significant emotional shock. The fear caused by our actions will be added to the person's actual problem. Instead of setting the individual free from bondage, we will bind him even more by making him afraid.

Some Spanish friends and I went to minister to a gypsy who had manifested during prayer. She had not received deliverance ministry in the correct way and had ended up in a psychiatric hospital. That woman was conscious, but she couldn't control her body because of the demon's manifestations. She had been able to understand all the words of rebuke of those who had tried to minister to her. However, the fear of their words had caused an emotional imbalance in her. When she was ministered to with love, she was set free.

In Japan I prayed for a young woman who was bound by chains of hate. In addition, she was filled

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with fear due to the incorrect ministry she had received in a previous ministry. This bondage of fear had damaged the girl as much as the bondage of hate.

During an evangelistic crusade, a team of three people was ministering to a girl in the tent of deliverance. One of the team members had grabbed the girl by her waist, another by the arm and the third one, who was the one in authority, had placed her hand on her head and was rebuking her by saying, "Demon, you are bound. I am binding you."

The girl was fully aware of what was going on and wanted to run away from that crazy scene. As I walked into the tent and realized what was happening, I saw the fear in the girl's open eyes. I asked the people to let her go. She ran toward me, crying, and hugged me. Had I not intervened, that girl might have had a nervous breakdown.

The three women were rebuking demons in a conscious person who didn't have the slightest idea of what a demonic manifestation was. I later explained to her that these sisters didn't mean to hurt her, but were trying to help her. "Don't be afraid," I said. "They didn't realize that you were fully aware of what was going on."

I have to admit that it is very difficult at times not to react in a forceful way when we confront demons that are trying to outsmart us. It isn't easy to disconnect the person's spiritual area, which is the place where the demon is acting. We have to reject the tendency to see demons in places they are not.

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FIND THE DEMONIC SPIRIT
IS THE FOCUS OF HIS MINISTRY

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One time I ministered to a girl who was suffering with very strong headaches. She was totally conscious. Those who had ministered to her before told me, "No matter how much we pray, the headaches won't go." I came close to her and touched her forehead. My hand felt like it was burning. She was burning with fever. So I asked her, "What did you do?"

She immediately started to cry and answered, "I induced my own abortion." I called an ambulance right away to take her to the hospital. She had a terrible infection caused by the abortion she had performed on herself. That night her life was saved.

The same thing happens to persons with heart conditions who start manifesting. We ought to be very careful, because all the turmoil around them could affect those persons physically, and we could be endangering their health.

STEP 2

Take Authority in the Name of Jesus and Bind the Spirit

What are the words we need to use to bind spirits? Once the person who has been manifesting is in a safe

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and isolated place, and the degree of demonic manifestation has been determined, then I take authority over the demonic spirits and make them submit to the name of Jesus.

After a careful study of the Word of God, I believe that the most adequate phrase to deal with demonic spirits is, "You have to submit in the name of Jesus."

The concept of binding demonic spirits is the focus of our deliverance ministry. But often the words we use will determine our success. If the persons with whom we are dealing are totally withdrawn, they will not understand words like, "Demon, I bind you!" or "Submit, you unclean spirit!" If the individuals are conscious, thus understanding what we say, they will be afraid of these kinds of words.

Consequently, I recommend saying, "You have to submit in the name of Jesus." This is a specific and adequate expression.

Don't rebuke the devil! The command to submit in the name of Jesus is much more effective than any other expression referring to the authority over demons. This statement covers all areas—not just the spiritual.

When Jesus sent the seventy-two to preach, they came back and joyfully told Him their experience, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name" (Luke 10:17).

I like this expression very much, and I believe that it teaches us a lot!

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① BIND THE DEMON BEFORE MINISTERING TO THE PERSON

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② PABLO STOPS THE MANIFESTATION

The passage in the Gospel adds that Jesus, after saying that "he had seen Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (v. 18), rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children" (v. 21). Likewise, the Lord told us, "In my name they will drive out demons" (Mark 16:17).

It is necessary to bind the demon before ministering to the person. Once the command has been given, we have to believe that the person is under the authority of Jesus Christ.

I consider the expression "You have to submit in the name of Jesus" to be the most convenient. If the person is aware of what is going on, he or she will believe that we are saying, "Remain still." As a result, the person will help the process by remaining quiet.

In this case, the person will be all right and will not be offended. But if we say, "Unclean spirit, you are bound," the individual will probably get scared.

WHY DOES THE DEMON NEED TO SUBMIT?

When the spirit is bound, we know he is under Jesus' authority. If the unclean spirit is not bound, he will try to continue doing what he wants to do, violently manifesting through the individual. But if we use the authority we have received from Jesus Christ, the demon has to respond to our word and submit.

(COMMAND) THEM TO SUBMIT

Four Steps to Knowing If a Person Needs Deliverance

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE NEEDED TO BIND THE DEMONS?

If a team is ministering, just one person should take authority over the demon. The rest need to support him in prayer. I have seen cases where everybody, including the pastor and the ushers, would leap on the person manifesting, all shouting and rebuking at the same time. They seemed to be trying to demonstrate that the one who shouted the loudest would be the one with most authority. It isn't that way. The authority is not our own, but it is bestowed on us. We don't minister in our own name, but in the name of Jesus.

When one person takes authority, the rest support him in prayer and don't rebuke the demon. The prayer that delegates the authority to one person in the group could be the following: "Lord, give authority to [the name of the person who will minister]. Give him discernment of spirits, hold him up, strengthen him, open his spiritual eyes, support him."

Everything has to be done in order. If the person in charge is tired or for some other reason can't continue, he invites someone in the team to continue by delegating to the other person the authority that had been bestowed on him. This individual will replace him as the authority.

The Bible doesn't tell us to stir up the demons, but to command them to submit in the name of Jesus. Thus, we have to learn to bind them.

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A If we don't do what we are supposed to do, the demon will continue manifesting. In some cases he could be saying this, "Make up your mind first, and then I will go."

HOW CAN WE PREVENT PHYSICAL HARM TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE MANIFESTING?

Once the person in authority has bound the spirit, he needs to tell the spirit that in the name of Jesus he cannot hurt anyone. Very often the demons, when commanded to let go of the people they have possessed, will try to afflict them with physical discomforts such as choking, pressure or palpitations.

No demon can disobey when we command him to submit in the name of Jesus. Some are more difficult than others, since some are "foot soldiers," while others possess a higher rank and try to oppose us more fiercely.

When a person is filled with hatred, the demon may put up a strong opposition. Hatred manifests with violence and vengeance. In this situation the physical often gets mixed up with the spiritual.

Some years ago a man who had the characteristics I just described grabbed me by the arm with such force that he bruised me. Then he fell unconscious to the ground. Patiently and lovingly, I started to talk to him until I bound the demons. I commanded them not to move. At that moment, I heard the demon tell the man, "Don't listen to him. He is a liar."

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I continued, gently talking to him and saying, "Jesus loves you. He has a purpose for your life. That is why He brought you here. Just tell Him, 'Jesus, help me.'" Whenever the demon talked to me, I would say, "I'm not talking to you. I am talking to him."

When the man was finally able to pronounce the words I had told him to say, his eyes filled with tears. The demon that had so violently invaded his life had to leave when he broke down, and he was able to forgive his father. Then he reconciled with God, was set free from adultery and alcoholism and was healed from asthma. As an end to this deliverance, his life was sealed with the gift of speaking in tongues. His deliverance was complete. We had to fight, but it was worth it!

3 STEPS

Bring to Consciousness

Once we go through the previous steps, the demon is bound, and the person is quiet. Only now are we supposed to invite people to wake up or to take dominion and control over their bodies. Whenever

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① THE PERSON HAS TO MAKE DECISIONS AND REPUNCE

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the Lord deals with someone, He will do it when the person is completely conscious. It is very different with the devil. He will try to take over people's will and do whatever he wants to do with them, transforming them into puppets.

HELPING PEOPLE TO TAKE CONTROL OVER THEIR BODIES AND MINDS

When people manifest, it indicates they have problems. So we minister to them and offer them help. But how do we assist people spiritually who have no awareness? They have to make decisions and choose to renounce and be free. This is only possible when the demons submit and stop influencing the person's life.

These are, for example, the words that we could say: "So and so, in the name of Jesus, take control over your mind and body. Come back now; open your eyes." If the name of the person is unknown to you, I recommend saying, "Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, take control and dominion over your mind and body. Come back now. Open your eyes."

These are words to be used in cases when the persons are not conscious. If people are conscious and seeing all that is going on around them, it isn't necessary to talk to them that way. We can simply say, "All right, now we need to talk about a few things."

It is extremely important for people to be conscious so that they can talk and make their own decisions. God gave man freedom and responsibility for accepting

① Find the legal rights HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN TALKING TO THE DEMON

② LET THE DEMON TALK WHOOPS... MIGHT GET INFO LIKE WHICH DEMON & WHY ITS THERE!

People under an evil spirit's authority are not conscious of their actions, and what they say has no value at all. We are interested in talking with the person. We don't want to start struggling against the demons. What we are looking for is the reason why those demons have permission to be inside the person.

Don't be afraid if the demon says that you don't have any authority when you are trying to bring the person around. If this happens to me, I say, "I will deal with you later; right now you must submit in the name of Jesus."

I always deal with the person first. I help people by saying, "Don't be afraid; Jesus loves you, and He will help you. Just simply cry out to Him." You may think that the persons are not receiving your words, but they are. The demon will try to talk to you about anything, so either let him talk or tell him to be quiet. In the meantime, talk to the person and explain to him that there is power and authority in Jesus Christ.

One thing I usually do when people have trouble taking authority over themselves is to tell them, "Take control over your body now." If they can't, we have to say, "It is written, 'Call to me and I will answer you.' The call doesn't necessarily have to be with the mouth. God is omniscient, so we can call Him with our hearts and with our minds." When people call to the Lord and say, "My God, help me," even in their thoughts, God's strength will come. The same will occur when people

① must say of want to be free

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say "Jesus." No demon can resist that name.

In severe cases, the demon blocks the person's mind to prevent him from taking control over himself. When I see that situation coming, I tell the person to repeat after me, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus." The moment they say that name, the blockage is removed. It is a wonderful word, a demonstration of God's faithfulness and authority. The scripture is then fulfilled that says, "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name" (Phil. 2:9).

EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENED

When people open their eyes, explain what has happened by saying, "You have a spiritual problem, and we want to help you." We can't upset them by saying, "You are demonized." Never forget that we are dealing with human lives, and we shouldn't add any burdens. On the contrary, we have to help remove their burdens. God respects us, and we have to respect the people to whom we are ministering deliverance.

If you have a large spider web in a corner, it must be swept away. But unless you destroy the spider, the web will return every day. But the moment you kill the spider, the spider web will disappear.

The same happens in the area of deliverance. We look at the symptoms and start rebuking demons. That is a mistake. We must first seek the cooperation of the person involved, bring that person to consciousness and then continue with the next steps.

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4 STEPS

Ask People If They Want to Be Free

"Do you want to be free?" The question may seem obvious, but people don't always want to be delivered. As we have said before, it depends on the person's free will. We can't break the authority people have over themselves. No deliverance is possible unless the person consciously says, "Yes, I want to be free." When people want to get rid of all that has to do with the devil, they need to run to Jesus. Unless a person is willing to surrender to the Lord, God will not unleash His power over that person's life.

IF THE ANSWER IS NEGATIVE . . .

If the person does not want to be free, the best thing to do is to pray for him and let him go. We have to respect the decision and remember that we all have a free will. We can't force anyone to be free. We all have to make our own decisions, especially the spiritual ones, since "each one of us will give an account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:21). God deals with us on a personal basis.

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IF THE ANSWER IS AFFIRMATIVE . . .

If the person wants to be free, then we can start ministering deliverance to him. We should carefully explain what has happened and confirm that he needs to be set free. We must confront the individual with the reality in which he is living.

By following these first four steps to an effective deliverance ministry, we will be at a point where we can begin the actual process of deliverance—thus fulfilling God's Great Commission to "in my name . . . drive out demons" (Mark 16:17). Those people to whom we are ministering deliverance will be on their way to freedom in Christ!

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There is no salvation or deliverance without Christ. For a deliverance to be effective, the presence of Christ in the person's life is essential. It is important to understand that the person has had spiritual ties and has been under the devil's control until now. John 8:34 tells us, "Everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

FREE IN CHRIST

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

—ROMANS 6:16

The only possible way to free ourselves from the devil's control is by submitting to Jesus' authority:

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

—JOHN 8:36

5 STEP S

Present the Plan of Salvation

Unless we accept Christ as Lord and Savior, we will not be free from Satan's yoke. We cannot drive demons out without giving a place to Christ first. It is impossible to minister deliverance to people who haven't expressed their desire to submit to the lordship of Jesus Christ. We can rebuke and cast out demons, but the deliverance will not be effective or long lasting since the person is

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not protected by the presence of the Lord. The psalmist declared:

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

—PSALM 91:1

If the Lord is present in our lives, the enemy cannot do anything to us. But it is essential to allow God to exercise authority in all areas of our lives.

We cannot free something that has not been surrendered. It is important to remember that the Word of God teaches us that we don't have any authority to force others to accept Christ. No one can accept Christ under pressure. It must be by their own volition.

In deliverance ministry, there is a tendency to cast out demons so that Christ can enter. People affirm that we have to clean the house first and then invite the Lord to come in.

I personally believe that this is not a valid method. No one can fight against a kingdom without first deciding not to belong to it anymore. If we want to be free from the world of darkness, we have to come to the light. We can't remain under the authority of the prince of darkness and pretend to walk in the light. The Lord is the supreme authority, and we have to choose to submit to Him. The most positive action in the process of deliverance is the choice to surrender to Christ.

① DOB WALKING ON 2 LEGS

FREE IN CHRIST

"I WANT TO BE FREE, BUT . . ."

Those who express a desire to be set free but don't want to abandon their old practices cannot receive deliverance.

The Word of God states that without the Son of God in our lives, there is no real freedom (John 8:36). It is thus impossible to minister deliverance to people who have expressed a desire to be free but neither accept Christ nor abandon all idolatry.

One day an entire family of three generations came to see me—grandparents, parents and children. They had problems with a dog that, walking on two legs, knocked at their door every night. It seemed that this animal became a man in the early hours of the morning. They were really scared and told me that they wanted to be free from the fear. Because they were all conscious, I omitted the first four steps to deliverance and ministered to them.

I explained that the first thing that they needed to do was to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, allowing Him to have control over their lives.

"No! No!" they responded. "We don't want to change our religion!"

When I told them that this wasn't a matter of changing religion but of accepting Christ because there is no deliverance without Him, they denied again, "We belong to the Universal Church, and we do not want to change."

"All right," I replied, "then stay with your religion and

① Hook for legal rights

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remain in bondage. Unfortunately you cannot be free without Jesus Christ. He is the one who sets us free."

When we are assured that the people to whom we are ministering deliverance have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, we can move to the next step.

9 STEPS

Discover the Areas of Bondage As a Consequence of Sin

After accepting Jesus Christ with all their hearts, people have to be ready to remove all that prevents the absolute work of the Holy Spirit. We, therefore, will start to inquire about areas in the person's life that may still be in bondage.

When we speak about ties, we refer to the consequences of sin. Disobeying God brings consequences that go beyond our imagination. That is the reason why it is so important to explore the areas of the body, soul and spirit to find out what bonds are producing those consequences.

The inquiry has to be pastoral. We have to encourage people to open their hearts completely, while assuring

HOW MANY PEOPLE NEVER GOT THEIR DELIVERANCE BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT FREE IN CHRIST REMEMBER WHAT THE DEMON CAUSED THEM TO FORGET

them that we are caring ministers and not judges. People need to understand that nothing they share will scare us away. In one way or another, we all have a sinful past that is now in the hands of the Lord. We know for sure that when we confess our sins to God, He forgives us and gives us new life. Thus, the inquiry should not sound like a police investigation. We should not start by saying, "All right now, confess what you have done."

LOVE PEOPLE—DON'T JUDGE THEM

People have to know that our interrogation about aspects of their lives is to give them an opportunity to express what is hidden. Only then will they be able to enjoy the fullness that is found in Christ. We are not going to question their behavior; that is not our intention at all.

If people sense our understanding, they will bring things to the surface and declare what was hidden even in the deepest part of their being.

If the person decides to hide something from us, the deliverance will be incomplete. We cannot have closed doors before the Lord. When we are in His presence, asking Him to cleanse us, nothing can remain hidden from Him. If there is an authentic desire to present everything before Him, the Holy Spirit will act by helping the person to remember what has been long forgotten. The Lord looks at the disposition of our hearts. Deliverance is the consequence of a willing heart.

When all doors have been closed to Satan, the

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person will be totally delivered. We have to minister depending on the Holy Spirit, who will help to close all those doors forever.

The more at ease people feel the better. It is always best to minister deliverance to people of the same sex.

It will be important to understand the areas where Satan may have control. Let's take a look at each of the areas we will explore.

ILLCIT SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS

The most common ties in the area of the boy generally have to do with illicit sexual relationships. All sexual contact unites two people into one flesh:

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

—GENESIS 2:24

Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."

—1 CORINTHIANS 6:16

Do not have sexual relations with your neighbor's wife and defile yourself with her.

—LEVITICUS 18:20

Consequently, when two people become one flesh, one can contract physical illnesses as well as spiritual

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RENOUNCE THE SOUL TIE WITH
EACH PAST SEXUAL PARTNER
FREE IN CHRIST

problems from the other person. Among these relations are ties, vows and embodiments. If one of the people involved in the relationship practiced witchcraft or sorcery or was a psychic, the moment the two become one flesh the demons that had authority over one life can control the other as well.

When Christ is our Lord and Savior, He forgives the sins of fornication and adultery. What remain are the consequences of those sins. Those who have been involved in illicit sexual relations have to renounce specifically all those with whom they shared their bodies—with whom they have been one flesh. If that unity is not broken, specifically renouncing each union in the name of Jesus, the illicit sexual partner can bring harm to them by causing spiritual problems.

ABORTIONS

Many believe that the just-created baby is not a human being. Yet the Word of God teaches us that He knew us even before He had created us in our mother's womb. He chose us when we were conceived and not when we were born.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart; I appointed
you as a prophet to the nations.

—JEREMIAH 1:5

Thousands of women suffer because of the memories

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of their abortions. It isn't easy to admit or talk about this topic since many judge instead of offering help. These women carry the weight of the guilt of having killed their child for the rest of their lives.

Abortion is one of the great losses in life. It is an evil trap—one for which there is no external evidence of the baby's existence.

After having an abortion, women experience many different emotions, including anger, humiliation, judgment and guilt. Abortion brings bondage. In the first place, because it's murder, and then because of the guilt that it brings to the mother. If the father of the aborted child has been a part of this act, he must also receive the ministry of deliverance.

The woman who had an abortion needs to forgive those she blames for having been a part of the abortion and who forced her to do it. But she also has to forgive herself. If God in His infinite love forgave her when she repented, how can she not forgive herself?

The remaining areas we will discuss in this chapter have to do with soul ties. The emotions and the will are under the demonic oppression of Satan in soul ties. Many of them are rooted in hate and fear.

HATE

Hate is one of the most resistant spirits. It gives way to resentment, anger, envy, pride, violence, desire for vengeance and curses. It produces roots of bitterness and lack of forgiveness. It frequently leads to a nervous

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breakdown. Those who don't forgive cannot be forgiven.

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

—MATTHEW 6:14-15

Jesus used the parable of the two debtors to teach us that those who don't forgive cannot be forgiven. Hatred is a bond that produces roots of bitterness. It becomes firmly grounded in us through the years until it finally begins showing up in our daily attitudes.

If the hate has been caused by someone's rejection, we have to remember the exact circumstance so that we can be set free. We also remember the person who hurt us and declare these words, "In the name of Jesus, I forgive [name of the person] for [details of the rejection]."

Be very specific with the details of the event. Confess the tie as it was done. As we break what caused the problem, the consequences will disappear.

During a meeting, a Christian woman manifested demons. When she came back to her senses, she said that she had already renounced occult practices in which she had been involved a long time ago. She also declared that she had forgiven her ex-husband, who had terribly abused her with severe beatings. But evidently she wasn't free in spite of her renouncing

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divination and resentment. Finally, led by the Holy Spirit, our eternal Helper, I had the right question, "Have you ever bound your husband with bonds of death because you hated him so much?"

"Yes," she immediately responded, "but no one had asked me that before."

She had renounced the hate she experienced against her ex-husband, and she seemed to be free. However, she was still bound to the warlock who had tied her husband with bonds of death.

When this woman, who was a believer, understood the real situation, she renounced the hate, but she also loosed her ex-husband from the curse of death. Then through a prayer I broke that bondage in the name of Jesus. As a result of the prayer, the ex-husband was delivered from the curse. Finally the entry point through which the demons had continually oppressed the woman was closed. She was finally set free.

This is why we say that hate is one of the strongest ties in peoples' lives. It later brings a strong desire for revenge. At the end, people have to renounce many more things than before. Hate is the basis for other situations that grow out of it. If we attack the root of the problem, the cause behind all the frustration, the person will be free.

FEAR

Fear produces all kinds of ties. They are commonly

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known as traumas, fixations, obsessions and complexes. Many times they manifest as convulsions, fears, doubts, insecurities and phobias.

People suffer a great deal when they are deeply afraid. Some submit to spiritual forces of evil due to their fears. For that reason it is necessary to renounce fear in a prayer of renunciation.

Some parents bind their children to fear by the words they use with them. Some say, "Promise that you will never leave me." That is a tie that binds the child to the parent under oath forever. At times we may have bound our children spiritually because of ignorance. Or we bound our children with our fears instead of teaching them to take care of themselves. Whenever we say, "Please, don't come back home late, and don't walk through that area in the park; someone may attack and rape you," we may be opening a door to the enemy with our own words. Our words should be, "Go with my blessing; I am trusting that God is with you."

Learn to communicate trust—not fear. Teach your children the value of trust and how it can be built. We should teach our children to stay away from strangers. But when they ask why, tell them that it isn't wise to trust those whom we don't know. We will instill fear in them if we say, "Be careful, because this or that can happen to you."

When we raise our children with fear, they will always be afraid to make their own decisions. They will always be insecure. People with insecurities caused by

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fears instilled in their childhood may not be able to open their mouths at work, may be unable to discuss normal problems with others, may swallow their bitterness and live in anxiety. Almost everything related to deliverance starts early in life. When we minister to people with fears and explore where the fears are coming from, almost all have begun in their childhood.

PAST FEARS

Often when we finished ministering in the deliverance tent, one of the teams that was working in the tent would bring a person who had received ministry to the registration table where he would write down his personal information, as well as that of the counselor. The deliverance would then be proved through prayer. If the person wasn't totally free, the ministry had to continue.

One night, we were praying for a young man who fell to the ground and started to speak in tongues. His legs were unceasingly moving. I was talking to a pastor, but when I saw the young man on the floor, I commented, "This man has experienced a great fear and needs to be delivered."

"How do you know?" asked the pastor who was talking with me.

"By the movements of his legs," I replied.

"But he has been touched by the Holy Spirit," declared the pastor.

"I believe that he has a lot of fear," I stated once again.

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specifically no Nounce fear and the circumstances of when it entered

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2) No Permission to be afraid

We waited a few minutes for him to recover, and then I approached him and asked, "Have you had a great fear in your life?"

"No," he responded, a bit surprised.

"I believe it is a fear caused by a certain situation that caused you to run a lot. Anyway, think about it," I said. "If you remember, just let me know."

I continued my conversation with the pastor, and after a few minutes the young man came back and said, "Pastor, I remember now what happened. One day many years ago, I went hunting with some of my friends. We walked into a private field that was off limits, but we didn't know it. When the owners of the place saw us, they started to run after us, shooting at us. They were riding on horseback while we were on foot. We had to run away and dive into a lagoon to hide. We were desperately treading through reeds. It felt as if we couldn't advance."

When he finished the story, I helped him to renounce the fear of death. I broke that yoke and cast that spirit out. There was no demonic manifestation. Then I prayed for him, he fell to the ground and prayed in tongues, but his legs were quiet—he had been set free from that fear. Glory to God!

As believers we have no permission to be afraid:

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

—2 TIMOTHY 1:7

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Fear is an open door for demons. Satan makes us afraid in order to afflict us. Then he has no difficulty entering into our lives.

It is important to discover our fears—for example, childhood fears that show up in our adulthood, fears of darkness, water, storms, closed places and others. It is necessary to find out where those fears that bind us come from.

The Christian who is submitted to God is not afraid. When we remain in the center of His will we have no fear. Yielded to God, we have the authority to stand firm before the enemy and say, "In the name of Jesus, get out." Satan cannot touch those who are submitted to God and who obey Him in all things.

LACK OF FORGIVENESS

There are emotional problems produced by fear that are very evident. I have ministered to people who have experienced situations of intense fear or who have witnessed violent events. Great emotional shocks leave unexpected and irresistible consequences behind.

In Italy, I ministered to a man who had problems in his marriage. His mother brought him to be delivered. She affirmed that he had had problems since he was twelve years old. He accepted ministry in private, and when I asked him what had happened when he was twelve, he lowered his head. Then he said, "Pastor, I'm going to tell you something I've never told anyone before."

"What happened?" I asked.

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"One day when I was twelve years old, I came back home early from school because one of the teachers was absent. When I came into my house, I found my mother in bed with another man. From that moment on, fear and anxiety controlled my life."

He confessed that since that time he had been experiencing convulsions and problems.

I spoke with him for a very long time and explained something to him that children who judge their parents need to understand. The Bible doesn't say, "Judge your father and your mother." Rather it says, "Honor your father and your mother" (Exod. 20:12; Eph. 6:2). This commandment doesn't say to honor our father or mother if they are good. We have to honor them without judging them. We don't have an option. If our father is bad, we still have to honor him and not judge him. The same is true with our mother. God demands that from us.

The young man understood what I was saying, and so I led him to pray, "Lord, I ask You to forgive me for having judged my mother." Then I prayed for him. Later, he reconciled to his wife, and as far as I know, he didn't have problems anymore. The fear of unfaithfulness was gone.

REJECTION AND RESENTMENTS

It is quite common to find women who have problems of intimacy with their husbands due to some unfortunate sexual experience they've had in the past. If they don't receive adequate ministry, they

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may end up looking for a divorce.

The same thing happens to some men. They have had problems in their childhood, adolescence or early adulthood that have generated fear, resentment and rejection toward their mothers. Those same feelings are projected toward their wives and end up in disaster. So as a result, these marriages fail.

In each one of these cases we need to investigate the reason behind the hate or the fear that led the person to a bad situation. If the door is still open to the enemy, the person will not be able to be set free.

REFLECTIONS OF PAIN

Some years ago, I ministered to a group of transvestites. One of them had started hating his father in his early childhood. That feeling affected his life to the point of transforming him into a woman inside a man's body. That was his revenge!

His hate led him to a warlock to whom he surrendered his freedom. That young man will be bound as long as he is under the warlock's authority or the authority of any other satanic priest.

Another young man worked as a prostitute in a nightclub. He had made satanic vows with the "night lady," known in the umbanda cult as the "Pomba Gira." It is the demon of prostitution. He had started this activity because of hate. In ministering to him, we couldn't just rebuke that feeling, but we had to find out the agreements and vows to which that hatred had led him.

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We took authority over each and rebuked each one individually. If he had left the door open, the enemy would have come back to oppress him.

When we minister deliverance, we have to pay attention to the details that define every specific situation. Of course, it is much easier when we understand what caused the vows.

CONTACT WITH THE OCCULT DUE TO IGNORANCE

I know that in many churches, because of a lack of teaching, some Christians submit themselves to witch doctors and sorcerers. The reason for this is ignorance. I will never forget a situation inside my own family.

I had an uncle and an aunt who lived in Argentina. They were Christians and loved the Lord. My aunt, although she was a godly woman, had all types of dis-eases. Because of these, my uncle used to take her to witch doctors, looking for healing. His reasoning was, "If she gets well, it is from God." Who was to blame for his ignorant actions? Was it his own fault or the fault of those who were not teaching him the truth?

If I don't warn my child of the danger ahead, saying, "Careful, there is a hole over there," he will keep on walking and will fall into the hole. I am to be blamed because he didn't know about the hole—I could have warned him. Therefore, those with a higher degree of responsibility should warn others about possible dangers.

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① Things that produce TRES in the spiritual arena

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① Any kind of contact with the occult produces very serious ties in the spiritual arena. God doesn't allow men to enter into the secret things (Deut. 29:29).

Those who enter into the secret things do it through a different door, committing themselves, therefore, to the devil through the practice of reading horoscopes, palms, coffee dregs left in a cup, Tarot cards and even the strongest black magic—all these things belong to the occult. We are not allowed to enter into the spiritual world of darkness.

When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so.

—DEUTERONOMY 18:9-14

All consultation, be it through a horoscope or any

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other method designed to predict the future, leads to bondage. The person consulting will be bound to the person consulted.

Those who make predictions do it through divination. They are the devil's ministers or priests. Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

—2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-14

Everyone who has submitted to the counsel of a priest of the devil has yielded in authority to an unclean spirit operating under his prince's orders, no matter what commitment or vow has been made. These vows have to be renounced or broken, or they will remain.

OCCULT PRACTICES

Mental control is a common thing. Yet, we shouldn't think that it is a simple mental activity; it is much more than that—and so is transcendental meditation. They are spiritist activities, as are the many different cults of umbanda, quimbanda and macumba, as well as everything related to Hinduism, Eastern Mysticism and Buddhism. Other spiritist activities include martial arts, yoga and esoterics.

In many places it is common to hear people speaking to their dead relatives by simply invoking their name or

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talking to a photograph. You may have heard people saying things like, "Grandpa, help me; give me a hand since you are closer to God."

A pastor asked me to visit some relatives who had spiritual problems. When I talked to them, they told me what was happening to them. They were sensing a spiritual presence inside their house, and some objects were moving. I asked if they were invoking the spirit of a dead person. They said yes.

This family had experienced a tragedy. They had two girls and one boy. The boy had adenoids, which is tissue that grows in the back of the nose. When he was eleven years old, their doctor decided to perform surgery to remove the adenoids. He gave him an overdose of anesthesia, and as a result, the little boy died.

The father, mother and two sisters were heartbroken. Every morning when they got up, they said good morning to the little boy as if he were still alive. They sat a place for him at the table when they ate. They did this for many years.

When the mother died, they continued doing the same thing with her. I explained to them that the Bible tells us not to invoke or consult the dead. When they understood that truth and renounced that bond, they surrendered their lives completely. We prayed, and they were set free.

THE GAME OF THE CUP

This game is an invocation of powers. Through this

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images of dead people. Consequently, these people yield their lives to the authority of the dead and remain bound to that dedication. Talking to idols is the same as consulting the dead. God clearly forbids these types of consultations. (See Deuteronomy 18:10-12.) No matter how holy and good a person may have been, the moment this person went to be in the presence of the Lord, his or her ministry came to an end. We cannot invoke these people or try to communicate with them. If we have put something under the protection of an image or idol, we have to renounce that request.

All this, which belongs to the occult in its many forms, is an abomination in the eyes of God.

One time, a woman came to one of our meetings to receive ministry. Her life had been hell. She was ready to leave her husband and wanted to commit suicide. She was tormented, couldn't sleep or perform any activity. She studied in the university and wanted to be able to concentrate and study more. So she decided to practice mind control. She went through different levels of teaching. First she studied the Silva Method, one of the best known. Then she continued through different levels of study within this discipline.

At the beginning, her reason for doing it had been to be able to concentrate better and to have a clearer mind. Since that didn't seem sufficient for her anymore, she continued advancing, not only to acquire better concentration but also to be able to come out of her

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game, those that practice it yield to the spirit that was invoked and formed words with the movement of the cup.

One day a couple came to see me. They were both working at the church and in the school that belonged to our church. The young woman declared that she had spiritual problems. "I am a physical education professor, and I have serious problems. I sometimes get very angry at my husband."

As we talked, she commented that she had participated in the game of the cup at school, but she hadn't invoked anybody, and the cup hadn't moved. But that afternoon as she played something had happened. The young people gathered together said that the cup wasn't moving because there was too much light. Instantly the light went off—and they were so afraid that they all ran away. But that situation was enough to bind her. When I told her to renounce every invocation and fear, she violently manifested, but eventually she was free. Two things were binding her—the consultation at the game and also her fear.

We should never invoke spirits; otherwise, we will remain under the authority of the one we have invoked. We should never consult spirits or the dead, or we will yield to their authority. When we ask for advice, we are subject to the person who gives us counsel.

CONSECRATION THAT BRINGS BONDAGE

Many religious people have consecrated their lives to

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body and to begin seeing those she called her "many helpers." They were like little dwarfs. She would command them what to do. She could also leave her body and establish relationships at a distance. She would concentrate on a certain person and was able to establish spiritual ties with that individual.

That was her state of mind when she came to see me. She wanted to be free. I asked her to write down what she remembered so that she could renounce the invocations, ties, visitations, vows and requests for healing from those spiritual beings that she handled on a mental level.

It was so much stuff that we had to meet and pray for fifteen days. Every day, she would renounce deeper commitments with the demons. She also remembered the list of people whom she had tied, convinced that she was actually helping them. After each renunciation, I would take authority and break those commitments in the name of Jesus, and drive out the demons that were still controlling her.

She was eventually set free. Jesus became the true Lord of her life. Her marriage was restored, and she was physically and mentally healed. Today she enjoys God's blessing and prays for our ministry.

Many times, mind control starts with transcendental meditation or with the practice of yoga. It isn't just saying, "I have control over myself," or "I do it to be able to concentrate better." These practices really constitute open doors to the world of the occult, a path that God hasn't opened to man. We, as children of

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God, receive power through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

HYPNOTISM

Hypnotism is the authority of one person's will over another's will. I have ministered to people who had become committed to guerrilla groups. There were people readied under hypnosis, just as you see in the movies. Those people had submitted under the authority of hypnosis.

LORD OF THE WORLD

When there is spiritual authority over one area that is not God's authority, then it is of the devil—there is no other alternative. All commitments to the world of darkness produce the same results. They are submission to disciplines contrary to God's will. They all produce terrible bondage. If, even as a believer, a person hasn't specifically renounced all given authority, he or she will remain bound and submitted.

Man lost his dominion over the earth when Adam handed the authority over to Satan and, together with Eve, yielded to his advice. Instead of being lords and ruling, they submitted to someone else's government.

Satan took Jesus to a high place, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and said to Him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered,

NO FINANCES, THEN HAVE GIVEN AWAY
SOME AUTHORITY BY SUBMITTING TO CIVIL AUTHORITY

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It is written: "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only" (Luke 4:5-8). Jesus didn't respond to the invitation, but said, "Satan, you are lying."

Dominion over all the kingdoms of the earth was given to Satan through Adam, who had yielded to the enemy. In a much lower degree, we make the same kind of concessions and also yield. We submit to the devil, awarding him whole areas of our lives. Every time we submit to an authority different from that of our Lord, we close the door to Him. We often complain, saying, "I pray to the Lord, but He doesn't answer." How can He answer when His hands are tied in respect to that area of our life? He cannot intervene, because the Lord never takes something we haven't given to Him first. Satan does, because he is a thief, a murderer, a liar and a destroyer. But the Lord respects us. He created us in His image and likeness and gave us free will.

We are never forced to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. He says:

I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

—REVELATION 3:20

We cannot expect God to take something we haven't given to Him. He will never snatch anything from us; He respects us and waits patiently for us to give it to Him.

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Vows Before Born Again ①

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EPILEPSY

Situations where there are stressing fears, lived in the past or in the present, could cause bondage. A very strong fear can bind someone with convulsions.

Not only do hatred and fear limit people's ability to respond to God, they can also produce epileptic episodes. Fears, even simple ones, can be detected when someone prays. Some people fall to the ground, touched by the power of the Holy Spirit. They may move their arms and legs in a childish fashion. Often that may be evidence of childhood or adolescent fears.

We may think that the Holy Spirit is touching those people in a mighty way, and He is—but He is also revealing their problems.

When we minister to people with epilepsy, we need to be sure it isn't a neurological problem. I first ask people if they've received a medical diagnosis and when. If the source of the sickness is not physical (pathological), then I start to investigate. I ask the people when they started having convulsions. When they answer, I ask them exactly what was happening at that moment. There is where the story begins.

RENOUNCING OUR VOWS

When people accept the Lord, if they had previous debts or had signed an important financial agreement, those vows would still be in force. Who would accept the following answer, "Oh, I'm sorry, I have a new life

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1 DOES NOT ALWAYS MANIFEST

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now, so all my debts are now canceled."

The reply from their creditors probably would be, "You may have a new life, but you better pay what you owe me, or I will send you to jail."

In the spiritual arena, when we submit to a satanic priesthood, we are giving authority to Satan over our own life. We have to renounce, therefore, all that has bound us in the past.

In the case of people who are sick and have trouble reasoning, if the family wants them to receive ministry, we should follow the same steps that I have described here. First, ask the family to work with you and provide information. You need to know if those lives had been placed under the authority of a witch, a witch doctor or a sorcerer. It's common that when one area of our lives has been deeply taken over, just because we admit that this area could be a spiritual problem, praying for it will not necessarily make it manifest, unless the Lord brings clarity into the situation. But if it does manifest, we will proceed in the recommended way.

These soul ties keep us bound to Satan. Every time a door is opened to Satan, it remains unprotected. Therefore, we have to investigate every area where deliverance ministry is needed. Once we determine what caused the bondage—the open door to the devil's work—we can move into the next step.

In the next chapter we will look at the final four steps to an effective deliverance ministry. These four steps will round out our training in the ministry of deliverance.

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Four Final Steps to Freedom in Christ

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hen we know what caused the spiritual bondage, we are ready to take the person to whom we are ministering deliverance through four final steps that will cement that individual's victory—and bring that life into glorious freedom in Christ. Let's take a close look at these four important steps.

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STEP 7

Renounce the Ties That Caused the Oppression

Invite the person to repeat a prayer renouncing each specific situation that has been revealed as a cause of the oppression in that person's life. This prayer needs to be spoken aloud in the name of Jesus—not in a shouting manner, but in an audible voice.

As people renounce each vow, they will undo each step that has led them to seal an agreement with the enemy, whether physical, emotional or spiritual.

It is not sufficient to break a bond without specifying the situation, such as merely saying, "I renounce witchcraft." That is like shooting into the air without a specific target. People need our help to renounce things in the same way they were made. It isn't necessary, in the case of occult practices, to know the details beforehand. If we are ministering to people who have opened their hearts because the Holy Spirit is at work in them, they will bring all the issues that bind them up to the surface. As we gain more experience in ministry, and listen to

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the things people confess, we learn about the occult.

The Holy Spirit guides us to ask questions with love, care and respect. We don't have to go through every detail with the intention of helping the person remember. People will eventually bring all oppressing matters to the light.

All decisions have to be formulated aloud. Demons are not omniscient, and they cannot read our minds. They can introduce thoughts, but they don't know what we are thinking. The only one who knows our thoughts and weighs our hearts is God. Therefore the demons have to be able to hear people's decisions. The following paragraphs will give the specific expressions that I recommend for each listed area of oppression.

PHYSICAL BONDAGE

To break sexual ties I recommend this prayer:

In the name of Jesus, I renounce all sexual and spiritual bondage to [name of the person] and to the authority I have given him (or her) by submitting myself to him (or her) and offering him (or her) my body.

The renunciations have to be specific. We have to break the bondage in every sexual relationship of adultery and fornication, before or during marriage, mentioning one by one the names of the people with whom they have shared their bodies.

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If the name cannot be remembered, identify the circumstance by the place where it occurred. For example, "I renounce all bondage with . . . from such and such a place."

A prostitute should renounce the most relevant contacts she has had and present them in their entirety. God knows the intention of the heart.

In the case of abortions, I recommend this prayer:

I renounce all bondage to abortion. I ask forgiveness for having taken my child's life. Lord, I accept Your forgiveness, and I renounce all resentment and guilt against myself.

Since many mothers will never forgive themselves for having killed their babies, it is very important to declare this prayer. The bondage that remains, even in an unconscious mode, is the lack of forgiveness toward herself. If God has forgiven her, the mother should accept His forgiveness.

SOUL TIES

When there are hate ties, the prayer of renunciation that I suggest is the following:

In the name of Jesus, I renounce all the hate I feel toward [name of the person] for having [mention the specific deed]. I forgive him (or her), and I bless him (or her) in the name of Jesus.

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IF A WITCH CAN BRING YOU INTO BONDAGE THEN SOMETHING IN YOU IS ALLOWING DEMONIC AUTHORITY/ACCESS
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I once ministered deliverance to a man for four consecutive hours. He had drifted away from the Lord because he hated his father so much. As I ministered to him and helped him to forgive, he was freed from hate and also from the adultery and alcoholism into which he had fallen as a result of his strong resentment toward his dad. As he received the right ministry, he was healed, freed and completely filled with the Holy Spirit.

BONDAGE TO FEAR

This is a possible prayer for a person bound to fear:

In the name of Jesus, I renounce all spirits of fear that took over me because [name the reason or the name of the person that caused the fear]. I forgive and bless [name of the person], in the name of Jesus.

Some people suffer because of what others do to them through witches. These actions are commonly known as "jobs." If people cannot be freed from the bondage brought about by such "jobs," it is because there is something in them that doesn't allow them to destroy that authority. It could be some sin that hasn't been confessed or fear of the person who is trying to hurt them. Sin and fear are open doors to the enemy, and they produce bondage.

Many believers have confessed to me that they fear

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1) Forgive & bless, then renounce your fear of them.

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the jobs that they know witches or warlocks are doing on them. "They are doing 'jobs' on me. What do I do?" they ask.

"Don't do anything. Just pray for the person that is doing that to you," I respond. "Forgive and bless that person. Then renounce your fear of him."

A young woman told me that she was afraid that a relative who was involved in witchcraft was going to try to hurt her. I led her to pray aloud these words:

✓ Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus I renounce the fear I have of [the name of the person]. Lord, I ask Your forgiveness for being afraid, because in Your Word it says that You didn't give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-control. I renounce fear, and I bless [the name of the person] in the name of Jesus. Amen.

When she finished, I prayed to set her free from all ties, mentioning the name and her fear. In the name of Jesus I cast out the spirit of fear that had been enslaving her.

Jesus told us to bless those who curse us:

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

—MATTHEW 5:44

He doesn't tell us to fear our enemies. If we bless those who hurt us, the Lord protects us and frees us

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① RENOUNCE IN A LOUD VOICE

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from the fear of what they could do to us. When I make this recommendation, some believers declare, "But I am not afraid." The truth is that they live under a lot of fear. If they don't proceed according to Jesus' teaching, they will be paralyzed by that fear.

SPIRITUAL BONDAGE

The prayer to renounce a spiritual bondage could be the following:

In the name of Jesus, I renounce all authority over my life given to [name of sorcerer, witch, "santero" or images], all spirits that operate in him and all commitment to him.

This renunciation has to be done because the person has accepted the witch's or sorcerer's advice or has requested direction and care from a "santero" or from an image. All participation in any action related to the world of witchcraft, or the occult, has to be specifically mentioned, renouncing it in an audible voice. ①

SPECIFIC RITUALS

Sometimes people tell us that they went out on a night with a full moon with a group of people to the cemetery, took some dirt from there, lit a candle, buried a picture or some similar ritualistic act. We guide them carefully to renounce each step of this ritual in which they have participated, during which they may have handed over

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RENOUNCE, BREAK & CAST OUT

FREE IN CHRIST

another person to Satan, or even surrendered themselves to him. If the person participated in a vow that was sealed with the blood of a cat or a rooster, that vow should be specifically renounced.

In the case of people who have acknowledged and repented in private for ties established with different demonic manifestations, the renunciation will have to be specific and given aloud. If the person feels peaceful, then it means that the deliverance has taken place. But frequently, people can't get rid of fear, hate or bad memories. In those cases, ministry will be necessary to bring about the person's deliverance.

When people remember and mention many ties, it is advisable for the counselor in charge of the ministry to write them down on a piece of paper. This list will be used during step eight.

8 STEP
**Take Authority
in the
Name
of Jesus**

In this eighth step you will take authority in the name of Jesus, break all ties and drive out all unclean spirits.

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This step is closely related to the previous one. It is divided into two parts: first the breaking, then the deliverance. The yoke is broken, and then the demonic spirits are cast out.

As the person remembers the ties and renounces them, we, as ministers of the gospel, have to break these ties immediately. The renunciation and the breaking go together.

It is first necessary to break the bonds. Then the demons can be driven out. We have to undo the causes, all the things that have given authority to the demons to oppress that life. As the person renounces each one, we break the ties.

If after we have taken authority in the name of Jesus, have broken all ties, have cast out all unclean spirits and the person is still not free, there may be something else that he or she hasn't remembered. Don't automatically assume that the person ministering doesn't have enough authority. A clear understanding of why the person is oppressed or bound is probably missing. That is why I always recommend first breaking all yokes, tie by tie. Then when we believe there is nothing else remaining, only then cast out the demon.

For example: Suppose the person to whom I am ministering deliverance manifests a bondage? I will immediately pray for renunciation. Then, by the authority I have in the name of Jesus, I will break that yoke—but I don't drive out any demons. I continue exploring the different areas. Suppose I also discover

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IF IT IS NOT WORKING

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hate in the person's heart? We will pray and renounce hate; then I will take authority over that yoke and, in the name of Jesus, break it. But I still don't cast the demon out because I need to continue inquiring.

If the person has more ties to renounce, the moment I drive the demon out, the person will start manifesting, and we don't want that. Deliverance is about setting a person free—not about causing the person to manifest. When we believe there are no more ties to renounce, then I take authority in the name of Jesus and drive out all unclean spirits from that person's life.

Some people are not set free, even after receiving the ministry of deliverance, because they need to examine something more specifically, but they have not yet understood what the Holy Spirit has been trying to show them. Thus the ties remain, and it is necessary to discover what caused them. It is very important to minister lovingly and patiently. If all we do is rebuke demons, all we are doing is harassing the enemy. If I rebuke demons with authority, saying, "Let her go!" I have a good chance of being successful. But if I don't undo what gave authority to the enemy over that life in the first place, the person may fall into the demon's hands again.

If after having cast the demon out, I realize that the person has not been delivered and has begun manifesting again, I can rebuke two, three, four or five times to see if the demon is just resisting before leaving. But

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1) For JAMES LEVIAN, my need to deal with mind control, no person
Four Final Steps to Freedom in Christ
don't cooperate with their correct mind

if the person continues to manifest, I stop and don't rebuke anymore.

At that point I should be able to understand that the demon is staying, not because there isn't enough authority to cast him out, but because there are still reasons for him to stay. So what do I do? I bind that spirit again and continue investigating.

"There is something else!" I will say to the person. "You told me that there wasn't anything else, but there are still unresolved issues."

"But I don't remember anything else," the person may say.

"All right, let's pray. The Holy Spirit specializes in bringing specific issues to our minds."

Then, when we find another motive behind the demonic manifestation, I lead the person to renounce. I break the yoke, cast that spirit out and then the person can be free. If the individual is still not delivered, we must keep searching. That is deliverance!

To have people constantly manifesting, humiliating them and beating and hurting their bodies is to do the work of the enemy, giving him the victory.

During a group of meetings in Italy, a young woman asked me to minister to her. Lovingly and patiently my wife spoke to her, but we couldn't find what was causing such oppression. Since we were coming back to that same city soon, we told her to ask her mother what traumatic experience she had as a little girl.

Some months later we were back, and we met with

149 Ask the parent what traumatic experience the child may have had

2) RENOUNCE, BREAK, CAST OUT
3) Keep searching until deliverance!

1) Ask the mother what kind of traumatic experience that child FREE IN CHRIST may have had

her. She told us what she had found out. Following our advice, she had asked her mother about her childhood. Her mother told her that when she discovered she was pregnant, she didn't want the baby, so she tried to abort by inserting knitting needles into her uterus. But God didn't allow that to happen—her uncle was a believer, and he was praying for her.

Upon hearing this, my wife and I prayed with this girl, asking her first of all to forgive her mother for trying to kill her. Then we asked her to renounce the fear of death. At that moment, with those words still in her mouth, she started to sob. The real cause of her bondage had been revealed—fear. Since she had not known what happened to her when she was in the womb, she couldn't remember anything. This is evidence that the tiniest embryo has the ability to perceive aggression. As a result of our ministry, both her life and her mother's were changed. Her mother received the Lord and was set free from every yoke.

RENOUNCING ONE STEP AT A TIME

Demons have to leave in the name of Jesus. If they don't, it is because we have omitted something. It is never because of Jesus' lack of power. He is Lord, and God "exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11).

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1) Renounce each & every soul we

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When the person has renounced each and every soul tie, we will pray in this way, "Now, in the name of Jesus, unclean spirit, get out of [name of the person]." We should pray with authority, but there is no need to shout. What is important is the authority that the Lord has bestowed upon us. The spirits then leave, be it one, two or more. Our prayer could be:

Now that all our matters are settled, in the name of Jesus, you demons come out!

And the demons leave. They have to leave; they don't have any other alternative. They lost all their authority over that person's life, which is now truly "hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3).

STEP 9 Give Thanks to God for Deliverance

As soon as the demons leave, invite the person to give thanks to God for his or her deliverance. Lead him to declare that the glory, honor and power belong to God alone.

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Have the Person ask to be filled with H.S.

FREE IN CHRIST

Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!

—REVELATION 7:12

When people are delivered, they want to thank their liberator. The deliverance has been done by the grace of God available to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord. You—and the people who have been delivered—will be overflowing with thanks to God for the deliverance they now enjoy. You are now ready for the final step of effective deliverance ministry.

10 STEPS

Lead the Person to Pray for the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

We don't pray for people to be anointed—we lead them to pray themselves. Their prayer may be the following:

Lord, I give You thanks because You have delivered me. I now receive the anointing, the presence, the power and the grace of the Holy Spirit.

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Jesus warned us that a house that has been swept clean and put in order should not remain empty.

When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, "I will return to the house I left." When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.

—MATTHEW 12:43-45

After thanking God for His deliverance, people should exalt and glorify the name of the Lord: "Glory, glory, glory to Jesus Christ, my Lord, my Savior!" The person that has been delivered has to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

This last step constitutes a *reconfirmation* of the deliverance. Sometimes those that have been delivered begin to praise the Lord and to speak in tongues as an evidence of the freedom that the Holy Spirit, who fills them with His presence, is giving them.

There are people who will not be able to glorify God freely at that moment. They may even manifest again. This shows that something has remained hidden, perhaps a demon that has been trying to go unnoticed. This spirit can't stand the fact that the person is trying

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Evidently something has not been confessed & renounced, no make inquiries until you find the problem.

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to glorify the Lord. That is why he manifests. So the spirit needs to be subjected (second step), and then we have to continue looking into the other areas (sixth step). There is evidently something that hasn't been confessed and renounced. Continue to make inquiries until you find what is causing the problem.

When you believe that all the areas that have been investigated are not under Satan's control, the person should begin to express the desire to be filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. They will finally be able to exalt Jesus Christ freely.

SOME ADVICE FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE

The ten steps to effective deliverance ministry that I have shared will prepare you for a deliverance ministry. Listed below are some additional helpful bits of advice from my own experiences.

- Keep your eyes open. If you keep them closed, don't be surprised if you get hit during some violent manifestation. Demons can be very aggressive, and it is important to be attentive to their reactions.
- If a person approaches you for ministry who explains that he or she is suffering some illness, pray for healing. Practice the ministry of healing—it is also part of the commandment that Jesus gave to His disciples. Don't

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assume that all problems are spiritual. If there are physical difficulties, face them for what they are and pray for healing.

- If people are under the influence of excessive medication or alcohol, they may recover their sobriety when you pray for them. The Lord may be merciful and deliver them. If not, explain to them, or to the person who brought them, that they must be lucid and sober for you to minister to them. Pray for them, then recommend that they come back for further help when they are sober.

- Never advise anyone to stop taking prescribed medication. We are not called to function as the Holy Spirit. He doesn't need us to take His place. If the Lord has healed someone, that person will automatically stop taking any medications. The person needs to move by faith, according to God's leading.

- Do not minister to demons—minister deliverance to persons. It is wrong to get angry with the people to whom you are ministering or to scare them by screaming at the demon that is holding them captive. When you minister deliverance, you should be respectful, prudent and modest. You have precious souls in front of you.

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- Never judge anyone. Help those to whom God has given you the privilege of ministering.
- Minister in a place where you can talk freely without any distractions or interruptions.
- Minister with a team. Choose one person to take authority before the demons, and instruct the others to support that person with intercessory prayer.
- If the demon has been bound, don't mention the blood of Christ. When demons hear words that mention the redeeming blood of Christ, they turn very violent and can cause harm to the person.
- After completing the deliverance, the person who has experienced a conversion and deliverance needs a follow-up. Ask the counselors in your congregation to disciple that person.
- The ten steps for deliverance can't be self-administered—they must be completed by a minister of Christ who assumes the authority of Christ in front of the demon who oppresses the person, thus leading that individual to freedom.
- Always verify the deliverance before releasing the person.

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- Be prudent and wise; never share the intimacies and experiences that have been revealed to you with members of the church or with relatives and friends.
- Be receptive and discreet; God will bless your faithfulness.

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**The Battle
Has Been
Won**

God's children are the only army that has the victory even before they start to fight. Satan has been defeated! Surely he has been able to do as he pleased for a long time—harassing and destroying many along the way—but the church of Jesus Christ is waking up and addressing her

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The Battle Has Been Won

FREE IN CHRIST

own problems in order to help others later.

There is a spiritual awakening in the church of Jesus Christ. Satan can no longer hide—he has been revealed as he truly is.

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

—1 JOHN 4:4

LOOK FOR THE EVIDENCE

The mighty God we serve is truly more powerful than Satan—the great oppressor of mankind. When Satan has been defeated and people have been set free in Christ through the ministry of deliverance, it will be evident for all to see.

We will be able to see the evidence of a person's victory in Christ during the final prayer we pray with them. The individual will desire the fullness of the Holy Spirit and will understand the importance of the covering of Christ's redeeming blood. As the person experiences a freedom that he or she hasn't experienced in a long time, we will rejoice together at the awesome power of our God to transform lives.

This ministry of deliverance is so important—and so rewarding. People will cry out to the Lord for answers to problems that have been there for years, for burdens that have never been lifted. They may have renounced these burdens many times, saying, "Lord, please forgive

me for having said or done such a thing." Yet the burdens remained—their freedom in Christ was hindered by the devil's work. No one invested with the authority that Jesus Christ bestows on His children has ever broken those yokes.

You have the privilege of doing that very thing. When, with Christ's authority, you minister deliverance to these people, they will be free. As you follow the steps we have outlined, in the order we have suggested, you can "set the prisoner free!"

God will be faithful to His promises. He will fulfill His Word—His promise—of "showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Exod. 20:6).

They are free when they step out in faith and allow Christ's authority at work in you to rebuke and cast out the demons that have held them captive.



When I think of spiritual ties, I imagine demons carrying many ropes. With these ropes they bind people in different areas of their lives. When I discover what is causing their bondage, and the people renounce those ties, I cut one of those ropes, and then another, and then another. Once they are all cut, the demon has nothing on which to hold. So then, with much joy, I say, "Now this is the end. You have to leave in the name of Jesus." And the person is free for the glory of God.

God's desire is to see all His children free of Satan's grip. We preach Christ as Savior—we must also introduce Him as Lord.

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Many believers have not been taught that before they knew our Lord Jesus Christ, they had submitted their lives to a different lordship. They have never been led to renounce the authority given over to the enemy, who may still maintain his position, even if only partially, and who will assert his rights whenever possible, therefore oppressing the believer.

Many years ago, I ministered to a woman named María. She was bound by satanic vows. Some time later, she wrote the following testimony:

Since I was a little girl, I always wanted something special from God. Even though we were Catholic, I didn't find in religion an answer to my inner need. During my adolescence, I couldn't find what I was looking for. I felt inadequate, abandoned, unloved.

When I married, nothing changed. There were failures, illnesses and sadness. I didn't like the life I was leading. I had health problems, and I went to witch doctors to receive healing. I also received psychological treatment, but nothing seemed to help. At twenty-seven years of age I was taking fourteen pills a day.

Since nothing seemed to fulfill my inner desires, I started to attend seances and spiritists' meetings where they worked with the spirit of the dead. I thought I was doing the right thing since they were invoking the name of God.

Lost in my confusion, I ended up in "macumba."

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They offered healing for my sick body. They gave me baths with herbs and made me drink the blood of animals that had been sacrificed over my head.

Fourteen years later I was *mai* of saints. I reached an important position and traveled periodically to Brazil to acquire energy that the guides in that country gave me.

One early morning while sleeping in a big temple in Brazil, I woke up and went into a place called "congal." There were all the idols of saints, the ritualistic stones and some lit candles. When I saw that, a question rose inside of me: *What am I doing here?*

That same night I decided to abandon the cult. But I still lit candles every day in front of a little altar of icons in my house.

New family problems started to arise that affected me emotionally. Through a friend's advice, I started practicing mind control and yoga. But these practices didn't satisfy me either, so I abandoned them.

One night, feeling really bad, I grabbed the idols of saints I had at home and threw them away, saying, "What have you done for me?" As I went to bed, I turned the radio on and listened to a pastor who was preaching. God spoke to my life through him. I broke down before the Lord, asked His forgiveness and accepted Him into my life through the radio. I wrote the phone number

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down, and the next day I started attending the meetings at the Evangelical Church.

After some spiritual ups and downs, I drifted away from the Lord for some months until I was invited to a crusade led by the evangelist Carlos Annacondia.

When he saw me, he came to me and told me that I had to be free from my bondage. He prayed for me; then I was taken to the tent of deliverance. There, with a friend, I waited for Pastor Bottari to come and minister to me. Pastor Pablo Bottari came in and started talking with me. I noticed how much love and patience he had for others. This made me feel safe and willing to tell him all about myself and the things that were binding me. The moment he led me to renounce, the demon began to manifest.

Later my friend told me that I curled up in a fetal position, crying like a little girl. Hours later, I started to be freed from bondage.

Since the vows I had made were many—spiritism, umbanda, macumba and mental control—he asked me to write them all down on a piece of paper, plus the names of the people who had been my guides and had authority over me.

This stage of the deliverance ministry I received lasted several days. I had attended an evangelical church for months, but no one had ministered to me like that; I had been bound till then.

① All Need to know tool of deliverance
even if it is NOT our ministry.
The Battle Has Been Won

Today, ten years after receiving that ministry, I can declare myself free in Christ. I currently help in a church where I minister to others who, unwittingly like myself, have fallen into the enemy's trap. God's message is of blessing and freedom.

I thank God for having met Pastor Bottari, who ministered to me with such patience and love. I ask God to bless him and to continue giving him such love for those souls who are oppressed by the devil.

This testimony was a great blessing to those who saw the change in this woman's life. The battle has been won in Maria's life, but it doesn't end there—today she helps many as she ministers to people and drives out demons.

Through her own experience, Maria learned to minister deliverance. I declare that we all need to know how to use the tools for deliverance, even when we don't feel that deliverance is our ministry.

Preaching the gospel is not a matter of gifts—it is a matter of faithful obedience to a mission given by Jesus to every believer. *So it is with the deliverance of unclean spirits.* It is necessary to be equipped in order to accomplish this commandment given to us by Jesus. We all have to understand Satan's schemes and know how to help those who are in bondage.

I can't imagine a church without the ministry of deliverance. I can't understand how people, as they start

RENOUNCE ALL COMMITMENTS MADE
before Conversion

FREE IN CHRIST

Recover the validity of a ministry
that we should have never neglected

walking with the Lord, expect to live in victory without the help of someone who leads them to renounce all commitments made before conversion. It's hard to comprehend that they would want to continue enduring the same old conflicts for the rest of their lives.

Some believe that the ministry of deliverance is nothing but a fad. But the current spiritual move is allowing us to recover the validity of a ministry that the church never should have neglected. The Lord Himself is helping us to open our eyes to understand that this is a serious matter.

We are forced to wake up; the task of deliverance, that many try to ignore, is surely the ministry of the End Times.

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Appendix

Questions People Ask

Can we pray for the dead?

The dead are in God's presence. In reality, we have to pray for God to bless the living. Once a person has died, there is no reason to pray for him or her anymore.

Do those who pray for the dead need deliverance?

If the prayer is a simple prayer for the dead, the petition has no sense anyway. It is like saying,

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"Lord, I ask You to forgive me for having prayed for something that Your Word does not award." It is a different matter if we have a picture of the deceased at home, and when we are going through a difficult situation we invoke the spirit of the dead person and say, "Dad, you see what I am going through. Please help me." In this case it will be necessary to renounce the invocation of a dead person.

What is the relationship between deliverance and words of wisdom and words of knowledge?

Even when I may know through revelation or through a word of wisdom the problems people are experiencing, if they are not willing to let God work, He will never force them to surrender to Him. Deliverance, to be effective, must minister to people willing to surrender everything to Christ.

How do we minister to people who don't have self-will (insane persons, schizophrenics, etc.)?

The issue with schizophrenics is one of the most difficult ones. During a crusade with Carlos Annacondia, we realized that many of the mental patients that were in the psychiatric hospital located behind the plot where the meetings were taking place were coming to the crusade. Many were schizophrenics.

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So I started to pray and cry out to the Lord, asking Him something for which I probably shouldn't have asked: I asked Him to allow me to enter into that kind of life in order to see who was controlling it. I also told Him that I wanted to talk to that person.

The very next day, the Lord spoke to me and said, "Read the lives of Saul and Nebuchadnezzar." The Lord wanted to teach me that there are situations where His patience reaches a limit. Those who are suffering these types of problems refuse to listen to God and instead submit to the authority of demons. Take a look at the stories of Saul and Nebuchadnezzar. (See 1 Samuel 16 and Daniel 4:31-37.) Both Saul and Nebuchadnezzar had gone way beyond God's patience.

God is a just judge, and I believe that if He gave them a new opportunity, many schizophrenics would receive it. But it is God who deals with these cases. If God commands us to pray for them, we should do so only under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Are all physical illnesses related to spiritual bondage?

Many diseases are caused by spiritual problems, but we also depend entirely on the Holy Spirit's revelation in this area.

For example: Hate can produce depression, bone problems or cancerous ulcers. Fear can produce a multitude of conditions, as can making oaths to the devil.

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We believe that the spiritual can affect the physical in a great number of people. That has been our experience with people who manifest demons and are later delivered.

How can I identify an illness that is being caused by a spiritual problem?

There are situations that can create an illness, and there are physical situations that express themselves through diseases. First of all, we have to minister to people in all areas—spiritual, physical and emotional. If there is no healing, then we pray.

One way is to lay hands on people to see if there is any type of demonic manifestation. If so, treat them spiritually to see if there are any spiritual ties. If not, it may be a simple physical condition or something hereditary.

Not all illnesses are caused by demons. The Bible doesn't say that Jesus set them all free. It says that He set those who were oppressed free and healed the sick.

I had an interesting experience in the city of Córdoba, Argentina. A forty-year-old woman, whose father was a pastor, was deformed by arthritis and was anemic. Her brother-in-law brought her to the meeting, and I asked him to keep bringing her back every day.

We prayed for several consecutive days, but nothing happened. After fifteen days, she manifested so violently that eight people could not hold her down.

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After binding the demon and bringing her back to her senses, she confessed deep roots of hatred in her life. She renounced them and forgave her father. Her sickness had to do with resentment. Thus, after receiving ministry, she was healed.

The effects of hatred are terrible. Spiritually, it is one of the hardest demons with which to deal. It engenders violence and a desire for vengeance, and it produces an awful lot of diseases.

What do you think about generational curses?

There has been too much fuss over generational curses. This type of bondage has validity only in those cases mentioned in the Book of Exodus:

You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

—Exodus 20:4-5

The Word says that He visits the evil members of a

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① Fear says do not touch the people

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generation that hates Him. If you don't hate God, then these words don't apply to you. He adds, "Those who observe the law, submit to My will, conform to My justice, are covered from this curse." If I preach something contrary to this and sow seeds of doubt in people's minds, I will be punished; what I confess and believe will eventually come to me.

If there is an inherited manifestation in me, it isn't something I have agreed on, but it is something I'm receiving from my ancestors. God says that if I repent and love Him, His mercy will reach me. But there is one condition, something that is law. Consequently, I can't have anything that will empower that law in me. I cannot have any debts with the law, otherwise those issues that are still pending in my life will become effective. If you are driving in the freeway and commit a driving offense, you go to court. When the judge sees your record, he says, "Have you committed any previous offenses?"

"Never," you respond. "This was a special circumstance."

"Fine," says the judge. "Then we will leave it pending." If you don't commit any further offenses, nothing else will happen. But if you commit another offense, you will pay for it in addition to the one that was pending.

There is a doctrine that says when I lay hands on a person who has spiritual problems, some evil

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spiritual influence can be transferred to me. Is this true?

This is a doctrine of fear. We have to remember that the One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world. If I go in fear, I am in danger; but if I go before the Lord and say, "I renounce this fear," nothing will ever happen to me.

One day, during one of our crusades, a man approached me and said, "I am very happy."

"That's good. What church are you from?" I asked him.

"I don't belong to any church. I'm a parapsychologist," he responded.

My legs started to shake in reaction. I wondered, *Why am I so scared when the One that is in me is greater than the one who is in him?*

At that point, we were shaking hands. I said to him, "In the name of Jesus."

At that moment his whole world was turned upside down. Thanks to that, I'm not afraid anymore, because I realize to whom I belong.

Suppose a woman is a Christian and her husband is not. If he is demonized, since they are one flesh, could she receive the spirit that is controlling her unbelieving husband?

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No. The apostle Paul teaches that the husband is blessed by the believing wife, not vice versa. If the wife is afraid, she is opening a door to the devil. If she trusts in the Word that says that the One in her is greater than the one who is in the world, the problem is solved. Many women tend to justify their feelings of rejection toward their husbands by this motive. If they do that, they are committing sin. They are preventing their flesh, which is the other part of their bodies, from being blessed.

Have you dealt with mentally retarded people who are undergoing medical treatment?

If people are under the influence of strong medications, they will rarely manifest. If they have mental problems, in most cases doctors will supply strong drugs for them to decrease their aggressiveness. Since the person is under the effects of the medication, it will be quite difficult to distinguish the spiritual from the physical.

I never teach others to tell people to abandon their medication. Some are in the habit of imparting a "super faith" that can be very problematic. I will never allow those who are ministering with me to tell someone with diabetes, "You are healed; now go and throw the insulin away and never use it again." They might have a diabetic shock. That would be pure negligence.

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What is the difference between the manifestation of the Holy Spirit and that of a demonic spirit?

The Word of God says that all that is good and acceptable comes from God, the Father of lights. All that is hurtful and that brings resistance is not from Him.

Hurtful manifestations would include vomiting, strong reactions, aggressive words and uncontrollable movements.

We have to be wise in the way we handle manifestations; there is no real pattern. If we have doubts, we have to wait. If it is from the Holy Spirit, it will produce good fruit. All that comes from God is good and perfect. But if there are no real changes, then we have to consider what type of manifestation it may actually be.

What is the difference between a person who is oppressed and someone who is demonized?

Within the three different types of evil manifestations, we have to consider which type corresponds to the individual to whom we are ministering deliverance—oppressed, tormented or demonized.

Oppression is produced externally by the devil. Satan is waiting for the person to open the door of his or her life in order to come in. The demonized person is

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possessed and has no control over his or her own will. Those that are tormented have given a place to demons.

Therefore, when people come to the Lord, they open the door to Christ through forgiveness, and He seals it with His Spirit. The work of cleansing people from all that belongs to the enemy will then begin. When the Holy Spirit takes absolute control of a person's life, it is because He didn't have it before. God will never take hold of anything unless you give it to Him first.

What happens to Christians who are oppressed?

Christians don't become perfect overnight. The Bible says, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion" (Phil. 1:6). What does it mean to carry the good work on to completion, or to perfect it? It means that there are areas in one's life that are not governed by the Holy Spirit; otherwise all would be perfect. There was only one who was perfect—Jesus Christ.

Manifestations emerge because of circumstances in those areas that are not under the control of the Holy Spirit. If my spiritual blindness, that blindness that Jesus came to deal with, is still there because the "scales" of pride have not fallen yet from my eyes, I will never reach the place where God wants me to be.

Christians can be oppressed and tormented. If they give permission to the devil, they can end up demonized. Paul said to the Ephesians, "Do not give the devil

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a foothold" (Eph. 4:27). The Book of Hebrews talks about those that allow bitter roots to grow up inside of them and consequently miss the grace of God (Heb. 12:15).