

WASP: Process of Deliverance

The process of deliverance consists of three main parts:

- Tearing down strongholds
- Removing legal rights
- Casting out the remaining demons

It is foolish to expect complete and lasting deliverance if we cast out demons but fall short of removing strongholds or legal rights. Removing these blockages is vital in achieving and maintaining whole and lasting freedom.

Strongholds

What is a stronghold? A stronghold is a faulty thinking pattern based on lies and deception. As the father of lies¹, deception is one of the primary tools of the devil. It is the building block for a stronghold. Strongholds cause individuals to think in ways that block God's best. An example would be someone who believes they must confess every sin to everyone they ever wronged. They feel extreme guilt and shame until they do. However, even once they have, they remain in guilt and shame, believing they have forgotten someone or something else. This is unnecessary and a waste of time. In reality, they are being deceived by a stronghold of guilt and shame, which is holding them captive.

It is common to encounter someone who is afraid of God and has a hard time feeling His love and presence. They view Him as a cruel taskmaster. Through the stronghold of fear, they erect a wall, making it even harder for them to receive God's love and preventing intimacy in drawing closer in their relationship with Him. Seeing your spouse as a rude and cruel dictator, you wouldn't be apt to snuggle up to him, at least not as you would if you saw him as a loving and kind person who loves you and cares for you. In the same way, our perception of God can hinder us from knowing His love and experiencing His presence in our lives. It is imperative to have a correct perception of God if we want to live victorious lives in Christ Jesus!

Two Destructive and Common Strongholds

Seeing God incorrectly: One of the most popular and devastating strongholds is an incorrect image of who God is and how He sees us. They live their lives with an unhealthy fear of God. There is a healthy and good fear of God. It is a holy respect and awestruck wonder of Him. But, there is an unhealthy fear that the enemy wants us to have. It's the kind of fear where we see God as a judgmental taskmaster, who is cruel, uncaring and would snap the whip or drop the hammer at the moment we step out of line. People who are afraid they've committed an unpardonable sin are almost guaranteed to have this

¹ John 8:44

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stronghold. People who find it hard to feel God's love and presence, often have this stronghold too. If you feel God is distant and cold, or question His love, then you need to address this stronghold and tear it down.

Seeing yourself incorrectly: People with this stronghold have a hard time seeing the new person (creation) they are now in Christ Jesus² and often suffer from low self-esteem. They do not understand or receive the fullness of what Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, and how it applies to their life. Common symptoms of this stronghold are feelings of guilt (questioning if you've really been forgiven), low spiritual esteem (feel like sinners, not saints), lack of spiritual confidence available in Christ Jesus³, continual struggle with sin (Jesus said that if you remain in His Word, which tears down strongholds, you will be free from the power of sin⁴), and overall you don't feel 'worthy' spiritually, lacking the joy of the Lord in your life⁵.

How to Tear Down a Stronghold

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for *pulling down strongholds*.
2 Corinthians 10:4 (emphasis added)

Strongholds are birthed and dwell in deception, which are lies and false beliefs. The cure is to bring the truth in God's Word on the scene. We debunk the lies of the enemy with the truth, which is in the Word of God! The Bible says our weapons are mighty for the tearing down of strongholds⁶. The primary weapon is The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God⁷. Truth dispels deception and lies. John writes, "In him [Jesus, the Word⁸] was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."⁹ When light, the Truth of God, Jesus, is brought into a situation, lies and darkness cannot withstand. The more truth you bring into a situation, the more the darkness must flee. It is important to grow in God's Word, as it is the primary weapon for tearing down strongholds of deception. Jesus tells us that we can be held in bondage due to strongholds in our lives. His solution is to, "abide in [His] word...and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"¹⁰. Strongholds are torn down as we meditate on God's Word, which is truth!

² 2 Corinthians 5:17

³ Ephesians 3:12; 1 John 4:17

⁴ John 8:31-34

⁵ 1 Peter 1:8-9

⁶ 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

⁷ Ephesians 6:17

⁸ John 1:1

⁹ John 1:4-5

¹⁰ John 8:31-32

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Demonic Legal Rights

What are legal rights? A legal right is something that gives demons an opportunity or permission to enter or harass an individual, or it gives them the right to remain, even when attempts are made to cast them out. Some of the **most common legal rights that are faced when ministering deliverance are:**

Sins (especially willful sins): When sin is committed, it gives the enemy a legal right to affect or oppress someone in one way or another. The deeper the sin, the bigger the door that is opened to the demonic. By aligning with the kingdom of darkness through sin, a person allows Satan and his forces to influence and oppress their lives.

For example, a person who allows unholy thoughts to enter and remain in their mind, opens the door to a demon of lust. Through constant influence and oppression, the person is tempted and lead into masturbation, fornication, or adultery, which proceeds to compound the matter.

Much like in the Garden of Eden, the enemy tempts individuals to wrong thinking¹¹. When wrong thinking is acted upon (sin) and made habit (habitual sin), it opens the door for the enemy to move in further. Ultimately, behind ungodly habits lies demonic compulsion. If a person stays down this path, they will continue to open doors to the enemy and eventually find themselves committing more heinous sins. This is because the feelings and desires demons push on a person become irresistible. Sin opens the door to demons, who push towards more sin, which opens us wider to more of the demonic. Once sin is committed, the enemy creates a snowball effect, opening more doors and gaining greater access to a person's life.

The remedy? Repentance! Make verbal confession and repent of sins that have given the enemy legal rights to operate in your life. Believers should ask Holy Spirit to reveal sin(s) that have opened the door to the bondage, and then specifically repent of those sins. The Bible instructs us to confess our sins. By hiding unconfessed sins from God, the sin remains in our lives and keeps us open to the enemy's influence and attack. We must to confess our sins in order to be healed and forgiven¹².

Soul ties: It is possible for two people to share spiritual ties that serve as spiritual bridges, which connect one to another. Some of the most popular and destructive soul ties are formed through sex. Paul warns not to have sexual relations with a prostitute because we become one flesh with that person¹³. This oneness is not limited to union of physical bodies but pertains to our souls as well. God created sex and intended it to unite married couples in complete oneness, body and soul. Godly soul ties are created when sex is within the covenant of marriage. The Bible says the marriage bed is un-defiled¹⁴, and defilement is required to create an evil soul tie.

¹¹ Genesis 3:1-4

¹² James 5:16; 1 John 1:9

¹³ 1 Corinthians 6:16

¹⁴ Hebrews 13:4

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However, this unification is not exclusive to sex under the covenant of marriage. Two become one flesh¹⁵ regardless of marriage vows or covenant. Simply put, people who sleep together are united through a soul tie. Because of this connection, demons that torment one person are permitted, through legal rights, to torment whoever they have had sex with. Demons use ungodly soul ties to their advantage, crossing from one to another like a bridge, in order to oppress as many people as possible for as long as possible.

The remedy? Repentance, renunciation and breaking of soul ties! First, specifically repent of the sin which caused the soul tie to be formed. Then use your authority in Jesus to break and sever the ungodly soul tie. Example, "I now renounce, break and sever all ungodly soul ties created between myself and _____ through the act of _____ in Jesus' name!"

There can also be soul ties between yourself and another person, without any sexual relationship. Sexual relationships are one of the most common ways to create a very strong soul tie, but it's not the only way. Other soul ties can be created through unhealthy relationships, such as being extremely close to someone or in a co-dependent relationship. For example, someone with a close relationship with a parent may take their advice over God's because of an ungodly soul tie. Again, the person should repent of the soul ties in the name of Jesus.

Sometimes objects given and kept during a relationship can hold back the breaking of a soul tie. For example, a love gift given through an adulterous relationship can hold the soul tie together. If the gift is valuable, and not necessarily bad in itself, it's best to sell the gift. If the gift is demonic or unholy, then it's best to destroy or throw the gift away.

Demonic vows: A demonic vow can be likened to a spiritual signature that the enemy uses as a legal right to gain access into our lives. Like an all access pass, a vow gives permission for the enemy to attack your life, especially in a certain area related to the vow. Demonic vows can be made consciously or unconsciously. For example, making the vow, "I will never let anyone get close enough to hurt me again," may result in difficulty maintaining relationships. Often when a person joins a cult, they are required to make vows to the devil. Demonic vows can be made unknowingly by dabbling with the occult. Simple curiosity about the occult and reading forbidden materials, including horoscopes, gives the enemy your spiritual signature or agreement. It lets the enemy know you're open or interested. Jesus warns us not to make any vows¹⁶. The only vows that are practical and good are those made during a marriage ceremony.

The remedy? Vows that do not glorify God should be repented of and renounced verbally. Again, they should be repented of and renounced **VERBALLY**, because vows are made verbally. God has given man

¹⁵ Genesis 2:24

¹⁶ Matthew 5:34

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power in our words¹⁷. It is vital that we break ungodly vows the same way we made them, spoken into our lives.

Unforgiveness: When we don't forgive others, God won't forgive us¹⁸. When God doesn't forgive us, it leaves our sins remaining, which gives the enemy legal rights into our lives. Jesus explains the severity of unforgiveness in Matthew 18:23-35. The tormenters referred to in the parable are demons. When torment is involved, the legal ground the enemy is standing on is usually rooted in unforgiveness. The single most common reason people do not receive healing is because they are holding unforgiveness in their hearts. Forgiveness is not an option; it's a necessity!

The remedy? Repent for holding unforgiveness and bitterness in your heart against others. Make a choice to forgive those who have wronged you and release bitterness and hurt from your heart against them. Like the other remedies, it is best to do this verbally to strip power from the bitterness you are releasing and place it behind the forgiveness you are expressing.

Ancestral sins: When you involve yourself in deep sin or the occult world, you not only open demonic doors in your own life, but also in the lives of your children and grandchildren¹⁹. If your ancestors have committed gross sins or been involved in the occult, then it's wise to confess and renounce those sins to the best of your ability, as God knows your heart. Ask Him for forgiveness²⁰. Even though you are not personally responsible for those sins, they may have caused curses in your life, which need to be broken. Common ways to tell if ancestral sins are involved is if your siblings or ancestors have experienced or are experiencing the same or similar problem(s) that you are.

The remedy? By confessing/renouncing and asking for forgiveness, the legal grounds have already been broken. If any spirits are remaining, they must be cast out.

Childhood rejection: The enemy does not play fair. He does not care about age when it comes to his attacks. Therefore, a lot of demonic bondage is caused during childhood. For example, if a parent shows rejection toward their child, a spirit of rejection may enter.

The remedy? If you have been rejected by either your parents or somebody else, you must make a solid choice to forgive that person(s) and release the hurt in your heart against them. The spirit of rejection is usually present in this situation and should be renounced.

Points of weakness: For this, "weakness" is defined as an area in which the natural walls of defense in the physical, spiritual or emotional system of a person are weakened. This can include emotional shock, physical trauma, or fearful experiences during childhood. These points of weakness leave a person vulnerable for the enemy to attach. The same is true with substance abuse, such as excessive amounts

¹⁷ Proverbs 18:21

¹⁸ Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁹ Exodus 20:5

²⁰ Leviticus 26:40-42

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of alcohol and drug use, as they lower defenses. Since demons thrive on weakness, they love to move in and setup camp.

The remedy? If there is any bitterness involved (i.e.: towards the person who caused traumatic), then you must forgive the person and repent for harboring bitterness in your heart against them. If the point of weakness was caused by personal sin, such as drinking or drugs, then confess and repent of that sin. If demons entered solely through a traumatic experience, and none of it was anybody's fault, then the demons are trespassing and need to be commanded to leave in the name of Jesus.

Spoken self-curses: The words we say have spiritual value. The Bible says to bless and not curse²¹ and that the tongue has the power of life and death²². If you walk around saying, "I wish I could just die," you are voicing your God-given power and authority to this demonic intent. A demon will respond by bringing a spirit of death to influence and oppress toward this inclination.

The remedy? Take back what you have spoken against yourself and renounce it! Repent out loud for speaking such thing(s) and break the curse(s) in Jesus' name!

Cursed objects: Physical objects such as idols, occult books, rings, movies, charms, etc. can carry spiritual value. Though seemingly innocent, often items and souvenirs from other countries are more than cultural memorabilia. Since religion plays an integral role in many cultures, numerous items originate from pagan religions and their practices, and they include symbols honoring other gods and idols. Certain Native American or pagan religious artifacts open doors for demons to enter and attack within your home. In addition, land and property can also become defiled by the sins of its owners²³ and be open doors for attack.

The remedy? Ask Holy Spirit to reveal any items that may be opening doors to the demonic. Burn, destroy, or get rid of any physical objects He identifies. Isaiah 2:18, "And the idols he shall utterly abolish." It is Biblical to burn cursed objects and it can lead to the spreading of the gospel, as the demonic loses legal right to oppress the truth²⁴. Repent for bringing such objects into your home if you are responsible for them. Land can be cleansed by prayer and repenting of the sins of the previous owners.

Renounce demons: Renounce any known demons that have been invited in (ex. spirit guides), and any interest or involvement in the occult or Satanism. Also renounce any demons that you know need to be cast out. This lets the demons know you are no longer interested in having them around.

Other helpful things to look for: Ask Holy Spirit to show you when the bondage or attacks started. Try to pinpoint how the problem began and what gave the demons the ability to enter. Look for any

²¹ Romans 12:14

²² Proverbs 18:21

²³ Leviticus 18:27

²⁴ Deuteronomy 7:25; Acts 19:19-20

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involvement in the occult, sins, unforgiveness, vows, traumatic experiences, etc. along with any unusual happenings emotionally, spiritually or mentally.

Spiritual Authority

A solid understanding of spiritual authority is vital in building faith to cast out demons, heal the sick, and exercise authority over the powers of darkness.

For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

Mark 13:34 (KJV)

Jesus has given believers authority to cast out demons²⁵. Asking God to remove demons, is asking Him to do something He has already empowered and commanded us to do! Nowhere in Scripture does it say believers should ask God to cast out demons!

How Authority Works

Authority doesn't beg. Authority doesn't ask. Authority commands! Since Scripture doesn't advise believers to ask God to cast out demons, instead instructs that we do it ourselves, we do not have to beg or negotiate demons to come out. We simply CAST them out in the name and authority of Jesus Christ!

The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled...Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you."

And his servant was healed that same hour.

Matthew 8:8-9,13

The Gospel of Matthew accounts Jesus' demonstration of authority. Authority is exercised through our spoken word. The power of life and death are in it. Therefore, we should command the demonic to go in the name of Jesus through spoken word²⁶.

²⁵ Matthew 10:1-8, 28:19-20; Mark 16:17; Luke 9:1;

²⁶ Proverbs 18:21

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Jesus' Own Authority

Jesus made clear His identity as the Son of God by exercising authority that no one else in history had access to:

He cast out demons using His authority: Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him. (Mark 1:27)

He cast out demons with His spoken word: When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. (Matthew 8:16)

He healed the sick with His spoken word: Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.... When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health. (Luke 7:7,10)

Jesus has been given authority over everything: And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (Matthew 28:18)

Authority to heal

Jesus said, "heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils..."²⁷. It is interesting, Jesus did not say to pray and ask God to heal the sick. He simply said, "heal the sick". There is no account in Scripture of Jesus asking God to heal anyone. Instead, Jesus healed people with His spoken word. He told the lame man to "... Rise, take up your bed and walk"²⁸.

In the same manner, the early church healed people through their spoken word and authority. Luke accounts in Acts, "... Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.'"²⁹. Notice in Luke 9:1, Jesus not only gave His disciples authority over all devils, but also to cure diseases, "Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases." Authority is exercised when there is a RIGHT to exercise it. Jesus' followers were not praying and asking God to heal people; they had the authority to heal. And like Jesus, they exercised it with a spoken word.

To clarify, this does not mean prayer cannot heal people. James instructs believers to lay hands on the sick and pray for them³⁰. However, if we model our lives after Christ and teach all He commanded³¹,

²⁷ Matthew 10:8

²⁸ John 5:8

²⁹ Acts 3:6

³⁰ James 5:14-15

³¹ Matthew 28:20

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then we must heal the sick using the authority He has given us. We have authority over sickness, and therefore, we can exercise our authority to bring about healing in another person's life!

The Gospel of Mark explains that healing can come through the laying on of hands³². The laying on of hands can encourage the transferring of power from us into the person and heal them. This is demonstrated with the woman who felt power flow from Jesus when she touched the hem of His garment³³. Jesus said that those who believe will have Holy Ghost flowing out of their innermost being³⁴, and even Peter's shadow healed people³⁵!

Jesus distributes His authority

Jesus is given authority: And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Matthew 28:18)

Authority given to Jesus' 12 disciples: Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1)

Authority given to Jesus' 70 disciples: Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." (Luke 10:7)

Authority given to followers: It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. (Mark 13:34)

Through Jesus' name

Notice the authority Jesus gives His people is not to be used in their name, but Jesus' name:

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us *in Your name.*"
Luke 10:17 (emphasis added)

"And these signs will follow those who believe: *In My name* they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues."
Mark 16:17 (emphasis added)

³² Mark 16:17-18

³³ Mark 5:30

³⁴ John 7:38-39

³⁵ Acts 5:15

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Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: *In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.*"
Acts 3:6 (emphasis added)

To use somebody's authority through their name is quite an honor. It's like being able to go to the bank and draw out a large sum of money on behalf of a wealthy businessman. This honor has been granted to "them that believe..."³⁶, both the authority to cast out devils and heal the sick.

Authority is Accessed Through Faith

It is also helpful to point out that spiritual authority is accessed by faith. There is a lot to be learned concerning faith allowing access to authority from the story told in Mark 9:17-29. When the disciples came across an unusually strong demon that wouldn't budge³⁷, Jesus made it clear that they lacked faith³⁸. He also made it clear that some demons are so strong, an unusual level of faith is required to cast them out³⁹. But believers can access that higher level through prayer and fasting⁴⁰.

Jesus tells of the impossibilities available in our faith when he says, "...assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."⁴¹

³⁶ Mark 16:17

³⁷ Mark 9:18

³⁸ Mark 9:19

³⁹ Mark 9:28-29

⁴⁰ Mark 9:29

⁴¹ Matthew 17:20