

## Deliverance from Demonic Oppression, #4

In the first two lessons, we simply went through many of the places in Matthew, Mark, and Luke that refer to Jesus and his disciples casting out demons, and made what observations we could from those accounts. In the last lesson, we looked at some of the different types of evil spirits (principalities and powers, religious spirits, spirits of infirmity, and unclean spirits of perversion; occult spirits had been dealt with previously), and how they are to be dealt with in spiritual warfare.

### How can we Recognize the Activity or Presence of Evil Spirits?

Sometimes we can get examples from the Bible, like from the example of king Saul.

1. **Excessive moodiness, depression, grouchiness, unreasonable suspicions, torments (?)**  
Admittedly, this is a bit vague, but in 1 Sam. 16:14 it says an evil spirit from the Lord “troubled” Saul, and he could get relief when David would sing and play music (because the spirit would temporarily depart (16:23).
2. **Unreasonable rantings and ravings.** 1 Sam. 20:29-33
3. **Extreme violence, even attempted murder.** 1 Sam. 18:10-11, 19:9-10 – Several times Saul tried to “pin David to the wall” with a spear. Another example is the Gadarene demoniac in Mk. 5.
4. **Making false prophecies** – 1 K. 22:19-23 God allowed lying spirits to motivate and speak through the false prophets of king Ahab, to lead him to battle and his death.
5. **Worshipping of false gods** - 1 Cor. 10:20-21 – “But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God”
6. **Blindness, deafness, dumbness, seizures** (like we saw examples of in the gospels). But to repeat from before, not every such case is demonic. Sometimes the need is a miraculous physical healing, other times the healing comes as a result of casting out a demon.

Other behaviors the Bible doesn’t specifically say are demonic, but it seems to be a reasonable deduction:

1. **Violence** – brawling, wife-beating, child-abuse, rape, murder, cruelty to animals, ...
2. **Addictions** – alcohol, tobacco, drugs (especially hallucinogens), sex
3. **Perversions** – sexual (homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia, LGBTXYZ, ...), sadomasochism, ...
4. **Compulsions** – kleptomania, gluttony, self-abuse, credit cards, computer/phone/text/video, ...
5. **Psychic phenomena** – clairvoyance, telepathy, ESP, astral projection, seeing apparitions, ... (not to be confused with genuine gifts of the Spirit, like the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, or discernment of spirits)
6. **Odd behaviors or appearance** – sudden change of personality, suicidal thoughts, sullenness, self-pity, weird facial expressions (like some of the mug shots you see of people who have done particularly heinous things). Sometimes you can recognize demons by the tattoos people have (like MS-13 gang members).

### What can be some of the causes of oppression?

1. **Inheritance** – some afflictions can pass from one generation to the next, whether by birth or by upbringing, especially in the occult, or violence, or sexual perversions.
2. **Traumatic experiences** - like a child being beaten, or sexually abused, or witnessing a parent’s murder, or even a “natural” catastrophe, like a tornado, hurricane, house fire, or auto accident.
3. **Drug involvement** – not only those that are illegal and hallucinogenic, but even some that are prescribed but abused, like the opioids. Especially beware of those that affect the mind and moods (some even list suicidal thoughts as a side-effect!).
4. **Mind garbage** – pornography, internet trash, dirty books and games
5. **Occult involvement** – any activity in spiritism, fortune-telling, ESP, telepathy, seances, false religious cults or secret societies, witchcraft, or even games like the Ouija board, should be recognized as “open doors” to demonic oppression.
6. **Worshipping false gods** – since we saw that the Bible reveals that those who do this are really worshipping demons, this can obviously be a cause of demonic oppression.

The point here is not to make a comprehensive list, but to recognize that many things that people have done, or experienced even innocently, like when they were children, can open the doors to demonic oppression. We must be able to recognize these things to be able to adequately deal with them.

### **How can we get deliverance for ourselves or others?**

The first step is to be able to recognize that something is due to the activity of evil spirits. As long as we chalk things up to merely odd behavior or purely physical causes, the demons can work undisturbed.

We also need to recognize the authority that we have in Christ, that we do not have to just live with the problem. We know that Christ has all power over them, and as he cast out demons when here on earth, he has now given us the power of his name to do the same works. Mt. 10:1,7-8 Mk. 16:17 It is not our own power, but a deputed power – we are “deputized” to act as his representatives on earth.

Another vital thing is to see that just because you are a Christian does not mean that you are automatically free from oppression. We might think of such activity as “squatting” – a squatter does not own the land, but is determined to live there until someone forcibly ejects him.

So if you are experiencing some form of demonic oppression, or are praying for someone else who needs deliverance, here is what you should do:

1. **Confess your faith in Christ** – that you are indeed a child of God through faith. If not, that is where you should start.
2. Make sure that you have **confessed all known sins**, and **especially** those that you recognize may be related to some particular affliction. I don’t mean to dredge up every single thing you ever did or thought, but if you are hiding or secretly holding on to something, deliverance will be in vain.
3. You, personally and vocally, **renounce** all such sins and **then command the devil and the demons to release you** from their oppression, and to leave you, in the name of Jesus.

For example, you might pray

O God, my Father, I thank you for revealing yourself to me, and the salvation that comes from Christ alone. I thank you, that as I have believed on your Son Jesus, you have given me life and that I am now one of your own. I now see that my family generations have been involved in the sins of *(fill in the blank)*. I now confess those as sins, and break off all connections with those sins of my ancestors. Those things stop right here, right now. I also confess my own involvement in the sins of *(fill in the blank)*, and ask not only your forgiveness, but that you would cleanse me from all iniquity, fill me with the righteousness of Christ, and set me free from all the bondage that I have experienced till now.

So now, Satan, and you spirits of *(fill in the blank)*, I command you right now to leave me and to stop all those things whereby you previously afflicted me. Those things are done, and you must go now, and not return, for I am Christ’s, and I command you in His holy name.

4. The last step is **to walk in your deliverance**. This is continual. It is to walk with God, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to give no place to the devil, to live a life holy unto God, and never look back.