

DELIVERANCE, A NECESSITY FOR CHURCH GROWTH: A CASE

STUDY OF MFM KUBWA CHURCH

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0. INTRODUCTION

This study is on the very controversial context in the body of Christ: Deliverance, a necessity for Church Growth: a case study of Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries (MFM), Kubwa North Central Region 5, Abuja.

This chapter is an over view of the generality of the theme of this research work, and its research methodology approach with its intent to getting to logical conclusion of the entire research work which will further postulate the validity of the content of the theme as above, and an unarguable quest and spiritual benefits for deliverance ministry in our contending Christendom.

However, this study is subdivided into five chapters. Chapter one entails the introduction, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, statement of the problem and the entire organization of the study. Chapter two captures relevant existing literature on the subject matter. Chapter three is based on biblical and theological perspective on deliverance, a necessity for church growth; a case study of MFM Kubwa, role of deliverance in Old and New Testaments, importance of efficacy deliverance ministry vis-a-vis its benefit to believers and church growth.

Chapter four is on research finding analysis. Finally, chapter five summarizes the entire study accompanied with findings and recommendations.

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

We live in a day when many ministers claim that God has called them to preach only a specific part of the gospel. We have been called to preach the **WHOLE COUNSEL** of God (Acts 20:27), be it Salvation or Sanctification or Baptism of the Holy Ghost, Prosperity, Faith, and Deliverance etc. We must be balanced and be careful of not to overemphasize or under-emphasize

While it is true that demons are behind many problems that people have, it is also true that other reasons may be behind some problems. We must use discernment in all that we do. We must not go on witch hunting trip as a result of this, rather, applying the teachings/deliverance principles of Christ positively translating it into helping the needy. The ministry of deliverance is simply the process of casting out demons from a person or a thing. The absence of deliverance ministry in any church results in spiritual disableness.

Deliverance is a very important ministry that most of the Church has forgotten. One of the many reasons Jesus came to the earth was to “set the captives free.” In a sense one can argue that the whole human race is being held captive by Satan – the “god of this world” and his demon forces. (1 John 3:8).

Jesus is the Word of God and He can destroy any of “the works of the devil” Yet many people who are bound are unable to get free on their own – either because they don’t know *how* or because they do not understand the spirit realm and demon activity. Because Churches has not taught Christians about the Dark Kingdom and

demon forces and also because most preachers teach erroneously that a Christian cannot be possessed by demons, Christians who have the right to be free are still held captive.

“There are more people in world today in need of deliverance than there are in need of healing.” Today we see this more and more in our local assemblies. Thus, gave rise to the emergence of Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries (MFM) in 1989, Nigeria by Daniel kolawole Olukoya.

The mission of MFM is to propagate the message of the Christian Scriptures around the world and to proclaim the salvation found in Christ. As a church, it seeks to convert lost souls and reconcile them with their Creator by instilling in them a sense of prophecy. By reminding mankind of their obligation to honor the Word and Power of God, MFM wishes to guide people with the aid of the Holy Spirit. At a take-off point of few days of prayer meetings, large numbers of Christian faithful steadfastly join the congregation giving precedence to spacious location at number 60, Old Yaba Road, Yaba, Lagos. Due to the teeming crowd, believers grew in even more amazing proportion necessitating yet relocation in 1994.

MFM is a Christian church committed to "the Revival of Apostolic Signs, Holy Ghost fireworks and the unlimited demonstration of the power of God to deliver to the uttermost". As the name would imply, the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries places a great emphasis on wonders, miracles and other apostolic acts with a strategic network of branches across the globe. Till date, MFM remains one of the fast growing deliverance ministries in Christendom. Wikipedia, (2014).

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Before late 80s and early 90s, the revival move for a deliverance ministry was not pronounced globally. Except miracle and Holy Ghost pack revival of the 18th and 19th centuries until recent times, where the power of God is being demonstrated through deliverance ministries; most noticeable around Nigeria is the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries. The research is to examine and underscore the necessity of deliverance as methodology to church growth. The church has deliberately relegated the importance of deliverance ministry to the background while enthroning doctrinetism, commodity-fetishism, and showmanship.

Hence, this study intends to resolve the following challenges in Christendom:

- Impact of deliverance ministry to church growth;
- The immeasurable role of deliverance in the growth of a church; and
- Who is deliverance Minister and what church should be a deliverance ministry.

1.3. PURPOSE OF STUDY

Christ commissioned His Disciples with Fire and the Holy Ghost in Acts of the Apostle 2:1-47 and 3:1-26, and it was subsequently passed to all believers to manifest signs and wonders (deliverance) through His name (Jesus). "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in my name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." As they pray and fast together, seeking God's will for the church, the Holy Spirit gives direction to them for the church's mission (Mark 16:17-18). Hence, the purpose of this study is to proffer proper strategy that will energized the dominancy

of 21st century move great deliverance ministry that triggered unprecedented revival across Nigeria and the outermost part of the world to the glory of Christ and the enlargement of heaven.

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study to be able to evaluate the necessity of deliverance in church growth, steps, methods and concept adopted by Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries in Christendom with a to propagating the gospel of salvation.

The study is therefore aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- To determine the importance of deliverance in church growth;
- To ascertain various methods of deliverance;
- To determine efficacy of deliverance in MFM;
- To ascertain whether deliverance is a must to do ministry;
- To recommend the best “methodology” in solving demonic problems.

1.5. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is on Deliverance, a Necessity for Church Growth, a case study on Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries (MFM) Kubwa Church.

1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The significance of this study is to examine the necessity of deliverance as a tool for church growth. Deliverance ministry is wake-up call to believers’ that those

oppressed and bound are set free from the captivity of Satan. And evaluate its role in Christendom with a view to encouraged and set free the oppressed, while have faith in the unfailing work Christ on Calvary for their deliverance.

The study will bring to the foe areas deliverance ministries has contributed immensely to the body of Christ, concern and considerate principles for church growth.

17. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study is as a result of the following limitation:

a) TIME

Time is one of the problems encountered in the course of carrying out this study. This study was initiated concluded within a few months, a period short enough to hamper the adequate procurement of relevant data;

b) FINANCE

The research is faced with financial constraint which has militated against a more elaborate work the subject matter as would be necessary;

18. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

This segment of the study examine the method, design and characteristics of the study population, sampling procedure, determination of the sample size, data collection and procedure for processing and analysing the collected data. On this research, we relied heavily on contentment analysis and qualitative secondary sources of data as further examined in chapter four.

a. RESEARCH QUESTION

In order to effectively answer the research question and present an empirical study I have formulated a few empirical questions:

- What is the deliverance?
- What is the Biblical position on deliverance ministry?
- Is deliverance ministry a catalyst for the repositioning of the church development?
- What are types of deliverance?
- Who needs deliverance?
- What impact does deliverance ministry plays in ensuring church growth?
- What are the methods of deliverance Christendom?

b. RESEARCH PROPOSITIONS

To adequately carry out the research work, the following propositions are made:

- Deliverance ministry has not impacted negatively on growth of MFM, Kubwa;
- Deliverance ministry of recent has become a potent tools to war against the devil;
- Deliverance is a fundamental principles for real church; and
- The growth of any church as body of Christ is premised on God given signs and wonders.

1.9. DEFINITION OF TERMS

This research made use of common words for ease of understanding in line King James Version of Bible interpretation. And the causes of reading this work, the use of high sounding words are bracketed with its meaning or highlighted. However, abbreviation of MFM stands as: Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministry.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. INTRODUCTION

Opinions remain divided within the body of Christ over the place of ‘Deliverance’ in Christian ministry. There are those who advocate the belief in the subject as a valid discipline and dimension of Christian ministry that displays the power of the Gospel. While others continue to advocate disbelief in the subject and as result fail to see any validity of its inclusion in Christian ministry.

The latter continue to put forward argument that purports there to be no instruction in the New Testament, which explicitly commands Some have even gone so far as to brand deliverance ministry and ministers heretical. Although the LORD Jesus Himself not only taught deliverance but it was a key component to His earthly ministry. There is absolutely no way anyone can objectively read the Gospel and fail to be impressed with the overwhelming evidence of deliverance activities happening on account of the LORD Jesus Christ.

First we need to address some of the key points that helps underline deliverance as a valid ministry not only in the days of Christ, but for present and future generations:

- The Apostolic teachings and writings was never intended to cover everything that we as Christians will encounter for all times; but they laid the foundation for the Church while also addressing specifically areas where the Church need to improve unique to the settings and circumstances of 1st century A.D.

- The purpose of the apostolic writings and teaching was never to address all that the Church was doing well, but it was to deal with matters adversely affecting the Church and the message of the Gospel.
- The 1st century Church would have been acquainted with deliverance because it was a civilization that embraced the spiritual and accepted it as the norm.
- Deliverance was not mentioned much in the apostolic writings because it was something that they understood and did quite well. As deliverance was an area where most of the 1st century Church excelled in, it was never singled out for criticism or praise. A case in point can be found in Mark 9:38 - 40; Jesus had to tell the disciples not to prevent or forbid anyone driving out demons in His name; even though they were not part of the original chosen twelve disciples.
- Some of the leading figures amongst the early church fathers taught deliverance and passed down the tradition to generations that would succeed them.

It is incredible that such a wealth of knowledge has been hidden from the Church for ages, which incidentally is no coincidence. At least on the evidence of historical records detailed below, it would appear that the kingdom of darkness prevented the knowledge of their existence and being from becoming public knowledge in the modern era, or that the Church did exactly what she was warned not to do in 2 Corinthians 2:11; she became ignorant of Satan's many devices.

In his letter to the Corinthians Apostle Paul said, (*1 Corinthians 2:4 – 5*) (*K J V*):

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

When the Church once more begins to follow examples of the pillars of faith listed below; then we may well see a change in attitude towards the Church with regard to her authority and place in the world. The Church in our view will once again become relevant and wanted in communities, families, and peoples' lives.

The following have witnessed or participated in deliverance and attest to its authenticity and practice for today's Church. What makes this so poignant is the claim that power demonstration of the gospel did not come to an end with the apostle but continued to thrive well into the 4th Century AD and only fizzled out after the politicization of the Church commensurating with the conquest of Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus or Constantine the great. Henry Wace, (1999)

According to Clement I, Apostolic Father/Bishop of Rome (94 - 97AD). Early Church Tradition acknowledges him to be the one mentioned in Paul's letter to the Philippians 4:3. He believed the Devil to unique personality with an ambitious drive to push Christians to sin and degeneration.

Ignatius Apostolic Father and Bishop of Antioch, (107AD). He was a disciple of John, who of course was one of the original twelve disciples of JESUS CHRIST. He was also influenced by Apostle Paul's letters to the Churches, especially Ephesians. Ignatius famously warned the Ephesians to evade the "stench" of the prince of this world, lest he diverts them from the life that Christ wishes for them.

According to Polycarp, the Apostolic Father and Bishop of Smyrna (156AD) He was a disciple of John, who of course was one of the original twelve disciples of Jesus Christ. He often spoke of the plots the Devil and his cohorts' hatches against Christians to lead them to ruin. Justine Martyr of Caesarea, First of Apologetic

Fathers (100 - 165AD). He believed that Christians were locked in a cosmic battle with the Devil and his followers.

While addressing Christians of the Roman Senate, He said the name of Jesus as a man and Savior is significance. For He was made man also, as we before said, having been conceived according to the will of God the Father, for the sake of believing men, and for the destruction of the demons. And now you can learn this from what is under your own observation. For numberless demoniacs throughout the whole world, and in your city, many of our Christian men exorcising them in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, have healed and do heal, rendering helpless and driving the possessing devils out of the men, though they could not be cured by all the other exorcists, and those who used incantations and drugs."

In his Second Apology for Christians address to the Roman Senate, He said "But " And those of the Stoic school--since, so far as their moral teaching went, they were admirable, as were also the poets in some particulars, on account of the seed of reason [the Logos] implanted in every race of men-- were, we know, hated and put to death,--Heraclitus for instance, and, among those of our own time, Musonius and others. For, as we intimated, the devils have always afflicted those who lived a reasonable and earnest life and shun vice, be hated. And it is nothing wonderful; if the devils are proved to cause those to be much worse hated who live not according to a part only of the word diffused [among men], but by the knowledge and contemplation of the whole Word, which is Christ. And they, having been shut up in eternal fire, shall suffer their just punishment and penalty. if they are even now overthrown by men through the name of Jesus Christ, this is an intimation of the punishment in eternal fire which is to be inflicted on themselves and those who serve them. For thus did both all the prophets foretell, and our own teacher Jesus teachAnd

too often differing sides have not been willing to listen to one another. Here are the views of some deeply committed Bible scholars that focus the discussion on the issues. (Wikipedia).

2.1. ORTHODOX AND PRESBYTERIAN VIEW ON DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

According to Eric Gondwe (2013) of the Biblical deliverance ministry focuses deliverance as when an individual having a true encounter in God's word as the only means for real deliverance. His argument was as follows:

It is the truth that sets us free in whatever area we may be under attack. Receiving the truth in God's word in an area of concern is what brings deliverance and healing. When the truth comes and is applied all the legal doorways that demons entered through are closed. There is no binding and loosing of demons involved, no special anointing oil, no laying on of hands, no powerful deliverance prayers and so on. And no special emotions either to feel the deliverance experience. It is simple a simple act of faith and the will to apply required biblical deliverance principles. God's angels then go ahead to overcome the demonic forces in the spirit realm that before had legal entry once the truth comes and is applied.

Tony Evans (20014), argued that deliverance originated from the Bible through Christ's having legal rights over demonically possess persons during His earthly ministry, and such, commanded us to do likewise. He generally defined "deliverance ministry" as those called by God for specific anointing to casting out of demons or

spirits with the view of solving problems related to specific demons. For example, a deliverance minister may seek to help someone overcome anger by casting out a spirit of anger. He further posited that, deliverance ministries also focus on tearing down spiritual strongholds in one's life, finding inner healing, and claiming the victory in Christ over all enemies. This he refers to as soul ties, curses, and the "legal rights" of demons. Biblical examples; demons or evil spirits are known to be fallen angels that rebelled in heaven with Satan (Revelation 12:4-9; Isaiah 14:12-20; Ezekiel 28:1-19).

Tim Searles (2013), Deliverance is the removal of spiritual oppression through prayer, reading of the scriptures, casting out of demons and/or counseling. Deliverance is not about converting to a religion, or being "born again," but helping individuals overcome sinful behaviors and non-Christ like ways of thinking.

What we never would have believed before are now a part of his worldview, and we are convinced that deliverances and healing this is the "new" way of doing things and a "new" wave of teaching beyond the old historical, dusty pages of the Bible. The new "apostles" and "prophets" are bringing a fresh "Rhema" word to the churches, and those who want to be involved in this Army that will change the phase of church ministrations.

The only way to be free of demonic influence and the sin of self-righteousness and self-deception is to truly believe that we have deliverance from sin, the world, the flesh and the devil through the cross of Christ. I would be remiss at this point if I did not present the Gospel so we have a basis to know what we must do to be saved.

Acts 16:30-31:

*He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I **do** to be saved?" They replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved**— you and your household."*

What we must "do" is believe. Without the conviction of the Holy Spirit Who opens our eyes to our sin and need of the Savior we would never know what to "do". But when Jesus Christ knocks at our door we have a choice. To be saved we must believe, and believe rightly. Let's step through the Gospel.

Find a church that is Bible-believing and Christ-centered that is a church that considers the Bible to be the highest authority in all matters of Faith and practice instead of new revelation, and the main focus is on Christ and not the Holy Spirit, Who Himself focuses our worship and attention on Jesus.

Samuel koranteng-Pipim] (2005) recognizes the existence of genuine cases of demon-possession and the need of relief for the oppressed victims of Satan's control. However, Samuel is unable to endorse "spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry" as it is presently being practiced in various circles (including some among Adventists).

There are problems with some of the philosophical underpinnings of the contemporary "deliverance ministry," and this is examined to some extent in this study with deep concern some of the practices characteristic of this specialized ministry which is deemed to be highly, potentially and spiritually tough. Central to the philosophy undergirding "spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry" as it is presently practiced in many places is the concept of the "priesthood of all believer;" and the corollary of importunate prayer.

The Protestant Reformation Encyclopedia defines the "deliverance" as "the concept that every person can approach God directly, without the services of an intermediary human priesthood" and identifies it, rightly, as "one of the fundamental principles of the believer." As such, "it is a logical corollary of belief in salvation by faith alone." This implies a brief sketch that significantly points out how the Reformist, in contradistinction to other Protestants (particularly certain evangelicals) see the implications of the doctrine. Ellen White, (1987).

2.2. PENTECOSTALS' SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

Bill Bank (2014) posited that any individual who is under satanic bondage to a person, someone spiritually manipulating another person easily, controlled and being , dominated. Or tormented by pass thoughts, to such, deliverance the best option. And except these steps are taken, one cannot freely serve the lord.

He added, that deliverance is powerful helping tool for spiritual Christian faith stability as you subsequently pray yourself being free from unnatural bondages (or soul ties) to people, places, and things, such as ex-lovers, people around you who practice manipulation, and others. You will learn more about the characteristics of a Godly relationship and an Ungodly Relationship.

Frank Hammond (2013) in his handbook on deliverance from demons and spiritual oppression explained in practical terms the application of the deliverance ministry is being patterned after the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Frank further expatiated on various ways demons operate in a person and that the efficacy of deliverance ministry in Christendom is obvious in our today's world where demonically possess are in the increase. He also capsulated, that one major reason of Christ coming was to deliver the oppressed from satanic bondage as Bill Banks earlier expressed.

Bill Banks (2013), another of his books on deliverance “**breakthrough delievranc**”. Posited that, it is only the deliverance minister that can render help for the oppressed, tormented, addicted and compulsive people, and that the solution is as old as the ministry of Jesus Christ. Find answers to such questions as: Why has modern medicine and science failed to cure millions of emotionally disturbed people? Why are increasing numbers of individuals developing mental disorders? Are people more prone to addiction today than ever before? Is it possible that there is another explanation for the voices people hear, or for the compulsions that they experience? Could it be that the real solution lies within the spirit of man?

noting that over 30 years of counseling and ministering deliverance, in the United States and abroad, Bill in-point satanic attack as the common root causes of emotional and mental torment globally experienced in the world today, and that is through steps-by-step counselling and deliverance programmes in Christ that can set free.

Peggy Joyce Ruth (2014) elucidated a practical experience of a tormented the heartwarming story of a young woman's struggling through eight years of emotional illness, electrical shock treatments, prescription drugs and hopelessness - culminating in absolute victory, made possible only by God's supernatural delivering power. Her book “Tormented” contains powerful deliverance testimony, and how

to keep your deliverance. It has been quoted as being the best resource available on dealing with the "thought life" following deliverance and how to keep the mind free from the enemy's torment.

The book not only describes Peggy Joyce's victorious deliverance, but it also gives step by step instructions on preparing for deliverance, appropriating God's deliverance, as well as advice that can assure one of steering clear of these demonic pitfalls in the first place.

Derek Prince (2011) in his book, "the concept of spiritual warfare" examines the concept of deliverance as a spiritual warfare an unmistakable aspect of Christian living. Thus, sees deliverance ministry as an integral part of Christendom. you are in a War he noted, Whether You Know It or Not. Most Christians would have no hesitancy in affirming the concept that God has a kingdom, with its angelic hosts. Unfortunately, many Christians are unaware that Satan also has a kingdom, represented by a host of demons. With earth as the battlefield, these two kingdoms wage war with one another for our minds and souls.

Derek admonished believers of the need to understand the nature of this war and how Satan's kingdom operates. This Legendary author and Bible teacher wants believers to:

- Discover why spiritual warfare exists,
- Understand how Satan's kingdom operates
- Learn the six weapons of spiritual warfare
- Implement strategies that will bind Satan's schemes

- Tap into the overcoming power of the Holy Spirit

He further postulated and advises believers to be prepared in order to overcome the enemy's plans, push back the darkness, and proclaim victory for our God.

Derek Prince (2014). This prolific gospel writer again in his readable, biblically based book, “Pulling Down Strongholds” Derek gave answers to: What are Demons? How do demons gain entry into people's lives? Do Christians ever need deliverance from demons? If you are struggling with problems that never seem to go away, has it ever occurred to you that demons may be at work? Or perhaps you want to help others with such problems. Derek points out: "Jesus never sent anyone out to preach the Gospel without specifically instructing and equipping them to take action against demons in the same way that He Himself did. Who has changed? Jesus, the demons or the Church?" He shares his own struggles with demons and deliverance prayers. And that no matter how long or tough a demon might be, the blood of Christ availed much for deliverance to occur in the victim if he/she believes there is deliverance in the Name of Jesus. .

Derek Prince (2013), his yet another book “Rule of Engagement” encouraged believers to take their place in God's plan for the finale of the ages. As a believer, you interact every day with invisible spiritual powers in heavenly places. Hierarchies of angels are engaged in war on a scale that most Christians cannot imagine, and you are being drawn into the action. Why? Because we are Jesus' followers on earth and will be key players in the outcome.

With superb biblical exposition and practical application, Derek offers the guidance you need to take your place in this monumental conflict. As you build the character of a warrior, you will become more and more like Jesus Christ, your commanding officer. You will gain confidence and learn what you need to know to endure to the

end. The message from God for every person who accepts the challenge is this: "Walk before Me and be perfect." This book will help you fulfill your role in the day-to-day trials you face now and in the greater battles to come.

One of the contemporary deliverance ministers, Daniel Olukoya whose ministry has revolutionized the ministry of deliverance across the world, posited strongly that "any church that does not imbibe the anointing of deliverance has the devil to contend with". He believes deliverance is the core of Jesus ministry while on earth and as such we should follow suit. Daniel Olukoya, (2004).

This practice, to which some school of thought are strongly opposed, is felt to be not only inimical to a strong and growing Christian experience, but entirely unnecessary as well. Proponents defend this ministry on the precedent found in Scripture in the narrative of Christ's healing of the two demoniacs of Gadara (see Mark 5:6-13 and Luke 8:28-33), in which Christ demanded of the evil spirits that they identify themselves.

We feel that this is sufficient ground for which deliverance ministry is encouraged in church, for the following reasons:

- There is such instance recorded in Scripture. This custom of directly addressing the demons was a general practice of Christ and the Apostles;
- In the one instance on record Jesus did took the first initiate in the conversation (yet, in contemporary "deliverance ministry," the initiative is invariably taken by the human "deliverer"). Instead, the demons waited for the Jesus to take the initiative;
- Even so, Jesus did not ask them to identify themselves until after He had authoritatively demanded that they depart;

- And, most damaging of all to the case of modern exorcists, after ascertaining that there was more than one demon inhabiting these afflicted men ("Our name is Legion"), Jesus did ask them their names individually, rather cast them out sequentially, one by one, as is the practice of those who would perform this task today in His name, but commanded and got rid of them.

We would, further advance five additional reasons why we must address demons directly:

- This kind of addressing of evil spirits seems to some perilously close to, if not actually within the realm of, two-way communication between the spirit world and humanity which is strictly prohibited and condemned in Scripture. (In Bible times it brought forth upon the practitioners the sentence of death. This is how God-"who changes not" views communication with the spirit world.).
- Dialogue with the demonic spirits generally tends toward protracted efforts at casting out the demons, with consequent emotional and physical exhaustion for all concerned. These humanitarian concerns alone justify the abandonment of the practice of demanding of the demons that they identify themselves rather ordering demons out from a suspected person in the name of Jesus.
- Demons are notorious liars (it was, after all, their master who invented the lie). And their word, therefore, is simply not trustworthy. It is entirely possible, for instance, that in a genuine case of demon-possession one demon might well simulate a number of different "voices" and offer differing identities, thus pretending to be a whole galaxy of spirits, thus making a mockery of the whole situation by pretending to go and yet

"returning." That was why Jesus was not interested in call them by names. Rather giving an express order for them to evacuate the possessed man in swines;

- It is immoral to give the demon any more authority over the vocal chords of the afflicted. Hasn't the victim suffered long enough already',

Ellen White best put it: "Our only surety is in giving no place to the devil. It is unsafe to enter into controversy or to parley with him." dialoguing with the devil is becoming increasingly popular in certain "deliverance" circles: instead of dialoguing with the devil, those in prayer "dialogue with the Holy Spirit," and ask Him to reveal the nature of the sins of the afflicted which need to be confessed, and the identity of the individual demons which need to be summoned forth.

While we have had no doubt but that such prayers would find an "answer," we are perplexed to know how effectively to validate such responses, because the unholy spirit--Satan--the author and father of all deception, can inject himself insidiously and inconspicuously.

Deliverance Ministry is a school of "divine guidance" which is growing in popularity. The entire summations draw their strength from the Word of God. Yet Ellen White, in discussing the same (in which she offers ways), lists the Word of God first, because all subjective methods must be validated by the objective Word.

This school of thought goes on to allege that in the last days everyone will receive the Holy Spirit in the identical manner that Ellen White experienced (Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:27 and Isaiah 44:3 to the contrary notwithstanding), and being able to dialogue with the Holy Spirit is just one of the benefits of this new, special relationship.

Possessors of this "gift" have an unshakable assurance that they are right and all others who disagree--or even doubt--are wrong. And those skeptics who do not whole-heartedly support are automatically dismissed out of hand as being possessed by a spirit of unbelief. In the Name of the Lord shall believers cast out demons.

Commanding Demons to evacuate a possess victim is another form of carrying out deliverance, as commonly experienced in most delieverance churches today. That is, direct confrontation of the demon by demanding--always in Christ's name, of course--that the demons depart. An example was when Jesus rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him" (Mark 9:25), and the further example of Paul is used to buttress the case ("Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her" (Acts 16:18). These examples are valid and must not be ignored.

It has been suggested, however, that in both of the above instances the demon took the initiative, he initiating the confrontation. Because in other contexts the example offered in Scripture is, rather, that of the Christian believer's appealing to Christ to cast out the demon, instead of addressing the demon directly.

In the past God made use of "Prophets" to communicate with humanity (see Hebrew 1:1); but subsequently, through the "New Order", believers are empowered by the Holy Ghost to bind, cast and rebuke the devil in the name of Jesus and they will obey.

In Book Jude chapter 1:9 we find Christ (here called Michael, the archangel) "contending with the devil" who disputed His intention to resurrect Moses from his lonely grave atop Mount Nebo. Satan claimed Moses as his own, for he had come

under the dominion of Satan and was therefore his lawful prey. Further, Jesus had not yet come to pay the penalty-price for sin. Nevertheless, Jesus assumed responsibility for salvation and eternal life on Moses' behalf. Yet even here, Christ "durst not bring against him [Satan] a railing accusation," but instead said, "The Lord rebuke thee."

In Zechariah 3:1-2, we find Joshua, the high priest, standing before the angel of the Lord, while Satan was standing there "at his right hand to resist him." Instead of rebuking the devil directly, Joshua allowed the Lord to handle the matter, "and the Lord said unto Satan, `the Lord rebukes thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebukes thee; is not this brand plucked out of the fire?' Direct confrontation, and direct address to the "possessing" demon, sometimes is desirable and also pragmatically productive.

Mark Bubeck (1982), a leading exponent of "deliverance ministry," tells of his surprising discovery when, in the mid-1970s, he endeavored to bring freedom from demonic powers to a young man on the brink of destruction.

Through the young man's faculties, Bubeck says,

I was in direct confrontation with a snarling, cruel, crude, vulgar demon that had taken the same name as this young man's last name. This wicked power was very talkative. He constantly threatened and insulted me, the young man, and another person who was working with me in the confrontation. After taking back ground he was claiming against the young man, I kept commanding him to leave and go where the Lord Jesus Christ would send him. He was very obstinate in refusing to go. I kept quoting the truth of God against him, but even though he

was weakening, he still refused to go. We were all near the point of physical exhaustion when finally I quoted the promise of our Lord, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt 18:20). After quoting this verse, I said, "This is the very truth of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is here. Dear Saviour, this wicked spirit is insulting You, and he's insulting us, Your servants. I ask You now in Your presence here to put Your holy hand against him and send him where You want him to go." Almost immediately, a great cry came out of the young man's mouth, and he was immediately delivered from that destroying power.

Going by this practical example of Mark Bubeck (1982), it is obvious that deliverance of demon possess understood the “power embedded in God’s words, and only at its applications that demons can be subdued through faith in Jesus Christ.

More important, however, is the approach that did work instantly. For when Bubeck ceased directly commanding the demon to leave, and commenced to ask the Lord Jesus go take charge and Himself dismiss the demon, then and only then did the demon depart. In one instance of deliverance, Jesus told His disciples, "This kind goeth not out by prayer and fasting" (Matt 17:21).

Deliverance Ministry as many could negatively renounce its efficacy, are seen by some class of believers as “ritualized liturgy” and subjective. A highly ritualized approach in which the preparatory steps are outlined with the victim in advance. At a deliverance service, the "deliverer" speaks in language highly suggestible and in an authoritative manner which bears an extremely close similarity with instructions given by a hypnotist to a client while he is yet conscious.

One writer in the growing body of "spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry" literature describes the preparatory service as follows. The leader first prays for guidance, discernment, and protection by the blood of Jesus. He then addresses the "client":

There are three things deliverance Ministers should not do. You don't have to hurt yourself, you do not have to hurt either one of us, and you do not have to break or damage anything in the room. You may feel like coughing or screaming. Do that if you feel like it. Coughing or screaming doesn't cast out the demon--only the Holy Spirit can do that. But if you feel like coughing or screaming, and you don't, you may be holding the demon inside. The demons will put many strange things in your mind, like you're going insane, that this is all a fake, that this is all psychological, that you're going to wind up without a personality, or that other people are going to hear about it. Don't worry; all of these are only old tricks. None of them are true. Okay, now relax. Don't initiate any thoughts.

No such "preparations" as these are described scripturally. On the other hand, most victims of demonic control appear to be highly suggestible, and the form of address by the leader of a "deliverance" session could take the form of hypnotic suggestion, with him in effect making a self-fulfilling prophecy by the instructions he chooses to give.

However, that at times it is difficult to tell whether an harassed individual is or is not demon-possessed, practitioners of "deliverance ministry" often nevertheless proceed with their ministrations on the ground that "if in doubt, try it, since there will be no harm done if the diagnosis of demon-possession was found to be in error."

"Deliverance" sessions often last several hours (all-night sessions are not uncommon), and the experience is generally exhausting and emotionally grueling for all concerned. The net effect is to leave the patient in a state of extreme emotional fatigue. At such times the inhibitory neural pathways are often incapable of functioning normally, while the excitatory pathways are discharging their impulses readily. This means that the patient's power to resist, controlling the thoughts, is wiped out. (The effects are identical to those produced by the brain-washing tactics of certain well-known religious cults.) This generally accepted psychological fact, coupled with the insights to be gained from inspired writings concerning the wiles of Satan, ought to warn us that Satan can--and does--take advantage of this fatigued condition to make his suggestions that will be acted upon without resistance by the fatigued victim. He may even make his hypnotic suggestion for a later performance, after the deliverance session is over, one possible explanation for the fact that a large number of individuals who have been the subject of a "deliverance" session later exhibited recurring problems.

Fatigue for the victim is not the only by-product of unduly prolonged "deliverance" sessions. Christians who participate in long prayer vigils may experience a delayed-exhaustion syndrome. For a month or two the individual may exhibit a "high," seeming to abound in physical vitality, seeming to be able to defy the normal needs of the body for rest and sleep by late-night or all-night prayer vigils. Their "freshness" the next day seems coercive clinical evidence to them that the Lord was really working on their behalf, as well as for the afflicted.

Nevertheless, the net effect seems to be that the body was depleting its reservoir of life-force, its energies were being bankrupted (Ellen White's concern expressed at one point for John Harvey Kellogg's health because he was "living two years in one, and she uttered her protest against this" seems somehow relevant here).

And after two, three, or four months, acute aging commences to set in. There is a "bottoming out," and cumulative exhaustion then takes its toll in a devastating manner. The physical deterioration is evident to all who behold it. And the law of physics ("to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction") and the law of scripture ("Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal 6:7]) is proven correct again. Ellen White, (1970).

2.4. CONCLUSION

From the above backdrop, this inspired counsel may prove helpful as the Christian prepares himself for this special ministry:

- In such cases of affliction where Satan has control of the mind, before engaging in prayer there should be the closest self-examination to discover if there are not sins which need to be repented of, confessed, and forsaken. Deep humility of soul before God is necessary, and firm, humble reliance upon the blood of Christ alone. Fasting and prayer will accomplish nothing while the heart is estranged from God by a wrong course of action. In such situations "the earnest prayers of His faithful followers" are necessary.
- Concerns and Cautions for basic attitudes. Church leaders have been accused by some in "deliverance ministry" as wishing to create a monopoly in which only "professionals" or "specialists"--be they clergy, medical psychiatric, or psychological--may officiate in prayer for the emotionally and physically ill. (Ironically, some of these who protest thus give evidence that they would

prefer to have the monopoly in their hands.) Prayer is not the prerogative of any one group; and the church continues to hold that no practicing Christian needs an advanced academic degree in prayer before he/she can be used to minister successfully to those afflicted by Satan.

- Avoid "Adventure" Approach. When after careful consideration and prayer for guidance it is decided to intercede with God for relief and victory of one afflicted by satanic power, the one who leads out and those who take part need to guard against a "morbid" curiosity, a craving for the sensational, the dramatic, a desire to witness supernatural forces in mortal combat, in short: to indulge a sort of "adventurism." Each Christian participating in this kind of personal ministry needs to examine carefully his/her motives. One thinks instinctively of the story of the seven sons of Sceva a Jewish Chief Priest (see Acts 19:13-17). These men "played around" with exorcism, perhaps little realizing the power of the agencies with which they were dealing. They received a sound thrashing for their pains. Those same evil spirits are still around today; and those who flippantly, carelessly seek to confront demon forces could run substantial personal risks.
- Avoid Inordinately Long Seasons of Prayer. Evil angels sometimes seek to prolong the season of prayer, hoping thereby to wear out the supplicants and eventually to win the day by default.
- There is no evidence in Scripture that when demons were cast out by Christ or His disciples that the service was dragged on inordinately long. Jesus Himself decried the "heathen" philosophy that repetitious utterance of the same petition, in "much speaking," was the way to move effectively the hand of the Almighty (Matt 6:7; see 1 Kings 18:26). And Jesus was also down on "long prayers" (see Matt 23:14), as was also Ellen White, who had quite a

little to say in warning against prolonging seasons of public or semi-public prayer.

Not only are long, drawn-out prayer services unnecessary and without Scriptural foundation, they are also generally counterproductive in terms of exhausting the physical and emotional resources of all concerned.

Avoid Encouraging Over-dependence. There is a twofold danger that the one who is doing the praying will experience difficulty in confidently leaving the one prayed for in the hands of God, and also that the one being prayed for will develop an overdependence upon one or more of those who intercede in prayer on his/her behalf.

While the Christian should and will carry a burden for those under Satan's control, he/she needs to know when to "let go" and trust God to take over and do whatever is needful in the case. Christians can become genuinely trapped by these burdens for others, and it interferes not only with their ability to help others but also may interfere with their own ability to function in daily living. One may be tempted to conclude that he/she cannot trust God to handle the case in His own way and in His own time, and also that he/she can really add something to the ministry of Christ. The idea grows that somehow if I can add my sacrifice to Christ's then it will count for more in the victim's life than Christ's sacrifice without my own.

Sometimes the one for whom prayer is offered develops an unreasonable overdependence upon one or more of those who pray. While the mature Christian will certainly be called upon to supply large, personal quantities of love, care, and interest in providing personal support in prayer, study, and emotional stabilization, he/she will certainly need to avoid permitting the victim to develop a mindless,

irrational overdependence by encouraging telephone calls at all times of the day or night and childish and unreasonable demands for personal attention.

Ellen White has written that satanic activity will greatly increase in these last days before Jesus returns, and we accept that declaration without equivocation. As it examined the work of many engaged in "deliverance ministry" at this time it also concluded that cases of genuine demon-possession associated with physical phenomena are still not as common today as is confidently declared by some practitioners of "deliverance ministry." However, the near future may reveal more such cases, especially in some cultures.

We fully recognize that Satan is at work in the earth today, and in certain instances he actually does control individuals in the here and now. This is an undeniable fact.

We have often been reminded that "we have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teachings in our past history." Let us, therefore, at this point examine an incident in our past history which we feel teaches a lesson that is well considered yet today.

An important distinction, perhaps, needs to be made at this point. It is clear from Ellen White's writings that after the latter rain experience have been received by the remnant people of God, there will be amazing phenomena exhibited by deliverance ministers: "Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men.

More to the point, Ellen White further points out very clearly that in the last days (especially before the outpouring of the latter rain), "God's people will not find their

safety in working miracles, for Satan would counterfeit any miracle that might be worked. They are to take their stand on the living Word" of God to have deliverance accomplished in a demon possess person to the glory of God.

2.5. BOOKS/MATERIALS:

In the course of this research work, the following literature books and material were used to support this research. These are:

- Isaac Eboji (1995); *Deliverance Prayer Strategy: Deliver us from Evil*, PDM Publishing House, USA.
- WIKIPEDIA (1999): ST. Polycarp Catholic Encyclopedia New York.
- Daniel Olukoya, (2004), *Deliverance Minister's Manual*, Publisher: Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, lagos, Nigeria.
- Tony Evans (2014), *Victory in Spiritual Warfare*,
<http://www.gotquestions.org/deliverance-ministry.htm>
- Tim Searles (2013) http://www.ehow.com/facts_5656015_deliverance-ministry_.html
- Lane Cummings (2014): *How to Prepare an Individual for a Prayer of Deliverance* http://www.ehow.com/how_8387481_prepare-individual-prayer-deliverance.html.

- Bill Banks (2012) “Power of Delievrance” Published by Impact Christian Books, New York, USA.
- Derek Prince (2013) “Rules of Engagement” Published by Impact Christian Books, New York, USA.
- Derek Prince (2014) “Pulling Down Strongholds” Published by Impact Christian Books, New York, USA.
- Peggy Joyce Ruth (2012) “They Shall Expel Demons” Published by Impact Christian Books, New York, USA.
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- Frank Hammond (2013) “Pigs in the Parlor” Published by Impact Christian Books, New York, USA.
- Bill Banks (2012) “Breaking Unhealthy Soul Ties” Published by Impact Christian Books, New York, USA.

CHAPTER THREE

BIBLICAL THEOLOGICAL PASPECTIVE

3.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter we x-ray the Old and New Testament with a view to approach the subject matter better and exposing the importance of deliverance in the growth of the church.

3.1. OLD TESTAMENT (EARLY CHURCH) STANDS ON DELIVERANCE

There are series of evidence of deliverance activities in the Old Testament. These, we wish to itemize as follows:

- A spirit being spoke through the serpent in Genesis 3 and caused the fall of man. Satan may be considered a demon, since he is named the “ruler of the demons” (Matt. 12:24);
- A demon volunteered to be a “lying spirit” to Ahab (1 Kings 22:20-22);
- There were spirit beings energizing the world rulers in the time of Daniel (Dan. 10:13, 20);
- No fewer than five different Hebrew words are translated by the Greek Septuagint version of the Old Testament by the well known New Testament Greek words *daimon* or *daimonion*. They are *shedbim* (Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:37), *setrim* (Lev. 17:7) *‘elilim* (Ps. 96:5) *gad* (Isa.65:11), and *qeter* (Ps.91:6);
- The Exodus movement of the Israelites from Egypt slavery to the land of Promise by Moses was a mark of deliverance displayed by God through Moses and Aaron. (Exod. 12:1-51),

- The oppressive nature of the Prophets of Baal through King Ahab against the children of Israel, and the final liberation of the people of Israel by God through Prophet Elijah at the battle at Mount Camel was a show of physical and spiritual deliverance. (1 Kings 1:1-46).

A final area of concern which we have in "deliverance ministry" as it is presently practiced in many circles is the tendency of its proponents to equate "oppression" with "possession."

The word "oppression" (and related forms of the word) is almost entirely an Old Testament word. It is used only twice in the New Testament. In Acts 7:24 Stephen, in his defense, refers to the experience of Moses in slaying an Egyptian who had "oppressed" an Israelite. The other instance is of particular interest as we consider "spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry": In Acts 10:38 Peter tells "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

That human beings are "oppressed" by the devil is certainly Biblical. That such "oppression" is to be equated with "possession" by a demon is equally unbiblical, for in Isaiah 53:7 we are told that Jesus was "oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth." Jesus was oppressed, but Jesus certainly was never demon-possessed.

The Bible appears to use the word "oppressed" to describe an acute form of temptation, not possession by an evil spirit. And Christians who are thus "oppressed" by Satan or his evil angels do not need to call an exorcist to come and cast out a demon, for none is there.

As we have already noted, "control" is the unique characteristic of "possession"; how encouraging, then, is this assurance from heaven, "Satan cannot control minds unless they are yielding to his control." If you are a genuine member of the kingdom of God, Satan cannot control you, though he certainly may oppress (severely tempt) you, even as he did our Lord Jesus Christ. With this kind of "deliverance services" in extreme doubt, is there no hope for victims of genuine demon-possession today? The literature review, while unanimously agreeing to deliverance ministry in churches, some of the scholars were against certain procedures adopted in carrying out deliverance service. However, noting that we are commissioned by the Lord to, "Cast out devils" (Matt 10:8), that does not fit for the misplacement of situations. That is, real situations that do confront God's people. The methods used, however, will be in contradistinction to the highly ritualized and sensationalized drama of the "deliverance session" which appears to borrow (however unconsciously) substantially from ancient pagan cults of Mesopotamia. There is, indeed and in fact, hope for genuine deliverance.

3.2. THE NEW TESTAMENT STANDS ON DELIVERANCE

More than one hundred (100) references of the activities of demons were captured in the New Testament. Four Greek terms definitely refer to demons. *Diamon* is used once in the critical editions of the New Testament (Matt. 8:31). *Daimonion* occurs sixty-three (63) times, and *Pneumata* (spirits) appears forty-three (43) times. The general term for Angels, *Angelos*, describes demons in several contexts (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:7, 9).

It is significant testimony to the reality of demons that every writer (though not every book) of the New Testament, except the author of Hebrews, mentions demons or evil angels. Even Hebrews however, directly names the devil (Heb. 2:14):

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

In the redemptive work of Christ, Jesus recognized Satan as the ruler of an army of demons. (Matt. 12:22-28). He regarded Satan and demons as morally responsible persons who were guilty and assigned to the lake of fire (Matt 25:41), He placed His claims to Messiahship partly on His miraculous ability to cast out demons. (Matt. 12:28).

In the New Testament, Jesus gave His disciples authority to cast out demons (Matt. 10:1) and His ministry largely entails the casting out of demons. The gospels record seventeen mentions of demons connected with the ministry of Christ, and in nine cases they specifically state that Jesus cast out the demon.

From all these evidences, we cannot profess to believe the Bible and deny the reality of demons, either in Bible days or now, it was, and is being established that deliverance ministry is an integral part church growth.

"If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us," the father of a demon-possessed lad once appealed to Jesus (Mark 9:22). Jesus' immediate response was, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (verse 23). Matthew quotes the Master, in the same incident but now talking privately with the nine disciples who had been defeated in their attempts to cast out this demon earlier, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matt 17:20).

While the Scriptures clearly teach that these malevolent spirits are banded together in an organized power structure for the express purpose of subverting and destroying God's created works, and especially mankind, those same scriptures declare the unwillingness of our God "that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9).

In "every time of need" Christians are invited indeed, commanded--by a loving Father in heaven to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help" (Heb 4:16).

Standing by the right hand of that throne (Acts 7:56) is an Intercessor who has never lied (Numb. 23:19); and His continual declaration is that "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). He further adds: And I will give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand (John 10:28, 29).

Indeed, the "good news" of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that by one decisive blow at Calvary, God, by the death of His Son, effectively broke the power of Christ's mortal enemy, Satan.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He (Christ] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage (Heb 2:14, 15).

The essence of the gospel that God now bids His servants declare is the proclamation of individual Christian liberty from the bondage of sin and Satan, here and now, through a bestowal of unmerited eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And this is the record, that God hath given us eternal life, this Life is in his Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life (1 John 5:11, 12). And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed (John 8:32, 36).

While Christ lived among men on this earth He utterly defeated every demon He ever confronted; and He gave His disciples the power to confront and cast out demonic spirits from human beings who were thus oppressed: "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give" (Matt 10:8).

Furthermore, there are other features of satanic manipulations in humans. Demonic nature, their powers, activities, how they possess people, etc:

Nature of Demons:

1. They are personal beings. This is evidenced by the fact that:
 - Personal pronouns are applied to them (Luk. 8:27-30);
 - They may assume personal names, such as "legion" (Luk. 8:30);
 - They use intelligent speech (Luk. 4:33-35, 41; 8:28-30);
 - They recognize the identity of Christ (Mk. 1:23-24) and of Paul (Acts 16:16-17);
 - They exhibit emotion of fear and trembling (Luk. 8:28; James 2:19);
 - They have will Matt. (12:44);
 - They have ability to speak.

2. **They are powerful beings.**

- Highly intelligent (Ezek 28:12);
- Capable of carrying out strategies on the local or worldwide scene (Eph.6: 11-12; 2Cor. 2:11);
- May control and overpower men. (Acts. 19:14-16; Mk. 5:1-4, 12-13)
- Their powers can be used in terribly wicked fashion. (Rev. 9:1-11; Rev. 9:13-19);
- They can produce deceptive miracles (2Thess. 2:9).

3. They are spirit beings.

They are contrasted with flesh and blood, that is beings with bodies Eph. 6:12

- They are among the invisible creatures of God (Col.1:16);
- They may appear in visible forms as if they were angels of light (2Cor. 11:14) or as hideous and fearsome beings (Rev. 9:7-10, 17; 16:13-16)

3.2.1. What are their activities?

The activities of Satan are numerous. Hence, there is need to highlight some of their activities below:

- Promoting Satan's program (Eph. 2:1-2; Dan. 10: 13, 20; John 12:31; Eph. 6:11-12; 2Thess 2:8-10);
- Opposing God's purpose (Isa. 14:14; Ezek. 28:16, 18; 2Thess 2:3-4; Rev. 16:14 Rev. 20:7-9);
- Opposing mankind. (Job 1:12-19; 2:7 Rom. 1:18-32; Eph. 2:1-3; Matt. 9:32-33; Matt.12:22; Lk. 13:11,17; Matt 17:15-18, Matt. 4:24; Lk. 7:21; Mk.5:5; 9:22; Rev. 18:2, 24; Rev. 9:14-19);
- They oppose believers in Christ by:

- a. Attacking their confidence in God and His word (Matt. 16:22-23; 1Tim. 4:1);
- b. Tempting them to sin (1 Chron.21:1-8);
- c. Promoting immorality (1 Cor.7:2, 5);
- d. Breaking up Christian marriages
- e. Introducing false teachings (1 Tim. 4:1-3);
- f. Causing divisions James (3:14-16; 1 Cor.3:1-4);
- g. Creating harshness and lack of forgiveness (2Cor.2:5-11; Eph. 4:26-27)
- (h). Hindering communication and inciting misunderstanding (1 Thess 2:2-18)

3.2.2. Unclean Spirits as mentioned in the Bible (*The Dirty Dozen*)

- Spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:7);
- Spirit of heaviness Isa. (61:3);
- Lying and seducing spirit (Jn.8:44);
- Spirit of jealousy (Num. 5:14);
- Deaf and dumb Spirit (Mk. 9:17-29);
- Perverse spirit (Isa. 19:14);
- Spirit of haughtiness (Pro. 16:18);
- Spirit of infirmity (Luk. 13:11);
- Spirit of whoredom (Hos.4:12);
- Spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:3);
- Spirit of slumber (Rom. 11:8);
- Spirit of disobedience (Eph.2:2);

3.2.3. How Do Demons Come In

Demons possess people through the following ways:

- A family background in the occult or false religions (Exod. 20:1-5);
- Other negative prenatal influences
- Pressures in early childhood (James 3:16);
- Emotional shock or sustained emotional pressure (1 Pet.3:6);
- Sinful acts or habits (Luk. 22:3);
- Laying on of hands
- Idle words
- Inheritance
- Demonic contact
- Cultural dance
- Tribal rituals
- Unforgiveness
- Carved objects
- Charms
- Haunted Places
- Curses
- Pagan festivals
- Satanic Music
- Satanic Movies
- Name other means.

3.2.4. Persons Who May Need Deliverance Include

Anybody experiencing the following needs deliverance:

- Individuals conceived in adultery or fornication; (Deut 23:2)
- Individuals given up for adoption;
- Individuals who were orphans;
- Individuals who have been abused as children;
- Individuals raped or molested;
- Individuals whose mothers had a difficult pregnancy.
- Individuals who had imaginary playmates during childhood because of loneliness. (This is often familiar spirit.)
- Individuals who have been chronically ill all their lives.
- Individuals exposed to pornography early in life.
- Individuals who saw something traumatic such as murder or a fatal accident.
- Individuals who grew up in a war zone.
- Individuals who have been ridiculed all their lives.
- Individuals who have been depressed (chronically).
- Individuals diagnosed as manic depressant or schizophrenic.
- Individuals who have been incarcerated.
- Individuals whose parent(s) were alcoholics.
- Individuals whose parents went through a divorce or separation.
- Individuals exposed to drugs at an early age.
- Individuals who are homosexual or lesbian or were introduced to these lifestyles during some point in their lives.

- Individuals with a history of sexual perversion in their bloodline (adultery, rape, incest, etc.)
- Individuals who have been accident-prone all their lives.
- Individuals with a history of poverty in their lives or families.
- Individuals who engaged in lifestyles of cheating, robbing, theft.
- Individual who are chronic gamblers or spendthrifts.
- Individuals who are addicted to alcohol, drugs, nicotine, or food.
- Individuals who are afraid of being alone.
- Individuals who are afraid of leaving the house.
- Individuals who are extremely uncomfortable around people.
- Individuals who are intensely jealous of others.
- Individuals who hate certain groups of people (i.e. racist, Jews, Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, etc.).
- Individuals who were ever involved with the occult.
- Individuals who involved in yoga or transcendental meditation.
- Individuals who were involved in a false religion.
- Individuals who were involved in an abortion.
- Individuals who have gone through a divorce, separation, or a bad relationship.
- Individuals who were ever *controlled* by their parents, or any other person or group of people.
- Individuals who have chronic headaches or mental confusion.
- Individuals who have a difficult time reading the Bible or praying.
- Individuals who have a difficult time attending church.
- Individuals who have a difficult time worshipping or praising God.
- Individuals who hate being touched by people.

- Individuals who are afraid of trusting people or getting close to people.
- Individuals who are chronic liars.
- Individuals who are chronic daydreamers.
- Individuals who are tormented by nightmares and bad dreams.
- Individuals who have a problems with masturbation.
- Individuals who dress provocatively or seductively.
- Individuals who have been tattooed or have multiple piercing in the flesh.
- Individuals who gossip, slander, and murmur constantly.
- Individuals who have attempted suicide or thought of killing themselves.
- Individuals who desire constant attention.
- Individuals who constantly backslide and leave the church.
- Individuals who go from church to church.
- Individuals who have a problem letting go of or forgetting the past.
- Individuals who are paranoid and think people are out to get them.
- Individuals who were members of a legalistic church.
- Individuals who had a controlling pastor or came from a controlling church or denomination.
- Individuals who are still grieving over the death of a loved one although it has been years since the passing.
- Individuals who constantly hear voices.
- Individuals who have a difficult time keeping a job, finding job, or paying their bills.
- Individuals who are always taken advantage of, abused of, or misused by other people.
- Individuals who have had miscarriages or are barren.
- Individuals who are asthmatic, have sinus problems, or epilepsy.

- Individuals who have psychic ability, can read people minds, or know things before they happen.
- Individuals who were dedicated to the devil at an early age.
- Individuals who have been rebellious or disobedient all of their lives.
- Individuals who blame other people for all of their problems.
- Individuals who can't rest, sleep at night, or have insomnia.
- Individuals who are perfectionists and become angry when things are not perfect.
- Individuals who are lazy, slothful, sloppy and unorganized.
- Individuals who hate bathing and keeping themselves clean.
- Individuals who are addicted to exercise and dieting.
- Individuals who are not or over-concerned about their appearance.
- Individuals who feel they are ugly and unattractive.
- Individuals who are workaholics and work themselves to exhaustion.
- Individuals who are over-religious.
- Individuals who have a hard time believing God loves them.
- Individuals who keep standing up to go out during services.
- Individuals who are preoccupied with death and dying.
- Individuals who are vagabonds or wanderers.
- Individuals who have a hard time submitting to authority
- Individuals who are unapproachable and hostile towards people.
- Individuals who are attracted to guns and weapons or keep them in their possession.
- Individuals who are afraid of demons, deliverance and subject of deliverance.
- Individuals who fall asleep in services and cannot pay attention
- Individuals who have preoccupation with religious symbols, clothing,

icons, statues, etc.

- Individuals who have an inordinate affection for animals and pets.
- Individuals who desire to drink blood or sacrifice animals.
- Individuals who have ever murdered someone or have desire to kill

Someone.

- Individuals who have ever made pledges or oaths to false gods, Satan, occult organizations, gangs, etc.
- Individuals who have blasphemous thoughts constantly entering their minds (cursing God, etc.).
- Individuals who are loners and don't have any friends.
- Individuals who have desire to expose their bodies.
- Individuals who hate children or babies.
- Victims of successful or unsuccessful kidnapping attempt.

3.3. PREPARATION FOR DELIVERANCE SESSION

The deliverance Ministers must be born again. (2Tim. 2:6; Psa. 50:16; Luk. 6:39), and constantly live and practice Holiness of (Character. 2Tim.2:21).

If a man is to be used of God, his life must be clean; not only his outward life as the world sees it, but his inward secret life as it is known only to God and to himself. How few who attempt to help others in the name of the Lord think sufficiently of this! If they did, it would strike them that the eternal would never use dirty tools, that God only made use of pure instruments for the accomplishment of His work. No wise man would pour his wine into foul bottles, no kind and good parent would allow his children to go and see an immoral play; and God would not go to work

with instruments that would compromise His own character. (Isaiah 52:11 and Acts 19:13-17).

A sound growing relationship with Jesus Christ in prayers, fasting, biblical studies, etc. Working knowledge of the scriptures. (Matt. 4: 4, 7, 10), Must be filled with and sensitive to the leading and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. (Act 1:8; Acts 10:38; Lk. 11:20), a deliverance minister must have genuine interest in helping people and patience with people who need counselling before deliverance.

A deliverance Minister needs spiritual and mental wisdom. “Get wisdom, get understanding. Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom; and with all thy getting get understanding.” (Prov. 4:4-7).

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and up raideth not, and it shall be given him” (James 1:5).

Before deliverance is accomplish successfully, the person requesting Prayer must have the following if the deliverance session is going to be productive:

- A desire to be free
- A willingness to faithfully fill out the questionnaire and other relevant forms.
- A willingness to be converted and start living for God
- A willingness to forgive others
- A willingness to keep the spirits out.
- A willingness to abide by post-prayer instructions

3.3.1. Location for Physical Place of Prayer

- The location must be a church yet unquestionable.

- Must be a safe place where the one being prayed for cannot get hurt during violent manifestations.
- Must have adequate supply of tissue
- Must have waste paper basket.
- Must have prayer throw clothes.
- Must have chairs for the one being delivered and the ones offering prayer.

3.3.2. Gathering Information

- It will be helpful if those prayed for complete legal waiver and questionnaire forms
- From the questionnaire, you will be able to determine where the person is spiritually. Use this knowledge to introduce Christ or bring about a restoration to Christ should you be dealing with a backslider.
- Go through the scriptures that will help the person's faith in God.
- Lead the person in a general prayer, which may include but is not limited to; confession of sins; forgiveness of others, renunciation of occultic involvements.
- Led by God's spirit and information provided in the questionnaire, go after the spirits one by one.
- As much as practicable, assign at least two workers to each case.
- Avoid working alone with the opposite sex
- Select the right worker to deal with each case
- Choose the right time and place for the session
- Rotate the team members so as to give them time to rest.
- Restrain those with violent manifestations to avoid injury.
- Sit directly in front or beside the person being prayed for.

- Never close your eyes.
- Exercise compassion.
- Speak in a calm voice
- Look the person in the eyes.
- Decide whether to touch the person or not.
- Never interrupt another worker
- Several workers should not cast out several spirits at the same time
- Do not believe everything the spirits tell you, rely heavily on the Holy Spirit.
- Sometimes a second deliverance session may be better than a long drawn out exhausting one.
- Do not be fooled, the fact that manifestations have stopped does not mean that deliverance is complete. Patiently go after every one of the spirits identified in the questionnaire.

3.3.4. Forms of Demonic manifestations.

Manifestations take various forms but the most common ones are:

- Burping
- Foaming
- Yawning
- Gassing or farting
- Tears
- Screaming
- Sneezing
- Nasal discharge
- Spitting

- Vomiting
- Chocking
- Barking
- Roaring
- Coughing
- Groaning
- Crying
- Quacking
- Shaking and sweating

You can tell whether the Spirits have left through:

- The deliverance team's discernment
- The victim's discernment
- Plain human observation

Deliverance in MFM can also be administered to many people at one time. This is known as Mass Deliverance. It helps pave the way for one and one deliverance. Before commencing a deliverance programme in MFM, confessions to all known sins, renunciation of psychic bondage (witchcrafts or sorcery which may have been put upon me or my family line); breaking evil soul ties, confessions of sins of the fathers (in accordance with Leviticus 26, I do now confess the sins of my ancestors: idolatry, witchcraft, occultism, lust, adultery, divorce, perversion, rebellion, stubbornness and wicked heart of unbelief. I claim forgiveness because of the provisions in 1John 1:9, break the curses and lift the curses, whoredoms and iniquities from my descendants and me. I command all spirits associated with these

to leave me and my family and go wherever Jesus wants to send them). And finally, surrendering your life to Christ completely (now loose myself from every dark spirit, from every evil influence, from all satanic bondage and from every spirit in me, which is not a spirit of God).

In this reseach study, MFM Kubwa, established about fifteen years ago has engaged in various forms of deliverance programs. Below are some of the experiences of demons and behaviors of their prey:

Addictive Behavior Demons:

- Alcoholism—Addiction to other substance after quitting
- Drug addiction—Alcohol & drugs are the top life priority
- Drug personality—Compulsion for drugs and alcohol
- Drunkard—Craving for sweets, sugar and caffeine

Spirits of Sexual Immorality

- Abortion—Debauchery and Seducing spirits
- Adultery—Incest, Fornication, other Lusts, Immorality, Uncleanness
- Blasphemy—inflamed passions, Ancestral Sins, Profanity, Foul Mouth, Conceived in Drunkenness/Lust, Burning Passions, Degradation, Licentiousness,

Demons Who Hurt Others

- Cruelty—Murder, Rage, Seething, Anger, Temper Tantrums, Malice
- Destruction—Verbal and Physical Threatening, Martial Arts
- Explosion—Retaliation, Verbal Abuse
- Hatred—Self-hatred, Violence
- Hurting People’s Feelings—Slander, Malice, Gossip

Demons Affecting the Body

- Blackouts—Sleeplessness, Nervous Stomach
- Hangovers—Nervousness, Red eyes, Headaches
- Hypoglycemia—Physical Illness, Infirmary, Poor Eating habits
- Liver disorders—Nervous breakdown, Cirrhosis]
- Various physical illnesses (including emphysema)

Demons Affecting the Mind

- Anxiety—Fear of Being Rejected, Mental Instability, Paranoia
- Blurred Mind—Fear of Failure, Mind Blanking
- Confusion—Resentment, Schizophrenia, Fear of being unwanted.
- Controlled by guilt—Guilt and Insecurity, Guilt Ridden, Self Hatred, Intimidation.
- Deep Hurt—Hopelessness, Hatred of Others, Inability to Give or Receive Love Freely.
- Defeatism—Impairment of Judgment, Indecision, Shame, Condemnation, Depression, Inability to Communicate, Slow Thinking, Worthlessness, Despair, Sorrow.

3.4. POST DELIVERANCE-PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS

The following steps of prayers are suggested for daily use to help the one prayed for keep the deliverance experience:

- They must confess the general areas in which they have received deliverance positively and gratefully in prayer. (Rom. 10:9-10);
- Meet each new day trusting the Lord's power to help them. (Gal. 3:3);
- They must expect continuous and increasing freedom where Satan has previously bound them or used them for his purposes;
- They must move forward in faith without even a glance over their shoulders at what is now past. (Phil. 3:13-14);
- Remind them that anything the devil whispers to them is a lie (John. 8:44);
- They must constantly resist the devil. (James 4:7-8);
- They must not hesitate to use the name and the blood of Jesus against the devil.(Rev. 12:11, Rom. 8:1);
- Avoid sin like a plague (1 John 5:18);
- Rely upon the Holy Spirit to guide and control their lives, emotions, desires and imaginations. (Rom.12: 1-2);
- They must *take* and *make* time to read, study and meditate on God's word. (Josh. 1:8; Col.3:16);
- Wear the whole armor of Spiritual Warfare everyday (Eph. 6:10-18);
- They must keep their eyes and ears open for all the sneaky traps the devil will leave around for them. (James 4:7-8);

- Consecration of their thoughts and plans on what glorifies Christ will ensure their continuous victory. (Col. 3:1-3)
- Warn them to never think they can make it alone. (John 15:5)
- They must break up wrong friendships and choose positive, clean-living friends who put Christ first. (James 4:4; Phil 4:8);
- Be very prayerful (Matt. 26:41; 1Thess. 5:17);
- Be filled by and walk in the Spirit (KJV).

Jesus after calling the twelve Apostles, He sent them out with authority and power to overcome satanic spirit. (Mark 6:7). Other scriptural basis for the deliverance ministry as commanded us by Christ are as follows:

- Jesus commanded it. Mark 6:7; Mark 16:15-18; Matt. 10:1-8
- Jesus practiced it. Mk. 2:2-20 with Mt. 8:28-34; Mat.9:32-33; Matt. 12:22 with Lk. 11:14; Matt. 15:22-29 with Mk. 7:25-30; Matt. 17:14-18 with Mk. 9:17-27 and Lk. 9: 37-42; Mk. 1:23-26 with Lk. 4:33-35; Mk. 16:9 with Lk. 8:2-3; Matt. 8:30-32; Matt. 4:24; Matt. 8:16; Mk. 3:22; Lk. 4:41.

From above scriptures (and many more unrecorded instances John 21:25), it is obvious that Jesus spent a good deal of time ministering deliverance to the possessed (Luk. 4:18 and Acts 10:38), (KJV).

What He did, He expects us to do also (John 14:12):

- The disciples practiced it. (Mark. 9:38; Luk. 10:17);

- Peter practiced it (Acts 5:16);
- Paul practiced it (Acts 16:16-18; Acts 19:12); and
- Philip practiced it (Acts 8:7)

With these multitudes of precepts, practices and patterns concerning deliverance in the scriptures anyone who gets involved in deliverance ministry today has solid scriptural backing.

3.5. IMPORTANCE OF DELIEVRANCE IN THE CHURCH GROWTH

The Deliverance ministry is a serious and supernatural work of the Lord Jesus Christ in a person's life. This work is not done by the minister of deliverance doing all the work. The person receiving ministry has to have faith in God, trust in the deliverance minster and obedience to God and the person that God has put them under for ministry. Without these items working together in unison, the person receiving deliverance will not be able to enjoy the benefits of the total freedom that the Lord Jesus Christ intends them to have.

Ephesians 4:11-12: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ

The Scripture of 1 John 3:1 - 10 informs that it is impossible for anyone professing to be a Christian to sin. Accordingly a Christian should be pure as Christ is pure; a Christian should continue in Christ (meaning bereft of the ability to sin as there is no sin in Christ) because Christ is in him/her; and a Christian should never sin.

Many within the body of Christ have succumbed to the temptation of teaching that sinning is permissible within defined limits, thus contradicting 1 John 3:1 - 10.

We don't find Christians, Scholars or theologians alike in their droves saying that Christians can never sin, even though the Scripture clearly says so. However, we find that many scholars, theologians and pastors of diverse persuasions are zealously against deliverance and spiritual warfare for reasons that are not grounded in Scripture; and at times even they cannot explain except to narrate what they have been told by either their mentors or piers.

We have ended up with a situation which has led to vast majority of Christians being seduced by deceiving spirits into sinful state of being, while being prevented from obtaining deliverance from seducing spirits that are at the helm or summit of many churches and Christian organisations. It sounds extremely harsh to say so but the fact of the matter is, most mainstream churches and Christian organisations are spending lots of money in producing literature; sponsoring scholarships, theology and even re-orientation programmes in an attempt to educate people out of the truth pertaining to the Devil, his cohorts and evil in this world.

Such approach has proven to be fruitless and over many years and decades the evidence mounted supports that Churches where growth has been effective, is where there is an understanding of the spirit world and only then can real difference be made in lives, communities, families and nations.

You will find in your own daily experience as a Christian, you are more than likely than not to sin, and that being said is not an inevitability. Now we may take for granted the grace of God, but Apostle Paul has warned in Scripture that it is foolishness to continue to sin that grace may abound (see Romans 6). The fact that a Christian struggles with sin or continues to sin is a clear sign of spiritual hindrance and opposition at work against the sanctified works of God in his or her life. John Loren Standford, (2008).

3.6. HINDRANCES TO DELIVERANCE

There elements that hinder perfect deliverance of a person, and these are:

a. Sin:

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the lord will not hear me. (Psalm 66:18). Both healing and deliverance are from the Lord; He says so in His Word. If we are in covenant with Him (and if you are a true Christian then you are in covenant with Him) then He is obligated to fulfill His Word and heal or deliver us. I've learned

over the years in ministry that there are only two things that can keep a Christian from receiving the Promises of the Lord; they are sin and unbelief. David understood that sin was a barrier to having his prayers answered. The reason is simple – sin erects a barrier between you and God.

Christians have been universally taught that sin separates you from God but that the Blood of Jesus washes away their sin. This is true. However, they've not been taught the awful nature of sin and the fact that when we sin it has devastating consequences upon the human being's spirit, soul and body. There is even a large ministry in glob that teaches Christians erroneously that they never have to worry about sin again once they're saved, that all their future sins are wiped out. This does not agree with the Bible, especially I John.

God wants us to walk with Him and the Word says that two cannot “walk together except they be agreed” (in agreement). A person in sin cannot stand before a Holy God; that is why the Word admonishes us to “be holy as I am holy” and “without holiness no one shall see the Lord.” We have to strive to live, holy, sinless lives. We will still sin from time to time but we should strive to live holy lives and we should be quick to repent. I've found that people who are quick to repent of sin not only walk in better health but they also seem to know the Lord better.

Make a quality decision to live a holy, sinless life. Don't make excuses for yourself – what I call spiritual rationalization – by excusing sin as if it's some trivial matter – it's not! Jesus suffered and died for our sins – we should not treat them lightly!

Sin is a doorway that demons use to gain access to us, our children (yes, ours sins can cause access to our children) and others in your family. Demons operate through

The Law of Sin and Death to have a *legal* right to afflict you. You must shut the door of sin in your life or you will never receive deliverance.

One of the important aspects of deliverance ministry is determining what legal right a demon or demons have to access a person; normally it is either their sin or the sins of their ancestors (sometimes called *generational curses*).

b. Unbelief

Unbelief is normally the biggest problem that keeps humans receiving healing or deliverance from God. We've found this is especially true for Spirit-filled Christians who know that Jesus still heals and delivers today. The problem is that heads knowledge of Christ but not having faith. Developed faith can trigger and energized deliverance. However, the Lord normally overlooks this in denominational people because they've not been taught that He still heals but He seldom overlooks it in Spirit-filled Christians. We are expected to be more mature and understand these spiritual things. Yes, sadly, God will let you die or stay in bondage if you don't develop your faith and learn to stand on the Word.

3.6. CONCLUSION

The more mature you are spiritually the more the Lord will be very strict in holding you accountable to what the Word says. Many Christians die prematurely or else never fulfill God's will for their lives simply because they do not spend enough time in the Word and develop their faith and spiritual sensitivity to hear the word of the Lord. Remember a very key verse of scripture in this regard and obey it every day: "Man does not live by bread alone." (Mt. 4:4 and Lk. 4:4).

It is conclusive therefore that Christians who sin or are involved with the preoccupation of sin contrary to the Gospel message that liberated them from sin and satanic bondage, are slaves to demonic influence and tendencies. Sin does not just imply or mean what we do by way of conduct towards others; but also that which we believe to be contrary to the integrity of the Gospel and the Word of God. In that respect sin is also denying what JESUS did and that He also provided for the Church to stand successfully against the powers and works of darkness.

The Scripture has correctly identified anyone who is a slave to sin as lawful captives of the Devil and are therefore candidates for deliverance, if they are to live in ways that glorifies and magnifies the LORD Jesus Christ who paid the price for their freedom.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

4.0. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, analyzing the data collected through questionnaire is going to be based on context analysis as earlier posited in my research procedures, which will be limited to those direly relevant to the course of study used.

The traditional understanding of deliverance ministry in Kubwa is that it is a well-organized and tailored ministry in this regards. The valiancy and spiritual audacity implored in this respect is amazing. For example, in a prayer of deliverance, a lot of spiritual preparation is put in place before a Pastor conducts deliverance on individuals possession. Preparing an individual for a prayer of deliverance might be a simple process if the individual is seeking help. It might be more complex if the individual is truly suffering from demonic possession and resistant to such efforts. Lane Cumming, (2014).

4.1. RESULT PRESENTATION

Question 1:

Who is God? : He is the Creator who made everything and still holds it together. He is involved right now in His world. The Bible says:

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth. He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else." Acts 17:24-25

God wants to be our Father. His purpose in creating man is to have a family He could love and who could love Him in return. The Bible says:

In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will. Ephesians 1:5 God the Father is changeless and trustworthy. He loves us with an everlasting love. When we become His children we are safe. He will never fail us or forsake us. The Bible says:

"I will never leave you or forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

God created heaven as a beautiful home where He and His children could live together forever in peace. The Bible says:

"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain."(Revelation 21:3-4)

Question 2:

Who is Satan? : Lucifer was the Anointed Cherub. Anointed means to be set apart for Gods Divine purpose. It also means "bestowal of Gods divine favor", and "appointment to a special place or function." God had given Satan a certain amount of power and authority. But he perverted that power. Lucifer wanted to exalt himself above God rather than "just" being the Angel of God and was cast down from the throne of Grace. Ezek 28:12-15

Question 3:

Who are Demons?: Demons are spirit beings that have an intense craving to occupy physical bodies. Apparently, their first choice is a human body; but rather than remain in a disembodied condition, they are willing to enter even the body of an animal. (Luk. 8:32-33).

Question 4:

What is their origin? : There is a problem concerning the exact origin of demons, since it is not precisely stated in the Bible. There is good evidence, however that demons are fallen angels aligned with their leader and chief demon, Satan. In his original rebellion, Satan drew with him a great number of angels; perhaps a third of all created Ezek. 28:18, Rev. 12:4.

They may now be classified as either confined or free. The free have their abode in the heavenlies and have access to earth and its inhabitants Eph. 3:10, 6:12. Some are in the abyss or pit Rev. 9:1-11...a place to which Christ cast many. Lk. 8:31. Others are bound on earth...in river Euphrates Rev. 9:14, Jude 6 describes a particularly wicked group of demons as “kept in eternal bonds”.

Question 5:

What are the activities of demons on earth? : to distract humans from the worship of God, to destroy and kill, to deceive, to afflict with all manners of infirmities, to loose God’s blessing upon His children, to perpetually keep humans in bondage, to prevent humans from enjoying the eternal joy ahead, and to district humans in the obedience to God’s directive, etc.

Question 6:

What is Deliverance?: We believe that deliverance is key to going higher in what God has for each and every one of us. Total freedom from satanic oppression and being saved from sin and death through the blood of Christ..

Question 7:

Who needs deliverance? : Those that are oppressed by one infirmities or the other. Those who are demonically bound those whose ancestral foundation is problematic. Anyone who is not born again in Christ or having a personal relationship with Christ.

Question 8:

Is deliverance ministry a catalyst for church growth? : World evangelization will never be done without spiritual warfare. Many of our evangelistic efforts will continue to meet with little or no success without serious attention to spiritual warfare. That is why I consider it the first strategy to bring increase and life to the church especially in black Africa where magic, rituals, oblations, idol -worship and demonic incantations and invocations are very prevalent. The gospel will only make minimal effect when we neglect spiritual warfare. The devil specializes in blindfolding the eye and minds of people to the light of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul stated that this is the main reason the gospel did not spread fast enough in 2 Cor.4:3, 4 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost. In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them': Effective evangelism therefore includes getting Satan's hand off and breaking the seal he has placed on people's minds so that the light of the gospel might shine there.

Question 9:

Who is a deliverance minister? : These are those who are called by God to function in the assistance of conducting or overseeing the affairs of the deliverance ministry within a church. Deliverance ministers also, conduct and counsel prospective deliverance candidate before deliverance is conducted.

Question 10:

What are types of deliverance? : There are many types of deliverance. But, the most important ones are: inner healing as the first step to deliverance. The reason is because demons attach to our emotional wounds caused by our negative experiences or traumas. Emotional wounds are one of the most important reasons why deliverance fails. You may be in denial and think that you don't need inner healing; easily become irritable, show no mercy to others or have over-expectation of others and yourself, have an underlying feeling of hurt, get angry at the slightest offense, still have strong emotions of hurt about past experiences, are angry at God, use drugs, sex, entertainment to escape, easily lash out or are hostile towards others, snap with sarcasm, have self-hatred, are unable to receive love, can't forgive, are unable to forgive yourself, are passive aggressive, have obsessive behavior, are a perfectionist, then you probably need inner healing.

Question 11:

Is deliverance by compulsion? : No, is mere willingness by an individual who believes he has a spiritual problem that needs to be resolved. While having faith and believing that God is able to deliver him.

Question 12:

What is Biblical position on deliverance? : In the book of Luke 4:18 we have the Spirit of the Lord, because He has anointed us to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent us to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free. In Acts 10:38: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth

with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him, (NIV).

4.2. CONCLUSION

From the above aforementioned, the controversy surrounding whether deliverance, ministry is a necessity energizer for positive church growth, no longer no-long holds sway in Christendom, and have been laid to rest after respondents have sincerely allied their argument in support with biblical references which adjudged to the fact that the entire ministry of Christ was deliverance base. That, MFM, a corn deliverance Ministry wouldn't have emerged at a better time as this. And that the Ministry has broaden the spiritual knowledge of believers on the activities of the power of darkness, while adducing total power for liberty to the saving grace of Jesus at the very point of our been saved and faith in His word.

Furthermore, that MFM through deliverance ministry and it's over 24years impartation of deliverance programmes has exposed the workings of demonic activities in Africa and the globe at larger. This is a pointer to the fact, that Christianity is all about Grace, Faith, Healing, Salvation and Deliverance. Any Ministry that fall short of the latter might not overcome the fury of principalities and powers that are prevailing in our worlds today.

From the above context analysis, both the Old and New Testament gave credence to deliverance ministry even in the redemptive work of Christ as state in the Book of 2Corn. 4:3-4.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, FINDINGS AND CONCLUTION

5.0. INTRODCTION

The generally agreed-upon definition of “deliverance ministry” will usually focus on the casting out of demons or spirits in an attempt to solve problems related to specific demons. For example, a deliverance minister may seek to help someone overcome anger by casting out a spirit of anger. Deliverance ministries also focus on tearing down spiritual strongholds in one’s life, finding inner healing, and claiming the victory in Christ over all enemies. Many refer to soul ties, curses, and the “legal rights” of demons. Biblically, demons or evil spirits are known to be fallen

angels that rebelled in heaven with Satan (Revelation 12:4, 9; Isaiah 14:12–20; Ezekiel 28:1–19).

There is certainly quite a bit in Scripture about Satan and his horde of demons. There is little said about deliverance from them, and nothing said about deliverance as a “ministry.” The offices of the church are found in Ephesians 4:11. First were the apostles and prophets, the foundation of the church—with Jesus being the Chief Corner Stone (Ephesians 2:20). Next are listed evangelists, then pastors and teachers. The ability to cast out demons is not listed as a spiritual gift or a ministerial duty.

Demonic forces of a supernatural character exist today, as they did in Bible times; and the goal now, as then, is the subversion and destruction of men and women, wherever possible, for time and for eternity.

We distinguish between the affliction/harassment/oppression of Satan and his evil angels on the one hand, and possession on the other. The former is the experience of acute temptation which comes to all mankind; the latter represents total control of human physiology and neurology, and is the experience of a more limited group of individuals.

Among various Christian bodies today there is a movement called "Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance Ministry" in which dramatic and highly ritualized ceremonies (which unwittingly bear some resemblance to pagan exorcism of Bible times) are used in attempts to cast out demons.

Churches believe that there is a place for ministry of deliverance to those who are tempted and controlled by satanic agencies; and it is not a ministry to be limited to professional clergy, psychologists, and psychiatrists.

Not all forms of gross human behavior are directly instigated by Satan, nor are they, in and of themselves, necessarily conclusive evidence of demon-possession. Ellen White strongly denounced the practice in her day of certain church members who went around declaring certain persons as possessed of the devil, then prayed with them, and then pretended to cast out evil spirits. She called such work fanaticism, and said it would destroy any church that sanctioned it.

Because Jesus specifically warned of deceptions, especially in the days just before He returns to this earth (four times in Matthew 24 alone), the church cannot endorse many facets of "Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance Ministry" as it is currently practiced by many churches.

5.1. SUMMARY

The Gospels and Acts relate that Jesus and the disciples cast out demons. The teaching portions of the New Testament (Romans through Jude) refer to demonic activity. Yet there are no preferred lay down procedures or method of casting them out, rather is by the leading of the Holy Spirit. We are told to put on the armor to stand against spiritual wickedness (Ephesians 6:10–18). We are told to resist the devil (James 4:7) and not give him room in our lives (Ephesians 4:27). However, we are not told how to cast him or his demons out of others, or that we should even consider doing so, (KJV).

The emphasis in spiritual warfare is highlighted in verses such as 1 John 4:4, “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 [the devil].” The victory is ours because

of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Believers can overcome their struggles with the past, habits, and addictions, because “everyone born of God overcomes the world” (1 John 5:4). We need prayer, godly counsel, and the support of a good church, but not necessarily a “deliverance minister.”

We are told to “be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith. . . . And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5:8–10).

“There are Christians who think and speak altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination. It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but, thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and His love?”

Know that as Christians, we can overcome any situation with Christ but we must have faith. And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. (Matthew 17:20)

Deliverance is serious business and if you are seeking to be delivered from something, be mindful of who you are seeking to bring you through a deliverance.

Not everyone is anointed to carry out this awesome task. God chooses whom He desires to anoint for a deliverance ministry.

At Greater Life, God has anointed the Apostle with a deliverance ministry and many souls have been made free through the awesome power of the Holy Spirit

Ye shall know them by the fruits they bear. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. (Matthew 17).

5.2. FINDINGS

It is interesting that we have no record of Jesus' instructions to His disciples on *how* to cast out demons, with the possible exception of Matthew 12:43–45, where some insight is given. When the disciples discovered that demons were subject to them in the name and authority of Jesus, they were joyful (Luke 10:17; cf. Acts 5:16; 8:7; 16:18; 19:12). But Jesus told the disciples, “Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven” (verse 20).

Rather than being given a specific “deliverance ministry,” we have an authority in the powerful name of Jesus. One day, John said to Jesus, “We saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.’ ‘Do not stop him,’ Jesus said. ‘For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us’”

(Mark 9:38–40). Authority over demons is clearly the power of the Lord at work, whether or not the exorcist has a special ministry of deliverance. (NIV).

Dialoguing with demons or entering into conversation with them, asking them to identify themselves by name, asking questions of them, et cetera. Might be harmful and dangerous to the possess individual or the deliverance minister. The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy writings uniformly forbid human communication with the evil supernatural world of Satan and his demons.

Long protracted prayer seasons in which release from demonic possession is sought: there is not one instance in the Bible of such interminable, wearying exercises. The demons always left as a result of a brief, authoritative command to depart.

Christians may be called upon to participate, or even to lead out, in prayer services for victims of Satanic harassment or possession. An important work of personal preparation is spelled out in Scripture and in Ellen White's writings which includes close self-examination to discover the possible presence of sin which needs to be repented of, confessed, and forsaken before confrontation with the supernatural forces of evil. Fasting and prayer may be an important part of this preparatory work.

There is a place for this kind of ministry, conducted properly; but, important as it is, deliverance ministry is one of main thrust of the Ministry of Christ passed on unto believers to perform in these closing days of high demonic oppression. Although, most churches are currently counterfeiting "spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry", they have become stooge of the devil to deceive others seeking for miracles and powers they practices fanaticisms into which Satan will seek to lead the people in these last days.

But that the possibility exists in a very real sense, we cannot deny. And every member of the church should follow a prudent, yet positive, course of action. We believe that Jesus is an all-powerful Saviour, and that demons will be cast out of suffering souls today as in apostolic times.

Let us, however, keep in mind the counsel of the Lord as we become steadfast unmovable and abiding in God's words daily into perfection of our calling in Christ Jesus, especially in these closing days.

5.3. CONCLUSION

The key to victory in the Christian life is to be filled (controlled and empowered) with the Holy Spirit on a moment-by-moment basis (Ephesians 5:18). The Father knows who are His: "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God" (Romans 8:14). The Holy Spirit will not indwell anyone who is not born again (John 3:3–8; 2 Timothy 2:19; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 3:16), so the first step in spiritual victory is to place our faith in Jesus Christ. Then, rejoice that Jesus is in you and you have His power and His victory. (KJV).

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to

withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (Eph. 6:10-20).

The most powerful weapon we can use against the devil and his cohorts is the sword, which is the Word of God!

First and foremost, we must understand one thing in order to understand deliverance. Demons are real and they have a certain level of power if you are not equipped by the Spirit of God. No demon can defeat a Christian because they cannot defeat the power of Jesus Christ, but they will try their hardest to accomplish the task. The only way a Christian can allow a demon to take control is if there is sin in their life and if they allow the devil to have control over them. That is why we stress the importance of finding a bible preaching and believing church to have as a covering. Being a part of a ministry that is walking upright can be essential to one's spiritual growth.

Contrary to popular belief, the early church was accustomed to deliverance as well as our great teacher; Jesus Christ (Read the Gospels and the Book of Acts). When looking at the Bible, you can read about His awesome deliverance ministry. He gave sight to the blind, made the women with the issue of blood whole again, and cleanses

the lepers. The miracles performed were enumerable. Jesus healed, saved and delivered and He has given that same power to His church.

Through the anointing power of the Holy Spirit, the church should be equipped to deal with the forces of evil and cast down every spiritual wickedness in high places. Many churches today shy away from deliverance or view it as something negative, when it is completely the opposite. Jesus Himself said that He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. (John 10:10) How can we have life if we are in bondage? To understand deliverance and why it is necessary, we have outlined a few key points:

- God is the one who delivers
- God uses His vessels (Christians) to aid in the process of deliverance
- The devil is defeated by the precious blood of Jesus Christ
- We must have faith that God will deliver us

Without the shedding of Jesus' blood, there would be no remission for sins and no power over Satan.

Christ died on the cross for our sins. Through His death, burial and resurrection, He stripped the keys of death and hell from Satan that death would have no dominion over those who love Christ.

Christ said that He will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 10:19)

He also said Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Luke 10:19)

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