

Deliverance

R067-am

An example of deliverance on long standing issues on which you have had it. Have faith in a caring presence outside of yourself to seal off the entry point for evil, as long as you remain steadfast to your vow to give up the evil. Using intercession, repentance, forgiveness, renunciation, rebuking, and receiving a blessing, in every case we triumph over evil¹ by surrender to the caring presence.

Of far greater importance than deliverance from demonic possession is deliverance into God's hands. We do this by surrender to the caring presence outside of our self, on matters over which we are powerless. The power of God is greater than the power of Satan, leading one man to say about Satan "Oh, it is only you." As we make our self small, God becomes big. God is more powerful than Satan. Total trust in God leads to deliverance.

An individual need not seek deliverance on every matter. God gives us time to come to Him gently. Unlike Satan who tries to intimidate us, God always speaks to us in a quiet voice. He respects our free will; but for example my family behavior or my own sinfulness may reach a point of disgust or readiness. This is something I have been working on for a long time, made a lot of progress but occasionally still pops up. For the sake of coming to the Lord, I feel compelled to share my personal example of deliverance.

¹ (Pope Francis: May 14, 2014 said: "Satan's greatest achievement... has been to make us believe he does not exist." "And in my personal experience," said the Pope, "I feel him every time I am tempted to do something that is not what God wants for me." Source: cnsnews.com)

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 391: Behind the disobedient choice of our first parents lurks a seductive voice, opposed to God, which makes them fall into death out of envy, 266. Scripture and the Church's Tradition see in this being a fallen angel, called "Satan" or the "devil," 267. The Church teaches that Satan was at first a good angel, made by God: "The devil and the other demons were indeed created naturally good by God, but they became evil by their own doing," 268.)

I belong to several prayer groups. In one prayer group a topic of deliverance came up. I had little understanding. They referred me to Neal Lozano's book Unbound, a widely used and practical guide to deliverance. The book was favorably reviewed by Randy Clark and Ralph Martin, people who are respected in such prayer groups.

I know some domains that go back to family behavior afflict us for our own ultimate good. Not all sin comes from family behavior, nor does every family member carry the same sins as I, but in my case the sin of anger and control have run thru my family. I have been working on this a long time. I intuitively knew I could apply this to myself. If you have any doubts, use a prayer room. In my example of deliverance I will follow the steps from Lozano on myself: Intercession (prayer from myself or another), repentance, forgiveness, renunciation, rebuking, and receiving a blessing. It is noteworthy that after the rebuke and the blessing, God, the caring presence outside of myself, will seal off the entry point for anger and control. In every case we triumph over evil by surrender to God.

Intercession (prayer from myself or another). In my case, I was in prayer. I had finished reading the book Unbound. In my beliefs, I have a gift of God speaking directly to me, or the Spirit planting an idea that I was not thinking of beforehand and I discern is from the Spirit. In this case I was in self intercessory prayer. I knew I could apply the materials directly to myself, for I have been working on anger for over 30 years. Those who know me well, know of this. I have been puzzled by why anger can still pop up. I intuitively believed that by my total trust in God, the sealing off of evil could occur and it did. So I proceeded and share what I did as follows.

Repentance. I called to mind my repentance of my sins of anger and of intimidation or forced outcome, my sins of control. Old behaviors

even sinful ones even rarely and infrequently can have a comfort of familiarity, like old shoes,

James 1:15 “Then our evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

I had an enlightenment. Any behavior that keeps another from speaking freely is as repulsive as taking away another’s dignity. And now it was as if I can see for the first time, my anger as a sin of great disgust. I asked for forgiveness of God of my sin of anger. That is how repulsive my anger behavior became to me. This repentance was a great grace. God was helping me create a space of free will, on behalf of dignity in unity for all.

Here is what went thru my mind. Controlling an outcome can be evil. The end never justifies the means. The means justifies the means. Man is meant to live in community, the right kind of community. A community where there is give and take, a free exchange of information is needed. I can never think my way is best to the extent that I run over another. Rather in my work I must objectively explain things.

I am sorry for my past sin of anger, please forgive me, Lord. I repent of my sin of control. Please forgive me, Lord. No person is to be overridden. I crush their creativity and independence doing so. I am sorry for this past sin of control. (And I went to confession at my earliest convenience, right after mass the next morning where miraculously the priest was speaking on ... Deliverance!)

Forgiveness- Before mass I said I do accept your forgiveness Lord.

I want to create a little space around this forgiveness issue. It is thru my acceptance of God’s forgiveness that God can and does forgive any sin. If I do not accept forgiveness and persist in doubt, I am not surrendering to God’s mercy. I must interiorly acknowledge that it is not thru my own behavior that I am

forgiven. Rather it is thru Christ’s death on a cross, a complete gift, that I am forgiven.

Now in family behavior, dysfunctional behavior can be passed on. I am on the right track in accepting forgiveness. I need to do one more step. If I have not forgiven any person, I keep a dark entry point for Satan. Or if in family behavior a Satanic spirit over generations clings, I must see myself as autonomous from all others. Otherwise their guilt can flow over as a doubt of my own. I must differentiate from all others. This leaves Satan without a purchase.

Next I must forgive all others as You, Lord, have forgiven me. There is no sin you will not forgive, Lord. You died for the greatest sinner to be in unity with them... in painful, joyful unity... through the mystery of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

You died on the cross to forgive my sin of anger and of intimidation or forced outcome, a sin of control.

I must beg for forgiveness by any over whom I sinned in undue control in a domain of mine. With my anger, I put many thorns in your crown of thorns. I am sorry, but I know you love me. You don't measure me in buckets of sin. Rather you measure me by my love for others. And you forgive me completely. This I believe. Come Holy Spirit. More, Holy Spirit.

Renunciation. In Jesus’ name, I renounce my desire for excessive anger and I renounce my desire for any control that overrides free will. Lord, you died on a cross for me. Come Holy Spirit, give me the grace which will come when You seal off these entry points. I renounce all false comfort with sin.

Rebuke. I take authority in the name of Jesus. In the name of Jesus I rebuke the evil spirits of excessive anger, and of any control that overrides free will, and I command they come

out of me. Come out of me and never return. In the name of Jesus, I command them to go to the foot of the cross. Jesus seal off the entry point.

Receive the blessing. I praise you Lord Jesus for delivering me from these evil spirits thru awareness. You are all powerful, Lord, come Holy Spirit, by your blessing Jesus I am delivered from these evils. Forever. I praise you Lord because in you all things are possible. I accept your blessing oh Lord. Come Holy Spirit. Fill me with your grace, power and conviction. Amen. I am so blessed. Amen.

How do I feel? Lightened. Hopeful. Expectant. I expect that any time these issues come up the Holy Spirit will grant me awareness that I might make perfect my vows to the Lord. Grant me wisdom Lord. Amen. It is done. Sealed off.

Postscript prophecy. When I finished the above sealing off, shortly thereafter in another context, I experienced awareness of what would have been a temptation, and complete release of same. I expect that will continue because I have sealed off the entry point. I went back to bed. My dear wife, Mary Ann, had uncharacteristically drawn up the shade that she might see the winter wonderland of fresh snow through the night and into this morning, now mine as well through the window to see God's beauty. Praise God!

Additional Context

There is great power in our free will choice to once and forever make a commitment to anything for life. Marriage is one example. For almost 50 years Mary Ann and I have been married. God leaves no stone unturned to come to Him thru our spouse. Matrimony is a graced sacrament. By our commitment we receive grace from God to stay married. This staying is all important. I must be committed to my renunciation of my sins of anger and control. This commitment is very powerful in God's eyes. For He alone knows our hearts. He wants us to succeed. He knows how frail we are. By

our free will choice, God can seal off any domain as solely His. It is my commitment for life that the Lord honors. God is more powerful than Satan.

Quite often when I know Satan is around, I will specify the spirit I am experiencing for example fear, and I will say "I command you spirit of fear in the name of Jesus Christ to leave me and go to the foot of the cross," and often immediately I will feel better. Satan works on fear and doubt, but is a toothless tiger.

For additional context, I recommend the spirituality found in a classic from Tan Books: Scupoli on Spiritual Combat and a Treatise on Peace of Soul. The Spiritual Combat, first published in 1589, provides timeless guidance in spiritual discipline.

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