

Prayer Manual

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This booklet is not copyrighted. Some information has been compiled from the internet. Where possible these references have been given. Much comes from personal experience. It is a living document, growing as revelation, experience and knowledge adds to the picture. Even for myself, it will be out of date tomorrow. It is all about learning keys to setting the captives free. It is not mine. Add (or subtract) at will. This, and the prayers, are downloadable from: <http://people.aapt.net.au/~deanr/Prayer.htm>

My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. - HOSEA 4:6

Introduction

Hopefully this manual will make you think. Of course, it may well be that you yawn your way through it, muttering the sporadic, “Been there, done that”, as you drum your fingers restlessly on the breakfast bar, wondering when the boredom will cease! And alternatively, you may think that I may be totally having myself on, absolutely and completely whacko, comprehensively up the creek in a barbed wire canoe. In which case please use this as fire-starter material to light the next BBQ, and have a snag in sympathy.

Alternatively, and this is my dream, one or two people will try the things in this manual, and something works. Yes, I do confess to having a dream. I envisage seeing people absolutely free, standing out the front in church (no, I am not sure why they have to be out the front, but this is *my* dream!), with their hands raised, absolutely and totally lost in worship and wonder, in the presence of God. They are truly at the heart of worship. If anyone were to find that place, or even a hint of it, through this manual, then... wow! And tell me about it!

This series of inept pieces has been put together as a Prayer Manual, with the intention that people learn for themselves how to get free from strongholds; free from the drivers that push people to sin, and free from the bondages that hold us back from being the people God created us to be. It is not in any way complete, but it covers areas that are typically not covered in most churches today.

Ideally this manual should be run in conjunction with a series of Bible studies. No personal stories have been included at all. While they make fun and encouraging reading, and often brighten and lighten the reading, it was thought that it was more appropriate to add these during the Study time.

Thus each of the sections is looking at, where possible, Bible teaching on any topic. Some areas, however, do not have any clear Bible backing. Equally, there will be nothing contradicting that teaching. For instance, many have prayed to break ungodly soul ties, and prayed also for the parts left in each other to be returned, with dramatic results (see the section on Soul Ties, if you have no idea what planet I am on). But this is not clearly taught in scripture. It can, however, be inferred from the concept of two becoming one flesh, or one person; a concept that is clearly taught in scripture. And it works! And the fruit is on-going – a good test, incidentally.

Each section has related prayers. I used to hate written prayers. I loathed them, in fact. But the reality is that many today have no idea what to say. Many don't pray in groups and out loud anymore. So model prayers have been included. Chop them up, modify them, add, subtract and rearrange them. If they can get someone started, then I have succeeded. I have a manual just with the prayers that we use. It helps.

We are not counsellors. We do not have the skills. These are not counselling tools. They are prayer tools and keys. Only! Either they work or they do not, for any individual. Apart from a “word of knowledge”, it is usually a case of what appears to be the most appropriate key to apply in any particular situation, and working through that. Because it is solely a prayer ministry, where you ask the person to pray particular prayers, it is not counselling. Please do not confuse the two.

This manual will always remain a work in progress. I would like to add sections on physical healing, healing from past and sometimes forgotten hurts, binding and loosing, the effect of deaths in the family where proper burial services have not occurred. Basically because of my own lack of knowledge – and I hope my wife doesn't read that bit – I simply do not know enough to add anything about these areas. Perhaps in future...

To the true Lord Jesus Christ be ALL the glory.

Soul Ties

Soul Ties

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Soul Ties

1. Introduction

It is because of the lack of knowledge that we remain bound. *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests.”* (Hosea 4:6 NIV) Hopefully, these pages convey some knowledge that will help set captives free.

What are commonly referred to as “soul ties”, are bonds formed between people and people, people and animals, or people and things. They are like spiritual umbilical cords. In fact, what we refer to as “soul ties”, are very likely spirit ties a well, but we will use the term “soul ties”, as that is what is commonly used.

In our lives we grow to be most like those that have had the greatest influence over us – positively or negatively. Soul ties formed influence us for good, as well as for evil.

Have you ever looked at a married couple where they both seem to have the same personalities, desires, likes and dislikes, sense of humour, the same views on most things? They may even look the same! They seem to be made for each other. These people have a soul tie between them.

Equally, have you ever looked at a young couple dating (rare these days), and there comes a point where one party seems unable to see logic with regards the other person; in spite of all the logical reasons they perhaps should not be going ahead in that relationship, they will not, almost cannot, see reason and break it off? At this point there has usually been an ungodly soul tie formed through sex before marriage.

Another example: Often, after a marriage break up, the knives are out, the vitriol flows, and hatred knows no bounds. One party (or both) take every opportunity to flay the other party raw. Threats and physical violence are often the norm, particularly from the male. Sometimes (not always) this is because the soul tie formed through the relationship (sex) is not cut, drawing each party to the other. The outworking is that their thoughts are continually turning towards the other party. Even though they desperately want to be free from them, they find that they cannot. This promotes further hatred and anger.

Sometimes we see two people in a close (sexual) relationship where the man dominates and controls the woman, even to the point of domestic violence. Logical presentations to the woman have no effect. Reason seems to have departed. We feel like we are beating our head against a brick wall trying to get the woman to see what is really happening. And nothing gets through. A soul tie is in place.

God has allowed soul ties. They are a model of what it will be like when the body of Christ – the church - is married to the Lamb of God. Through our tie with the Lord Jesus Christ, we desire him to speak to us. Like everything else God has created, though, the devil has taken soul ties, and corrupted them to his own ends.

When a godly soul tie is formed, a spiritual bond occurs, through which the blessings of God, and something of each person, can flow through from one person to the other. A person may begin to take on some of the characteristics of the other person, as happens, for example, in marriage. In ungodly soul ties, curses and unclean spirits are allowed to transit across. Satan may or may not take advantage of this open doorway. Ties can also occur to animals and objects.

So there are godly soul ties and ungodly soul ties.

2. The Intention

The perfect model that God intended was that ties be formed between Christians and:

- God
- Jesus
- Holy Spirit
- one another in the body of Christ.
- their marriage partner and family

The following verses from John 17 spell out God's intention.

*And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that **they may be one**, even as we are one.*

- JOHN 17:11 (RSV)

*I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that **they may all be one**; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that **they also may be in us**, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that **they may be one** even as we are one, I in them and thou in me, **that they may become perfectly one**, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me.*

- JOHN 17:20-23 (RSV)

God's intention is that we in the body of Christ be one with each other, and one with Christ. This "oneness" is not simply in thought or deed, but is much deeper.

As Christians, we are new creatures in Christ. This is not a simply pretty word story. Because we have the Holy Spirit within, in the spirit world Christians are now different creatures than non-Christians. We have different spiritual DNA. We have been "born again". We are spiritually united with Christ, with his DNA, and in some way that we don't understand, we are also united spiritually with other Christians.

What we do now, and who we are, is affected by, and will affect others around us.

This goes against everything that the western mind believes. Our individualism is our pride and joy. The old song said, "I am a rock, I am an island...", and we held that up as something to be sought after. We speak of peer group pressure, but no one likes to admit that their actions are dictated in any way by those around them. We in the West value our individualism too much. To be influenced by others detracts from us somehow. Most do not really believe that they are susceptible to advertising. Individuals, we believe, should not be influenced by others! Yet advertisers still spend billions of dollars, knowing that if the ads are well done, they can be extremely effective. The clothes we wear, the cars we buy, the food we eat, what we do in our leisure and where we spend our money, is all largely dictated by others around us. Even the epitome of the tag "loner" or "rebel", the Harley Davison rider, dresses and acts the same as every other Harley rider. They are all individuals – together. No other brand motor bike on the street is as consistently loud as a Harley. Now, why is that?

The reality is that we need others. We want to be noticed. We need the approval of others, their endorsement and consent. God takes it a few steps further. God's intention was that we become all "perfectly" one, somehow spiritually united with each other. If all people in a congregation are truly one, then the actions of one will affect others, whether they like it or not. Have you ever heard of a congregation where a particular sin is rife? When one member of the congregation introduced the sin, they did not do it with fanfare from the pulpit. Yet sometimes within a short time, many are ensnared by the sin, and the church is ineffective. Every person would like to think that their actions do not affect others, particularly in the church, yet the above passage from the gospel of John indicates otherwise.

Whether you accept the above or not, clearly there is a joining together to other Christians that is meant to occur within the body of Christ. It is normal. It is natural. It is God-ordained. It is more than Biblical poetic licence. These ties enable the body to work together to fulfil its God-given roles.

*All the believers were **one in heart and mind**. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.*

-ACTS 4:32 (NIV)

*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many **form one body, and each member belongs to all the others**.*

- ROMANS 12:4-5 (NIV)

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

-EPHESIANS 4:16 (NIV)

Ties between Christians are not only desirable, but necessary for it to function properly.

We sing, “Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love.” (At least we older ones do...) There is a tie that binds Christians together.

Christians are also joined to Jesus Christ. We are “in Christ”. We have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. We are effectively, one with God. “*But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.*” (1 Corinthians 6:17 NIV). We are “married” to him. Clearly there is a tie formed, and this one is a Godly tie. It was God’s original intention. The analogy Jesus uses of the vine spells it out.

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- JOHN 15:4-5 (NIV)

To worship other gods through witchcraft, or idolatry of any sort, joins us in spirit to these gods also. Our spirit, which is joined to Christ through the Holy Spirit, is also joined to demons. We are committing spiritual adultery and forming a tie to these other gods / demons. Is it any wonder that God treats this in the gravest fashion? (See also Deuteronomy 10:20, 11:22, 13:4; Joshua 22:5, 23:8)

3. Godly Soul Ties

Godly soul ties are formed through loving friendships that are based on Godly principles. They are God ordained.

3.1 Marriage

Marriage is God’s desired way for us. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” (Ephesians 5:31 NIV) (See also Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:16) Matthew 19:6 tells us that God has joined us together. This is clearly more than simply a physical sexual act.

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

- GENESIS 4:1 (NIV)

In this scripture the word "knew" is the same word for us "knowing" God. Knowing here, is spirit to spirit. "Knowing" God is a spiritual thing, just as Adam "knowing" Eve was a spiritual thing. Sex within marriage is approved by God, not just for procreation, but as an expression of love. And while the sexual act joins us so that we become “one flesh,” clearly there is a spiritual dimension involved.

The soul ties formed in marriage are right and God ordained. When divorce and even fights occur within a marriage, much of the pain is the tearing of the soul ties formed. No matter how bad a marriage is, there will always be hurting when this bond is broken.

3.2 Friendships

Friendships are desired by us and are good. A healthy friendship, especially a Christian one, does not detract from our relationship to God, our marriage partner, our children, our work. We can have soul ties to these friends. These friends will support us in all our ways, and not try to dominate or control us. When an unhealthy friendship occurs, it detracts from our normal relationships, and puts a wedge between us and those people we should hold dear.

Examples of biblical soul ties that were good are:

- David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-4)
- Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1:16-18)
- Elizabeth and Mary (Luke 1:36-48)
- Jesus and John (John 13:22-26, 20:2, 21:7, 21:20)
- Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:3-4)
- Paul and Timothy (2 Timothy 1:2-7)

Some would like us to believe that David and Jonathon had a homosexual relationship. This cannot be supported by scripture, and it is stretching scripture to say so. However, some say, and perhaps rightly, that Jonathon's allegiance should have been with his father. He was not honouring his father in his actions, and the Bible commands us to honour our parents.

War veterans often have been through things that only others who were there will ever understand. As long as these veteran friends do not detract from other relationships, then there is no reason for this not to continue. Because of the peculiar and stressful nature of their service, other ways of prayer may be required to set these people free from their past.

3.3 Parents to their child

It is normal and godly that bonds form between parents and their children. Otherwise, who would take responsibility for them? We might put the baby down in the mall, and forget to pick them up again. We would see these, our own children, in a similar light as children who are not our own, and discard them once we have given birth, particularly after the first dirty nappy!

Sometimes when children spend considerable time absent from the arms of their parents, these normal bonds are not formed. This can be through premature delivery, and being relegated to a humidicrib for the first few months of life. Or perhaps the parents are hospitalised themselves, and cannot nurture the child in the normal manner. Sometimes, for whatever reason, foster care is required for the child, and normal soul ties are not allowed to form. This can create a sense of "something missing" which the child may spend a lifetime searching for.

Adopted children, by definition and for whatever reason, were rejected by their natural parents. This rejection, plus the lack of normal soul ties formed at birth, often creates rebellion, and a searching elsewhere for love. The adopted child will often grow up acting out of rejection, even though they cannot verbalise this. Something innate in them has known it forever.

4. Ungodly Soul Ties

Ungodly soul ties are bonds formed between people and people, or people and things, outside the Godly reasons. The usual one today is from sex outside marriage. Often soul ties are formed through control, manipulation or domination. All these bondages can be from sexual sins, controlling parents, spouses, cults, witchcraft, even pastors or "friends".

4.1 Divorce

This is not a debate on the rightness or otherwise of divorce, but it is assumed that some who are reading this will have been through a divorce. In this writer's opinion, divorce is sin. But staying with the partner may cause greater sin. Interestingly, divorce is the only "sin" that God seems to have allowed in the Old Testament, and there are some grounds for believing that Moses may have divorced his first wife. (cp. Num 12:1 & Ex 2:21)

In marriage, that intimate "connecting" goes to the very core of one's being. When this soul tie is damaged and threatened in divorce, it is one of the most painful experiences one may endure. It can cause extreme grief.

Many marriages, even after being legally annulled, still have deep soul ties between the two people. Sometimes, as a result of this soul tie, the same two people will get back together again, only to go through the same problems as last time. When with a new spouse, many will have serious problems getting free in their mind from their old partner, and be unable to give themselves fully to their new partner.

In creating a soul tie, we literally give part of ourselves to the other. When this soul tie is fractured through divorce (or for any other reasons such as abuse), the person often feels unable to give to their next partner, or receive from them, to the level that they would like. They feel something is missing in them. Often this will lead to another divorce, compounding the issue further. We want to give our whole heart to the new partner, but all our heart is not there to give.

Men are created with an inbuilt desire to nurture, protect and provide for their woman. Even after divorce and remarriage, a man may find that they still want to take care of their “ex”. This is because of the soul tie in place.

To the woman he said, ‘I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.’

- GENESIS 3:16 (NIV)

It is inbuilt into women by God that she will bond to a sexual partner. “Your desire will be...” This desire will not be extinguished by physical separation. God made woman to develop a longing or desire for her first lover, ideally her husband.

Note too, the part about “...*he will rule over you*”. When a soul tie is formed, often the man will abuse, insult, and so mistreat her that logically, she should leave him. Many will tolerate his mistreatment, and not understand why. They will then hate themselves, thinking they are being weak. This hatred of themselves lessens their ability to give and receive love. A soul tie may partly explain why, even when a woman leaves this type of man, for many years they will still find themselves “going to pieces” in his presence. She is not free of him. We say that he “controls” her. Perhaps, in praying through a soul tie, freedom may eventuate.

Some women may have been raped, yet find themselves thinking of, or even wanting the person who raped them. They may even unconsciously be looking for the “ruling over”. This occurs, again, because a soul tie has been formed.

It being God ordained that “...*he will rule over you*”, Satan can, and does, take this and use it to his own ends. Thus through witchcraft and Satanism, sex is used as a means to obtain control of a woman, after the event, and even at a distance. It seems that these people know exactly what they are doing, and do it with the specific aim of total control, domination, manipulation, and eve’s dropping. This is all part of the domination, control and manipulation that is so much a part of Satan’s kingdom.

*...but whoso commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding: he who does so **destroys his own soul**.*

- PROVERBS 6:32 (NKJV)

4.2 Ties through sex outside of marriage

God designed this world to operate on spiritual laws that bring freedom when obeyed, but bondage and destruction when violated. Just as two souls can be joined and made to cleave together in a covenant relationship of marriage, they can also be tied together to form bondage and enslavement. Sexual union was ordained by God to make two marriage partners one flesh, or one person, before God, but premarital sex and adulterous affairs can tie one’s soul to many partners. With so little taught on this today, even Christians treat this lightly. “Yes, I got caught out. I’m only human, you know! But it is just another sin. God will forgive me.” It is more than a sin. It has consequences.

God places special importance on sins “*against [our] body*” (1Corinthians 6:18). God desires that we become “one flesh” or one person, with our marriage partner, after marriage. Sexual relationships outside marriage form ungodly soul ties that are demonically reinforced. This includes sexual relationships before marriage to your betrothed.

Paul warns us to have nothing to do with prostitutes. “*Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh.’*” (1 Corinthians 6:16 NIV) The soul ties formed joins us to the prostitute. These ties allow the unclean spirits within her (and from other men) to come across.

*Why be captivated, my son, by an **adulteress**? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife? For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths. The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; **the cords of his sin hold him fast**.*

- PROVERBS 5:20-22 (NIV)

These cords tie him to the other person.

In Genesis 34, Shechem either seduced or raped Dinah, the daughter of Jacob, outside of marriage. Shechem and Dinah illustrate an ungodly soul tie resulting from sex outside marriage. The Bible says that Shechem's soul clung to Dinah. "*And his soul clung to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke to the heart of the girl*" (Genesis 34:3 KJV). He was besotted with the girl. This was lust.

When we understand the concept of soul ties, perhaps it will become clearer why there were (and probably still are) temple prostitutes in many pagan religions. Temple prostitutes were prohibited by Mosaic Law.

No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute. You must not bring the earnings of a female prostitute or of a male prostitute into the house of the LORD your God to pay any vow, because the LORD your God detests them both.
- DEUTERONOMY 23:17-18 (NIV)

Through having sex with the "shrine" or temple prostitute, an ungodly soul tie will be formed to the girl. As she is directly serving the gods of the temple, a tie is also formed through her, to the gods – read "demons" - of the temple, and unclean spirits transfer across. This cements the relationship of the man to the gods. Sheer brilliance on the part of Satan!

Heavy petting and lust, even if it does not involve intercourse, will also create ungodly soul ties.

"She / he stole my heart." "I was totally sold out to her / him." These statements are indicators that show that a soul tie will be in place. They show a depth of commitment, even if sex is not involved, and will allow a soul tie to develop.

Ungodly soul ties are not limited to the opposite sex, but will also occur through homosexual and lesbian relationships. The Bible is very plain in its condemnation of this behaviour, so any ties formed through these acts will be ungodly soul ties.

Ungodly soul ties are formed through sex with animals. It is likely that this will be a generational iniquity or curse. (Leviticus 18:23) When Adam named the animals, there was found no helpmate suitable for him. Sex with animals is perversion before God, and ungodly soul ties will be created.

Pornography may create soul ties to the people involved in the pictures, and to the images left in (usually) the man's mind. Some say that it can be the most addictive "drug", as no matter how much "cold turkey" is done, as the images are still in the mind, it is difficult to free a person from this. They carry the drug with them at all times.

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death."
- Revelations 21:8 (NIV)

The presence of a habit of viewing pornography may be strengthened by generational sin, or by soul ties, or by both.

4.3 Ties through ungodly relationships

Examples of ungodly relationships from scripture – even though some were married:

- Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 21:25; 2 Kings 9:7-10, 22)
- Samson and Delilah (Judges 16:16-18)
- Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Timothy 1:20)
- Jannes and Jambres (2 Timothy 3:8)

Do you feel like you are being controlled by a person? Perhaps they are able to instil extreme fear in you at the mention of their name? Do you "jump and then ask how high"? Do you feel like you are a puppet and they control the strings? If you feel any of this, there is an ungodly soul tie in place.

Perhaps you have seen two “friends” who, on the face of it, say that all is above board and innocent, but something still does not seem quite right, and you cannot put your finger on it. They may not be “sleeping together”, they may even be the same sex, yet something definitely feels wrong. Often, one or the other will sabotage any friendship outside their duo. Where control or manipulation exists, there will be an ungodly soul tie.

Sometimes the leader of a church will attract followers themselves, rather than directing their attention to Jesus. This adoration and adulation forms ungodly soul ties to the leader. These ties may be formed deliberately by the leader, or by the person in the congregation. It is no wonder, then, that many leaders are caught out in adultery. Cults are often formed as an extension of this. Do people strive to sit close to the front in a service to not miss a word the leader speaks? Do they seek his attention excessively? Is there an unspoken but obvious fan club? Often other Christian workers will mimic him, dressing and talking the same way as the leader.

Paul addressed this same issue in Corinth.

For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 3:4-5 (NIV)

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 3:11 (NIV)

A leader is to direct the people to Christ, and to no other.

Ungodly friends will more often sway us towards their ways, than vice versa.

*In the paths of the wicked lie thorns and snares, but he who guards his **soul** stays far from them.*
-PROVERBS 22:5 (NIV)

*Make no friendship with an angry man; and you shall not go up with a man of fury, lest you learn his ways and get a **snare to your soul**.*
-PROVERBS 22:24-25 (MKJV)

Friends can gain control through the giving of gifts. Often people are put under obligation through gifts. This can be designed to put one under the control of another. Be wary of presents of this nature. These either need to be returned, or disposed of. The control puts a soul tie in place.

Hatred of another person can create an ungodly tie. Through hatred we can dwell on them to the exclusion of all else. This ties them to us. This is one reason why forgiveness is mandatory before God. Forgiveness releases them from us, cuts the ungodly soul tie, and gives them over to God for his judgement.

4.4 Ungodly ties between parents and children

While parent-child bonds are normal, often ungodly bonds are formed between parents and children. It is God's design that when children grow up, that they be released from the parent's “apron strings”. Many times, this is not allowed to happen. They are tied to a parent by an invisible, ungodly soul tie. This child will never be free to live a life of their own. This is like an invisible umbilical cord connecting the mother or father, to the now-adult.

Where a child is placed in the position of feeling responsible for the parent in any way, often the child will grow up to be a “rescuer” of others. Just as they rescued their parent in some way, so too, people will be attracted to them as adults because they seem to care.

When a child is never good enough, never works hard enough, never measures up in some way, they will grow up always looking for the parent's approval, even as adults. The child will bend over backwards doing things to seek their parent's approval. In many cases these children, when they grow up, will strive far more than normal in whatever they do, and will be very successful in business, or in whatever field they have chosen. The parent may go to their grave not giving the affirmation the son or daughter needs.

Often parents do not want to free their children and allow them to marry, and will do everything possible to hold them under bondage. It is normal and God ordained that parents give up their children to their chosen partner at marriage. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." (Ephesians 5:31 NIV) We even include in many marriage ceremonies, "Who gives this woman away?" This is a formal untying of the tie between parents and children. So the soul tie to parents must be terminated before the tie to the marriage partner can truly be formed. Sadly, many parents do not allow this to happen. The son or daughter may have been fulfilling some need in the parent that they do not want to break off. It might be physical, emotional, financial, or any combination. "Leaving his mother and father" is not to be construed as breaking all relationships with the parents, but is simply a breaking of a dependency, or a soul tie. We must not stop honouring our parents (Exodus 20:12).

When the boundaries of God's purposes are transgressed, as happens when a father dominates or sexually abuses his daughter, ungodly soul ties can be established between those who are already joined in Godly soul ties. Incest, today, has become far more prevalent than in past years. Whether sex is between father and daughter, mother and son, brother and sister, uncle, or anyone else for that matter, it creates ungodly soul ties. (Leviticus 18)

Perhaps surprisingly, the figures on sexual abuse are higher in the church than in the world. "The Family Research Council", a Christian oriented family organization based in Washington, D.C., tell us that 40% of the people in our churches were sexually molested or raped before 17 years of age. This includes men and women both. Out in the every day world, the percentage is given as 17%.

This does not necessarily mean that sexual abuse is more prevalent in the church, but that people come to the church looking for help and answers.

4.5 Ties through witchcraft and Satanism

As Christians, we are "joined" to Christ. Involvement in any and all occult practices is spiritual idolatry, for in doing this we seek knowledge or information from sources that God forbids. This effectively "joins" us to a demon. We are breaking God's first commandment, not to have any other gods before him.

*And Israel **joined** himself to Baal-peor. And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Israel.*
-NUMBERS 25:3 (MKJV)

*And they **joined** themselves to Baal-peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead...*
-PSALM 106:28 (MKJV)

*Ephraim is **joined** to idols; let him alone.*
-HOSEA 4:17 (MKJV)

In going to a fortune teller, we join ourselves to the occult consultant, and thus commit spiritual adultery. As in physical adultery, a soul tie is formed, but here the soul tie is not only to the consultant. This time we create soul ties to demons. It is no wonder that God takes a rather dim view of these practices.

If a man's wife goes out with another man, the husband gets jealous. In a similar fashion God gets jealous when we have affairs with other spirits.

Seeking out a fortune teller, asking questions of a ouija board, reading your 'stars', in fact any occult practice no-matter how innocently undertaken, is spiritual idolatry and joins a person to both the demons and any person through which the demons manifest.

When one goes deeper into witchcraft, it is all about power, domination, control and manipulation. Sex is often a central part in witchcraft. The sexual act can be with a person, animal or demon. Often extreme fear is produced in a person to promote the soul tie. These ties can allow a psychic or telepathic link between the controller and the other person, which gives the controller continual information about the person. Through this link, a controller can know everything about a person without ever visiting them. Through this umbilical cord demons can cross.

4.6 Ties through ungodly vows

4.6.1 Verbal vows

When an oath is taken that is not in line with scripture, that person speaks an ungodly vow, that is, in effect, a curse. God will bind us to any vow we make (Numbers 30:2). Marriage consists of vows, where the two people are bound together like magnets (Ephesians 5:31). These vows create a soul tie.

Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.

- DEUTERONOMY 6:13 (NIV)

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

- MATTHEW 5:33-37 (NIV)

Jesus is saying in Matthew that people are to always act honestly, and not deceitfully. If people were to always act honestly, there would be no need for vows. If we have need of a vow, then deception is an obvious option, and Satan is at hand.

Inner vows are promises we make, often as children, which then become rules for our natures. Such vows may be due to embarrassment from some form or other. For example, someone might say, "I will never speak in public." Whenever they are asked to speak, they will almost certainly go to pieces. "I will never go in races." And they do not, for fear of losing. "I will never wear old clothes." So they compulsively buy new clothes when they grow up. "I will make sure I am never attractive to men." This, after being abused sexually. So they subconsciously put on weight and can never control it, or subconsciously dress and look in a way that is unattractive.

So as a general rule, we should stay away from making verbal binding vows.

4.6.2 Throw away statements

Remember also that we are made in the image of God, whose creative word made the heavens and the earth. Just as God's words have power to create, so our words have power also. The saying, "Sticks and stones will break your bones but names will never hurt you," is a fallacy. Our words have power!

Many speak words of commitment that are ungodly vows. "I will always love you." "You will always be mine." These vows tie us to others, whether we remember them or not, or whether we believe in them or not. We must ask God's forgiveness for making the vow, and renounce it. How can we know what we have said in our lifetime in this area? Perhaps the best answer is to only look at this if you feel there is a problem in a particular area, or if God reveals a problem in this area.

They are similar to statements such as, "You will always be stupid," "You will never succeed." While these statements do not create a soul tie, they do put the person under bondage to a curse, and should be avoided.

4.6.3 Legal requirements to make a vow

Where vows are a legal requirement, as, for example, in court when we "take the stand", we should conform to the court's desire (Romans 13:1). Matthew 5:37 above, refers to our own personal standard, and should not be forced on the legal system of the land. If they err, it is they who are at fault. It is sad, though, that in this day the vows made in court mean so little to so many.

Signing a contract will also fall under this. A contract spells out what each party must do in detail and is a protection for both sides. Again, as it is a legal requirement, we must honour the government of the land in following their desires. God, though, would ideally desire our word to be enough.

4.6.4 Lodges and other secret organisations

When people join organisations they often make secret vows. Have you joined a brotherhood or lodge outside of Christianity and made secret vows? Have you agreed to, or signed a document that causes you to treat those in that organization as if they were your blood brothers or sisters? An example would be Freemasonry. This puts an ungodly tie between yourself and the organisation. Masonic lodges are a huge problem, and too big to cover here. Suffice to say that further help will be required to be free from this bondage. Other similar organisations are Order of the Eastern Star, Order of Amaranth, White Shriners of Jerusalem, Order of De Molay, Rosicrucians, to name a few. Many boy scouts are required to take a pledge (read: “vow”) upon entry. Baden Powell, the Boy Scout founder, was a prominent member of the Lodge of the Grand Orient. If you have made any of these vows, they need to be renounced and repented of.

4.6.5 Ear piercing

Ear piercing has its roots in being bonded to a master. *“But if the servant declares, ‘I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,’ then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.”* (Exodus 21:5-6 NIV)

In the Old Testament (OT), Hebrew slaves could be set free in the seventh year, or become permanently bonded to their master by *“take[ing] an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your maidservant.”* (Deuteronomy 15:17 NIV) Women (and men too!) should be careful who they allow to pierce their ears, as they are, in effect, making a vow bonding themselves to the one doing the piercing. How far do we take this? Probably just enough to say, “Be careful!”

4.6.6 Tattoos

This raises the thorny issue of tattoos. The only verse that refers to this is Lev 19:28 (NIV) *“Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD.”*

It is interesting that “sorry cuts” (flagellation – not carried out in our culture) and tattoos are both mentioned in the same verse. The common ground, of course, is that both cause blood to flow in situations that are not natural, medical or accidental in nature; and our “life” is voluntarily released. Leviticus 17:11 tells us that the life of a person is in the blood.

The OT often refers to “shedding innocent blood” (Psalms 106:9; Proverbs 6:7; Is 59:7; Jer 7:6, 22:3, etc). While it is very easy to read all passages about shedding blood, as killing people, we cannot escape the fact that to God, blood is sacrosanct, special, unusual, and people must treat it as so. While our predisposition is to read all verses referring to “shedding blood” as “killing”, it may not always be so.

*Since you **did not hate bloodshed**, bloodshed will pursue you.* - EZEKIEL 35:6 (NIV)

*Whoever **sheds the blood of man**, by man shall his blood be shed.* - GENESIS 9:6 (NIV)

*Do not pollute the land where you are. **Bloodshed pollutes the land**, and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it.*
- NUMBERS 35:33 (NIV)

If we read these words, and do not impute to them “killing”, but simply shedding of blood as is stated, then there is a curse upon the one shedding blood. “Blood shall pursue you.” “...by man shall his blood be shed.” And, it “pollutes the land.” When tattoos are done, both the person being tattooed and the tattooist are in cahoots in shedding the blood. Any curses would be on both.

Shedding of blood is required for the remission of sins. In the OT, this was done each time an animal sacrifice was carried out. In the NT, this requirement has been carried out by Jesus. Interestingly, Jesus did not only shed his blood at his death. He shed his blood:

- In the garden prior to his torture, when he sweated blood,
- In wearing the crown of thorns,
- Through bruising (internal bleeding),

- Through being tortured and flogged,
- Through the nails into his hands and feet on the cross, and finally,
- From the spear into his side

Every instance of Jesus' shedding his blood was for a specific purpose. While all contributed somewhat to his death, many were not the direct cause of his death. There are grounds then, to assume that shedding of blood for any purpose is wrong, even shedding our blood through tattoos. Voluntary shedding of blood, may (may) be putting us and the tattooist under bondage and a curse.

On a purely subjective level, this writer has not seen one tattoo that they feel comfortable with.

4.6.7 Ties through blood covenants

To God, blood has special significance. It is mentioned over 300 times in scripture. It is a requirement for spiritual cleanliness – remission of sins - that blood be sacrificed. The life is said to be in the blood. (Leviticus 17:11,14) “Blood covenants” are often made where the blood of two people is mixed. When this is deliberately done, it joins the “life” of one to the “life” of the other and there is a soul tie formed. Christians are to be united through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ only. This is reinforced through communion. Here, we make a blood covenant with Jesus. Satan, the great copier, attempts to unite people to him through his own blood rituals.

When those involved in witchcraft drink the blood of either people or animals, they are tying themselves to the person or animal with an ungodly soul tie. In the OT book of Leviticus, God repeatedly tells people not to drink or eat blood, for the life is in the blood (Leviticus 7:26-27, 17:10, 12, 14, etc). Have you ever cut yourself, mingled your blood with another, drunk blood, or mingled blood and wine out of a chalice? This will usually be done in conjunction with some type of vow. A deliberate attempt has been made to join your life “force” with another. An ungodly soul ties will exist. Drinking the blood is a satanic copy of the Lord's Supper.

There is a veiled reference in Hosea 4:2 to “blood touching blood”. While most interpret this as murder upon murder, it may also refer to blood covenants. The curse on this (V3) is that the land shall mourn, and the people and animals and even the fish will languish. That is, poverty and hardship will occur.

4.6.8 Fraternity brothers and sorority sisters

Not being American, this probably has little effect here, but if vows were taken to these groups, or similar, then they must be repented of, renounced, and ungodly soul ties cut.

4.6.9 Ties to organisations

Many times we are involved in organisations that demand commitment and loyalty. While in many cases, these demands are reasonable and justifiable, sometimes the demands create ungodly ties to that organisation that should not be there. While perhaps no clear and obvious vows are made, yet there is still some level of commitment and unconscious coercion that will be evident if we look hard enough. Such cases could be military training, some clubs, workplaces, sects, political or union groups, in fact anywhere allegiance is demanded or expected that is not to God. With the exception of sects, involvement in any or all of these is not necessarily wrong, but commitment to that cause can put us under the “spirit” of the group. This spirit may bend the moral and ethical laws of God, and in being members of that group we are now party to that. This tie needs to be broken.

4.7 Ties through Ungodly Judgements and Expectations

An example of an ungodly vow may be,

- “I will never allow men to get close to me.”
- “I will always love (or hate) you.”

Here, the emphasis is on “I”. You promise something that is wrong, and is therefore sin, before God. The effect or outworking will be on you.

An ungodly judgement or ungodly expectation is close to this, but looks at it from another perspective.

- “Men will always hate me.”
- “Everyone thinks I am ugly.”
- “People will always overlook me.”
- ‘Men always take advantage of me.’”

Here, the emphasis is not on yourself, but on others. And the effect will be on others, also.

It is a statement or firm belief that we make either out loud, or to ourselves. We have made a resolve at some point in our lives that this is so, and are firmly committed to that.

Sadly, a spiritual dynamic is unleashed which will release exactly what is feared. Men *will* hate you. People *will* see you as ugly. People *will* overlook you. Men *do* take advantage of you.

People are not responding here to how you see yourself. They are responding this way because they have difficulty doing otherwise. Your judgement call places a bias in the spirit world which bends other people to respond that way. Our ungodly judgements hold others to the very attitude that we feared. So, when we get before God and truly forgive them, and repent before God of our judgements, it releases them from the binds, blinkers and limitations we have placed on them.

Ungodly judgements and ungodly expectations are sometimes referred to as “bitter root judgements”. This is based on the passage from Hebrews:

“...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; - HEB 12:15 (KJV)

Notice that the “root of bitterness” is defiling others. Through our judgement of others, they are defiled. They are driven to respond in an ungodly manner.

4.8 Soul ties with the dead

It is normal to grieve. But when a close friend or relative dies, the soul tie formed with them must be dissolved also. This is not to say that loving memories must cease, but continued excessive and unnatural grieving must cease.

Biblical mourning lasted for between seven and thirty days. In Genesis 50:10, Joseph observed seven days of mourning for his father, Jacob, after his death. In Numbers 20:29 and Deuteronomy 34:8 the children of Israel mourned for Aaron, and for Moses, for 30 days after their deaths.

Extended mourning may indicate ungodly soul ties that require cutting. The grief, sorrow and loneliness may also allow an entry point for unclean spirits. There can be no categorical statements here, as grieving is so individual.

Sometimes, if there is an ungodly soul tie between two people and one dies, at death unclean spirits from the dead person have been known to transfer to the living person. These are sometimes called ‘familiar spirits’ and travel down through the family line. This may require deliverance as well.

Soul ties can occur particularly with children that are aborted or are lost naturally through miscarriage. If the child was aborted, we must seek God’s forgiveness before cutting any ungodly soul ties with the child. This will not be a simple process, and can be gut-wrenching, to say the least.

4.9 Ties to objects

Do you have objects that are not necessarily costly, but that you would find very difficult to give up?

Memorabilia, gifts, regalia from a father’s lodge, posters, books, etc. Sometimes, occasionally, these objects form ties that are ungodly, and must be broken. Through these ties the negative characteristics of others can move across. The objects, then, will most likely have to be disposed of. Some objects may be cursed; this curse will bring undesirable consequences in your (or others in the household’s) life. In destroying the object, the curse will usually depart. It is probably a good idea to pray through your house at the same time. Derek Prince’s “Blessing and Curses” is worth reading on this.

A soul tie can happen through looking at pornography. Through this, people become attached to the subject of the picture. When one is cleaved to someone, that person's darkness is shared. Posters and magazines of these things must be disposed of.

Sometimes objects are given to underline and reinforce a vow, for example, engagement or wedding rings. If you are now divorced from that person, it is probably best to get rid of these items as one step in getting free. To God, the argument as to its cost does not exist. The object itself is not evil. Perhaps you might give it to a friend, or sell it.

Ungodly soul ties may be formed to things. For example, the house we grew up in, a culture, a car, money, sport, in fact any "idolatrous" thing that readily takes our attention away from God.

4.10 Ties to a name

While technically not a "soul tie", we can in fact, have ties to the meaning of our name. In the Old Testament times, names defined the future character or role of a person. It was so important that God changed the name of Abram to Abraham (Genesis 17:5), and Jacob to Israel (Genesis 32:28), to better describe their God-given character and purpose in life. When Esau realised that Jacob had cheated him of his father's blessing, his response was,

Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright; and behold, now he has taken away my blessing." Then he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"
- GENESIS 27:36 (RSV)

"Jacob" means supplanter, liar, cheat.

In Genesis 35:18 Rachael named her son Benoni, meaning "son of my sorrow", for she died through giving birth, but Jacob renamed him Benjamin, meaning "son of my right hand". Nabal, the first husband of Abigail, David's wife, had a name which meant "fool, senseless". Abigail claimed to David (1 Samuel 25:25) that "*Nabal is his name, and foolishness is with him.*"

There has been much said and written in recent times on the "Prayer of Jabez" (1 Chronicles 4:9-10 NIV). Perhaps surprisingly, his prayer asking God to "*bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain!*" was not simply a prayer out of the blue asking God for his blessing, but was as a response to his name.

The previous verse gives the background: "*Jabez was more honourable than his brothers. His mother called his name Jabez, saying, 'I gave birth to him in pain.'*" His name "Jabez" means "sorrow, trouble" (Hitchcock). Jabez is asking God not to allow his life to be one of sorrow and trouble, as his name destined him to be, either to himself, or to others around him. He is asking God instead, to, "*...keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.*" That is, that he would be a blessing, and be blessed by God. In this God listened to him, "*And God granted his request.*"

Today in Western culture, people's names are generally given as an appealing tag to refer to a person, and have little meaning. Sometimes, though, the names given still have significance. In a number of cultures, people will still change their name when they become a Christian, as their old name has a meaning they now want to distance themselves from.

Where names have little meaning, it is debatable whether our name can tie us to particular traits. If you feel there is a problem with your name, then like Jabez, ask God to cut all links to your name and instead bring blessing. Like Jabez, ask that the potential for negative things be replaced with God's positive blessings.

4.11 Ungodly ties between our soul and our spirit

Again, this is not technically a "soul tie". But it may be relevant for some.

We probably lost the power to commune with our spirits in the Garden of Eden. We are still in close communion between our bodies and our souls (mind, will, and emotions). But our spirits are somewhat alien to us. It is this writer's suspicion (suspicion only) that when we "died" in the Garden of Eden, we died to our

spirits. “*For in the day that you eat of it you shall die.*” (Genesis 2:17 RSV) God said they would die on the day they ate the fruit. When they did eat the fruit, they did not die physically. Neither did they stop meeting with God, so he did not cut them off. It seems likely that they died spiritually. (This is why we must be “born again”.) They were no longer aware of the spirit realm; their awareness was now limited to the physical realm only. They then saw themselves as naked. Previously they probably saw themselves as clothed in their spirits. Surmising (stretching) this even further, it may be that God through the Holy Spirit was the link that joined their souls to their spirits, and God removed this when Adam and Eve sinned. Be aware – this is all supposition, and cannot be backed up with scripture! Dismiss at will.

So, for whatever reason, the link between our body / soul, and our spirit is now almost non-existent, and we are now unable to tap into our spirits, and thus the spirit world around us.

Though witchcraft and Satanic rituals, demons can and do attempt to link a person’s spirit to their soul, so that the people become spiritually aware apart from God, via this demonic bond or tie. Like most of what Satan does, this is merely a copy of God’s ideal for Christians; we are to be aware of the Holy Spirit within our spirit. Through demonic links, people become more aware of the spirit world. They astral travel with the help of demons. They can see spirits – angels and demons - around us that we are unaware of, again, with the help of demons. They are then more able to use soul ties to their advantage, being more aware of the nature of these ties. For example, they are able to eaves drop, to control / manipulate a person, or to obtain information without the other person’s knowledge. And these, to name only a few.

Any tie between our soul and spirit that originated from before you became a Christian is most likely not from God. Anyone who has these abilities should be very careful. God’s original will not include astral travel, control of others, manipulation, eve’s dropping in other’s conversations, etc.

4.12 Ties through organ or tissue transplants

This is not in any way meant to be a guide as to whether organ or tissue transplants are right or wrong before God. In fact, it may even be a wild goose chase, with all the stories being fraudulent. But it cannot hurt to experiment and try. There is nothing to lose, and for many, very literally, life to gain.

For interest sake, do a Google-search on [transplant +“cellular memory”]. You will be surprised. Some downloaded cases are included at the end of this article.

There are many references to the recipient of a body-part having new thoughts, desires, likes and dislikes, memories, words, names, and even personality changes after the transplant. They make *very* interesting reading. A number of secular books have been written on the subject.

While not all organ receivers will sense anything different other than, perhaps, a heightened joy in living, it does seem clear that something out of the ordinary is occurring. It appears that more is involved than a simple replacement of worn out body parts.

While this is very much conjecture, if you are the receiver of body parts or a blood transfusion, then “*the two shall become one flesh*” (Genesis 2:24, etc) has new meaning. If marriage produces a soul tie through the two becoming one flesh, then logically, a soul tie might also be formed through an organ or tissue transplant, or transfusion, for the two have become one flesh – literally!

If you have been the recipient of a transplant or transfusion, then it might be a good idea to:

- (a) Thank God for the new gift of _____, and lease of life that results.
- (b) Claim the organ / tissue / blood product as yours before God.
- (c) Cut all soul ties to the donor.
- (d) Ask God to send all the parts of the other person’s soul and spirit in you, away from you to the place of his choosing.

Alternatively, and this is rather radical, speak to the donor person:

- (a) Speak out loud to the person (donor) in you, and thank them for the donation of their body part.
- (b) Tell them that, while you appreciate what they have done for you in giving you life, their time on earth is finished. Now they must go to the place that Jesus sends them.

- (c) Ask God either to send his angels to direct the person, or to direct the person himself, to go to the place of Jesus' choosing.
- (d) Ask God to now cut all ties between you and the donor.
- (e) Ask God to bless that body part in any way you feel necessary, and place it under the Lordship of Jesus.

Perhaps there are grounds here for Christians donating their body parts for transplant! And perhaps the above process might also reduce the risk of rejection and related problems.

4.13 Ties to authoritative figures

Often throughout our lives, we choose to come under some authority figure. It may be a church minister, sports coach, lecturer / teacher, instructor at work, boss, even a sales person we trust. Prior to becoming a Christian, we may have been involved in any number of other things where someone spoke into our lives with an authority we respected. There will be a sharing in an area of ourselves in a deeper way than with a mere acquaintance. It is normal, and God-ordained in the church setting. God desires us to come under authority in our church.

Usually, we trust them. Most will respect and honour that trust, and not abuse it.

If, however, that person abuses our trust; if they do something to take advantage of us, or treat us with contempt, or act in some way inappropriately, then often we will have trouble getting free from their memory. We will have trouble putting that event or time behind us. We will remember them and the hurt they inflicted, the abuse they gave, their lack of respect. Perhaps they embarrassed or belittled you in front of others. Perhaps they made fun of you. Perhaps they were physically inappropriate – or desired to be. Perhaps they simply ignored you one day, and wanted nothing more to do with you; you felt discarded, like a yesterday's newspaper.

We will have trouble putting this behind us because a soul tie was created to that person. From this we need to be set free. To be set free, we need to repent of our incorrect response, and then cut the soul tie between us and them. Depending on how deep the commitment to them, we may need to reclaim the parts of ourselves within the other person, and vice-versa. (See "Fragmented souls" below, and this prayer in the Prayers section.)

4.14 Ties to memories

Technically, this is rather off the topic of "Soul Ties", but may be a worthwhile addition to those things from which we can cut ourselves off. There is also very little in the way of Bible references that can be given to directly back this up. All this writer can say is "experiment". If God gives you the victory, then praise him!

Do you ever have memories from which you cringe? Sometimes we remember things that are an embarrassment; some instance where we are shamed or humiliated. Perhaps it was something that mortified us, or simply made us appear slightly foolish at the time. Perhaps we relive these things often. We may even flinch or wince when it occurs. These memories can crop up at any time, particularly when there is some cue that reminds us of that event.

The next time this happens, try asking God to cut you off from all ungodly and hurtful aspects of that memory. With time, and after doing this for a lot of memories, you may find that these recollections lessen in number.

Bearing in mind Matthew 16:19, "...and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven," it may be more scriptural if we do the "loosing" ourselves, rather than asking God to do it. Whether you ask God to do it, or take the authority yourself, you must decide. Pray whichever way you feel is most appropriate.

4.15 Other possible ties

Ungodly ties may arise from yourself to these things, or from these things to past owners:

- Houses
- Rooms
- Second hand jewellery
- Land/properties
- Pets
- Places
- Pornography images and pictures
- Toys
- Second hand clothing
- Any “idol” thing
- Wedding / engagement rings from ex-partners
- Countries
- Sport
- Cultures,
- Second hand cars (cut off past owners)
- etc

5. Fragmented souls

This part is important. When a soul tie is formed, part of ourselves is transferred across to the other, and vice versa. When a person has “slept around”, their souls (and perhaps their spirits) have become fragmented and scattered between many sexual partners. They may feel unable to share themselves with their mate in a meaningful way. This may cause them to seek satisfaction through (you guessed it!) sex outside of marriage, or strange sexual practices.

Multiple soul ties can weaken your character, your will, your emotions and your mind, to the point that you feel that you have totally lost your sparkle. Over many years you have fragmented your soul with multiple sexual partners, and in the process lost much of yourself. Literally.

People will often feel that they are unable to give themselves fully to their marriage partner, because their emotions, and therefore their thoughts also, are still with their past lovers. Perhaps they feel incomplete, as if they have lost something, and have little to give.

So part of praying to cut ungodly soul ties is to ask that the parts of you left in the other person be returned to your spirit and soul, and that your spirit and soul be restored.

6. The Image of Another

This ties in with the last section and is equally important. If part of the other person is left within, this image must be removed.

While we are made in the image of God, it is more than that. We have the image of God within. As in everything, if God has created something, Satan will try to steal it. So if it is possible to put his (or another person’s) image within us, then God’s ways are forfeited.

They exchanged their Glory for an image of a bull, which eats grass. - PSALM 106:20 (NIV)

Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols. - JEREMIAH 2:11 (NIV)

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. - ROMANS 1:22-23 (NIV)

The image of an abuser will be the greatest when the abuse is greatest.

When our souls are fragmented, in some strange way, part of the other is left within us. This image must be taken out, and replaced with the image of God. When praying to remove this, ask God to circumcise or cut off from you the image of the other and to remove it to the place that he designates. Then ask God to put within you the image of Jesus.

7. Effects of Ungodly Soul Ties

A short list:

- You have obsessive preoccupations about another person from the past. You are unable to put a past relationship behind you
- You have a tendency to be passive and apathetic in a relationship

- You continually have another person's voice playing over and over in your mind
- Inability to commit in a new relationship
- When a past partner / authority figure still has the power to turn you to jelly (through fear or love/lust), even after a long time
- You have excessive fear at the mention of someone's name
- You are unable to say, "No" to people (who are you *still* trying to please?)
- You were involved in a cult and have trouble feeling free
- You are STILL desperately attempting to please your father, even though you are an adult.

Bill and Sue Banks in "*Breaking Unhealthy Soul Ties*", list the following symptoms of negative soul ties.

- (i) Loss of individuality and self confidence
- (ii) Loss of clear thinking in decision making
- (iii) Loss of peace
- (iv) Loss of ability to really love others
- (v) Loss of spiritual liberty and personal freedom
- (vi) Loss of good health
- (vii) Loss of closeness to the Father

To this they add elsewhere in the book:

- (viii) Obsessive thoughts, and an inability to get another out of one's mind

If these are your lot, then perhaps there are soul ties in place that require renouncing.

8. Dealing with Soul Ties

There are some model prayers attached that look at these areas. If they do not particularly fit the picture, feel free to change them according to your situation. If you are uncomfortable praying "off the cuff", then take the time to compose a prayer in writing, then speak it out. It will not hurt to say it repeatedly, if you are polishing, or fine-tuning what you want to say.

It is suggested that you sit down with pen and paper, and:

- List each person you have had sex with besides your current spouse – assuming you are currently married. This includes ex-marriage partners.
- List the names of any homosexual relationships you may have had.
- List any close friendships where the other person attempted to restrict your freedom to relate to others outside your two-some.
- List each person who has abused you, not necessarily in a sexual manner.
- List each person who has had authority over you, that has abused that position of trust, including parents, bosses, teachers, ministers, etc.
- List anyone who has done something to you or a loved one that you find difficult to forgive. Perhaps they have hurt you deeply in some way. Perhaps they have betrayed a trust.
- List any animals that you have been excessively attached to.
- List any objects that you feel you might be overly attached to.
- List any items that may be still attached to past owners.
- List any items you have had through organ transplant. Group items that comes from separate donors.
- List any organisations that have had a large impact on you. For example, military, university, club, sect, organisation, political or union group, cult, lodges (typically Freemasons), etc.
- List any presents given by past very close friends or lovers. For example, rings, jewellery, regalia, etc.

With the attached prayers as a loose basis, pray through each person or thing. Follow any leading or thoughts you have while in prayer (except running away). Do not hurry. Repent of any ungodly dealings with that person, particularly any ungodly physical intimacy, and then deal with the soul ties to that person.

Say these prayers out loud. While this is not mandatory, it might achieve more if it is done this way.

If you feel that you have made ungodly vows, then similarly, list these and deal with them one by one using the attached prayer as a model. As stated earlier, involvement by you or family members in Freemasonry is

a larger topic than can be dealt with here. It invokes more curses than you can poke a stick at, and should be dealt with one by one. A number of books are available that help to deal with these curses.

Some gifts may have to be destroyed. Some may simply require praying over, to cut any ungodly tie to the giver.

After praying through these issues a number have reported that within a day or so after praying, the other party has tried to re-establish contact in some way. Sometimes it has been an innocuous phone call, "just seeing how you are", ...after six months of no phone calls. Sometimes it has been a request to meet. Sometimes it has been nothing short of stalking. Sometimes it has been a present given out of the blue. But whatever, the other person has recognised that they have lost something, and want it back!

Be prepared too, that in cutting off something from yourself, you may well feel "lonely", as one person put it. You too will have lost something. Remember, though, that this is an ungodly tie, and as such has to be cut.

Liberty Savard, (*Soul Ties, Soul Power, & Soulsh Prayers*, Bridge-Logos, 2001. p7) states,
"It is a quite amazing thing how soon the other person might try to make contact with you when you pray and break any soul ties you have. The contact usually comes in the guise of great concern for the one who has just broken the soul tie."

This writer bears out the truth of the above words.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. . - JOHN 8:36 (NIV)

*Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.
Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.* - PSALM 124:7 (KJV)

oooOOOooo

<http://www.geocities.com/starsuriel/heartscode/patients.htm>

1. A forty-one-year-old male received a heart of a nineteen-year-old girl who was killed when her car was struck by a train. He feels a new raw energy, surging with power. He has dreams of a huge truck and/or driving a steam engine. His wife comments that he is like a 19 year-old kid again. He is sure that his donor was driving a big truck that hit a bigger truck.
2. A thirty-six-year-old female heart-lung recipient received a heart and lung from a twenty-year old girl who was killed while running across the street to show her fiancé a picture of her new wedding dress. She dreams of the girl who was killed, she was young, pretty and very happy. She has a new happiness and a strange kind of excitement and joy that cannot fully be explained. Her sister remarks: She is so much happier now, she smiles and laughs more (she's always been a downer). She is lucky to have gotten a very warm heart.
3. Thirty-five-year-old female received a new heart from a twenty-four-year-old prostitute killed in a stabbing: She feels a complete change in sexual behaviour and has inherited her sexual drive. Husband: She uses words she has never used before, sex is just different but he's not complaining.
4. Fifty-two-year-old male heart recipient got the heart from a seventeen-year-old boy killed by a hit-and-run driver. The recipient loved quiet classical music prior to transplantation, but now loves to put on earphones and play loud rock 'n roll music. I love my wife but I keep fantasizing about teenage girls. My daughter says I seem like 16 again. Daughter: He is a little embarrassing because of the music, Mum says he is going through his second childhood.
5. Forty-seven-year-old female received a donor heart of a twenty-three-year-old gay man shot to death in a robbery and died from severe wounds to his back: She wonders how she views her husband now from a male or female perspective. Since the surgery she has had shooting pains in her back and guesses it is the surgery acting up. Husband: Asks about gay fantasies and has changed style of dressing to a more feminine one. She wakes up screaming with pain in her back.
6. Glenda and David had an argument and sat in silence just moments before he was killed in a car accident. Years later she requested a meeting between her and the young man whose life had been saved by her husband's heart. The heart recipient and his mother were almost a 1/2 hour late for the meeting. Sometimes people change their minds about meeting. After standing, Glenda says, "No we have to wait. He's here in the hospital. I felt him come about 30 minutes ago. I felt my husband's presence. Please wait with me."

Glenda is a practicing family physician and well versed in bioscience, now, however, something that transcends science was tugging at her heart. "David's heart is here," she added. "I cannot believe I'm saying that to you, but I feel it." At that moment the young man and his mother walked hurriedly to us.

"Sorry we're late," said the young man with a heavy Spanish accent. "We got here a half hour ago but we couldn't find the chapel." After introductions, usually shy Glenda blurted out, "This embarrasses me as much as it must embarrass you, but can I put my hand on your chest and feel his...I mean your heart?"

She placed her hands gently against his now unbuttoned naked chest. What happened next transcends the current view of the brain, body, heart and mind, but it has happened in various forms in the lives of countless others.

Glenda's hand trembled, tears rolled down her cheek. She closed her eyes and whispered, "I love you David. Everything is copacetic." She removed her hand and hugged the young man. All of us wiped tears from our eyes. They sat down in the chapel and held hands in silence. Speaking in her heavy Spanish accent, the young man's mother told me. "My son uses that word "copacetic" all the time now. He never used it before he got his new heart, but after surgery, it was the first thing he said to me when he could talk. I did not know what it means. It is not a word I know in Spanish.

Glenda overheard us, her eyes widened. "That was our signal that everything was OK. Over time we argued and made up, we would both say that everything was "copacetic". The young man shared story after story of changes he experienced after the transplant.

<http://www.med.unc.edu/wellness/main/links/cellular%20memory.htm>

In one case, an 18-year-old boy who wrote poetry, played music and composed songs, was killed in an automobile accident. A year after he died his parents came across an audiotape of a song he had written, entitled, "Danny, My Heart is Yours," which was about how he "felt he was destined to die and give his heart to someone." The donor recipient "Danny" of his heart, was an 18-year-old girl, named Danielle. When she met the donor's parents, they played some of his music and she, despite never having heard the song, was able to complete the phrases.

A 29-year-old lesbian and a fast food junkie received a heart from a 19-year-old woman vegetarian who was "man crazy." The recipient reported after her operation that meat made her sick and she was no longer attracted to women. In fact, she became engaged to marry a man.

Aside from those included in the study, there are other transplant recipients whose stories are worth mentioning, such as Claire Sylvia, a woman who received a heart-lung transplant. In her book entitled, *A Change of Heart: A Memoir*, Ms. Sylvia describes her own journey from being a healthy, active dancer to becoming ill and eventually needing a heart transplant. After the operation, she reported peculiar changes like cravings for beer and chicken nuggets, neither of which she had a taste for prior to the transplant. She later discovered that these were favourites of her donor. She even learned that her donor had chicken nuggets in his jacket pocket when he died in a motorcycle accident.

Another amazing story, reported by Pearsall, is that of an eight-year-old girl who received the heart of a ten-year-old girl who had been murdered. After the transplant, the recipient had horrifying nightmares of a man murdering her donor. The dreams were so traumatic that psychiatric help was sought. The girl's images were so specific that the psychiatrist and the mother notified the police. According to the psychiatrist, "...using the description from the little girl, they found the murderer. He was easily convicted with the evidence the patient provided. The time, weapon, place, clothes he wore, what the little girl he killed had said to him... everything the little heart transplant recipient had reported was completely accurate."

(Paul Pearsall, Gary E. Schwartz, Linda G. Russek, all PhDs, are the authors of *Organ Transplants and Cellular Memories*)

Iniquity

Iniquity

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Note: Bible references in this section are from the Revised Standard Version, as this writer is too broke to afford a decent Concordance with a bucket load of different versions.

Interestingly, the NIV does away with the word “Iniquity”, replacing it with the generic word “Sin”. This totally loses the thread of the meaning.

Iniquity

1. Introduction

Sanctification has two sides. While we are positionally sanctified (justified) at conversion, it is also seen as an ongoing process whereby we become more Christ-like as time progresses. It is God's will that we be sanctified (1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:10 as compared to Romans 6:19,22; 1Thessalonians 4:3)

Generally, we believe that the biggest thing stopping us becoming more Christ-like, is our sin. Sin is the root of our problems, and if we can stop sinning, we will be sanctified. This is true to a point. We think that if we try hard not to sin, then we will be well on our way in the process of sanctification. Therefore to be free of sin we must repent of our sin, confess it to God, then choose to obey God's commandments, and not sin.

Indeed, scripture presents many directives for the Christian in the process of sanctification, including commandments to shun sin and work at sanctification:

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also **lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...***
- HEBREWS 12:1 (RSV)

***Let not sin therefore reign** in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. **Do not yield your members to sin** as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness.*
- ROMANS 6:12-13 (RSV)

Shun immorality. - 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18 (RSV)

*Be angry but **do not sin**; do not let the sun go down on your anger...* - EPHESIANS 4:26 (RSV)

*You, therefore, must **be perfect**, as your heavenly Father is perfect.* - MATTHEW 5:48 (RSV)

And lead us not into temptation... - MATTHEW 6:13 (RSV)

*...that they should repent and turn to God and **perform deeds** worthy of their repentance.*
- ACTS 26:20 (RSV)

*So faith by itself, if it has no **works**, is dead.* - JAMES 2:17 (RSV)

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man. But God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, But with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13-14 (RSV)

So there is actually a place for not putting oneself in the way of sin, resisting temptation and doing good works.

For many, there are areas where we regularly and constantly struggle; anger, gluttony, jealousy, drinking too much alcohol, gossiping, unforgiveness. These do not sound too heavy. How about sexual immorality, lust, pornography (videos, magazines, internet), incest, pedophilia, homosexuality, theft, bulimia, anorexia, drugs (prescription or otherwise). These might be the areas in which we will repeatedly fall down.

For some, there is a sudden and God-given intervention and revelation at conversion that instantly changes them in many areas. For most there is no change.

So we will confess, repent and try really hard, ...and fail. And confess again. And repent again. And try really hard again. And fail... again. And the focus moves away from the relationship with God, to not sinning.

There are three common mistakes:

Mistake 1. *We have this mistaken belief that through strong will, determination and self effort we will overcome our sin, and then walk in victory.*

But there seems to be drivers pushing us to sin that cannot be ignored and do not disappear, no matter how often we win... or lose. They still direct us / draw us to sin in those areas. We hope that somehow in confessing our sin we will be free from the drivers behind that area of sin in future. We long to view sin with the same revulsion that God sees all sin. We might find incest abhorrent, for example, yet pornography has a draw-card that we simply cannot ignore. Some sins draw us and we repeatedly fail.

Many will not get past this point, and, after repeated failures in an area, will give up on Christianity. They were promised a God who had answers for their problems. Sadly, those who did the promising, often do not know how to find the answers themselves. Some will move the goal posts and classify their sin as acceptable. Through much stretching and contorting, they will re-interpret the Bible to say it is ok to act that way. Some now say that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was “not showing hospitality to strangers”! Many will simply hide their sin and act as if it is not there. In many instances, the area of sin may not be a major calamity, but the individual knows that it is an area where they... and perhaps others, know they are weak.

Mistake 2. *Because of the on-going battle with sin, we mistakenly call abstinence victory.*

Abstinence is not victory, but merely a successful effort in controlled behavior. Much of what we demonstrate as “Christian Victory” is little more than controlled behavior, and what a non-Christian can do if he would just set his mind to it. This is not to belittle the effort, and success, of behavior control. But behavior control is not freedom. A homosexual who sees homosexuality as wrong, might successfully resist temptation for years, and not succumb, but underneath he still knows what no-one else knows... he is still a homosexual. Is this person living in victory? Of course not! His so-called victory is not maintenance free. It takes a lot of effort to maintain his victory.

For the most part we believe that it is impossible to overcome sin by self effort, but since we have not found a more effective means, we continue trying... and failing. But if we believe that to walk in victory means to overcome sin, the battle must be fought. So we grit our teeth and continue trying. We have no option!

Mistake 3 *Those not sinning because they are trying desperately hard, and those not sinning because there is no battle, both look the same to an outsider. This simply fosters a false understanding of spiritual and Christian maturity.*

The problem here is that no-one can tell the difference between one who does not sin because they are gritting their teeth and trying desperately hard, and one who does not sin because there is no battle. They do not have to try anymore. Victory is easy for them. To the outsider, though, both look identical. So in those areas where we are continually challenged, we do whatever it takes to appear “victorious”. And if our “victory” is an ongoing and constant battle, then we hide it. All this self effort evolves into a false sense of spiritual maturity. If you look “victorious”, and present a “victorious” image, then you must be spiritual! We do this because we simply know of no other way.

Many churches today do not teach how to set these captives truly free. As a result, the people become performance orientated rather than freedom orientated. The new convert who comes to Christ, quickly learns from the “more spiritual” that to have problems can get you ostracized and pushed aside. The “spiritual one” receives a better place. The new convert then learns to grit their teeth through labour-intensive victory, and simply hide their sin. They put on their “happy” face and act a part.

There is little emphasis placed on where the battle *really* lays... the mind.

Jesus hit the nail on the head, when he said,

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- MATTHEW 5:27-28 (RSV)

The driver, here, is lust, the result of an iniquity. Lust becomes a part of the person's nature.

Paul speaks of it:

... for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5 (RSV)

It is interesting that bringing our thoughts into captivity is mentioned in the same section as casting down strongholds.

When we focus on outward behaviour we wind up in legalism and self effort. This is no more than what the Pharisees did. Self effort is not and never was the means by which God intended us to overcome sin and live victoriously. Paul said very clearly that the Christian walk was one of faith.

We say that:

...for without me [Christ] you can do nothing.

- JOHN 15:5 (RSV)

Then why all the blood, sweat and tears? Why the calluses from laborious effort?

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

- MATTHEW 11:30 (RSV)

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

- ISAIAH 40:31 (RSV)

For many, if not most of us, this is simply not the case. We know of no other way.

But if there were some way of looking at the actual drivers that push us to fail in these areas, and a way given of dealing with those drivers, then true maintenance free victory might result. "Maintenance free", in that freedom and victory will be relatively easy to maintain. Perhaps then the yoke will truly be easy, and the burden truly light.

So instead of focusing on the sin, we must look at the root cause for the strongholds or drivers. In saying this, people cannot take the attitude that their sin is not their fault, that there is a driver causing them to sin; they cannot help it, so they are not to blame. God makes it abundantly clear that he will require from all of us accountability for our words, thoughts and actions. "It was not my fault" will not cut it there.

Some of the causes for these strongholds or drivers are:

1. Generational sin / iniquity (see further)
 2. Personal sin, particularly unforgiveness (Matt 6:15)
 3. Ungodly soul ties (1 Sam 18:1; Gen 2:24; Mat 19:5-6; 1Cor 6:16-17)
 4. Curses (both generational and one's own)
 - a. Gen 1:27 - We are made in Gods image
 - b. Gen 1:3,6,9,11 – Gods words have creative power
 - c. Also, Gen 12:3; Ex 21:17, 22:28; Num 22:6; Deut 27:12-26; Prov 26:2; Matt 26:74
 5. Ungodly vows (both generational and one's own) (Deut 6:13, 10:20; Matt 5:33-37; James 5:12)
 6. Cultural bondages
 7. Physical acts carried out on or against yourself, or in your presence
 8. Loss of control over one's body or mind
 9. Anything that happens to us that causes an extreme emotional response
 10. Cursed objects
 11. Deaths in the family where proper burial services have not happened
- Etc, etc.

Demonic attachments will often, and in some cases, always, result from these.

This part will look at No.1 above: generational sin / iniquity.

2. The difference between Sin Transgression and Iniquity

The Bible declares that all are guilty of sin, and the soul that sins must die - spiritual, physical, and eternal death. We are conceived in sin, born in sin, and practice sin daily. We commit sin, transgression and iniquity.

The bible speaks often of these three.

*The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving **iniquity** and **transgression** and **sin**, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."*
- EXODUS.34:6-7 (RSV)

Sin

Sin is generally referred to as "missing the mark".

Among all these soldiers there were seven hundred chosen men who were left-handed, each of whom could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.
- JUDGES 20:16 (NIV)

The Hebrew word for "miss" here is "sin". Generally, sin is viewed in terms of any "missing the mark". We aim to get it right. We try to do it to God's standard, but we fail. The "mark" is God's perfect standard.

You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- MATTHEW 5:48 (RSV)

While sin is the generic term under which all wrong-doing is grouped, generally sin covers the area of unintentional sin. This usually covers sins of omission rather than commission. It is missing the mark through error or mistake. These are one-time events. They are misdeeds. They may be committed through ignorance, and do not have to be wilful.

...for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.
- ROMANS 14:23 (RSV)

...since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...
- ROMANS 3:23 (RSV)

Transgression

We transgress the law when we break the law. We transgress the law when we do 105kph in a 100kph zone. It may not be inherently evil, but we have broken the law nonetheless. A Biblical "transgression" is when we break God's law. Like the road rules, when we break them, we generally do it knowingly.

Transgression is doing what God has said *not* to do. Generally, we transgress when we deliberately and wilfully choose not to do what God has required.

Whereas sin implies missing the mark, even when we try to do it right, transgression implies a positive breach, a rebellion. We often sin unknowingly. When we transgress, we know we are doing it and we know better.

As an example, God commanded the Israelites not to seek guidance through mediums. If they then chose to do this, they transgressed God's law.

*Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a **medium** or spiritist or who consults the dead.*

- DEUTERONOMY 18:10-11 (NIV)

Interestingly, the Israelites transgressed the law of God, because they had God's law. Gentiles could only "sin" as they did not have the law of God. Romans 4:5 points out that where this is no law, there is no transgression.

Iniquity

Iniquity in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word ‘*avon*’ which simply means perverseness or that something is bent, twisted, distorted or perverted. While sin and transgression both describe something we do, iniquity is a way of being. It is a behaviour pattern. With iniquity, we may do wrong, even when we want to do right. Iniquity is a force that compels our will to sin. Iniquity is the twisted nature that lasts long after the transgression has been committed. This iniquity can be passed down through future generations, unless the iniquity itself is removed. Iniquity affects the will and personality in such a way that each generation has an inbred tendency to act in the same way as their ancestors did. (This definition from “*Victory in the Battle*” By John Kowalczyk)

As these definitions imply, sins and transgressions are committed but iniquity is carried, and often, if not usually, is the reason why the others are committed. Correspondingly, if the iniquity is removed, then the major reason why sins and transgressions are committed is removed, too. This alone explains why Christians continue to struggle with committing the same sins and transgressions for years and years—because the iniquity is still pending and is an open and viable force compelling the person to sin and transgress. So sin is the act. Iniquity is the consequence. (from <http://www.lmci.org/articles.cfm?Article=14>)

Why should we think it strange that transgressions might have consequences? In the physical world, our actions have consequences. If I were to accidentally burn down your house, or run over your cat, no amount of repentance will bring them back. I can say “I am sorry” until I die, and they will not be brought back. Your forgiveness will not change this. Similarly, every sin before God can be forgiven, but the physical consequences (for example, pregnancy) will still have to be outworked. If I steal and ask God’s forgiveness, I can expect him to wipe the slate clean, and forget the sin. This does not mean that the stolen property immediately reverts back to the owner. Why should it be any different in the “Spirit” world?

For Christians today, this bias will be handed down to our children, even after we become Christians! While forgiveness of sin is automatic at salvation, freedom from iniquity is not. It must be pointed out that the bias or warping in our nature is not sin. It is, though, when we succumb to it. Then, it is sin.

A logical question to ask is, what sins cause iniquities? If we think of iniquities as a bruising to our spirits, we may not be far from the mark. If we knowingly and deliberately commit sin, it defiles or bruises our spirit, causing our children to be born with the bruising. It may be a relatively small sin such as jealousy, pride, laziness, envy or gluttony, but committed many times. It may be one grievous sin such as adultery, witchcraft, murder, but committed once. Many small hits to our spirit bruise us just as effectively as one large hit. The inherited bruising will cause the children to have a weakness in the same area.

The Bible, in the Old Testament, often refers to iniquity as both the sin which causes it, as well as the bias created and handed down. “Workers of iniquity” (referred to approximately 20 times in the OT) are people who practice sins that cause a bias to be handed down through the generations. They are probably also people who sin out of the inward bias.

So, sin is *unintentional* wrong. Transgression is intentional wrong. Iniquity is the bias that is handed down. It is a lifestyle. Often, if not usually, iniquity is the reason why sins and, more likely, transgressions, are committed.

3. Things to look for in our lives:

- (a) The main one to look for is repeated recurrent patterns of sinful behaviour in past generations. These are the “biases” we spoke of earlier. For instance, sinful patterns such as incest, illegitimacy, homosexuality, other sexual sins such as sexual immorality, lust, addiction to pornography, and others such as anger, gluttony, jealousy, alcoholism, gossiping, unforgiveness, pride, theft, bulimia, anorexia, drugs (prescription or otherwise), an apparent ability in occult areas. And this is to name only a few. It must be said, too, that not all “drivers” are caused by generational causes. Many will come from experiences in our own past. One writer though, stated that 95% of his counseling has required dealing with generational iniquity.

Whether we like it or not, children live with the fallout from their parents' sins.

- (b) Occult involvement is one iniquity that will always have some ongoing effect through the generations. It is a violation of the first commandment (Exodus 20:3), which comes with a warning in verse five against those who break this commandment.

*...you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the **iniquity** of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me...* - EXODUS 20:5 (RSV)

If a person turns to mediums and wizards, playing the harlot after them, I will set my face against that person, and will cut him off from among his people. - LEVITICUS 20:6 (RSV)

This “cutting off” may outwork in a number of ways: early death, financial failure, illness, accidents, or simply an inability to see or understand the truth of the gospel. This blindness can make it very difficult to share the gospel with these people. They will have a total blank spot when it comes to seeing the truth. They may smile sweetly, and say they understand the gospel, and even go to church. But something is missing!

- (c) Freemasonry is a huge area, and one that cannot be properly covered here. Put simply, Freemasons take oaths as they progress through each level. When an oath is taken which is not in line with scripture, that person speaks an ungodly vow, which is in effect, a curse.

Again you have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil. - MATTHEW 5:33-37 (RSV)

In Freemasonry the negative results of their promises are spelt out in their oaths. As they are ungodly vows, the negative results are brought upon themselves and their children and following generations.

- (d) People with “labels”. Many people have labels on them. “Abuse Me”, “Bully Me”, “I’m Available”, “Loser”. We of course do not physically see these labels, but they are fairly easily “seen” when we know what to look for.
- (e) We can generate our own iniquities by choosing to act in a manner that is grievously sinful before God. Without Godly intervention, this will affect our children.
- (f) Although this is slightly outside the scope of this article, it must be noted that the sins of the parents can also cause generational curses – God’s judgment on the sins of parents – and can be dealt with along the same lines as detailed later.
- (i) Physical ailments that are a pattern. Sicknesses that come down through the generations might be an indicator of generational iniquity. It should be pointed out, though, that not all generational sickness equates to iniquity. And it seems that when it does, we are to be as specific as possible in prayer. Generalised prayers usually do not work.
 - (ii) Lifestyle patterns that appear cursed. Many times the actual problem area may not directly indicate the actual area of sin. Some of these indicators might be patterns of rejection, divorce, miscarriages, early deaths, closed wombs, only male (or female) children born, drugs or alcohol, poverty, accident prone, etc. All we can say here is to seek God for an answer as to the cause.
 - (iii) Unnatural fears / phobias, compulsive behaviours. (Unnatural fears / phobias: One list on the internet listed 629 phobias. Examples of compulsive behaviors: hoarding, spending, saving, eating, not eating, washing, over-abundance of certain clothes or objects, arson, vandalism, tidiness, perfectionism, etc)

Sometimes, iniquity is committed in seeming ignorance. For instance, playing with a Ouija board may be seen as a fun past time, but God clearly states (Deuteronomy 18:10-12) that divination is an abomination to him. Our mental attitude to that sin has nothing to do with the fact that there are consequences for our actions. Playing with the occult, no-matter how innocently, is grossly evil, it is premeditated, and it is wickedness before God. We are seeking answers from sources other than God (that is, Satan and his demons, or the dead), and as such is wilful defiance and rebellion against God. As stated earlier, it is a violation of the first commandment. (Exodus 20:3 “*You shall have no other gods before me.*”)

Believing that experimenting with the occult is acceptable, is similar to believing that one can, with impunity, stand in front of an on-coming truck on a highway. Your beliefs are irrelevant. The consequences will be the same whether you believe it or not. It is an iniquity.

So...

We must be saved from our sins, and set free from the iniquities of our parents

4. Biblical Characteristics of Iniquity

- (a) It was recognised in the OT, in that there was a separate sacrifice for iniquity, and for sin (or “transgression”).

And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.

- LEVITICUS 16:20-22 (KJV)

Notice that it is the transgressions, the deliberate acts of disobedience which cause the iniquity, that are being spoken of here. Iniquity is the bent in our nature, caused by transgressions – which are sins.

- (b) It is a grievous and deliberate sin against God.

*Is not your wickedness great? There is no end to your **iniquities**.* - JOB 22:5 (RSV)

*Did not Achan the son of Zerah break faith in the matter of the devoted things, and wrath fell upon all the congregation of Israel? And he did not perish alone for his **iniquity**.*
- JOSHUA 22:20 (RSV)

*Woe to him who builds a town with blood, and founds a city on **iniquity**!*
- HABAKKUK 2:12 (RSV)

*I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just **as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity**, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.*
- ROMANS 6:19 (RSV)

You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me... Idolatry is an iniquity.
- EXODUS 20:3-5 (RSV)

- (c) It was recognised as affecting the generations. God promises in many places to visit iniquity down to the 3rd and 4th generation, (and perhaps beyond), and to visit the iniquity of illegitimacy down to the 10th generation.

...you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity** of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me...
- EXODUS 20:5 (RSV)

The LORD passed before him, and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, **forgiving iniquity** and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, **visiting the iniquity** of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."
- EXODUS 34:6-7 (RSV)

The LORD is slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, **visiting the iniquity** of fathers upon children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation.
- NUMBERS 14:18 (RSV)

You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity** of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me...
- DEUTERONOMY 5:8-9 (RSV)

Blessed is the man to whom the LORD **imputes no iniquity**, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. That is, blessed is he who has not been affected by their parents iniquities.
- PSALMS 32:2 (RSV)

Do not remember against us the **iniquities** of our forefathers; let thy compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.
- PSALMS 79:8 (RSV)

No bastard shall enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the **tenth generation** none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD.
- DEUTERONOMY 23:2 (RSV)

Some sins listed in the OT were too appalling to allow the perpetrator to live. God did grade sin. While any and all sin takes one away from the presence of God, he makes it quite clear that he viewed some sins as being particularly abhorrent. Some sins only required a small sacrifice or offering, while others required a large sacrifice. Some sins even required the death penalty. It would seem that, had these people lived, the effects of their iniquity down through their generations would have been cataclysmic to the Israelites. Had each generation been allowed to inherit the normal effects of the iniquity, and reinforce the iniquity by revelling in the sin themselves, the compounding effect would have seen the nation rapidly degenerate to an extremely wicked and ungodly level. This is probably what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Remembering that illegitimacy has an ongoing effect for 10 generations (last reference above), perhaps the iniquities that required the death penalty might have had an ongoing effect longer than 10 generations, if the people who committed them had been allowed to live.

(d) It affects our nature. That is, it creates the drivers in our lives:

For your iniquity **teaches your mouth**, and you choose the tongue of the crafty.
- JOB 15:5 (RSV)

Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a **new and right spirit** within me.
- PSALMS 51:9-10 (RSV)

Keep steady my steps according to thy promise, and let no iniquity get **dominion** over me.
- PSALMS 119:133 (RSV)

The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is caught in the toils of his sin. He dies for **lack of discipline**, and because of his great folly he is lost.
- PROVERBS 5:22-23 (RSV)

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- MATTHEW 5:27-28 (RSV)

The driver, Jesus says, is lust, an iniquity. One aspect of the person's nature is lust (among perhaps other things).

You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire.

- MATTHEW 5:21-22 (RSV)

The driver is anger, the result of an iniquity. The person's nature has anger.

- (e) It is a biblical law of sowing and reaping. It is a law that was originally meant for good, that we inherit generational blessing. But this can also apply to the generational cursing.

And if in spite of this you will not hearken to me, but walk contrary to me, then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and chastise you myself sevenfold for your sins. You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your incense altars, and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols; and my soul will abhor you. And I will lay your cities waste, and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing odours. And I will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be astonished at it.....

*"But if they **confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers** in their treachery which they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity; then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land."*

- LEVITICUS 26:27-42 (RSV)

For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

- GALATIANS 6:8 (RSV)

We are perfectly willing to accept the blessings from our parents and their parents. And not only the spiritual ones either! All good things around us are primarily due to our parents - our money, our lifestyle, the ease and quality of life. These we enjoy unmerited. Can we say that it is fair to enjoy these blessings, yet unfair if we reap from their sins? It is not an accident that the so called "Western" countries are the wealthy ones. These are the countries that have based their national identity on the Christian God. Now look at the countries classified as "Third World". Have you ever wondered why they struggle so much, just to keep their heads above water? They struggle even to feed the people. How many of these have had as their foundation, Christian principles and the Christian God? Look also at what is happening to those Western countries that are intent on deleting all reference to God from their way of life. There seems to be a slow withdrawal of God's blessing. The things that are valued - security, prosperity, abundance in everything, increasing GNP, low national debt, high agricultural productivity - some of these are slipping away as all reference to God is actively removed from schools, work-places, politics, and lives.

5. People and incidents in the Bible affected by iniquity

- (a) Some OT people who showed inherited sinful ways:

- (i) King David was the fourth generation from Rahab the prostitute. (Matthew 1:5-6 Salmon and Rahab produced Boaz. Boaz was the father of Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David.) If there was a sexual sin associated with Rahab, and there probably was, her being a harlot, then it was very likely handed down, reinforced, and handed on to David. Without a doubt

David had a problem with women. His affair with Bathsheba was clear evidence of this. Solomon was the result, and his problem with women is well known. (Read also 2 Samuel 2:2, & 5:13)

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!... Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
-PSALMS 51:2F (RSV)

David recognises in Psalm 51 that he is motivated by iniquity, and that he was actually conceived in iniquity. He asks God, not only to cleanse him of his sin, but to put a new and right spirit within him. That is, to change his motivation in this area.

David was also the tenth generation from Judah, one of the sons of Jacob. In Genesis 38, Judah propositioned his daughter-in-law, thinking her to be a prostitute, and she became pregnant as a result. This iniquity, even though it is ten generations old, may have had an influence on King David.

Most do not realise that David had at least nine wives and ten concubines. David first married Michal the daughter of Saul (1 Samuel 18:27), Ahinoam of Jezreel (1 Samuel 25:43), then Abigail (1 Samuel 25:39), Maachah, Haggith, Abital, Egalah, Bathshua (1 Chronicles 3:2-5), and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:27). David also had at least ten concubines (2 Samuel 15:16).

We also see this iniquity of lust being passed on to the next generation. Amnon, the son of David, raped his sister, Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1-15). And Absalom raped King David's concubines "in the sight of all Israel" (2 Samuel 16:22). And, of course, then there was Solomon.

- (ii) Solomon inherited David's problem with women. "*He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.*" (1 Kings 11:3 RSV)
- (iii) Noah's youngest son Ham, in Gen 9:20f "saw his father's nakedness". Whatever it was that happened, it was clearly of a sexual nature. While many believe that Noah simply cursed Ham's descendants through Ham's youngest son Canaan, when looked at from the viewpoint of it being an iniquity, Noah may have been simply stating, what was to him, the obvious: the iniquity would be felt by Ham's son Canaan, and his descendants. Canaan would be a slave to Ham's brothers.

...he [Noah] said, "Cursed be Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers." He also said, 'Blessed by the LORD my God be Shem; and let Canaan be his slave.' God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his slave.
- GENESIS 9:25-27 (RSV)

The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan.
- GENESIS 10:6 (RSV)

- (iv) It is interesting that Abraham was devious about who his wife was, not once, but twice! Once in Genesis 12:14 in Egypt. The second time it was to king Abimelech in Genesis 20:2f. Now look at Genesis 26:8f. It is very interesting to note that Isaac used the same ploy with his wife, and to the same king! Abraham and Isaac's deviousness and dishonesty, it seemed, was also handed down to Jacob.

Jacob was a "mommy's boy" who did not like hard work. He was not his father's favourite. He was also wily and devious. In fact his name meant "supplanter". He cheated his brother of his father's blessing, with the full support of his mother. Jacob's children were devious. (They were born before Jacob had his encounter with God) They sold Joseph into slavery and lied to their father, implying he had died. (To get some idea of the gravity of this, imagine selling your brother / sister as a slave, then lying to your parents and the authorities on what had happened to them. How big an act of treachery does this feel?) Joseph also was no saint, in that he flaunted his imagined superiority in the face of his brothers. Joseph appears like a carbon copy of his father's younger life, in that he was not out looking after the sheep, but swanning around doing little of the hard work. How like his father!

(b) Particularly important, iniquity is also found in the NT:

(i) Simon the Sorcerer

But there was a man named Simon who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the nation of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great

They all gave heed to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is that power of God which is called Great." And they gave heed to him, because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit;

for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me also this power, that any one on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

*But Peter said to him, "Your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the **bond of iniquity**."*

And Simon answered, 'Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.'

- ACTS 8:9-24 (RSV)

Acts 8:9-24 makes it clear that Simon the sorcerer:

- (a) was a Christian,
- (b) was baptised, and
- (c) still had iniquity problems.

(ii) *So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' And all the people answered, '**His blood be on us and on our children!**'*

- MATTHEW 27:24 (RSV)

This appears to have been an iniquity that affects more than four generations. Many Jews today have apparently gained a significant measure of freedom from praying through this iniquity.

(iii) *And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him.'*

- JOHN 9:2 (RSV)

Many will interpret this verse in the context of an old fashioned people who had no idea that diseases are caused by viruses and bacteria. Remember, though, that if the concept of "Iniquity" is correct, then the verse demonstrates a greater understanding than we currently have. And incidentally, this verse opens up the whole area of "iniquity" to inherited sickness also.

- (iv) The disciple Judas Iscariot was spoken of prophetically in Psalm 109.

Appoint a wicked man against him; let an accuser bring him to trial. When he is tried, let him come forth guilty; let his prayer be counted as sin! May his days be few; may another seize his goods! May his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow! May his children wander about and beg; may they be driven out of the ruins they inhabit! May the creditor seize all that he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his toil! Let there be none to extend kindness to him, nor any to pity his fatherless children! May his posterity be cut off; may his name be blotted out in the second generation! May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the LORD, and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out! Let them be before the LORD continually; and may his memory be cut off from the earth! For he did not remember to show kindness, but pursued the poor and needy and the brokenhearted to their death

- PSALMS 109:6-16 (RSV)

The sin of his parent was that they did not show kindness to the poor. They “pursued the poor and needy to their death”. The outworking came in Judas, who was more concerned about money than Jesus.

- (v) *...but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown brings forth death.*

- JAMES 1:14-15 (RSV)

This desire may be the person’s nature, or a “driver”. That is, an iniquity.

- (vi) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- 1JOHN 1:9 (RSV)

This verse has traditionally been seen as a commendation for continually seeking after forgiveness for our sins. “Keep short accounts...” we are told. “Recognise your shortcomings.” The problem here is that if we must continue repentance for forgiveness, then if we die before repenting, then we cannot be saved. While this obvious hole is seen and recognised, because the verse says to do it, we are encouraged to continue repenting. This, people argue, is to keep us humble, and in recognition of what God has done through Jesus Christ.

The Greek word for “unrighteousness” (*adikia*), the last word in this verse, occurs 13 times in the New Testament. Five of those times it is translated as “iniquity”. If the word “iniquity” is put in place of “unrighteousness”, then the verse reads: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all **iniquity***

With what we know of iniquity, the verse now begins to make sense. We are to confess our sins with a view to getting free of the consequences of iniquity.

- (vii) *And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchizedek met him.*

- HEBREWS 7:9-10

The writer of Hebrews says that Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek while in the loins of his great grandfather Abraham. It must also follow that the actions of Abraham (and Isaac and Jacob) were just as much the actions of Levi, whatever those actions were. So when Abraham sinned, Levi effectively sinned also. And the effects of that sin will be felt just as much by Levi as by Abraham.

- (viii) *Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.*

- JOHN 5:14

Jesus makes it clear that one outworking of sin is sickness. While this is not a bias to sin, as is common in a “generational iniquity”, it is an effect of sin. In this case it is a legitimate curse – a God-ordained curse of sickness as a result of some grievous sin. Most likely something would have been handed down to his children had not Jesus intervened.

6. Iniquity and the Cross

So, in our attempts to get free from these biases or drivers, why doesn't prayer work? Generally the problem is that we are not praying correctly. Anything we ask that is not God's will, he will simply ignore. It is similar to asking God to make us win Lotto when we are out of work, when scripturally, we should be asking for a job (2 Thessalonians 3:10 *...if any will not work neither let him eat*). To pray for Aunt Maude's death so we can inherit her money, is clearly unscriptural also, and God will ignore it.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

- JAMES 4:3 (RSV)

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

- 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (RSV)

The bottom line is that many believe that iniquities were dealt with automatically when we were saved. What, then, is automatically conferred at salvation, and what is not? It is easier initially, to look at what is *not* automatic at salvation.

Is healing an automatic part of salvation? After all, Isaiah 53:5 says, *"...and with his stripes we are healed."* Because for many people, these things do not fit into their theology, they will interpret this verse as us being healed spiritually. But if physical healing is possible, then it must be a part of the work of the cross. And logic says that it is obviously not automatic at salvation.

Both Paul and Peter healed people (Acts 5:15, 19:11-12, 28:8). If healing was automatic in the atonement, there would be no need for hospitals; just convert 'em! And perhaps, then, we would not die, for we would be continually healed! The fact that there are gifts of healing also indicates a need for healing separate to salvation. James 5:14 makes it clear that if any are sick, they are to call for the elders. These are Christians that he is talking to. So if healing is in the atonement, it is not automatic. It has to be found or sought separate to salvation.

Creation, also, was not automatically set free from its bondage to decay, as Romans states.

So, clearly, some things are not automatic at salvation. For healing, say, it can be sought separate to salvation.

What then, comes automatically with salvation? Peter's sermon in Acts:

And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

- ACTS 2:38 (RSV)

Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...

- ACTS 3:19 (RSV)

Forgiveness of sins is clearly automatic at salvation. Nothing is mentioned about anything else.

What aspect of the cross dealt with forgiveness of sins? Indeed, can we even divide the Cross into "aspects"?

*Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the **shedding of blood** there is no **forgiveness of sins**.*

- HEBREWS 9:22 (RSV)

*...for this is my **blood** of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the **forgiveness of sins**.*

- MATTHEW 26:28 (RSV)

To deal with sins seems "only" to have required Jesus to shed his blood. This he did on the cross when the spear was thrust in his side.

Why then, did Jesus have to go through the agony of torture prior to and on the cross? After all, he shed his blood on the cross. Was that not enough? Clearly, Jesus not only shed his blood, but suffered enormously prior to his death. What else was dealt with in this suffering?

*But he was **wounded for our transgressions**, he was **bruised for our iniquities**; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his **stripes** we are **healed**. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the **LORD** has laid on him the **iniquity** of us all*
- ISAIAH 53:5-6 (RSV)

*For the **creation** waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the **redemption of our bodies**.*
- ROMANS 8:19-23 (RSV)

*...his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is **accursed** by God; you shall not defile your land which the **LORD** your God gives you for an inheritance.*
- DEUTERONOMY 21:23 (RSV)

It seems that Jesus not only shed his blood for our transgressions (sins), but had to endure the suffering to deal with curses, iniquities, healing, creation, and new bodies. While many of us dream of the new body, clearly new bodies are not an automatic part salvation.

The only thing that appears automatic is forgiveness of sin (transgressions). It seems that the on-going effect of grievous sins (iniquities) down through the generations is one of those areas that must be dealt with separately to salvation.

7. Dealing with iniquity

How do we deal with Iniquity?

Just as there is no clear way set out in scripture to “get saved”, evangelise or baptise people, so too there is not a set way to pray about iniquity. Some verses that address freedom from iniquity are:

- (a) Confession of iniquity – their own and their fathers.

*And those of you that are left shall pine away in your enemies' lands because of their iniquity; and also because of the iniquities of their fathers they shall pine away like them. "But if they **confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers** in their treachery which they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity; then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land."*
- LEVITICUS 26:39-42 (RSV)

*We **acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers**, for we have sinned against thee.*
- JEREMIAH 14:20 (RSV)

*Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth upon their heads. And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners, and stood and **confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers**.*
- NEHEMIAH 9:1 (RSV)

*I **acknowledged my sin** to thee, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the **LORD**"; then thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.*
- PSALMS 32:5 (RSV)

*I **confess my iniquity**, I am sorry for my sin.*
- PSALMS 38:18 (RSV)

(b) Daniel prays for forgiveness for the iniquities of his fathers.

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by birth a Mede, who became king over the realm of the Chaldeans—in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years which, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, ‘O Lord, the great and terrible God, who keepest covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from thy commandments and ordinances; we have not listened to thy servants the prophets, who spoke in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. To thee, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us confusion of face, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those that are near and those that are far away, in all the lands to which thou hast driven them, because of the treachery which they have committed against thee. To us, O Lord, belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness; because we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by following his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

All Israel has transgressed thy law and turned aside, refusing to obey thy voice. And the curse and oath which are written in the law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him.

He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity; for under the whole heaven there has not been done the like of what has been done against Jerusalem. As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us, yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and giving heed to thy truth.

Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us; for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works which he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice.

And now, O Lord our God, who didst bring thy people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast made thee a name, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O Lord, according to all thy righteous acts, let thy anger and thy wrath turn away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy hill; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people have become a byword among all who are round about us.

Now therefore, O our God, hearken to the prayer of thy servant and to his supplications, and for thy own sake, O Lord, cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary, which is desolate.

O my God, incline thy ear and hear; open thy eyes and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name; for we do not present our supplications before thee on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of thy great mercy.

O LORD, hear; O LORD, forgive; O LORD, give heed and act; delay not, for thy own sake, O my God, because thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

- DANIEL 9:1-19 (RSV)

To be free of the effects of iniquities, it appears that we must own our ancestor’s sin, confess the sin, and ask forgiveness for the sin. We must also do the same for our own involvement in these areas.

Some may question the need to ask for forgiveness for sins that are supposedly already forgiven at our conversion. There might be another way to deal with this other than that above, but the OT verses ask that the people “*confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers*”(Leviticus 26:40

RSV). Also, the NT asks us to confess sins to God. “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” (1 John 1:9 RSV) While there is probably valid grounds for not actually asking for forgiveness for the sins we have committed, it seems easiest to deal with the sins from a “forgiveness” aspect, and also deal with the consequences (iniquities) also.

Other notes on Iniquity:

8. Verses seeming to deny iniquity

- (a) *The word of the LORD came to me again: ‘What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins shall die’. Read the rest of this chapter to get the full impact.* - EZEKIEL 18:1F (RSV)

In those days they shall no longer say: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own sin; each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge. - JEREMIAH 31:29-30 (RSV)

While Jeremiah 31:29 is merely a reference to this saying, Ezekiel 18 spells it out in detail. It seems that the Israelites had come to believe that the children would be responsible for and must bear God’s punishment – death - for their parent’s sin.

We need to have a clear understanding on the difference between God’s righteous and final judgement on a person’s sin, and the consequences of iniquity being handed down through the generations. Both appear to be punishment. But there is a distinct difference. Every man, women or child, God quite plainly says, will receive their final reward or punishment before him for their own actions. (18:20 “*The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the **guilt** of the father, nor the father bear the **guilt** of the son*”). In other words, God has refuted the charge that the children receive God’s ultimate punishment for their parent’s actions.

To inherit a “bent arrow” that cannot hit the mark, no-matter how hard one tries, is different from bearing the responsibility, guilt and God’s judgement of death for the parent’s sin. Inheriting a bias towards an ungodly response, of itself, is not sin. Responding to that bias in an ungodly way, though, is sin. And for their own response only, each person will answer to God. Now, if the son or daughter commits sin, Ezekiel 18 tells us that they will bear their own guilt, and thus be punished – but for their sins only.

- (b) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold all things have become new.* - 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (RSV)

This has been taught in many churches, without identifying exactly what has become new. We are tri-partite beings. That is, we are body, soul and spirit. So is Paul saying here that all things are new for our spirit, or our soul, or our body? Or all three? Note that this comes after 2 Corinthians 4:16 which says that “the inward man is being renewed day by day”. So clearly Paul is not referring to this “inward man” in 5:17.

Paul, in Ephesians also states:

*Put off your old nature which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful lusts, and be **renewed in the spirit of your minds**, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.* - EPHESIANS 4:22-24 (RSV)

And:

*Do not be conformed to this world but be **transformed by the renewal of your mind**...* - ROMANS 12:2 (RSV)

So our minds, our wills, and our emotions are in a state of being renewed. They are not “there” yet.

So when Paul says that “all things have become new” he is not referring to our body or our soul. He is referring to our spirit, which now has the Holy Spirit dwelling within (See Romans 8:10, 16). We are new creations in our spirit, as now the Holy Spirit has taken up residence. We are not new creations in our mind. This requires the process of sanctification.

(c) Another verse is often mentioned,

...forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. - PHILIPPIANS 3:13 (RSV)

So, apparently, we are to forget what is past and press on... Paul, however, is not speaking here of his past where he succumbed to the depths of sin and depravity. He is talking here of his past where he succeeded. In the world he was counted a great man. In Christ, this counted for naught. So, ignoring the apparent successes of his past, he presses on towards his goal. It is incorrect to use this verse to tell someone bound in iniquity and failure, to “forget the past and press on...”

(d) *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.* - 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 (RSV)

This passage does not negate the effects of iniquity. Each individual will ultimately have to answer to God for every thought, word and action. No matter how hard the temptation is to endure, we are given a “way of escape” that allows us to choose. We, individually, choose either to sin, or not to sin.

(e) *So if the Son shall make you free, you will be free indeed.* - JOHN 8:36 (RSV)

This verse is easy to quote out of context, for two verses before, Jesus says that, “*Everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin.*” Ask anyone in the Church whether Christians will or can “practice sin”, and if they are honest, they will admit that they do. Logically then, the Son has not set them free!

9. Some other verses that speak of iniquity

*I confess my **iniquity**, I am sorry for my sin.* - PSALMS 38:18 (RSV)

*The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable **iniquity**; there is none that does good.* - PSALMS 53:1 (RSV)

*Thou didst forgive the **iniquity** of thy people; thou didst pardon all their sin.* - PSALMS 85:2 (RSV)

*But the LORD has become my stronghold, and my God the rock of my refuge. He will bring back on them their **iniquity** and wipe them out for their wickedness; the LORD our God will wipe them out.* - PSALMS 94:22-23 (RSV)

*...who forgives all your **iniquity**, who heals all your diseases...* - PSALMS 103:3 (RSV)

*Both we and our fathers have sinned; we have committed **iniquity**, we have done wickedly.* - PSALMS 106:6 (RSV)

*May the **iniquity** of his fathers be remembered before the LORD, and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out!* - PSALMS 109:14 (RSV)

*Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with **iniquity**, offspring of evildoers, sons who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged.* - ISAIAH 1:4 (RSV)

*For behold, the LORD is coming forth out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their **iniquity**, and the earth will disclose the blood shed upon her, and will no more cover her slain.*
- ISAIAH 26:21 (RSV)

*For the fool speaks folly, and his mind plots **iniquity**: to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink.*
- ISAIAH 32:6 (RSV)

*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your **iniquities** have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you so that he does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with **iniquity**; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue mutters wickedness. No one enters suit justly, no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and bring forth **iniquity**. They hatch adders' eggs, they weave the spider's web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one which is crushed a viper is hatched. Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of **iniquity**, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of **iniquity**, desolation and destruction are in their highways*
- ISAIAH 59:1-7 (RSV)

*Behold, it is written before me: 'I will not keep silent, but I will repay, yea, I will repay into their bosom their **iniquities** and their fathers' **iniquities** together, says the LORD; because they burned incense upon the mountains and reviled me upon the hills, I will measure into their bosom payment for their former doings.*
- ISAIAH 65:6-7 (RSV)

*They have turned back to the **iniquities** of their forefathers, who refused to hear my words; they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.*
- JEREMIAH 11:10 (RSV)

*And if you say in your heart, 'Why have these things come upon me?' it is for the greatness of your **iniquity** that your skirts are lifted up, and you suffer violence.*
- JEREMIAH 13:22 (RSV)

*And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their **iniquity**, because they dealt so treacherously with me that I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they all fell by the sword*
- EZEKIEL 39:23 (RSV)

*'Seventy weeks of years are decreed concerning your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for **iniquity**, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.'*
- DANIEL 9:24 (RSV)

*But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from me, all you workers of **iniquity**!'*
- LUKE 13:27 (RSV)

*I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater **iniquity**, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.*
- ROMANS 6:19 (RSV)

10. Greek and Hebrew

Listed below are both the Hebrew and also the Greek definition (or one of the definitions since there are many) of the word sin, to compare the meanings.

Sin: Chata' (transliterated OT Hebrew meaning/word) meaning, to sin, miss, miss the way, go wrong, incur guilt, forfeit, purify from uncleanness.

a. (Qal)

1. to miss
2. to sin, miss the goal or path of right and duty
3. to incur guilt, incur penalty by sin, forfeit

b. (Piel)

1. to bear loss
2. to make a sin-offering
3. to purify from sin
4. to purify from uncleanness

c. (Hiphil)

1. to miss the mark
2. to induce to sin, cause to sin
3. to bring into guilt or condemnation or punishment

d. (Hithpael)

1. to miss oneself, lose oneself, wander from the way
2. to purify oneself from uncleanness

Sin: Hamartano (Transliterated NT Greek meaning/word)

1. to be without a share in, to miss the mark, to err,
2. be mistaken to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honour,
3. to do or go wrong
4. to wander from the law of God,
5. violate God's law, sin

When you read the definitions listed from both the Hebrew and Greek Lexicons you can see that both definitions are very similar in meaning. In fact, if you could write a simple definition for the word sin, IMO, it could be “too miss the mark”.

Iniquity: Avon (Transliterated OT Hebrew word/meaning)

to bend, twist, distort

1. (Niphal) to be bent, be bowed down, be twisted, be perverted
2. (Piel) to twist, distort
3. (Hiphil) to do perversely

to commit iniquity, do wrong, pervert

1. (Qal) to do wrong, commit iniquity
2. (Hiphil) to commit iniquity

Iniquity: (paranomia, ponia, anomia, adikema, adikia Transliterated NT Greek words/meaning)

1. breach of law, transgression, wickedness
2. depravity, iniquity, wickedness
3. malice
4. evil purposes and desires
5. the condition of without law because ignorant of it
6. because of violating it
7. contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness
8. a misdeed, evil doing, iniquity
9. injustice, of a judge
10. unrighteousness of heart and life
11. a deed violating law and justice, act of unrighteousness

Blessings and Curses

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Blessings and Curses

1. Introduction

There are at least 195 references to curses in the KJ Bible and 463 references to blessings. With so many references, it is a wonder that the church today makes so little reference to them. There are fewer references to law, commandments, Abraham or angels. There are 76 references to baptism, yet most people are fairly aware of baptism, to the point that it has split denominations. So what are blessings, and what are curses?

Blessings and curses originate mainly in our words. Negative words bring curses. Positive words bring blessings.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

- PROVERBS 18:21 (RSV)

It seems that all the miracles, signs and wonders, including creation, recorded in the Bible came about after someone spoke. In creation, God spoke everything into existence, including light itself. Jesus spoke, and the storm was stilled, the sick were healed, and the demonised were delivered. The disciples spoke, and brought about healing and deliverance.

2. Blessings

Blessings have been misrepresented. Today, we have watered down “blessings” to mean something that is mumbled before a meal, or parroted in ancient churches, or it is something meaningless that is said by old people. There is the inference that, “Real people don’t ‘do’ blessings”. It is similar to, “Real men don’t eat quiche”, which is a shame.

Blessings are the active intervention by an all powerful God to bring good things on and to a person, family, town or nation. Blessings can be wealth, power, knowledge, skills, wisdom, or any one of a host of good things. And blessings can go on and affect future generations also.

Without doubt, western countries have been blessed. One does not need to be a rocket scientist to see the good things we have, compared to most places. Countries that do not have as their foundation our Christian God do not have the evident wealth and prosperity that we have. We have clearly been blessed. It seems so self-evident that it is a wonder that evangelism is not more effective today. Quite simply, our God works and their’s does not!

Isaac verbally blessed Jacob after he pretended to be Esau. The power of this blessing was clearly known to all in that family. It was highly sought after and prized. (Genesis 27:28f) Esau, as well as his father Isaac, was heartbroken when they discovered the deception.

Abraham was blessed by God: Genesis 12:3 (RSV) *“I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.”* Abraham was promised that those who cursed him, or Israel today, God will curse. And those that bless Israel, God will bless. Bearing in mind that the Christian church is the new Israel today, this also means that God will bless Christians.

It is unfortunate that with the constant distancing by many in our country today from the Christian God, this blessing may not continue for much longer. We can see cracks forming if we look.

The authority to bless has been given to us also. Jesus told his disciples to go out two by two, and to bless the houses they went into. He also told his disciples to teach us whatever he had commanded them to do. This includes blessings.

...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.

- MATTHEW 28:20 (RSV)

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!'

- LUKE 10:5 (RSV)

This power is not to be taken lightly. We have the power to bring peace, and good things to people and places. This is not some fuzzy feel-good thing. It is God's power being unleashed into a place or person.

We can bless:

- Our home (Anoint the boundary markers and doorways with oil, claim the house and land for God, Ask God to fill all with the Holy spirit.)
- Our motor vehicle (at purchase, anoint with oil and pray God's blessing on it. If the vehicle is old, revoke and renounce any curses on it also.)
- Classrooms (Anoint chairs, doorways with oil and claim the area for God. Ask that the blood of Jesus would cleanse all areas, and that it be filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.)
- Workplace (Pray for peace, prosperity, harmony. Anoint your own work area – the whole workplace if you like - with oil and claim it for God, etc.)
- Each person under our authority at work (Pray over regularly.)
- Our boss (Bless with clear mind, honesty, peace, etc.)
- Friends, shops, animals, you name it
- Our food...

“For what we are about to receive...” Is your “grace” before meals a rote and meaningless affair? Does it exist at all? Is it only said because your parents did too? Asking for God's blessing on a meal is a definite pathway to health and physical well-being. We would do well not to ignore it. Always be aware of what you are asking for. It should not become a ritual that absolutely must be carried out before any meal, but a definite act of asking God to bless our food.

Because blessings are not a problem, and curses are, most of this section will be about curses.

3. Curses.

Biblical cursing is more than using the type of language you wouldn't speak in front of your mother. The word today has a different connotation than it did for Bible characters.

A curse is in place when there is an active withdrawal by God and an active intervention by Satan in some area of a person, family, town or nation. It goes without saying that active intervention by Satan will not be pretty. When something is blessed, God brings life. When it is cursed, Satan brings death.

A curse is most likely evident in someone's life when there is continued failure in some area of their life, yet there may be no obvious reason why. A curse is not simply speaking evil of someone, but a curse is in place when evil is actually *on* someone.

Derek Prince defines a curse as a word spoken with some particular form of spiritual power and authority either for good or evil that sets in motion something that will probably go on from generation to generation.

3.1 Evidences of a curse

Everything mentioned below can be caused by things other than a curse. Naming the things on the list below in no way limits the cause of anything mentioned to a curse. However, a curse *may* be the cause.

- Uncontrollable behaviour
- Depression, on-going fears
- Mental confusion
- Mental exhaustion
- Mental illness
- You or someone in the family is always sick
- Infertility, unable to fall pregnant, or cannot stay pregnant
- Other “women's problems” (for example, excessive PMS)
- Family history of divorce
- Family breakdown or family always fighting
- Poverty – always short of money
- Cannot hold a job
- Things always going wrong. Defeat and failure are the rule. Never able to succeed

- Accident prone. You are an accidents looking for a place to happen
- Family history of premature deaths
- Family history of suicides
- You seem to wear a badge – “looser”, “take me for a ride”, “I’m available”, etc
- Cannot hold a friendship
- Family history of illegitimacy

3.2 Curses are released by words.

Because we are created in God’s image, just as he created the universe with his words, so too, we have creative power in our words. The saying, “Sticks and stones will break your bones, but names will never hurt you”, is totally wrong. We can speak out blessings or curses.

...but no human being can tame the tongue -- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.

- JAMES 3:8-10 (RSV)

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

- PROVERBS 18:21 (RSV)

This is not a figurative death, or a symbolic death, or a metaphoric death. It is real death, and real life. Our tongues can create and destroy.

Curses can be spoken by us or by others over us. They can also be written. In many countries, they will be invoked by a third party - the equivalent of a witchdoctor. This may involve incantations, invocations, mixing of various herbs and potions, the use of personal items from the intended victim, placing of cursed items within the house of the victim, and any number of other evil options.

In these countries one must be careful at places such as births and weddings, not to receive a curse from some disgruntled person. Their curses are very real, and must be treated with care. It is interesting, however, to see that many non-Christians in these countries are finding that curses are a lot more difficult and often impossible, to put on Christians; they are often protected from the curse.

Curses can continue on down through generations. They usually will, and perhaps always do, include demonic interference to assist the curse.

Curses spoken by others over us need not necessarily alight.

Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, a curse that is causeless does not alight.

- PROVERBS 26:2 (RSV)

People would have cursed Jesus in his day, yet nothing could “stick”. There was no open doorway in his life that allowed entry for a demon.

It seems that if there are no grounds, or appropriate area of sin in that person, then the curse will not fall. Many believe that the curse will then reverse back onto the person sending the curse, like a sparrow or swallow flitting around, and returning to its nest.

3.3 Sources of curses

3.3.1 Curses from God

Old Testament thinking was that God was the source of all things. This included evil spirits, curses, blessings, - the lot! There was little understanding of Satan. Perhaps they understood that God had to allow these things to occur. In fact, in many cases, God commanded it to occur. This can be termed a “legitimate curse”, and is still today a totally valid cause for a curse.

Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.
- 1 SAMUEL 16:14 (RSV)

And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech;
- JUDGES 9:23 (RSV)

Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has spoken evil concerning you.
- 1 KINGS 22:23 (RSV)

If you will not listen, if you will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; indeed I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart.
- MALACHI 2:2 (RSV)

Perhaps the greatest chapter on cursing in the Bible is Deuteronomy 27. Here, God has the Levites stand on Mount Ebal as the Israelites enter the Promised Land and pronounce curses upon themselves, should they fail to follow his commandments. These curses are very comprehensive. Equally, some were to stand on Mount Gerizim and pronounce blessings on the Israelites if they followed God's commandments. Chapter 28 makes it very clear that it is God who both blesses and curses. He controls, or allows curses to occur, and he brings blessings.

Certainly God allowed Satan (or a demon) entry to Saul, the men of Shechem, and the prophets (verses above). In God allowing these things, they are most certainly under God's control.

3.3.2 Cursed Objects

Objects can and do affect us. Paul, when at Ephesus, blessed handkerchiefs, thereby healing and delivering people of demons. Many simply touched Jesus' garments to be healed.

...so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.
- ACT 19:12 (RSV)

...and besought him that they might only touch the fringe of his garment; and as many as touched it were made well.
- MATTHEW 14:36 (RSV)

Achan too, had cursed objects. These affected the Israelites so much that they lost an unlosable war.

The LORD said to Joshua, "Arise, why have you thus fallen upon your face? Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant which I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, and lied, and put them among their own stuff."
- JOSHUA 7:10-11 (RSV)

Many today have cursed objects in their home. It is not uncommon for people to buy objects purchased in foreign countries that have had curses put on them to aid in their sale while in the shop. Through words and prayers to demonic gods spoken over these objects, the object can be cursed with a hidden helper to "assist" in some area, such as its sale. Of course, to them, they prayed a "blessing" on it.

Some examples of cursed objects will be:

- Objects used as a vehicle for demonic worship, such as masks or figurine idols
- Music from Satanic music groups, or groups sold out to Satan
- Any representations of gods. For example, Sun gods, Egyptian gods, Hindu gods such as Shiva, etc
- Pictures of dragons, demons, snakes, gargoyles
- Occult literature
- New age crystals (for healing, etc)
- Jewellery or objects formed into satanic or occult symbols:
 - The Egyptian ankh (a cross with a loop at the top which was an ancient fertility symbol)
 - Zodiac, or star sign jewellery
 - Pentagrams and hex signs; (Hex for hexagram – a six pointed star)

- The ancient witchcraft sign of the upside down broken cross, popularly known as the peace symbol
- All kinds of Polynesian tikis, and totem poles
- Protectors from the evil eye
- Yin and yang
- Mexican sun god
- A hand with the index and little fingers pointing up (a satanic witchcraft sign)
- A great variety of crosses, clovers, stars, wishbones, lucky coins, mystic medals, horseshoes and other items
- Buddha statues
- Prayer wheels
- Items dedicated to other gods
- Be wary of anything purchased from non-Christian temples
- Superstitious objects such as rabbits feet, “lucky” items, religious figures, horoscopes, charms
- This writer is not comfortable with cabbage patch dolls – there have been too many stories...
- Some computer games, such as Dungeons and Dragons
- Some Oriental decorations
- Incense sticks (for burning)
- Ouija boards and other occult paraphernalia, such as tarot cards, occult games
- Religious fetishes and statues
- Occult books
- Indian dolls (Kachina dolls)
- Wreaths and Hawaiian leis (these are part of a fertility goddess rite)

People who make images of other Gods are specifically targeted in scripture.

'Cursed be the man who makes a graven or molten image, an abomination to the LORD, a thing made by the hands of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen.'

- DEUTERONOMY 27:15 (RSV)

Speaking of images of other gods, God commanded Israel,

*And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house, and **become accursed like it**; you shall utterly detest and abhor it; for it is an accursed thing.*

- DEUTERONOMY 7:26 (RSV)

This can explain the reason for the poverty and poor health experienced by many people in third world countries.

Many bring objects from foreign temples and items used in other worship ceremonies, seeing them as cute ornaments. God sees these things as cursed. They have the potential to have a dramatic impact on us.

3.3.3 Cursed houses and cars

Perhaps a home itself is cursed through some defilement in it or on the property. Most have had an experience of walking into rooms or houses and felt uncomfortable for no apparent reason. When it becomes more obvious, they may feel cold, or fear, or as if someone is watching them. This may occur in one room only, a passageway, or even in one spot in a room. Perhaps only one person will be aware of this. Often the whole family is aware. A cursed house is a house where Satan and / or his demons have been given legal right to inhabit.

Houses can become cursed and even “haunted” through various ungodly means. Some of these can be:

- Conducting Satanic or witchcraft activities within the house
- Untimely death or murder occurring on the property
- Carrying out an on-going iniquity within the house
- Continued abuse of a person within the house
- Having the house built on old burial grounds
- Disturbing old burial grounds through digging footings, or even a pool

- Painting occult symbols - such things as pentagrams - on any part of the house
- Bringing cursed objects inside the house

One area that is worth mentioning is our motor vehicles. Many will have had the experience of having had a car that never seemed to go right. Either it was always involved in accidents, or mechanically it was a dog! Sometimes cars are cursed by past owners, sometimes by the people who maintain or repair them. If a past owner had an accident for instance, perhaps words were spoken over it in haste that condemned it to a life of being accident prone. This, of course, can be reversed by a Christian through prayer. Of course the car might simply be a lemon, made with many faults. These days this is rarer than it was twenty of thirty years ago.

3.3.4 Cursed Land

God makes it quite clear that through sin the land can become cursed.

*The LORD could no longer bear your evil doings and the abominations which you committed; therefore **your land has become** a desolation and a waste and **a curse**, without inhabitant, as it is this day.*
- JEREMIAH 44:22 (RSV)

*And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, **lest I come and smite the land with a curse.***
- MALACHI 4:6 (RSV)

*For the land is full of adulterers; **because of the curse the land mourns, and the pastures of the wilderness are dried up.***
- JEREMIAH 23:10 (RSV)

*Do not defile yourselves by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am casting out before you defiled themselves; and the land became defiled, so that I punished its iniquity, **and the land vomited out its inhabitants.** But you shall keep my statutes and my ordinances and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you (for all of these abominations the men of the land did, who were before you, so that **the land became defiled**); lest the land vomit you out, when you defile it, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.*
- LEVITICUS 18:24-28 (RSV)

The land can clearly be cursed because of sin. The effects of this are that the land becomes dry, desolate and unproductive. Yet there is a way out.

*If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and **heal their land.***
- 2 CHRONICLES 7:14 (RSV)

*But if they **confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers ...I will remember the land.***
- LEVITICUS 26:40-42 (RSV)

This verse makes it clear that we can repent of the sin committed, on behalf of those who sinned before us, and God will restore the land.

For those who are renting, or for those who own land or a house, it is always a good idea to pray through the house and over the land.

- Claim full responsibility and / or ownership of the land and house.
- Accept responsibility for the sin that has been committed by all previous owners and tenants on the property. This is not saying that you committed the sin, but that you accept responsibility for it.
- To the best of your ability confess the sins that have been committed there. "I confess that the previous owners and tenants sinned by... I ask for your forgiveness for this sin..."
- Repent for their disobedience.
- Cut off and renounce all curses that may be on the land and house.
- Ask God's forgiveness for any spilt blood on the land.
- Ask God to direct his angels to conduct any spirits / demons to the place of his choosing.

(The Bible is not entirely clear whether, after death, the spirit of a non-Christian can roam the earth until demons cart them away, or whether there can only be demons and angels on earth in the spirit realm.)

- With oil, anoint the top of each outer door in the house, and the corner markers of the property. It does not hurt to anoint the windows as well.
- Ask God to cleanse the land and house with the blood of Jesus and wash it clean.
- Ask for the Holy Spirit to take up residence on the land and house.
- Speak out blessings over the land and house.

3.3.5 Generational Curses

*All these **curse**s shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you, till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded you. They shall be upon you as a sign and a wonder, and **upon your descendants** for ever.*

- DEUTERONOMY 28:45-46 (RSV)

Curses can and do come down generational lines upon us. These are consequences for generational sin, and they have nothing to do with salvation. They are usually dealt with separate to salvation.

Noah spoke out a curse on his youngest son after his son's sexually inappropriate behaviour. This produced a generational curse on Canaan. Noah says,

*"**Cursed be Canaan**; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers."*

- GENESIS 9:25 (RSV)

Ancestral or generational sin can bring on us, not just a bias to sin, but also a curse as well. These curses cause negative things to occur in our life, rather than a bias toward a particular sin area. As stated earlier, likely areas will be, mental or emotional break down, repeated chronic sickness, barrenness, a tendency to miscarry or conceive, breakdown of family and marriage, poverty, being accident prone, suicides and early deaths.

Ancestral worship of heathen gods, and ancestral dedications to these gods, will always carry curses. Usually these dedications are carried out at birth, so a person goes through life not knowing any alternative.

Illegitimacy creates a curse that goes for ten generations.

No bastard shall enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

- DEUTERONOMY 23:2 (RSV)

It is interesting that illegitimacy is cursed to ten generations, yet having other gods before our God, creates a curse that goes "only" for four generations. This shows the gravity with which God views having children out of wedlock.

Today illegitimacy is largely glossed over and ignored by the church. With the prevalence of illegitimacy in the world, it feels as if the church has collectively breathed a sigh of resignation, accepted the inevitable, and has moved the goal posts accordingly. After all, most in the church would simply see that this as just another child to be loved into the kingdom. And that part is true. But there is more.

God stated that no illegitimate child was allowed to come before God for ten generations. If this curse is not automatically dealt with at the cross, how does it outwork in people's lives? With the prevalence of illegitimacy today, it is a question that needs answering. Logically, illegitimate children should find it difficult to feel close to God. There will most likely be a brick wall between them and God. God will always seem distant. If this is the case for you, then praying through this generational curse cannot hurt.

Many sins in the OT were punishable by death. God most likely invoked the death penalty on these sins because the curses would go on for longer than ten generations. These would so infiltrate the nation of Israel, that the contamination would probably be total. Today we let these people go free. Theoretically, Christians should have the keys to stop the contamination now that Jesus has given us the power and authority to break generational curses. Unfortunately, most of us are unable to do this, so these sins run rampant in our community. This causes sin to escalate.

3.3.6 Professional Curses

In many countries people can pay to have curses put on others. These people go by different names in different cultures - medicine man, kadaicha man, herbalist, witchdoctor, to name a few. For a price, these people will create or speak a curse. They have learnt that curses are powerful. In many countries they have learnt also that curses need not alight on their intended victim. Christians often have immunity! It depends on how central in God's will the Christian is. For many non-Christians, particularly in other cultures, the threat of being cursed is fearful, and they must seek other witchdoctors to negate the curses. Many see this stuff as white magic and black magic. All is from Satan. If God is not sought in the remedy, it is evil.

There is evidence in the Bible of curses being sought for money. Moab was fearful of the Israelites, after seeing what they had done to the Amorites. Knowing the power of curses, he sought the help of Balaam to curse Israel, so that they could be defeated.

Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me; perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land; for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.
- NUMBERS 22:6 (RSV)

Balaam, though, found himself unable to curse Israel, for God had blessed them.

3.3.7 Ourselves

The Bible gives many ways in which we can bring curses upon ourselves. These are mainly set out in Deuteronomy 27.

- Cursing or dishonouring our parents (Leviticus 20:9, 16)
- Setting up an idol in secret (Deuteronomy 27:15)
- Moving a land border marker (Deuteronomy 27:17)
- Misleading a blind man (Deuteronomy 27:18)
- Perverter of justice (Deuteronomy 27:19)
- Sex with his father's wife (Deuteronomy 27:20)
- Sex with an animal (Deuteronomy 27:21)
- Sex with his daughter (Deuteronomy 27:22)
- Sex with his mother in law (Deuteronomy 27:23)
- Kills another, or takes payment to kill another. This covers abortion, as well as other types of murder (Deuteronomy 27:24,25; Jeremiah 7:6, 22:3)
- Judas was cursed (Psalm 109) because he, and his father and mother, did not show kindness and mercy to the poor
- People are cursed if you trust in man rather than God (Jeremiah 17:5)
- Adultery curses the land (Jeremiah 23:10)
- Doing the Lord's work with slackness (Jeremiah 48:10)
- Keeping our sword from bloodshed (probably refusing to fight in war) (Jeremiah 48:10)
- Stealing, lying (Zechariah 5:3)
- Preaching an incorrect gospel (Galatians 1:8)

3.4 Curses and the Cross

The logical question to ask is, "Did not all these things get dealt with on the cross?"

The bottom line is that many believe that everything was dealt with automatically when we were saved. Jesus, they say, took all curses in our place, for Galatians 3:13 tells us that Jesus redeemed us from the "curse of the law". Thus, curses can not fall on Christians.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us -- for it is written, "Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree" -- (a quote from Deuteronomy 21:23)
- GALATIANS 3:13 (RSV)

*...his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, **for a hanged man is accursed by God**; you shall not defile your land which the LORD your God gives you for an inheritance.*
- DEUTERONOMY 21:23 (RSV)

To use the Galatians verse, is taking it somewhat out of context. The curse of the Law was that OT sacrifices could only *cover up* our sin, and had to be repeated often. Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice *took away* our sin, permanently. Jesus, therefore, redeemed us from the curse of repeatedly having to sacrifice for our sins. It has little to do with obtaining freedom from other curses.

But the reality is that Jesus also potentially dealt with all other curses on the cross, because he himself was cursed by being hung "on a tree". But this is not automatically conferred at salvation. Rather it may be appropriated at a later time, dependant on circumstances. Such circumstances might be:

- Is there an apparent curse in our life?
- Is there sin that allowed this curse to alight?
- Is there generational sin that may have allowed the curse to alight?
- Do you now want to deal with it and get free?

Because curses are a natural spiritual consequence of certain sinful actions, and this often because of actions that may not be our own, it has little directly to do with forgiveness of our sins. Upon repentance we receive forgiveness of sins through the shedding of Jesus' blood (Hebrews 9:22; Matthew 26:28; Acts 3:19). We receive freedom from curses by appropriating the full work of Jesus on the cross. Forgiveness of sins was accomplished by the shedding of blood. Freedom from curses was accomplished by Jesus being hung on a tree.

Spiritual and physical consequences of our actions, such as the outworking of curses, iniquities and ungodly soul ties, inner healing and physical healing, can occur irrespective of forgiveness and salvation. In the same way that the people in the OT could still be cursed, even though they had offered sacrifice for sins, we today can be cursed, even though our sins have been dealt with by Jesus' death. As in the OT times, curses are a natural consequence of certain sinful acts, where God causes consequences to fall upon children and their children for the actions of their ancestors. These consequences have nothing to do with God's forgiving us our sin. It happens apart from salvation. We will no longer suffer eternal separation from God, because of our sins, for Jesus has forgiven us. We have been redeemed. However consequences of sins can still occur.

3.5 Should we curse others, or even return curses sent upon us?

There are Biblical evidences of people cursing others:

- Jacob unknowingly cursing his wife, Rachel, with death in Genesis 31:32 and 35:16-19
- Rebecca cursing herself to Jacob, when Isaac stole his brother's birthright in Genesis 27:13
- Paul cursed Elymas the magician with blindness "for a time" in Acts 13:6-11
- Peter to Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-10
- Elisha cursed the mocking boys in 2 Kings 2:24, and 42 were killed
- The king of Moab attempted to have Balaam curse Israel, for he knew the power of Balaam's curse Numbers 22:6f
- Joshua cursed the man that rebuilt Jericho in Joshua 6:26. This curse happened in 1 Kings 16:34
- Joshua cursed the Gibeonites for fooling the Israelites in Joshua 9:23
- The Jewish people cursed themselves at Jesus' crucifixion. "His blood be on us and our children..." Matthew 27:24-25

So are we allowed to curse them? Some verses that speak on this are:

Jesus:

Bless them who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. - LUKE 6:28 (RSV)

You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well. MATTHEW 5:38-40 (RSV)

Paul:

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. - ROMANS 12:14 (RSV)

Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

- ROMANS 12:17 (RSV)

*See that **none of you repays evil for evil**, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.*

- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:15 (RSV)

Peter:

***Do not return evil for evil** or reviling for reviling; but **on the contrary bless**, for to this you have been called, that you may obtain a blessing. For "He that would love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile; let him turn away from evil and do right; let him seek peace and pursue it."*

- 1 PETER 3:9-11 (RSV)

So quite clearly we are not to curse people, even if they curse us. There is no doubt that we as Christians are able to curse others, but Jesus, Paul and Peter tell us not to.

Some people return curses that have been placed on them, apparently with dramatic effect. However, the verses above make it clear that we are not to do anything that will deliberately bring about evil. Even if we can!

Jesus did not curse anyone. When he spoke, "Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" (Matthew 23), he was saying that they would have anguish, sadness and despair due to their actions. He was, in effect, stating what would naturally occur. He was not placing a curse upon them.

Jesus did curse the fig tree (Mark 11:13-21). Using this as a model, we may be allowed to curse inanimate objects, and perhaps even animals.

The verse below, whatever its meaning, has connotations of doing something that is evil.

*... certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith, among them Hymenaeus and Alexander, **whom I have delivered to Satan** that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

- 1 TIMOTHY 1:19-20 (RSV)

As we have the power to bind and loose, ("whatever you bind on earth..." Matthew 16:19), in effect, binding them to Satan must mean that the person is effectively cursed.

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Deliverance

Deliverance

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“I don’t always like my methods either; but I like the way I’m doing it better than the way you’re not doing it”.

– Moody, after being criticised for his approach to evangelism:
(Kraft, Charles, “*Confronting Powerless Christianity*”, 2002, p215)

Deliverance

1. Introduction.

Let's face it. The Western evangelical church today is by and large powerless. We say we follow Jesus. But Jesus commanded his disciples (and us) to "*Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons...*" (Matthew 10:8 NIV). And Jesus also said, "*And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*" (Mark 16:17-18 NIV)

Yet we accept a powerless Christianity which does none of this, and believe this to be an accurate interpretation of "following Jesus"! We have created doctrines to cover our powerlessness, so we stay deceived, all under the guise of being undeceived. If we read 2 Timothy 3:1-7, it is hard *not* to come to the conclusion that it speaks of today's generation. It climaxes in verse 5: "*...having a form of Godliness but denying its power...*"

While it should be those who do *not* do these things that have to justify themselves, instead, it is anyone who practices these things who has to justify themselves.

It seems that if a Christian is to have any credibility in the roles that Jesus commanded us to take up, there must never be any mistakes or slip-ups. This addiction to perfection with no allowance for experimentation causes those who do nothing, to become the critics of those who at least try. Is it any wonder that most people will shy away from deliverance, praying for the sick, or involvement in setting the captives free?

For some, there is a fear of "excess". So the church embraces powerless mediocrity in its place, and then actively promotes this as strength! On a number of occasions this writer has had people say that their church "majors on teaching rather than on the gifts of the Spirit"! How sad, for in doing so they neither major on teaching nor the gifts. For if they truly did major on teaching, they would have to accept and practise the gifts!

To counter the fear of excess, many criticise ministries that attempt more than they do, as not being "balanced". Inherent in this statement, of course, is the belief that they are balanced. And usually this "balance" denies many of the miraculous gifts of the Spirit. Jesus' "balance" revolved around meeting the needs of the people, where they were at, and right then. And if that required deliverance or healing, then so be it. That is what he did.

An early historian, Hippolytus of Rome, indicated that new Christians were all taken through some kind of deliverance, since they were coming out of Satan's kingdom. Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Tatian, Theophilus, Minucius, Lactantius, Tertullian and Origen all speak of early Christians casting out demons. It was normal then, for new Christians to be delivered of demons. Yet we do not do that anymore. Now, why is that?

We have an attitude that if we can just get people to say the sinner's prayer, then God will look after the rest! To "make disciples", though, requires far more than this.

Do not make excuses for powerlessness. Jesus never made the gospel a doctrinal exercise. He demonstrated God's power, and commanded his followers to do likewise. Let that be our aim. Learn keys to setting captives free. Let your commitment to Jesus include commitment to his directives. That is, to set the captives free as well.

In all this, though, do not lose sight of the goal. We set people free to be the people God created them to be. Free to be lost in his presence in communion with him. Free to have a living relationship with a living Jesus; a relationship that transcends anything we have ever known.

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.
- LUKE 10:19-20 (NIV)

May you be God's greatest friend, and the devil's worst nightmare!

2. Givens

There are many resources out there to help study the subject of Satan, demons, and the relevance of deliverance today. It is not this writer's intention to repeat all this. So, for the purpose of this study, givens are:

- Satan is a created spirit-being with personal identity. He was most likely created by God originally as Lucifer, an angel of light.
- Demons have personal identity also.
- Satan is not omnipresent, or all knowing, or all powerful. Neither are demons.
- Demons can travel at will, but are usually restricted to a geographic area.
- Demons communicate, travel, make plans, remember, and vary in power.
- God is infinitely more powerful than Satan. It is not a see-saw, 50-50 power play between God and Satan. The difference is bigger than an elephant and a gnat. Far bigger! In God's favour, of course.
- Satan and each and every demon, as well as Satan himself, completely and utterly despise all people all of the time. Nobody is exempt. Ever.
- The earth has been given to Satan through Adam's and Eve's sin. Satan is now the God of this world. (John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4)
- Areas of our lives can be given over to Satan / demons through sin. This allows demons to have significant influence in these areas.
- Jesus has obtained the victory over Satan and all demons, and defeated them through his death and resurrection. Jesus has taken captivity captive! This is still outworking.

Also:

- The Bible does not require de-mythologising. It is correct, and prescriptive for the ills and ails of man today. Unfortunately it is not set out in the way our Western mindset would like, so finding answers can be difficult. The Bible will not answer all questions. It will not tell you whether to buy a Holden or a Ford. But it will tell us to "cast all [our] cares on him..."
- As a general rule, God will only work if people pray. He will only do according to what and how we ask. If we do not ask correctly, God will not answer. This might mean that people stay in bondage.
- Demonic oppression is not God's perfect will, no-matter what good comes out of it.
- Sickness is not God's perfect will, no-matter what good comes out of it.
- Early death (less than 70 years) is not usually God's perfect will, no-matter what good comes out of it.

3. Common misunderstandings

3.1 Demons are no longer active today.

Many believe that the requirement for deliverance, and all the Holy Spirit gifts, stopped after the death of the disciples. Many see 1 Corinthians 12:31 below, as referring to a doing away with gifts.

But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal...
- 1 CORINTHIANS 12:31-13:1 (NIV)

Also, 1 Corinthians 13:8-10 is taken to mean that prophecies, tongues, knowledge, etc, will be (or, have been) done away with.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-10 (NIV)

The “perfect”, of course in this chapter, is seen as “love”. The “gifts”, they say, have been displaced by “love”.

To interpret the Corinthian passages as doing away with all other gifting is clutching at straws. At best, it is a total neglect of a plethora of other passages teaching on the use of gifts and the power of God. At worst, it is justification for impotence; it is a rationalisation for a weak and ineffective ministry; a pathetic explanation for their own lack of power, and demonstrates their total inability to deal with real problems of real people.

There is no other Biblical evidence to back up this belief. In fact, many times we are told to “follow me” – Jesus - and do deliverance, just as he did.

...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age - MATTHEW 28:20 (NIV)

What did Jesus command his disciples to do? They were given authority and told to heal, deliver, and preach the Kingdom of God. Mark makes the command clearer.

And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues. - MARK 16:17 (NIV)

A great deal has been taught on speaking in tongues today. It is a pity that the same emphasis has not been put on deliverance. After all, Jesus put driving out demons first and speaking in tongues second.

We cannot escape the obligation that deliverance was and still is a requirement for believers today.

It has been said that approximately 70% of Jesus’ ministry involved healing and deliverance. Half of Jesus’ ministry in Mark was deliverance. He also commanded us to do likewise. To neglect this is to be blatantly disobedient. Derek Prince, in “*And They Shall Expel Demons*” (p10), says,

“...He [Jesus] never sent anyone out to preach the gospel without specifically instructing and equipping that person to take action against demons in the same way that he himself did. I can find no basis anywhere in the New testament for an evangelistic ministry that does not include the expelling of demons. This is as true today as it was in the time of Jesus.”

3.2 Christians cannot be affected by demons... if they exist at all!

Most people today believe that demons were an unscientific approach to sickness and disease among an ignorant and backward people in Biblical times. The people then were really only one step above savages, and not as advanced as we are. Now that we know better, “demons” can be ignored. However, in Matt 10:1 and Luke 10:19 Jesus gave his disciples authority to cast out demons. On many occasions Jesus himself cast out demons. Jesus considered demons to be real. He was either a liar, or deluded, or else demons really do exist.

For some reason most Christian churches seem to teach its members that if they are good Christians, Satan cannot touch them. Therefore, the best thing to do with Satan and his demons is to ignore them. “After all, God is now in us. Satan can not be there as well.” The only problem is that that is not what the Bible says. There are numerous warnings about satanic activity in the New Testament, and all of them are addressed to believers. Peter, for example, in 1 Peter 5:8-9a (NIV) says, “*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...*” And in the Lord’s Prayer, we are given the model prayer which includes, “*...deliver us from evil*”. If there is no need to be delivered from evil, then why do we pray this?

Many see that there is no clear teaching in scripture on demons and deliverance, so the whole area is best left alone. Do not stir the pot! But there is no clear teaching on many other areas either: requirements for salvation, the place of baptism, the role of women, eschatology, the trinity, personal evangelism, the gifts of the Spirit. These areas have been hotly debated within the broader church, to the point of splits and the formation of new denominations. We leave the topic of demons alone, though, to our detriment.

It seems that when people are required to come against Satan in some way, they do so and suffer adverse consequences – things go wrong in the home, arguments, breakdowns, accidents, and a general attack by the evil one. They conclude that if they leave Satan alone, he will leave them alone, as he did before. So they go back to doing nothing, unaware that Satan has, in fact, won.

So, can a Christian have a demon? One can try very hard to come up with categorical Biblical evidence to “prove” one side or the other. Unfortunately, as stated earlier, no verses exist which will definitively finish the argument for either side. Almost invariably, those that take the line that Christians cannot have a demon have never been personally involved in deliverance ministry. For those that do counselling and prayer with Christians for deliverance (as compared to prayer for non-Christians for deliverance), they find that Christians do, in fact, have demons. It seems, too, that the balance of scripture indicates that Christians can have a demon.

One passage, though, does seem to indicate that Christians can even be possessed! Jesus speaks:

When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. - LUKE 11:24-26 (NIV)

Most theologians will agree that Jesus is talking here about replacing the demons with the Holy Spirit. Now, if we believe that Christians cannot have demons, was Jesus speaking deliverance of Christians or non-Christians?

According to this passage it is pointless praying for non-Christians, because they will not and cannot have the Holy Spirit to replace the demons. Once deliverance has taken place – once the place has been swept clean – the demons will return.

And, if it is true that Christians cannot have demons within them, Jesus could not have been talking about praying for deliverance for Christians, for it would not apply. So what is left?

Perhaps, then, Jesus was talking about praying for non-Christians for deliverance, and then converting them, so that the Holy Spirit can take the place of the demons. The problem here is that “Christians cannot have demons”, and so conversion would have accomplished the same thing and more: salvation plus deliverance! That way they lose their demons, and also get converted. Thus deliverance is never required, simply conversion.

But if deliverance is done on Christians, then the passage makes perfect sense. We pray for deliverance for Christians, get rid of the demons, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill the place evacuated by the demons.

This passage is the clearest indication that Jesus was speaking about deliverance for Christians.

If we conclude that Christians cannot be affected by demons, then we must also believe that Christians cannot get sick, for Isaiah states that “by his stripes we are healed”. All would agree that the cross overcame sickness, for sickness was a part of the “fall”. But we still get sick! This is obvious because we can see it. It is not so obvious, but equally true, that Christians are still affected by demons.

Jesus commanded his disciples, and us, to do deliverance. Why would that be at all relevant, if all we had to do was convert ‘em? It makes no sense. In fact, Jesus would most definitely not have included in the “great commission” a requirement for deliverance, if it was not needed after conversion.

More will be said on this later.

Other verses that are used to defend the position that Christians cannot have a demon are:

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; **the old has gone, the new has come.***
- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NIV)

This has been taught in many churches, without identifying exactly what has become new. We are tri-partite beings. That is, we are body, soul (mind will and emotions) and spirit. So is Paul saying here that all things are new for our spirit, or our soul, or our body? Or all three? Note that this comes after 2 Corinthians 4:16 which says that “the inward man is being renewed day by day”. So clearly Paul is not referring to this “inward man” in 5:17.

Paul, in Ephesians also states:

*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be **made new in the attitude of your minds**; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.* - EPHESIANS 4:22 (NIV)

And,

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**.* - ROMANS 12:2 (NIV)

So our minds, our wills, and our emotions are in a state of being renewed. They are not “there” yet.

So when Paul says that “*the old has gone, the new has come*”, or as some translations put it, “*all things have become new*”, he is not referring to our body or our soul. He must be referring to our spirit, which now has the Holy Spirit dwelling within (See Romans 8:10, 16). We are new creations in our spirit, as now the Holy Spirit has taken up residence. We are not new creations in our mind. This requires a process of sanctification.

Another verse is often mentioned,

*Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind** and straining toward what is ahead, I press on...* - PHILIPPIANS 3:13 (NIV)

So, apparently, we are to forget what is past and press on... Paul, however, is not speaking here of his past where he succumbed to the depths of sin and depravity. He is talking here of his past where he succeeded. In the world he was counted a great man. In Christ his deeds there counted for naught. So, neglecting the apparent successes of his past, he presses on towards his new goal. It is incorrect to use this verse to tell someone bound in iniquity and failure that they are to “forget the past and press on...”

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. - 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 (NIV)

This passage does not negate the effects of iniquity. Each individual will ultimately have to answer to God for every thought, word and action. No matter how hard the temptation is to endure, we are given a “way of escape” that allows us to choose. We, individually, choose either to sin, or not to sin.

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. - JOHN 8:36 (NIV)

This verse is easy to quote out of context, for two verses before this, Jesus says that, “*Whoever practices sin is the slave of sin.*” Ask anyone in the Church whether Christians will or can “practice sin”, and if they are honest, will admit that they can and do. Logically then, many are not free!

3.3 What the early church saw as demonic activity, we now know to be mental illness.

This is to say, in effect, that Jesus was either ignorant, or a liar. Jesus modelled and taught his disciples the reality of demons. At no time did he make any statement or even hint, to the contrary. One can reasonably assume that if “demons” were anything else other than... demons, then Jesus would have given some indicator towards this. The disciples did not either, and the writers of the epistles do not at any time lead us to believe that attacks from Satan are only mental problems.

3.4 Demonic activity is only evident in third world countries, where other gods are worshipped. Other gods are worshipped in our culture too. “New Age” philosophies are abounding. It is rather “in”, or “cool” to be into Hinduism, Buddhism, or some esoteric religion that is out there. Children are playing with ouija boards as a parlour game. Tarot cards and meditation teach children that occult power is for real, and that it has, in fact, far more power than the insipid Christianity that is bandied about today in most Western churches.

Inherent in this statement is the belief that Satan will make his presence obvious. Satan does not advertise his, or a demon’s presence. He is not out there in a red suit with a pitchfork doing a song and dance routine yelling the roof off. One does not have to be particularly clever to realise that the most effective methods Satan could employ involve deception to the point of apparent disappearance. If a person thinks that their actions stem solely from their own doing, then Satan’s cover is not blown; he has won.

3.5 Once Jesus left this earth, there is no reference to the disciples doing deliverance. This argument is easily dispelled. A simple search of a Concordance will show the following:

*...insomuch that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that, as Peter came by, at the least his shadow might overshadow some one of them. And there also came together the multitudes from the cities round about Jerusalem, bringing sick folk, and them that were vexed with **unclean spirits**: and they were healed every one.* - ACT 5:15-16 (KJV)

*And the multitudes gave heed with one accord unto the things that were spoken by Philip, when they heard, and saw the signs which he did. For from many of **those that had unclean spirits**, they came out, crying with a loud voice: and many that were palsied, and that were lame, were healed.* - ACT 8:6-7 (KJV)

*And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: insomuch that unto the sick were carried away from his body handkerchiefs or aprons, and **the evil spirits went out**.* - ACT 19:11-12 (KJV)

In fact, the seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, attempted to copy Paul’s method of deliverance. That they failed is not the point here. Paul’s deliverance ministry was obviously so well known and clearly seen by outsiders, that they attempted to copy him. Deliverance was a normal part of Paul’s ministry.

4. Words of warning

4.1 Satan and demons are not our real enemy, for he has already lost. As Liberty Savard points out (“*Breaking the Power*”, Introduction, p10), the real enemy are those parts of our soul that have not been surrendered to God. “No one, either devil or human, can get a Christian to do any wrong thing he doesn’t have an inward source driving him towards.” (ibid, p68) Through sin, we open doorways that allow demons the right of access to the sinful parts of our lives. We give in to sin a bit, and demons egg us on to further extremes. In any area, we give an inch, and demons take a mile. Our real task is to seek out, and surrender, those parts of our lives that have a weakness. Once the doorways are closed, deliverance may not even be required.

It is preferable to deal with the underlying problem areas, and leave the demonic alone, rather than specifically look for demons. Charles Kraft clarifies it well with the statement that, “demons are like rats, and rats go for garbage.” (Kraft, Charles H. “*Deep Wounds, Deep Healing*”, 1993, p45) Deal with the garbage, and the rats will have nowhere to feed. In fact, in many instances, it may not be necessary to deal with the demons at all. Dealing with the “garbage” may be all that is required. Deliverance is not the only way to deal with demons.

4.2 Do not go looking for demons under doormats. If you do, they will make sure that they are found. Rather, if there is an obvious problem, then look at the possibility of demons.

To find a balance, we must keep focussed on the Bible. How did Jesus act or respond? What did the NT believers do? Jesus did not go around casting out thousands of demons from any one individual. (He cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene. See Mark 16:9) While there may have been thousands of demons affecting any one person, Jesus dealt with the obvious problem. In this is a key we should follow. If there is no presenting problem, leave it alone. Do not look for demons if there is no problem. However, be aware of the possibility of their presence, and know that our God has already won the war.

4.3 Remember the reason for it all. Do not lose focus. Stay focussed on Jesus. The following verse is a good one to memorise.

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.
- LUKE 10:19-20 (NIV)

4.4 Know who you are in Christ. In the first section is an appendix of the “I am’s” of scripture.

4.5 This is not a fix-all approach to replace psychology. Trained psychologists will usually understand the human mind of man far better than Christian counsellors. However, psychology neglects or denies the spiritual nature of man. In this, where possible, they must work together. Of course, the ideal is a Christian psychologist who understands and works with the spiritual side of man as well. These people, though, are not thick on the ground.

5. The Christian and demons

At conversion the Bible makes it clear that Christ dwells within.

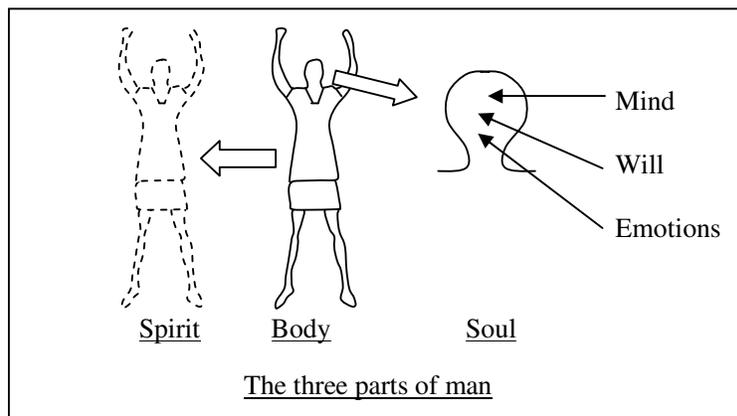
*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if **the Spirit of God lives in you.** And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if **Christ is in you,** your body is dead because of sin, yet **your spirit is alive** because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead **is living in you,** he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, **who lives in you.***

- ROMANS 8:9-11 (NIV)

In fact, the Holy Spirit dwells within our spirit.

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children - ROMANS 8:16 (NIV)

So Christ, through the Holy Spirit indwells our spirit, and our souls (our mind, will and emotions), and our bodies are being sanctified as an ongoing process from conversion until the time we die.



To what extent, then, can a Christian be affected by a demon? Some speak of:

- Temptation, Oppression, and Possession, or
- Temptation, Opposition and Bondage

And there are others descriptions. In fact there can be many grades in between. There is a continuum between simple temptation and total possession / bondage / demonisation. When we talk about “possession” for the Christian, this cannot be possession of our Spirit, because the Holy Spirit dwells there. In fact, some people speak of demons admitting that they were expelled from a person’s spirit at their conversion. (Kraft, Charles, *“I Give You Authority”*, 1997, p250)

But neither our bodies nor our souls are totally regenerated. So demons can still affect and infect our bodies, our minds, our wills, and our emotions to some degree.

Ephesians 4:26-27 tells us not to give place to the devil.

In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.
- EPHESIANS 4:26-27 (NIV)

The word “foothold” means a spot, generally in space. It is a military term as in a foothold taken in warfare. And as Satan is already “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2) and “prince of the world” (John 14:30), the only place left is within people. The foothold referred to is in us – Christians – because that is who Paul is talking to.

In fact, all warnings in scripture regarding Satan and his demons are to Christians. (For instance: 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 4:27, 6:11; 1 Timothy 3:6-7, 4:1, 5:11; 2 Timothy 2:26; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8) With so many warnings, it seems unrealistic to believe that Satan cannot do the same as he demonstrated when Jesus was on earth. It is up to the Christian to survive these attacks of Satan with the tools given us by God, and not allow Satan a foothold. We must therefore, be very aware that Satan can and will affect us.

To the question, can a Christian be totally possessed? The short answer is no. “Possession” implies total ownership, and for a Christian this cannot happen. Can we be affected in the areas of our body or mind? Yes. Is this from without or within? It seems, from within as well as from without. Scripture often speaks of casting demons “out”. There are 18 references to “casting out” demons or Satan in the King James Version of the bible. The only way they can be cast “out” is if they were “in”, in the first place. While the examples in the Bible were pre-cross, they are meant as a model for us also.

As mentioned in the introduction, the early church practised deliverance as part of its normal repertoire. For example, from Peter Horrobin’s book, *“Healing Through Deliverance 1 – The Biblical Basis”*, p21:

“...Tertullian, writing about 200AD, comments in his *De Spectaculis*, “We have the case of this woman - the Lord himself is witness - who went to the theatre, and came back possessed. In the outcasting, accordingly, when the unclean creature was upbraided with having dared to attack a believer, he (the evil spirit) firmly replied, ‘And in truth I did it most righteously, for I found her in my domain!’”

(ibid. p271) “A report of the Seventh Council of Carthage in AD276 by Crescens of Cirta stated that, ‘*all heretics and schismatics who wish to come to the Catholic Church, shall not be allowed to enter without they have first been exorcised and baptised.*’ Vincent of Thibaris reports similarly from the same council that ‘*firstly by imposition of hands for exorcism, and secondly by baptism, they may then come to the promise of Christ.*’

“In her summary of the early church practices Evelyn Frost, in her book ‘*Christian Healing*’ states that ‘*At the beginning of the Christian life stood Baptism, preceded usually by exorcism* (my italics), when the old life as a member of the fallen race was superseded by the new life which partook of the resurrection of Christ.’ ”

To the early church, deliverance was a part of both salvation, and the on-going life of the believer. Clearly, demons were affecting and infecting believers even then – around 200AD.

Demons enter as a consequence of sin, and claim the right to stay until the sin is dealt with. They will affect people to the degree that they surrender any aspect of their life to Satan. How much ‘into’ that sin are you? Is that area of sin an occasional problem only? Or perhaps you cannot keep your thoughts and hands away from it, and it consumes every waking moment.

It is true that there does not appear to be any clear reference to a Christian being “possessed” in the Bible. However, there are many warnings in the epistles to being wary of Satan.

Interestingly, in the following verses, deliverance is regarded as healing. If this is done elsewhere, and we cannot be certain, then other references to “healing” may well be references to deliverance also.

*So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, **demoniacs**, epileptics, and paralytics, and he **healed them**.*

- MATTHEW 4:24 (RSV)

*...and also some women who had been **cured of evil spirits** and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out...*

- LUKE 8:2 (NIV)

*At that very time Jesus **cured** many who had diseases, sicknesses and **evil spirits**, and gave sight to many who were blind.*

- LUKE 7:21 (NIV)

*...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and **healing** all that were **oppressed by the devil**, for God was with him.*

- ACTS 10:38 (RSV)

(For similar references, see also Matthew 12:22, 17:14-18; Luke 6:18, 8:2, 8:36, 9:42; Acts 5:16, 10:38.)

So the James 5:16 exhortation to, “pray for one another that you might be healed”, may well refer to deliverance also. And this relates to Christians. Remember that many of Jesus’ deliverances related directly to healing. Jesus, in the next verse to that above (V22), says to tell John:

...what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised...

- LUKE 7:22 (NIV)

Even Jesus equates deliverance to healing, for many of these were healed through deliverance.

We must also remember that in the worst case of “possession” in the Bible – the Gadarene demoniac – the man rushed up to Jesus and bowed at his feet. This is not something the demons would have voluntarily done. The last person they would have wanted to confront was Jesus. The man must have had some control to do this. To what extent, then, was he “possessed”? The short answer is that we do not know, but it was clearly not total possession. Unfortunately popular movies have portrayed “possession” in terms that are not consistent with the Bible.

Christians, or non-Christians for that matter, can never use the excuse that, “It is not my fault... a demon made me do it.” God makes it abundantly clear that he will require from all of us an accountability for our words, thoughts and actions. “It was not my fault” will not cut it there.

6. Demons: What do we know about them?

6.1 They are spirits. They do not have physical form, but can, like angels, under certain conditions, take on physical form.

6.2 They may be fallen angels that rebelled with Satan. The Bible does not give a clear account of what actually transpired. The passages that are commonly thought to tell of Satan’s fall from Heaven are:

Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendour. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.

All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more."

- EZEKIEL 28:12-19 (NIV)

How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

- ISAIAH 14:12-15 (NIV)

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven..."

- LUKE 10:18 (NIV)

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

- REVELATIONS 12:7-9 (NIV)

Passages that probably refer to demons being angels are: Matthew 25:41; Revelations 12:7-9 (above); 1 Peter 3:18-20; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6.

6.3 They were originally created by God through Jesus Christ.

*For by **him** [Jesus] **all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*

- COLOSSIANS 1:16 (NIV)

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. **Through him all things were made**; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

- JOHN 1:1-3 (NIV)

6.4 Demons have rankings.

As stated above: *For by him [Jesus] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether **thrones** or **powers** or **rulers** or **authorities**; all things were created by him and for him.*
- COLOSSIANS 1:16 (NIV)

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **powers** of this dark world and against the **spiritual forces** of evil in the heavenly realms.*
- EPHESIANS 6:12 (NIV)

The fact that there are principalities, powers, world rulers, and spiritual hosts of wickedness, demonstrates that there is a hierarchy within the demonic realm.

6.5 Demons are under the authority of God and Christians.

Satan was defeated at the cross. In every encounter between Jesus and demons or Satan in the Bible, Satan and his demons had no power over Jesus. When Jesus rose again he said that “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me... therefore [you] go*” (Matthew 28:18 NIV). The implication is clearly that now Jesus has all authority, we are to go out in that authority. We are now to do as Jesus did.

6.6 What is the role of demons?

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- GENESIS 3:1-5 (NIV)

Satan tempted Eve to sin, and she eventually succumbed.

Make no mistake. Satan and *all* his demons completely and utterly despise all humans. They totally hate and loathe us. Man was given another chance when he rebelled. This way is through Jesus Christ. When Satan rebelled, he was not given a second chance to come back to God. His future destruction is certain. His end is even now known. Satan knows this. There will never be a situation where a demon does anything other than despise us. Any apparent variation of this principle will be a lie. In any pact with Satan, the person will ultimately lose.

Their job is to tempt you to sin. They seem to get their “kicks” from making you sin in certain areas, according to that demon’s nature. Often they will then accuse you, to make you feel guilty. Feelings of guilt may well reduce over time. Given the chance, they will control you, defile you, torment you, and harass you. They will drive you to do things that you would rather be set free from. If they have their way, you will always lose. Always!

6.7 What are demons capable of doing? From the Bible:

- Matthew 8:28 “Legion” – many demons can attack one person at a time. This man demonstrated unusual strength, and went around naked.
- Matthew 8:31 They can go into animals (pigs, in this case)
- Matthew 9:32-33 Spirit of Dumbness
- Matthew 12:22 Spirit of Blindness and Dumbness
- Mark 1:23-26; Luke 4:41 Possessed a man

- Luke 9:38-39,42 Caused convulsions
- Luke 13:10-13 Spirit of crippeness
- Acts 8:7 Paralytics and cripples
- Acts 19:13-17 They respect only Jesus and Christians
- Acts 6:16 Predict the future
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Masquerade as angels of light
- 2 Thessalonians 2:9; Matthew 24:24; Revelations 16:13-14
 Perform counterfeit miracles
- 2 Corinthians 4:4; Matthew 4:13-15
 Blind the minds of unbelievers
- John 10:19-10 Steal, kill, destroy
- 2 Corinthians 12:7 “Messenger of Satan” to Paul. – most likely a demon.

Added to this is the authority of Satan.

- John 12:31, 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4
 Satan is god of this world, prince of this world and prince of the power of the air.
- 1 John 5:19 The whole world is under the control of Satan

To summarise what demons demonstrated they could do, we have:

- Physical illness
- Exchange of Personality
- Clairvoyance
- Unusual Strength
- Moral Impurity
- Seizures and Convulsions
- Transference to others, including animals
- Multiple demons inhabiting one person
- Affecting our thinking
- Appearing as angels
- Stopping people believing in Jesus

6.8 Demons demonstrated that they must obey Jesus. (Matthew 8:31-32; Mark 1:25-26) Similarly they will obey Christians who demonstrate an understanding of their delegated authority. (Mark 16:7; Acts 8:5-7; Acts 16:18)

6.9 Demons fear their final judgement, which they already know. (Luke 8:28, 31)

7. Demons cannot affect a person unless they have a legal right

And the legal right is invariably the result of somebody’s sin - your own, or another person’s.

The spirit world is an extremely legal world, where God sets the legal rules. All spirit beings are bound by these rules. When Jesus took the keys of death and Hades from Satan (Revelations 1:19), he did not have to fight it out down behind the wood shed. Legally, Jesus had already won on the cross. Satan could not refrain from giving the keys over.

Satan did not become “god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4), “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2), “prince of this world” (John 12:31), or “ruler of this world” (John 14:30), until he had tempted Adam and Eve to sin. This gave him legal right to the earth. So when Satan tempted Jesus and offered him all the kingdoms of the world, they were Satan’s to give. Jesus did not dispute this. Demons, too, know that they can lay claim to come and stay in and on a person through a legal right. Similar to Adam and Eve, if we sin, then demons will gain legal rights in our lives.

But now, through confession, repentance and forgiveness, we can revoke these rights.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. - 1 JOHN 1:9 (NIV)

Once the legal right has been dealt with, it is easier to evict demons.

To evict a demon before the legal right has been nullified, while possible, is usually difficult. The demons know, too, that because the legal right has not been dealt with, they can come back, and this can produce a worse state than before.

*When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. **And the final condition of that man is worse than the first.** That is how it will be with this wicked generation.* - MATTHEW 12:43-45 (NIV)

The legal right is almost invariably, sin – your own, or someone else’s. If someone is affected by demons, either they are a sinner themselves, or they are a victim, and have responded wrongly. Either one can open a doorway that allows demons to enter. They may or may not enter, but the doorway has been opened. The only way it can be closed is through the cross: confession, repentance, forgiveness.

Most of any so-called “deliverance” session is not spent in casting out demons, but in repentance and forgiveness.

Some of the legal rights that demons will use are:

(a) Deliberate sin.

Just as Satan only gained rulership over earth through Adam and Eve’s sin, so too Satan can gain the right of access through our sin.

In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. - EPHESIANS 4:26-27 (NIV)

If you are living in deliberate rebellion, you are open to demonic attack. You must confess, repent, forgive others, and forgive yourself.

(b) Deliberate involvement in the occult.

Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.

- DEUTERONOMY 18:10-11 (NIV)

Involvement in the occult breaks the first commandment (Exodus 20:2) of having other gods before him. Seeking any advice or help from demons places them before God. This is spiritual adultery, and is, in effect, a direct invitation for a demon to enter. It does not matter if you did not believe in it, did it for a joke and a laugh, or were one of a dozen others involved, the results are that you have opened a doorway in your life where demons may or may not enter. The doorway can only be closed through repentance and forgiveness from Jesus.

Sometimes, those in authority over us, such as parent, teachers or leaders, can invite demons to enter us through dedications and satanically empowered ‘blessings’.

(c) Inherited or generational iniquity.

Generational iniquities, or bondages, are passed from parent to child down through the generations. They will usually show up as compulsions that occur in each succeeding generation. They are not a punishment for sin, but a natural consequence of sin. Often, demons will be linked to these

compulsions. Having Christian parents does not seem to stop the iniquities of their parents affecting us. We can even manufacture our own iniquities through deliberate wilful ungodly actions.

Becoming a Christian means we are forgiven, and that the penalty of our sins is taken by Jesus. But it does not necessarily remove the consequences of past sins. In our natural physical world our actions have consequences. For example, if a child breaks something, then apologises to us, the broken object does not miraculously become whole again. The consequences must still outwork, independently of our forgiveness (or otherwise). If a person sins before God, and asks for forgiveness, God will forgive. He will even forget the sin. But the consequences of that sin (for example, pregnancy) will still outwork in the natural world, regardless of God's forgiveness. The same occurs in the spirit world. The OT states that grievous sins, or 'iniquities' produce consequences that are visited down to the third and fourth (and in one case, the tenth) generation. This occurred even after they had been through the sacrifice system for a covering of their sin.

Jehovah is slow to anger, and abundant in loving-kindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; and that will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation.

- NUMBERS 14:18 (MKJV)

Iniquities will distort some aspect of our being: our body, our soul or our spirit. It will often create an inner nature that finds it easy to sin in one area. We cannot get free. This bias will be handed down to our children. When we sin in this area, which we now find far easier to do, it will also open us up to the influence of demons, and strengthen, or reinforce, the generational iniquity.

(d) Deep hurts.

Abuse – sexual or otherwise, anger, hatred, bitterness, jealousy, fear, rejection, worthlessness, inadequacy, guilt, resentment, fear, rebellion, etc are all examples of this. Often “shame” covers all this, and many events may be “forgotten” by the person. (2 Corinthians 4:2) For some, regularly praying this verse can bring to remembrance the hidden memories.

Figures for sexual abuse are rather staggering. Very approximately, one in five women under the age of 16 have been abused sexually in some form or other. In churches the figures are approximately one in four. (In prison, the figures are worse! One in three women and one in ten male prisoners have been victims of sexual abuse.)

This does not mean that people within the church abuse more, although logically it must go on, but rather that they come to the church looking for help. On average, help is not found.

The reason the victim becomes affected by a demon is through their ungodly emotional response to the act carried out against them. Anger, rage, hatred, fear, resentment, unforgiveness, guilt, revenge... the list can go on. These are sinful responses, and allow demonic entry. Sexual abuse is the ultimate violation. Their gender identity is at the core of their being; it is who they are. To violate this is to violate the core of their being. And the person's response allows demons the right of entry.

This sounds like it is not fair. Remember though, that nothing Satan ever does is fair! His hatred for us knows no bounds. It is total. And until the person is willing to hand these responses to Jesus and be forgiven they cannot obtain freedom.

This means, of course, that when Jesus was tortured, abused, probably homosexually raped, and slowly killed on the cross, he did not respond with hatred, anger, revenge, fear or even a shrinking away from pain. The Bible says that he willingly went this path, freely offering himself to be sacrificed, knowing that the final outcome would be potential freedom for all of us. Imagine the temptation to sinful feelings. Yet still Jesus did not sin. It is no wonder that Jesus sweated tears of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing what unbelievable temptation was in store for him.

(e) Sexual sin

Any of the following can cause an entry point for demons.

- Sex before or outside of marriage
- Generational sexual sins
- Sexual abuse: This can be any one of a host of areas
- Homosexuality / lesbianism
- Pornography (written, video, internet)
- Bestiality
- Transvestism / trans-sexuality
- Fantasy

A largely un-talked about area that may be a problem for some Christians... Some single Christian women who have not found a husband will be approached by a “Jesus”, usually at night in bed, promising to be their husband, and be married to him - Jesus. Sex will occur, and may continue on a regular basis. This will always be a demon. Always. It is called an incubus, and is well known in history. One woman who reports this experience, after questioning others in the church, found that nine out of ten of the women questioned had had this experience at least once. Men can have this experience also, but clearly the demon cannot make out that it is “Jesus”, for Jesus would then be a female. These demons are called a “succubus”.

(f) Ungodly soul ties.

...and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'.
- MATTHEW 19:5 (NIV)

Probably the most common ungodly soul tie today occurs through sex outside marriage. But there are many sources for these ties. They must be repented of, cut, and the parts of you in the other person brought back to you, and the image of the other removed from you.

Non-sexual soul ties can be formed through such things as domination of one person over another, extreme admiration (for example, a rock star), very close friendships, and vows of friendship, to name a few.

(g) Curses and cursed objects.

Curses may be from us, or from others. Our words have power, because we were made in the image of God, and his words have power also. Words such as, “You will never get a job”, or “You will never get married” or “You are always broke / ugly / childish” can condemn a person in the area spoken of. The saying, “Sticks and stones will break your bones, but names will never hurt you”, is wrong. We can do enormous damage with our tongue. When James speaks of blessing and cursing, he is not speaking metaphorically.

...but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.
- JAMES 3:8-10 (NIV)

Equally, we can condemn ourselves with similar statements aimed at ourselves, “I will always look ugly”, “I will never be loved”, “I’ll be better off dead”, “All the men in my family die before they turn 50”, will affect ourselves by putting a curse on ourselves.

A curse, though, need not land.

Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest
- PROVERBS 26:2 (NIV)

This verse states that there needs to be an openness through a “cause”, for the curse to alight. Curses that do land will most likely carry demons with them.

Objects can also be cursed. It is not uncommon for people bringing objects purchased in foreign countries that have had curses put on them to aid in their sale while in the shop. Objects such as heathen masks, brass and other representations of gods, pictures of dragons, demons, snakes, etc, jewellery made into some satanic / occult symbols, Buddha statues, prayer wheels, anything purchased from temples, will usually have a demonic attachment.

If you have been to a temple of another god, and taken off your shoes to enter, you have done obeisance to the god of the temple; you have worshipped their god. This may open a doorway for a demon. It does not matter that you did not believe in it. (1 John 5:21)

Houses can be inhabited by demons to the point of awareness, so a “ghost” or a “haunted house” is born! Often you might simply feel terribly uncomfortable in a room or passageway. This can occur through witchcraft involvement, séances, spells, even untimely death.

After death, many keep their father’s Masonic lodge paraphernalia. This is highly cursed, and should be burnt. Do not give these things away. What price do you put on freedom?

Some generational iniquities cause not just a bias, but also a generational curse to come down on succeeding generations. Inherent in this curse will usually be a demon. We know that many sicknesses pass from one generation to the next. The same applies to spiritual sickness.

Witchcraft can produce a problem with blasphemy and anger. Sexual promiscuity can produce skin disorders. A generational trend of poverty, or being accident prone, is likely be sourced in an iniquity. These curses are passed down from parent to child, and will usually carry demons. They can only be broken through the power and the name of Jesus.

- (h) Ungodly dedications.
Many children, particularly in other cultures, are dedicated to their gods as babies. Perhaps a vow is spoken over the child also.
- (i) Loss of control over one’s body.
This area is not necessarily your sin, but may be through other’s sin. For example, hypnosis, anaesthesia, accident, unconsciousness, trauma, etc.
- (j) Phobias or unnatural fears.
Fears of flying, swimming, out in the open, and the plethora of other phobias and fears can respond well to deliverance. Many fears, however, stem from childhood experiences, and healing will be required before prayer for deliverance.
- (k) Addictions:
 - (i) Addictions to pornography, sexual areas, and the like
 - (ii) Excessive behaviours, such as washing of hands, tidiness, etc
 - (iii) Drugs, smoking, alcohol
 - (iv) FoodThese may or may not cause entry points for demonic influence. It will largely depend on the degree of sin in any area. Mostly, the underlying area must be assessed and dealt with before deliverance can be achieved. In all these there will be an underlying area.
- (l) Satanic Ritual Abuse (SRA) and Dissociative Identity Disorder (Formerly known as Multiple Personality Disorder, or MPD).
These areas have come to be recognised in official circles in the last 15 years. They are extremely complex areas, and beyond the scope of these notes. Unfortunately it is also an area that is far more prevalent than we have in the past believed. In any one average sized congregation, there can easily be at least half a dozen (usually) women with DID through childhood sexual abuse. And this figure is probably conservative.
- (m) A list of other possible areas of concern is listed in an appendix.

Once a doorway is closed (usually through confession, repentance, renouncing and forgiveness), demons may choose to leave of their own volition. Deliverance is not the only way to rid a person of demons.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you - JAMES 4:7 (NIV)

*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **Resist him**, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.* - 1 PETER 5:8-9 (NIV)

*They overcame him by the **blood of the Lamb** and by the **word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*** - REVELATIONS 12:11 (NIV)

*I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and **you have overcome the evil one.*** - 1 JOHN 2:14 (NIV)

8. Deliverance: Who does it? Do we ask God to, or do we?

Who actually does the deliverance? Do we ask God to do it, or do we do it ourselves?

At the end of Jesus' ministry here on earth, he commissioned his disciples to: (Matthew 28:20) "...*teach them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you.*" What had he commanded them to do?

*Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, **drive out demons**...*
- MATTHEW 10:8 (NIV)

*He appointed twelve - designating them apostles - that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority **to drive out demons.***
- MARK 3:14-15 (NIV)

*When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them **power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases.***
- LUKE 9:1 (NIV)

*I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome **all the power of the enemy**; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*
- LUKE 10:19-20 (NIV)

The gospel of Mark further records that Jesus stated,

*And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will **drive out demons**; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*
- MARK 16:17-18 (NIV)

While the textual authority of the Mark 16 passage is open to debate, there can be no question as to the early church's intention in this area. Deliverance was an integral part of their ministry. (See Appendix A)

God has clearly given authority to us to do the work. It is us who are to take that authority and command. To ask God to heal or cast out demons is not in line with scripture. We are to do the healing and casting out.

*The God of peace will soon crush Satan under **your feet.*** - ROMANS 16:20 (NIV)

9. Jesus' model on deliverance.

From Jesus' ministry we can deduce a number of facts:

- (a) Jesus allowed the demons to speak – occasionally. He also conversed with Satan directly, at his “temptation in the wilderness”. When Jesus forbade demons from speaking, it was because he did not want the demons to reveal who he was. With the Gadarene demoniac, Jesus conversed with the demons and obtained valid information that appeared to help in the deliverance of the person. It may be reasonable for us to do that also.
- (b) Knowing the demon's name appears to give added authority. It certainly is necessary when doing deliverance to narrow the focus down to “a demon of _____”. When the demons refused to leave the Gadarene demoniac – a fact interesting in itself - Jesus asked him his name (Luke 8:30 *Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”*). The demons responded by giving their name. But was Jesus asking for the demon's name, or the person's name? The fact that Jesus “asked” probably indicates that Jesus was seeking the person's name, rather than the demon's name. We can be sure that Jesus did not ask this question out of idle curiosity. Knowing the demon's name appeared to give Jesus something more to bring about deliverance.
- (c) In front of Jesus, demons manifested. Manifestations, while usually not desirable, will often confirm to a person the reality of the demons. We must, however, limit these manifestations to our very narrow specified boundaries. We have the authority to determine and set these boundaries.
- (d) Jesus did the commanding. He did not ask God to do it. The “Great Commission” and other passages imply we should do the same. (See Matthew 10:8)
- (e) Demons once refused to follow Jesus' instructions (Luke 8:29 – Gadarene Demoniac). We must use our authority in Jesus to command obedience.
- (f) Jesus cast the demons *out*. This means they must have been *in*. While the people were technically not yet Christians (the cross had not occurred), Jesus' model was so that we could learn how to do it. Jesus modelled deliverance with the intention that the disciples (and us) would learn.
- (g) Demons can be expelled at a distance (Mark 7:29). But it seems better that it not be done this way, because generally, Jesus did it this way. Jesus, for the most part, delivered people who were in close proximity.
- (h) Healing includes deliverance. Sickness can be caused by demons. As stated earlier, Jesus actually refers to those requiring deliverance as being sick. In Luke 7:22 Jesus says to tell John of the sick people healed. Many, though, were “healed” by being delivered. Luke (Luke 8:2) states that they were “healed of evil spirits”.
- (i) Jesus, and we can assume, the disciples, did not use dramatics to deliver someone. It is all about authority.

10. Guidelines in Prayer

So, some keys to prayer in areas such as deliverance are:

- (a) Know who you are in Christ Jesus. (See the section elsewhere for the “I Am's” of scripture.)
- (b) While no-one is yet perfect, leave no ongoing sin between you and God before ministering to another. If you have an area of unconfessed and ongoing sin, it is an open doorway for Satan and his demons to attack you.
- (c) Know your authority. Jesus said, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore [you] go...*” (Matthew 28:18-19 NIV) We are to go out in that authority. Not because we are perfect. Not because we have it all together. But because we are now children of God. He sees us as pure through Jesus, and we have that authority. We DO have that authority. Believe it!

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.
- LUKE 10:19-20 (NIV)

- (d) Stand on the above two verses. Memorise them. Jesus gives us authority over all the power of the enemy.
- (e) Be under a “spiritual covering”. For most, this will mean to be a member of your local church. By doing this there is a level of spiritual protection. If you are involved in this type of ministry, keep the minister fully informed of who you pray for. Make sure it is done with his blessing. Do not be a “lone ranger”. We can be “hit” big time, unless we treat this seriously.
- (f) Have prayer backup. Ask people you trust, to pray for you during any time of prayer. These last two are important for your own survival. Satan would love nothing more than to see you fall big time. Being a legal system, if Satan has access to you, he will use it. It is *very* important.
- (g) In praying for deliverance for a person, either we are in tune with the Holy Spirit enough to be shown by him what demons require dealing with, or we are not. Most of us are not. Some that this writer knows, “see” these things in living colour, even as movie clips on large screens. Probably in 3-D! Who needs home theatre? And yes, I am envious. I do not have that gift of discernment. That is not to say that God does not reveal anything to me. I find that God does show me certain things, but only occasionally.

So either we pray for people in the presence of these gifted people who are shown things from God with extreme clarity, or we command the demons themselves to reveal themselves to the person. Puddling around in the dark, naming possible demons, hoping to hit the mark, is not really the best way to achieve victory. It is like sword fighting with a blindfolded on.

- (h) Some believe that visualisation and “seeing” pictures in their mind is wrong. Like everything else that Satan has done, he has also taken “visualisation” and polluted and twisted it to suit his evil ends. The Bible, though, regularly speaks of people having dreams and visions. Jacob (Genesis 28:10-17), Joseph (Genesis 37:5-11), Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-15), Isaiah (Isaiah 6), Peter (Acts 16:9), and John (Revelations). Visualisation and guided imagery, when used in new age meditation will be demonic. However, being created by God, it can also be used for good, if it is God centred and God focused.
- (i) The main tools of the Christians are repentance and seeking God’s forgiveness. Jesus saw it as so vitally important for us to forgive others, that he added an addendum onto the “Lord’s Prayer”. If we do not forgive others, we stand in grave danger of not receiving God’s forgiveness.

Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.... but if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.
- MATTHEW 6:12,15 (NIV)

- (j) It is futile to tell a demon what to do, unless the command is backed up by the victim's agreement and aggressive resistance to Satan. Deliverance will be unsuccessful without a person’s cooperation, both on the day, and afterwards, as temptations arise. The person must still “stand” (Ephesians 6:13).
- (k) When people think of “deliverance” today, it conjures up bizarre and horrific pictures of people screaming, being held down, or slithering up walls and across ceilings in various displays of snake or animal-like behaviour.

True deliverance need not be like that. It can be a gentle ministry. As long as the person doing the deliverance knows who they are in Christ, and the authority he has given them, manifestations can be totally controlled. They will be as much or as little as the leader dictates. Generally, it is best to reduce this to zero. Some manifestation may not be a bad thing, to demonstrate to the person the reality of what they have been “playing” with. Jesus generally tried to restrict manifestations, but on some occasions they occurred.

- (l) Be very careful not to overstep your God-given authority. We do not have the authority to go into a foreign temple and bind and cast out demons. We do not have the authority to go into a town and cast down territorial spirits. We also do not have the authority to cast demons out of strangers, including the Prime Minister! All these people have made their own choice, and it is not up to us to deny those choices. Our limits, I believe, stop at those things that directly affect us, our family, and with our minister's approval, our church. And, of course, a believer seeking help. Sometimes, through much prayer and fasting, we may obtain authority for greater things. But be very careful! If we step out of line in this area, we are very likely to get "hit" big time! If we work within our allowed God-given licence to operate, we are protected. Outside this is very big trouble.

Be very cautious about confronting Territorial Spirits. Jesus never did. While there is scriptural evidence for them being there, there is no scriptural precedent for coming against them. Be very sure of your leading if you do this.

Stepping outside these limits can cause extreme problems. This writer is aware of a marriage break-up, also a bedridden sickness that incapacitated one person for a year until prayer released them, family strife and bickering after each prayer ministry time, and for another, repeated hospitalisation for an illness after deliverance sessions until this person left town. It then stopped. Another almost resulted in the person's death, until they repented of stepping outside their authority, and received prayer from friends. It is the writer's opinion that these "hits" were the result of either stepping outside the set boundaries for this ministry, or known sin in the life of the one or more of the team members. It is not a game!

- (m) Often we might see a need to pray for someone such as a loved one in the area of deliverance, binding and loosing, etc, but it is impossible to pray with them (due to distance, unbelieving marriage partner, etc). If the person is willing to allow us to pray, ask for their authority to "stand in the gap" for them, and to pray in any way we see or feel led. The spirit world is a legal world, so the question must be clear, and they must give a clear "Yes". They need to give informed intelligent permission. With this, you have the authority to pray for them. "Standing in the gap" is a biblical thing, where we pray for others by owning their burdens, repenting where appropriate, and seeking God's forgiveness. (See Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30)
- (n) We can pray to take any demon's power and authority, and give it back to Jesus, the source of all power and authority. The demon will get smaller and less powerful. It makes it easier and less daunting on the person being delivered if they are shown by God that the demon is small. We can do this for all demons anywhere, with safety. This can be a very effective tool. Prayer commanding that a demon be isolated from all sources of power can help also.
- (o) Never pray commanding angels to do anything. Ask God if he would send angels to do the task. We do not have authority over angels. Their task is to minister to us, not answer to us.
- (p) If possible, rely on a member of the team having the gift of discernment. It is better to rely on God for information, than to rely on Satan. As a rule, never request information from demons other than information directly related to their eviction. Anything further than this is too close to using the person as a medium. Occasionally, Jesus may command the demons to reveal other information, but be very careful in this. Follow the leading of God on this. An absolute: never engage in a lengthy conversation with demons.

For those who feel that having two way conversations with demons is too close to holding a séance, look at the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the people who practice this method. If they are practicing what God hates, the blessing of God will not be on their lives or ministry. Generally, we would have to conclude that God's blessing is there. But we must be careful.

- (q) Apart from Jesus, very few people will get to deal directly with Satan. There may be other demons named "Satan", just as there are many people named "Mohammed" after Islam's prophet of the same name. This may fool some people into believing that they are dealing directly with Satan, but it is doubtful that ordinary Christians will be required to deal directly with him.

- (r) Be wary of casting demons out of non-Christians. Without the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to take the demon's place, the person is destined for despair. (Read Matthew 12:43-45) Only rarely is it realistic to expect otherwise. Paul did cast out a demon from a non-Christian girl in Acts 16:18. Here, he commanded a spirit of divination to come out of a slave girl. This occurred only after continual harassment from the girl, who followed them around saying, "*These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.*" Notice, though, that the ensuing fracas put Paul and Silas in prison. The result was that while the jailer - and his entire household - was saved, Paul and Silas had to leave the city. Was it worth it? Only God knows.

You may bind demons in non-Christians, but this will only last a short time. For instance, in your work environment, classroom, etc, you may bind demons within people you come across, to make your job or life easier. Be as specific and narrow focussed as possible. Go with what you feel led by God, in naming the demons concerned. If the demon needs to be re-bound, then it should be done daily. Expect this to last one day only. (Jesus' model prayer says, "Give us **this day**, our daily bread...") This indicates a daily prayer, and not a one-off prayer that has on-going effects that last forever.)

- (s) When praying for someone in this area, always minister in (at least) pairs. Never do this alone.
- (t) Never be bullied into a rushed job, praying for someone with a desperate need. Always make time to think your way through, obtain prayer backup, find team members, pray and seek God, etc. The demon has probably been there for years. Take the time to think and pray your way through.
- (u) Sometimes when we plan to, or actually do something big for God, things seem to fall apart. The wheels fall off our life. Accidents occur, sicknesses happen, depression comes like a blanket, minor (or major) calamities follow, or family problems arise. There can be many reasons for this. But somewhere there will be an opening allowing Satan and his kingdom entry into your life / family.

Some of these might be:

- Is there known sin that you are hiding (or in the life of a team member)?
- Have you overstepped your authority?
- You may not be covered by your church. Do they support what you are doing? Is it with the minister's approval?
- Is your home life in line with God's authority structure? (Before God: Husband – Wife – Children). If you are single, what do you do to pray for God's protection over yourself (and perhaps, each child)?
- Have you prayed through your house recently? Have you anointed the doors, windows, and house-block corners? Have you prayed for God's blessing on your house?... car?... possessions?
- Check for cursed objects in your home. (trinkets from overseas Asian / Indian / etc shops, new age jewellery, occult equipment, etc)
- What ungodly soul ties are still in place?
- Might there be curses on you or on your family? What grounds are there for a curse to alight?

Jesus walked in intimacy with God. He was permanently in the center of God's will, and Satan had absolutely nothing on him. Satan had no avenue of access into Jesus' life. He could still tempt Jesus, but that was all. The closer we are to this central point (and none of us will ever be there perfectly, as Jesus was), the less unexpected interference will arise.

- (v) For generational sin:- Confess as sin the parents / grandparent's actions, repent ("We have sinned...), renounce their sin, cut it off.
For sin done to us:- Express our hatred of the sin, forgive the sinner, identify our reactions to the sin and ask God's forgiveness for our reactions.
For our own sin:- Own the sin, confess, repent, renounce and receive God's forgiveness.
- (w) Bereavement:- Cut the ungodly soul ties to the person they grieve for, break the power of false guilt, release the departed to Jesus. This, however is somewhat simplistic, as hurts may well need healing.

11. Guidelines in prayer

- (a) Always pray beforehand for God's empowering and to set the scene.
- (b) Question the person to determine what they actually want.
- (c) Ask when the problem started.
- (d) Ask what was happening in their life at that time.
- (e) If the problem was there always, it might be generational. Is there a family history? Do other siblings have the same problem?
- (f) We may accept responsibility for our ancestor's sin. Pray along the lines, "I stand in the gap for my parent's family, and assume responsibility for this sin. I repent of their disobedience in (the area). I ask that you, father, would remove the stain and consequences of this sin from myself and my children."
- (g) Look for any event that may have caused the problem. Particularly those things mentioned in the "Legal Rights" section earlier, and the Appendix on this at the end.
- (h) Deal with the legal rights.
- (i) Pray with a narrow focus. Broad focussed prayer does not work.
- (j) Yelling, ranting and raving at demons does not achieve much, except demonstrate a perceived lack of authority. A man by the name of Hans Nielsen Hauge said, "The devil sees nothing more abominable than a truly humble Christian, for [that Christian] is just the opposite of [the devil's] own image." It is not really a power encounter, as we have already won! It is our humility and faith in God that achieves victory.

Reviling demons only gives them power. "Evil" is how they desire to be. The more evil they are, the better. In Satan's kingdom, it is a kingdom of power; the more evil, the more power. There is absolutely no shame in his world. Telling them that they are vile, or similar, will please them immensely.

- (k) A number of practices should be mentioned:
 - Binding before casting out
 - Praying against transference to another
 - Refraining from laying on of hands when doing deliverance
 - Commanding demons to the pit
 - Commanding them never to return

None of the above are set in stone in scripture, in fact, except for praying for a demon never to return (and that only in Mark 9:25), none are done at all. This does not mean that the above are not beneficial. Do not have a formula set in concrete to follow. Be led by God in what you do.

12. Praying for deliverance

Either we pray for a person for deliverance with someone present who clearly is shown what is happening in the spirit world by God through the Holy Spirit, or we look at the following method.

One method detailed on a sheet attached in the "Prayers" section is largely based on what is taught by Peter Toth (Anazao: www.anazao.com.au) and by Dr Ed Smith (www.theophostic.com), and probably others. Basically, under strict control, we can command the demons to reveal to the person, their grounds for being there, deal with the grounds, then expel them.

Buz Milosh of Warrior Ministries "INTRODUCING DELIVERANCE" exerts:

Irenaeus Against Heresies, Book II, 32:4 (190 A.D.) - "For some Christians do certainly and truly drive out devils, so that those who have thus been cleansed from evil spirits frequently both believe and join themselves to the church." DELIVERANCE is also implied to be done by Christians in Book II, 31:2.

Justin Martyr, Second Apology, Ch. 8 (153 A.D.) - This apology was addressed to the Roman Senate. "And they (demons), having been shut up in eternal fire, shall suffer their just punishment and penalty. For 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."

Justin Martyr, Second Apology, Ch. 6 - "And now you (Roman Senate) 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 demons out of men, though they could not be cured by all the other exorcists, and those who used incantations and drugs."

Justin Martyr, Dialogue With Trypho, a Jew, Ch. 30 (150 A.D.) - "For we call him (Jesus) Helper and Redeemer, the power of whose name even the demons do fear; and at this day, when they are exorcised in the Name of Jesus Christ, they are overcome."

Dialogue With Trypho, Ch. 76 - "And now we, who believe on our Lord Jesus, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, when we exorcise all demons and evil spirits, have them subjected to us."

Dialogue With Trypho, Ch. 85 - "For every demon, when exorcised in the Name of this very Son of God...is overcome and subdued. But though you exorcise any demon in the name of any of those who were amongst you--either kings, righteous men, or prophets or patriarchs--it will not be subject to you. Now assuredly your (Jewish) exorcists, I have said, make use of this craft when they exorcise, even as the Gentiles do, and employ fumigations and incantations."

Tatian, Address of Tatian to the Greeks, Ch. 16 (160 A.D.) - "Sometimes they themselves (demons) disturb the habit of the body by a tempest of folly; but, being smitten by the Word of God, they depart in terror, and the sick man is healed."

Theophilus, Theophilus to Autolytus, Book II. 8 (160-180 A.D.) - Theophilus is refuting the false teachings of Homer and Hesiod who were famous Greek poets. "...And this clearly appears from the fact, that even to this day the demonized are sometimes exorcised in the Name of the living and true God and these spirits of error themselves confess that they are demons who also formerly inspired these writers (Homer and Hesiod)."

Tertullian, Apology, Ch. 23 (197 A.D.) - "Let a person be brought before your tribunals; who is plainly under demonic possession. The wicked spirit, BIDDEN TO SPEAK by a follower of Christ, will as readily make the truthful confession that he is a demon, as elsewhere he has falsely asserted that he is a god."

Tertullian, Apology, Ch. 37 - "Who would save you (Roman Rulers), I mean, from the attacks of those spirits of evil, which without reward or hire we (Christians) exorcise?"

Tertullian, To Scapula, Ch. 4 - "The clerk of one of the courts who was liable to be thrown upon the ground by an evil spirit, was set free from his affliction (by Christians); as was also the relative of another, and the little boy of a third. How many men of rank (to say nothing of common people) have been DELIVERED from demons, and healed of diseases?"

Minucius Felix, The Octavius of Minucius Felix (210 A.D.) - "A great many, even some of your own people, know all those things that the demons themselves confess concerning themselves, as often as they are driven by us (Christians) from bodies by the torments of our words and by the fires of our prayer." (The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. IV, p. 190).

Origen, *Against Celsus*, Book I, 46 (230-254 A.D.) - "And there are still preserved among Christians traces of that Holy Spirit which appeared in the form of a dove. The Christians expel evil spirits, and perform many cures, and foresee certain events, according to the will of the Logos."

Origen, *Against Celsus*, Book I, 67 - "And the Name of Jesus can still remove distractions from the minds of men, and expel demons, and also take away diseases and produce a complete change of character..."

Lactentius, *The Divine Institutes*, Book II, 16 (250-320 A.D.) - "But they (demons) fear the righteous, that is, the worshipers of God, adjured by whose name they depart from the bodies (of people); for being lashed by the Christians' words, they not only confess to be demons, but even utter their own names." Also DELIVERANCE is mentioned in Book V., 22, and in *The Epitome of the Divine Institutes*, Ch. 51. Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Lecturer*, 16:12 (350-375 A.D.) - "For he (Holy Spirit) employs the tongue of one man for wisdom; the soul of another he enlightens by prophecy, to another he gives power to drive away demons..."

Lactentius, *The Divine Institutes*, Book V, 22 – "For these (demons), as long as there is peace among the people of God, flee from the righteous, and fear them; and when they seize upon the bodies of men, and house their souls, they are adjured by the Christians, and at the Name of the true God are put to flight. For when the demons hear of this name they tremble, cry out, and assert that they are branded and beaten; and being asked who they are, whence they are come, and how they have insinuated themselves INTO a man, confess it. Thus, being tortured and excruciated by the power of the Divine Name, they come out of the man."

From, Clinton Arnold, *Three Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*, Baker, 1997:

While we do not build doctrine on church history, the most reliable of the accounts of the early practice of the church, Apostolic Tradition, preserved by Hippolytus of Rome, indicates that new Christians were all taken through a kind of deliverance since they were coming out of Satan's kingdom. (chapter 2) Many later writers speak of the ability of Christians to cast out demons (Justin Martyr, Tatian, Tertullian, Origen), and Clinton Arnold says, "It appears that the primary context for the casting out of evil spirits was in the classes for new Christians" (p107). Justin Martyr uses his ability to deal with demons as an argument in his argument for Christianity and against heresy.

Peter Horrobin, "*Healing Through Deliverance*", p21, 1991

There are many well-documented accounts of deliverance being a normal part of Christian ministry throughout the history of the church. For example, Tertullian, writing about 200AD, comments in his *De Spectaculis*, "We have the case of this woman - the Lord himself is witness - who went to the theatre, and came back possessed. In the outcasting, accordingly, when the unclean creature was upbraided with having dared to attack a believer, he (the evil spirit) firmly replied, "And in truth I did it most righteously, for I found her in my domain!.."

Origen, in his work *Against Celsus* (about 250AD), says, "It is not by incantations that Christians prevail over evil spirits but by the Name of Jesus ... and by the use of prayers and other means which we learn from Scripture, we drive them out of the souls of men, out of places where they have established themselves, and even sometimes from the bodies of animals; for even these creatures often suffer from injuries inflicted upon them by demons."

Lactantius quaintly adds in the *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* (about 315AD), "As he himself, before his passion, put to confusion demons by his word and command, so now, by the name and sign of the same passion (the cross), unclean spirits, having insinuated themselves into the bodies of men, are driven out, when racked and tormented, and confessing themselves to be demons, they yield themselves to God, Who harasses them."

The following is from Peter Horrobin, “*Healing Through Deliverance*”, 1991, p271.

A report of the Seventh Council of Carthage in AD276 by Crescens of Cirta stated that, ‘all heretics and schismatics who wish to come to the Catholic Church, shall not be allowed to enter without they have first been exorcised and baptised.’ Vincent of Thibaris reports similarly from the same council that ‘firstly by imposition of hands for exorcism, and secondly by baptism, they may then come to the promise of Christ.’

In her summary of the early church practices Evelyn Frost, in her book ‘Christian Healing’ states that ‘At the beginning of the Christian life stood Baptism, *preceded usually by exorcism* (my italics), when the old life as a member of the fallen race was superseded by the new life which partook of the resurrection of Christ.’

From Neil Anderson, “*The Bondage Breaker*”, p185, (quoting Ferguson, “*Demonology*”)

Tertiullian wrote:

“Mock as you like, but get the demons if you can to join you in your mocking; let them deny that Christ is coming to judge every human soul Let them deny that, for their wickedness condemned already, they are kept for that very judgment day, with all their worshipers and their works. Why, all the authority and power we have over them is from our naming the name of Christ, and recalling to their memory the woes with which God threatens them Fearing Christ in God, and God-in Christ, they become subject to the servants of God and Christ. So at our touch and breathing, overwhelmed by the thought and realization of those judgment fires, they leave at our command the bodies they have entered, unwilling and distressed.”

(From <http://www.sw-mins.org/oppressi.html>)

Please note: If a person can say “Yes” to any of these areas, all that may be required is confession and repentance. “Deliverance” will not always be required if, for example, all one has to do is get rid of some object in the home! If problems continue, then deliverance may be required.

Compulsive Thoughts

- Extremely low self-image (unworthy, a failure, no good - a constant undermining of the self-identity.)
- Constant confusion in thinking (sometimes great difficulty in remembering things)
- Inability to believe (even when the person wants to)
- Mocking and blasphemous thoughts against preaching/teaching of the Word of God
- Perceptual distortions - perceiving anger, hostility, in others when it does not really exist - seeing only judgment in the scriptures
- Horrible nightmares causing fear (often having demonic images)
- Violent thoughts (suicidal, homicidal, encouraging self-abuse, etc.)

Compulsive Feelings

- Hatred and bitterness toward others for no justifiable reason
- Tremendous hostility or fear when encountering someone involved in deliverance work
- Deep depression and despondency (frequently and sometimes timely)
- Panic attacks
- Irrational anger - rage
- Irrational guilt - self-condemnation to the extreme

Irrational Fears and Phobias

- Swimming, flying, water, open spaces, etc, etc etc.

Compulsive Behaviour

- Desire to do what is right (inability to carry it out)
- Sudden personality and attitude changes (severe contrasts - appears schizophrenic)
- A strong aversion toward scripture reading and prayer (especially one on one)
- A dark countenance (steely or hollow look in eyes - contraction of the pupils - sometimes facial features contort or change - often an inability to look at you directly)
- Lying, exaggerating, or stealing compulsively (often wondering why)
- Drug abuse (especially when there is demonic hallucinations)
- Eating obsessions - bulimia, anorexia nervosa
- Compulsive sexual sins (especially perversions)
- Irrational laughter or crying
- Irrational violence - compulsion to hurt self and/or someone else
- Sudden speaking of a language not previously known (often an ethnic language of ancestors)
- Reactions to the name and blood of Jesus Christ (verbally or through body language)
- Extreme restlessness (especially in a spiritual environment)
- Uncontrollable cutting and mocking tongue
- Blasphemy and vulgar language

Consciousness Problems

- Loss of time (from minutes to hours - ending up someplace, not knowing how you got there - regularly doing things of which there is no memory – also usually evidence of DID)
- Extreme sleepiness around spiritual things
- Demonstration of extraordinary abilities (either ESP or Telekinesis)
- Voices are heard in the mind (they mock, intimidate, accuse, threaten or bargain)
- Voice speaking from subject - refers to him/her in the third person
- Supernatural experiences - hauntings, movement or disappearance of objects, and other strange manifestations

Abnormal Medical Problems (See a doctor first!!!)

- Seizures (too long and/or too regular)
- Pain (without justifiable explanation - especially in head and/or stomach)
- Blackouts
- Physical ailments can often be alleviated immediately by a command of spiritual authority (For example, epileptic seizure, asthma attacks, various pains)
- Sudden interference with bodily functions (temporary) - buzzing in ears, inability to speak or hear, sudden severe headache, hypersensitivity in hearing or touch, sudden chills or overwhelming heat in body, numbness in arms or legs, temporary paralysis

The following from <http://www.christianwarfare.co.nz/bdmquest.htm> and <http://shatterdmen.com/Counselor%20Sheet.htm>

Destructive Habits

- Lying, blasphemy, smoking, drinking, have you ever had an abortion, temper, lust, anorexia/bulimia, stealing, constant criticism, gossip, gluttony, fear, etc

Traumatic Experiences

- In uterus, in childhood, in teenage years, in adulthood, sudden death of loved one, post operative shock, shock due to accident, physical attack, extreme fear.

Immoral Conditions

- Homosexuality / lesbianism, bi-sexuality, sodomy, indecent exposure, masturbation, adultery, fornication, incest, rape, bestiality, pornography.

Objects in the home: See section on Blessings and Curses for a list of possible objects

Drug involvement

Involved in any cult

Occult Activity

- Can be very broad. Any involvement in the occult can (and usually will) produce demonic interference. See next page.

Appendix C: [Occult Check List 1](http://christian-faith.com/forjesus/occult-check-list)
(from <http://christian-faith.com/forjesus/occult-check-list>)

Possible Demonic Entry Points:

- Abstract art (under hallucinogenic stimulus)
- Acupuncture
- Alcohol problem
- Amulets (tigers claw, sharks tooth, horseshoe over door, mascots, talisman (magic picture)
- Ankh (a cross with a ring top used in satanic rites)
- Apparitions - occultic
- Astral travel
- Astrology
- Augury (interpreting omens)
- Automatic writing
- Birth signs
- Black arts
- Black magic (involving hidden powers for bad ends)
- Black mass
- Blood subscriptions (pacts)
- Cartomancy (using playing cards)
- Chain letters
- Channelling
- Charming or enchanting (attempts to use spirit power)
- Charms and charming for wart removal
- Chinese astrology
- Clairaudience (ability to hear voices and sounds super-normally - spirited voices alleging to be those of dead people giving advice or warnings)
- Clairsentience (supernormal sense perception)
- Clairvoyance (ability to see objects or events spontaneously or supernormally above their normal range of vision - second sight)
- Colour therapy
- Concept therapy
- Conjuration (summoning up a spirit by incantation)
- Coven (a community of witches)
- Crystal ball gazing
- Crystals
- Death magic (where the name of the sickness plus a written spell is cast into coffin or grave)
- Demon worship
- Disembodied spirits
- Divining rod or twig or pendulum (Hosea 4:12)
- Dowsing or witching for water, minerals, under-ground cables, finding out the sex of unborn child using divining rod, pendulum, twig or planchette
- Dream interpretation (as with Edgar Cayce books)
- Drugs – mind altering
- Dungeons and dragons
- Eastern meditation/religious - Gurus, Mantras, Yoga, Temples etc
- Ectoplasm (unknown substance from body of a medium)
- Enchanting
- E.S.P. (extra sensory perception)
- Findhorn Community
- Floating trumpets
- Fortune telling
- Gothic rock music
- Gurus
- Gypsy curses
- Hallucinogenic drugs (cocaine, heroin, marijuana, sniffing glue etc)

- Handwriting analysis (for fortune telling)
- Hard rock music - Kiss, Led Zeppelin, Rolling Stones
- Heavy metal music - AC/DC, Guns and Roses (all heavy rock)
- Hepatoscopy (examination of liver for interpretation)
- Hex signs (hexagrams)
- Horoscopes
- Hydromancy (divination by viewing images in water)
- Hypnosis
- Idols
- Incantations
- Iridology (eye diagnosis)
- Japanese flower arranging (sun worship)
- Jonathan Livingstone Seagull (Reincarnation, Hinduism)
- Kabbala (Occult Lore)
- Karma
- Levitation
- Lucky charms or signs of the Zodiac or birthstones
- Magic (not sleight of hand but use of supernatural power)
- Mantras
- Martial arts (Aikido, Judo, Karate, Kung fu, Tae Kwan Do etc)
- Matthew Manning
- Mediums
- Mental suggestion
- Mental telepathy
- Mental therapy
- Mesmerism
- Metaphysics (study of spirit world)
- Mind control
- Mind Dynamics
- Mind mediumship
- Mind reading
- Moon-mancy
- Motorskopua (mechanical pendulum for diagnosing illness)
- Mysticism
- Necromancy (conjuring up spirits of the dead)
- New Age Healing
- Numerical symbolism
- Numerology
- Occultic games
- Occult letters of protection
- Occult literature, eg The Greater World, The 6th & 7th Book of Moses, The Other side, The book of Venus, Pseudo-Christian works of Jacob Lorber, works by Edgar Cayce, Aleister Crowley, Jean Dixon, Levi Dowling, Arthur Ford (The Overt Worship of Spirit Beings), Johann Greber, Andrew Jackson Davis, Anton Le Vay, Ruth Montgomery, John Newborough, Eric Von Daniken, Dennis Wheatley.
- Ouija board
- Pornography
- Psychic experimentation
- Séances
- Spells
- Tarot Cards
- Telepathy
- Witchdoctor visit

Based on <http://orderofsaintpatrick.org/PDF/occultck2.pdf>

Have you ever- “just for fun”, out of curiosity or in earnest- done any of the following:

- Have you ever used LSD, marijuana, crack cocaine or any other mind-expanding or mind-altering drugs?
- Have you ever abused prescription drugs? (This is sorcery)
- Have you ever viewed abstract art while under hallucinogenic stimulus?
- Have you ever had a problem with alcohol?
- Have you ever exposed yourself to pornography in magazines, pictures, Internet, TV or stage shows, books, topless bars or X-rated movies?
- Have you ever looked at Hentai or cartoon pornography?
- Have you ever had a problem with habitual masturbation?
- Have you ever participated in cybersex, phone sex or anonymous sex?
- Have you ever taken interest and/or been involved in sexual deviation, homosexuality or lesbianism?
- Have you been involved in group sex, bestiality or paedophilia?
- Have you ever had sexual contact with a person who was not your legal spouse? If possible, recall them by name (first name or initial is sufficient).
- Have you had an abortion? Have you fathered a child who was aborted?
- Have you been involved with an abortion in any way?
- Have you ever had a fetish?
- Have you ever had your future predicted through tea leaves, palm reading, crystal ball, fortune teller or psychic?
- Have you ever read or followed horoscopes, or had a chart made for yourself to predict your future?
- Have you ever read any other types of birth signs?
- Have you ever been hypnotized, practiced self-hypnosis, yoga, transcendental meditation, chanting? (Hypnotism was spoken of as "casting a spell" in Bible days, and a hypnotist was called a "charmer")
- Have you ever been involved in charming or enchanting (attempts to use spirit power)?
- Have you ever attended a séance or a spiritualist meeting?
- Do you believe in reincarnation? Have you ever had a reincarnation reading?
- Have you ever tried to communicate with the dead? (Necromancy) (Could be a cultural thing)
- Have you ever played with a Ouija board, crystal ball, Dungeons & Dragons, Pern (Harper's Tale) or other games involving occult subjects? (witches, warlocks, wizards, magical powers, spirits, etc.)
- Have you ever had a Tarot card reading or practiced cartomancy (using playing cards for fortune telling or other magical purposes)?
- Have you ever played games using ESP, telepathy, hypnotism, etc.?
- Have you ever consulted, or acted as a medium, psychic, spiritualist or numerologist?
- Have you ever sought to locate someone or thing by consulting someone with psychic powers?
- Have you ever practiced channelling spirits?
- Have you ever seen and/or communicated with apparitions that were evil or of questionable origin?
- Have you ever sought healing through magic spells or charms, a Christian Scientist, new age healer, spiritualist, witch doctor, or shaman?
- Have you ever been involved in martial arts, karate, acupuncture?
- Have you ever practiced table lifting, levitation of objects, pendulum swinging, lifting of bodies, astral travel, automatic writing or soul-travel? ...telepathy, telekinesis, or other forms of ESP? ...Déjà Vu?
- Have you ever used pendulums to determine the sex of a baby?
- Have you ever used a charm, amulet of any kind, or crystal for protection, power or good luck?
- Have you ever participated in chain letters?
- Have you ever practiced water-witching or divining to find out information such as where to dig a well?
- Have you ever practiced any other kind of black arts?
- Have you ever practiced seer stone divination?
- Have you ever visited a town or location known for its occult activities or supernatural phenomenon?
- Have you read or possessed books on Wicca, astrology, non-Christian interpretation of dreams, augury (interpretation of omens), cults or other religious groups which deviate from scriptural Christian doctrine? (examples: Mormonism / LDS Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Unity, Scientology or Mind Science)

- Have you ever read or possessed books or materials on witchcraft, fortune telling, magic, ESP, clairvoyance, psychic phenomena or possession? (*Harry Potter* materials, Steven King novels, the Cabala, the Satanic bible, books on casting spells, hexes or curses, witchcraft, etc..)
- Do you have anything in your home that was given to you by someone in the occult?
- Do you have anything in your home of an occult or pagan religious nature? (Indian dream catchers, Buddha statues, new age crystals, pagan / brass statues depicting gods, etc)
- Have you followed the writings of Edgar Cayce, Jean Dixon, Shirley MacLaine, L. Ron Hubbard, Anne McCaffrey, Nastrodamus, or New Age authors?
- Have you watched movies or television shows with demonic themes? (*The Exorcist, Rosemary's Baby, The Omen, etc.*)
- Have you watched horror movies? (*Friday the 13th, The Amityville Horror, The Silence of the Lambs, Faces of Death, Tales from the Crypt, etc.*)
- Have you watched films or television shows that promoted occult practices? (*Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, The Seventh Sign, Poltergeist, Teen Witch, etc.*)
- Are you fascinated with evil or the occult?
- Have you ever believed the idea that man is self-sufficient and does not need God?
- Have you ever listened to hard rock, heavy metal or acid rock music with a Satanic influence or music with a new age influence?
- Have you ever visited or worshipped in a shrine or temple of a non-Christian religion? Do you possess any books, articles or statues from any of these religions? (examples: visiting Mayan ruins, Egyptian pyramids, or Buddhist temples; attending Hawaiian luaus, Indian rain dances or other pagan celebrations)
- Have you played or do you own games (video or other) that involve characters with superhuman or supernatural powers? (*Harry Potter, Zelda, Pokemon, Diablo, Powerball, Doom, Dungeons & Dragons, Atmosfear, etc.*)
- Have you ever practiced sorcery, white magic, black magic, voodoo, corroborrees, etc?
- Have you ever practiced mind control over any person or animal, cast a magic spell or sought a psychic experience?
- Have you ever consulted voodoo in order to bring harm on another person, to protect yourself, or to cause someone to fall in love with you?
- Have you ever been involved with Santería, or Lucumí (AKA *The Order of the Orishas* or *The Order of Lucumí*)?
- Have you ever made a pact with the devil or been involved in or witnessed Satan worship, a Satanic ritual or black magic?
- Have you ever been involved with anyone in The Brotherhood, The Illuminati, the Sisters of Light, or any other group associated with Satanism?
- Have you ever worn, owned or had in your home the symbol of the ankh (a cross with a ring top that is used in satanic rites)?
- Have you ever had or worn pentagrams, star sign, new age or satanic jewellery?
- Have you ever celebrated or witnessed a black mass? (real or depicted)
- Have you ever participated in or witnessed a ritual sacrifice?
- Have you ever made a blood covenant or pact? ..blood brotherhood?
- Have you ever invited spirit gods, or other beings into your body?
- Have you ever asked for a spirit guide to help you?
- Have you ever asked the devil to help you?
- Have you ever attended witchcraft or voodoo activities?
- Have you ever been involved in Wicca, New Age, Freemasonry, Eastern Star, De Molay or Rainbow Girls?
- Have you ever wished you or someone else were dead?
- Have you ever planned or attempted suicide?
- Have you ever planned or attempted to kill someone?
- Have you ever sent a curse, hex or spell on someone?
- Have other family members had problems with alcohol or drugs?
- Do you know of any relatives or ancestors who have been into Wicca, witchcraft, pagan religions, fortune telling or strong superstitions, or used magic spells or potions?
- Has anyone in your family been involved in Freemasonry, Eastern Star, De Molay or Rainbow Girls?
- Has anyone in your family been involved in any of the activities mentioned in this inventory? If so, please note the family relation and the activities involved.

- Have you had experiences of things going “bump in the night”, yet have not personally been involved in any of the things mentioned here?

All forms of occult involvement are absolutely forbidden by Scripture; both practice and participation in them are condemned by God. ...even if it was “just for fun”, and/or you “didn’t believe in it”! Occult involvement breaks the first commandment, and invokes God's curse: (Ex.20:3-5) A weakness in this area can be passed down to the 3rd and 4th generation.

Appendix D: Summary of Satanic Legal Right and Demonic Doorways

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| <p>(a) Personal sin / iniquity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be anything...• Any and all occult involvement, active or passive• Unforgiveness toward others / God• Puncturing, cutting or marking your body (not all... just some)• Alternative Medicines• Some “Wacky” ones...<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Any involvement in Halloween○ Some computer games○ Independence○ Visit temples○ Ungodly laying on of hands○ Trauma <p>(b) Generational sin / iniquity. Sinful “bents” of one generation handed on to the next:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual sins: incest, illegitimacy, perversions, paedophilia, etc• Anger, unforgiveness, violence, etc <p>(c) Ungodly Soul Ties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual liaisons, voluntary or not• Pacts with others, particularly those sealed with each other’s blood• Wrong ties to Mother, Father, Partner, child or friend• “Over the top” friendship <p>(d) Curses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words spoken over yourself (“I am a failure...”)• Words others have spoken over you (“You will never succeed...”)• Family cultural history• Cursed objects• Curses put on you by others• Curses that come down through the generations: That is, God’s judgement on the sin of ancestors (AOT iniquity)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Familial sicknesses○ Accident prone○ Poverty○ etc, etc, etc | <p>(e) Ungodly Vows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ungodly promises, oaths and covenants<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Words spoken over yourself○ Promises made to anyone outside a Godly environment○ Written promises / vows <p>(f) Cultural Bondages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following other gods• Participating in heathen practices• Generational iniquities• Other ungodly cultural ties <p>(g) Loss of control over one’s own body or mind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hypnosis• Astral Travel• Dissociation• Unconsciousness (eg. car accident)• Using mind altering substances• Anaesthesia <p>(h) Physical acts carried out on, or against yourself, or in your presence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual Abuse• Satanic Ritual Abuse• Physical abuse• Emotional abuse <p>(i) Anything that happens to us that causes an extreme negative emotional response. eg. fear, abandonment, shame, rejection, anger, rage, lust, hatred</p> <p>(j) Cursed objects</p> |
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All these things open spiritual doorways and give legal right whereby Satan may (or may not) gain entry at some stage. These doorways cannot be closed apart from the cross of Christ.

Worthwhile Reading:

The following authors have had significant influence on myself. Any other books these authors have written will almost certainly be worth reading also.

Banks, Bill and Sue. *Breaking Unhealthy Soul*.
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Koch, Kurt. *Occult Bondage and Deliverance*.
Kregel, Grand Rapids, USA, 1970.

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Servant Publications, Michigan, 1993.

Kraft, Charles H. *I Give You Authority*.
Chosen Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1997.

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Regal, California, 1992.

Lawrence, Peter H. *Doing What Comes Supernaturally*.
Kingsway Publications, Eastbourne, E. Sussex, 1992.

Mcall, Kenneth. *Healing the Family Tree*. 2nd Ed.
Sheldon, 1986.

Perretti, Frank E. *Piercing the Darkness*.
Crossway, Illinois, 1989.

Perretti, Frank E. *This Present Darkness*.
Crossway, Illinois.

Prince, Derek. *Blessing or Curse – You can choose*.
Sovereign World, Chichester, England, 1985.

Prince, Derek. *They Shall Expel Demons*.
Chosen Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1998.

Subritsky, Bill. *Demons Defeated*.
Sovereign World, Chichester, England, 1985.

Sandford, John and Mark. *Deliverance and Inner Healing*.
Chosen Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1992.

Sandford, John and Paula. *The Transformation of the Inner Man*.
Victory House Inc, Oklahoma, 1982.

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Bridge Logos, NJ, 1997.