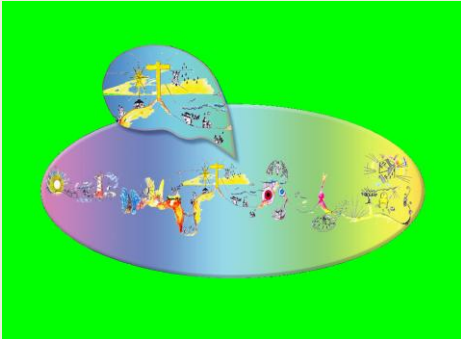


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## Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testament) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

*All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!*

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HULDAH MINISTRY

# LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

## 【 DO CHRISTIANS NEED DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONS? 】

*“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognised by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.*

*Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you. He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.*

*“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 12:33-45.**

In the second half of the nineteenth century, the founder of the science of immunology, Louis Pasteur discovered that most diseases are caused by specific germs, “microorganisms”. His theories were validated by his subsequent investigations of anthrax and rabies. For instance, although invisible is their existence to our naked eyes, those thousands or millions of tiny creatures cause wrongs to our bodies. If we extend the same principle to the spiritual realm, it might be easier for us to understand Christ’s teaching about unclean spirits transferring in and out human bodies. Christ taught that sins come out of the heart of man where the spiritual disease of ‘sin’ resides. In other words, the root of ‘sin’ lies in the heart that causes the sins that we commit. The Bible claims that there is no-one righteous, not even one, and all are sinners because all of us have an inherited deposit of ‘sin’ and ‘death’ that has been transmitted down to us from generation to generation (Ro.3 & 5). As quoted above and as Paul also teaches: ***‘As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath’ (Ep. 2:1-3)***, the transmitted disease of original ‘sin’ rules over a natural man and it is inspired by an unclean spirit within each man’s heart. In the preceding paragraph of Matthew 12, Christ refers to it as a ***‘strong man’***, i.e., Satan, who strives to rule over the man’s heart before, and even more harshly after we are converted to Christ.

The very first reference to ‘sin’ appears in Genesis 4:7, which the New American Bible (Catholic Edition) very precisely translates: ***‘If you do well you can hold up your head, but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door, his urge is towards you, yet you can be his master’ (Lines added)***, while NIV also supportively puts it: ***‘If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it’***. In the context it is clear that ‘sin’ is a personality, a demonic personality, based on not only the Hebrew usage of a masculine –participle and –suffix for the words ***‘crouching’*** and ***‘desire’***, respectively but also the literal translation. Concerning ***‘sin is crouching at your door’***, NIV’s footnote helps our understanding: ‘The Hebrew word for “crouching” is the same as an ancient Babylonian word meaning “to threaten the people inside”. Sin may thus be pictured here as just such a demon, waiting to pounce on Cain—it desires to have him. He may already have been plotting his brother’s murder’. Also, concerning ***‘it desires to have you’*** NIV study note puts it: ‘In Hebrew, the same expression as that “Your desire will be for [your husband].”’ Above all, Christ Himself is a powerful supporter of the biblical claim that ‘sin is a demon’ crouching at the door of man’s body and heart, shown in Matthew 12, quoted at the beginning.

However, while many accept the biblical statement that ‘sin’ is spiritual, inspired by spirits or a spirit, and that spiritual things are caused by spirits, the majority of Christians overlook the spiritual nature of man’s heart. Christ started His public ministry in a synagogue in Capernaum and His first miracle mentioned in Mark’s and Luke’s Gospels was the expelling of demons out of believers. The translation of the verse 23 in Mark 1: ***‘a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out’ (Line added)*** is suggested to be misleading regarding the activity of evil spirits (demons), because the original Greek does not justify the use of the word as ‘possessed’ meaning ownership. Rather, the word used here actually meant that the man was ‘under the influence’ of demons. Christ’s demonstration of this exorcism was very unique to Him as if it were reserved for Him alone. In fact, the Old Testament prophets performed as many miracles as Christ did but there is no mention of deliverance being performed by them. Exorcism matched up to Christ’s declaration of the superiority and victory of His kingdom over Satan’s and it was Christ that revealed the existence of those two opposing spiritual kingdoms in this world.

Coexistence of both kingdoms would be continually allowed until the coming of His messianic kingdom on earth and so, there will be unceasing conflicts between the two kingdoms to the end of time. Christ started His ministry on earth with a dramatic demonstration against demons and He ended it with the commandment of His commission to His disciples: ***‘Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak with 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 16:15-18, Line added). Christ’s final commission also puts an emphasis on the driving out of demons. Derek Prince who argued the importance of Jesus’ deliverance ministry, and who exhorted Christians to learn how to expel demons solely from Christ’s examples, comments on Mark 1:23, by showing six important points: 1) Jesus **dealt with “the demon”** by commanding ‘Be muzzled!’, but not with the man. 2) Jesus **drove out the demon from the man**, but not man from the synagogue. 3) Dealing with the demon was just **part of Jesus’ total ministry**. 4) Demon’s response is characteristic of speaking in both singular and plural forms, i.e., **speaking for itself and also on behalf of others**. 5) No one, possibly including the man in the synagogue himself, apparently knew **he needed deliverance from a demon** until the Holy Spirit on Jesus forced the demon out. 6) This dramatic incident of deliverance made Jesus known as **the One with unique authority over demons** and then, His public ministry started. So, if we are the followers of Christ, we need to think about deliverance ministry among Christians seriously. All we need to do is follow the foundation and pattern Christ demonstrated for all Christian ministries and Christians.

During His three and a half year public ministry, Christ transmitted His authority over satanic force, demons to His followers. Christ never sent His disciples to preach the kingdom of God without instructing and equipping them with how to take action against demons. This reveals how important the deliverance ministry was for effective evangelism and this is as true today as it was in His time. Casting out demons by the Holy Spirit was an assured proof that His kingdom has surely come upon this world: ***‘But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you’*** (Ma.12:28). Knowing that Jesus’ prime mission was to defeat the powers of darkness, —the rulers, authorities and evil spirits, which Christ accomplished by His crucifixion and since then they have been disarmed and made a public spectacle (Col.2:8-20), Satan has focused his strategies on trying to keep the truth hidden. In other words, deception is Satan’s most cunning and powerful device up to this day. That is why there have been so many Christians living with one foot in the Kingdom of God and the other in the kingdom of Satan. But if their eyes were opened to the real spiritual issues, i.e., dramatic confrontation between the two kingdoms, they would never value what belongs to the Satan’s kingdom at all. Because of the lack of knowledge about the biblical deliverance demonstrated by Christ Himself, unfortunately there are so many of Christ’s followers still in bondage to demons today. Around twenty years ago when I learned about the deliverance ministry, there was a lot of negativity towards the idea of believers needing deliverance, while on the other extreme, there were all kinds of demon-shows in Christian conferences and church services, where screaming and shaking always took place but without any resolution to their underlying problems. With hindsight, Christians should have learnt the significant meaning of the fact that Israel gradually but not instantly possessed the Promised Land ‘Canaan’ after they entered there. The entry in Canaan was to be despoised little by little for the benefit of God’s people. Likewise, deliverance ministry can be compared to this historical example and so, we need to understand that there are no quick and easy victories over demons promised for us in Scripture. We must patiently take time to change ourselves, battle by battle until the war against demons is finally won in our hearts.

According to Derek Prince there are two main reasons why criticism has been focused on

particularly the deliverance ministry: (1) Because Satan jealously guards the secrets of his kingdom, he has cunningly built up in the minds of Christians a barrier of fear and superstitious ignorance keeping them from acknowledging either the truths of Scripture or the facts of experience over the centuries. (2) The professing Christian Church has established a pattern of behavior considered “appropriate” for the house of God, which often ejected such messy facts of human sin and demonic oppression. Derek argues: ‘I looked again at the ministry of Jesus and discovered various instances in which a demon or demons screamed and shouted at Him; interrupted His preaching; convulsed people when they came out, leaving them apparently dead; caused a person to wallow on the ground foaming at the mouth; and stampeded a herd of two thousand pigs into a lake. Yet Jesus was never disturbed, nor did He suppress these manifestations. He simply dealt with them as part of His total ministry to suffering humanity’ (*They Shall Expel Demons*, 1998, p76). Prince discovered through experience that Christians’ authority over demons is solely derived from the victory of Christ over Satan through His precious blood shed on the cross, His death and His resurrection. Satan’s primary weapon against man is “guilt”. If man had never sinned, we would never have been vulnerable to demons. Prince also points out two main barriers to deliverance on our side: failure to repent and failure to forgive others. However, if we meet these two requirements and also, we are well informed of the Word of God, knowing what Christ has already done for us: ***‘having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he (God) took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross’ (Col.2:14-15)***, we will be confident of our victory over demons by faith in Christ. On this basis alone, when we, taking His authority, use His name, we are able to overcome demonic attack and power. Prince puts it: ‘Just as a completely healthy human body is immune to cancerous cells, so the “new man” in Christ is immune to demonic activity. Most Christians, however, have not yet arrived at this state of complete spiritual health. In my limited personal experience, I have to say I have encountered comparatively few Christians who did not seem vulnerable to demons activity.....It is especially important, however, for pastors, evangelists and other Christian workers to whom people look for help. Without this knowledge.....we will often be unable to make a correct diagnosis or to apply the appropriate remedy, and therefore we will not really help people’ (p110-111).

So what would open the door to the demon? In this day and age when satanic deception prevails more than ever in every area of our lives and society, we need to be aware of some false “Jesus” teaching. Prince lists up some popular but false “Jesus”: A “Jesus” popular in South American countries is a figure pictured as a Marxist revolutionary champion who helps the poor against capitalism, and another “Jesus” popular in New Age circles, is someone like an Eastern guru who blends the Gospel message with other religious esoteric teachings. Furthermore, there is a “Jesus” who appeals to those with humanistic leanings, by speaking of love and forgiveness but of no mention of repentance. He warns: ‘Tragically, many contemporary Christians are being lured into accepting a false, unbiblical “Jesus” in one or another of these forms. Through accepting “another Jesus,” they are receiving a “different spirit” —that is, a demon. This is not a theoretical, doctrinal issue for abstract discussion. It is a matter of eternal life or death concerning which the true ministers of Christ are obligated to warn God’s people. Christians are vulnerable to this kind of deception, in part because of a wrong doctrinal emphasis in much contemporary preaching. This places disproportionate stress on certain single, one-time experiences, but never teaches people about the changes they must make in their lifestyles, which alone can validate those experiences’ (p164).

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This month, a money gift of US\$ \*\*\*\* has been sent to Mary Jane in the Philippines for her children’s ministry’s support and for the helping of the minority tribes, while preaching the Word of God among them where no gospel has been heard before.