

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY?

BY: BRAD CULLEN – FEBRUARY 14, 2004

“Deliverance Ministry” – Healing and Other Stuff

Written at the request of Sunny Orly Coffman, Lighthouse Library, Int'l.

There are two reasons I generally shy away from writing specifically about “Spiritual warfare,” that is, about the battle that goes on in the unseen realm behind the scenes of what we can see with our physical eyes. One is the awareness that it immediately puts me into the category of being thought of as some kind of fringe lunatic. Two, I really don't like to try to convince people that demons are real unless they are open to understanding how to acquire the authority to overcome what they do.

This is why I am not going to send out the entire piece except to those that request it. If you want to read my experiences (not theory) then merely click on “Reply” then type DELIVERANCE on the subject line and click on “Send.” It will come to you as an attachment. I will also be posting the entire article at www.ministryofspirit.com click on “Articles.” It will be on the top of the list.

Well, you've requested this treatise – so, away we go!

About thirty years ago, a Christian psychiatrist in private practice and I formed an organization to facilitate small discussion groups interacting about Jesus Christ. “Christian Interaction Center” was incorporated as a non-profit religious corporation. Part of the purpose of CIC was to train individuals to provide counseling for the emotionally disturbed not only from a “Christian” perspective, but also in the presence and power of Holy Spirit.

As many churches began to refer their castaways with severe emotional problems to CIC, “Jim,” the psychiatrist, and I became more and more exposed to people and ministries that believed in the existence of demons. Neither Jim nor I had any difficulties believing in the existence of demons. One, the New Testament makes several references to demons and even doctrines designed by demons. Two, we had witnessed enough bizarre behavior for which there was no other explanation that was acceptable to us. We had heard descriptions of what went on in “deliverance” sessions and had made a determination that we wanted nothing to do with them. Some of these self-styled deliverance ministries would also refer their “failures” to us for counseling and/or formal psychiatric treatment.

Jim and I took refuge in the passage of Acts that describes an incident with the seven sons of A Jewish priest named Sceva:

These men went around casting demons out of people in the name of Jesus Christ and had made quite an impression on people in their district. One day they were doing this and they came upon a man who was demon possessed. They said, “In the name of Jesus Christ and of Paul we command you to come out of this man!” One modern paraphrase of the demonic response was, “Jesus we know and Paul we know, but who in the hell do you think you are!” The narrative says that the demons took over the man completely and he severely beat up all seven brothers and completely tore off all of their clothes.”

Jim and I were convinced then and are still convinced today that if you don't know what you are doing you had better not mess with evil spirits! The difference is that today we understand our authority in Jesus Christ and are no longer afraid to engage the enemy.

Why do I trot out the fact that for several years I was associated with a psychiatrist, a man with an M.D. after his name? I do it not only for the sake of credibility, but the dynamics of authority come into play.

Jim later became the Medical Director of a large private psychiatric hospital that had a sizeable inpatient population as well as providing outpatient services. As the designated physician in charge of all medical as well as mental health services, he was legally responsible and had complete authority over every phase of patient care including the nursing staff. What Jim said in effect was law! Additionally he was one of eight psychiatrists that had private patients and that also had admitting privileges to the hospital for those patients that needed 24 hour a day hospital care.

Why “authority” is important when considering “deliverance” or “spiritual warfare” will be shown a bit later – first a brief historical interlude.

I moved away from the area for nine years during which time Jim and I occasionally talked via long distance telephone, but I didn't see him during that period. When I left, Jim was in private practice and we had already turned CIC over to a group of young “pastoral counselors.”

Shortly after I left the area, I met a well-known evangelist within a large denomination who recruited me to work with him in the “deliverance ministry.” That relationship lasted for about three years and ended on friendly terms.

During that three-year period I learned many things about how “demons” or “evil spirits” operate. I learned the importance of “covering all the bases” from a spiritual “law” standpoint – because demons are quite legalistic and I learned the hard way not to ignore the legal system in which they operate. I witnessed things that I would possibly never have believed if I hadn't seen them with my own eyes – yet another reason why I generally don't write with much specificity regarding “deliverance” or “spiritual warfare.” So much of what goes on in that realm is simply unbelievable if it hasn't been seen or experienced.

I have often told the story, and it is worth telling here again, about the pastor of a local church, calling to ask me to his house to “pray” for someone. The short * (see note on the next page) version of the story is that the demons that

were causing arthritis and asthma in a woman came out of her in dramatic fashion. The pastor's wife, hands on her hips in accusatory fashion, "got in my face," asked why I had allowed the commotion. She pointed out that in the five years she and her husband had watched what I did, I had always previously forbidden demons from acting out while they were leaving. She wanted to know why not on this particular occasion? The woman's face and neck were very red and she was still holding onto her neck saying, "that really hurt." My response to the pastor's wife was that I had simply prayed to be led by Holy Spirit and I had done what I had done, but I didn't know why.

* The "long" version is in the free book **"Unlocking The Treasure Chest of God's Gifts."** By the way, the now retired pastor in this story wrote the foreword to Treasure Chest.

The pastor, sitting at the kitchen table had his head bent over with his nose about two inches above the tabletop. He said, "I know why it happened. I've watched and listened to you all these years and while I have believed in the existence of demons I wondered if all the things you said were completely necessary. I've never said anything about it because I felt that it was just the way you believed – so fine. But now I know demons are real and I needed to see this!"

I jokingly asked the woman how she felt about having to have gone through the ordeal of choking while the demons were leaving just so the pastor could believe? She assured me that she was glad that it had happened too, or she too would never have believed it.

During the three years with the aforementioned evangelist, I came to three conclusions:

1) I came to believe that "deliverance" should not be an isolated "ministry," but should be a part of every believer's experience and activity, just as personal evangelism, healing and so on should also be.

2) Questioning and talking to demons should not be part of "the" accepted method or technique for casting out demons. In fact, I also began to feel quite strongly that,

3) Taking hours or even days and making repeat appointments was silly. In most cases they should be dispatched quickly – there are some exceptions, which I will get into later.

I came to 3) above after stumbling onto the passage in Matthew 17 about the father that brought his young son to Jesus. The narrative merely says that Jesus "rebuked" the demon and the boy was immediately healed. What was I doing spending hours upon hours getting rid of them when Jesus merely rebuked a demon and it left? I saw the answer to that question and soon began to handle demons as quickly as Jesus had.

I moved back for a brief time to the same city where my friend Jim was. I called him to see if we could get together. We agreed on a time for dinner together later that evening.

As close friends, seeing each other for the first time in a long time tends to do, we brought each other up to the present. He told me that a private psychiatric hospital a few years before had made him an offer he couldn't refuse. They offered him the position of Medical Director at full salary and allowed him to use his expansive office to also schedule private patients as he saw fit.

He began to tell me a number of things about the hospital; for instance it had the reputation as being one of the leaders in the nation in the treatment of Multiple Personality Disorder. He caught something in my expression and quickly asked me what I knew about "MPDs."

I told him, "You don't want to know."

"C'mon," he insisted, "how have you been involved with MPDs."

"I took a deep breath, and said that I had been involved with very few, but every time I had cast out the spirits that the actual personalities were, there was no more multiple personality disorder."

"Oh no," he said, "Don't tell me you've become one of those people that looks for a demon under every rock!"

I just shrugged my shoulders and told him that I had said he didn't want to know.

He went on to discuss the challenges of the diagnosis, especially the legal problems and the fact that it was a highly controversial diagnosis and there were a significant number of psychiatrists disavowing any belief whatsoever in Multiple Personality Disorder.

I asked him how he felt about it. He affirmed that he had no doubt about the reality of it at all. Then he said, "You know, related to what you implied, that is, that Multiple Personality Disorder is demonically induced – all the other psychiatrists that refer patients to the hospital say that there seems to be a presence of evil around an acting-out MPD. Most of the nurses feel the same way."

"Hey," he interrupted himself, "How about coming down to the beach this weekend? I'd like to talk more about this." He was referring to his second home at the beach on the Oregon coast. I quickly agreed. We had fallen right back

into the same easy banter of our then over twenty-five year friendship and I was looking forward to spending some more time with him.

I arrived Friday evening in time to have supper with Jim and his wife. He was interrupted several times by the phone during the meal. He had what he referred to as “the duty” that weekend. All eight psychiatrists at the hospital rotated taking emergency patient calls among themselves so that each one only had to “cover” for the others once every two months. This was Jim’s weekend to cover for the other physicians. This was an especially busy weekend he said because of the full moon; he explained that many mental patients, but especially MPDs were prone to acting out during the two or three days of a full moon. Each time he returned to the table he would do so expressing, “dang MPDs.”

Even though my room for the night was far away from any telephone extension, I heard the phone ringing through the night and consequently didn’t get a great deal of sleep.

In the morning Jim, his wife and I sat down for breakfast together. I asked how come the phone had been ringing all night? “Hospital” was his sardonic reply.

About that time the phone rang again and he went into the other room to answer it. He came back out to the table with the same grumbling remark, “Dang MPD’s.”

“How would you like to learn how to pray so that you can stop those phone calls?” I asked.

“Yeah, right!” He responded facetiously as the phone rang once again. This time he came back with a New King James Version of the Bible in his hand, “Can you show me in here, what you are talking about?” Tapping the Bible with his forefinger.

“I sure can,” I replied.

He told his wife we were going to go for a walk on the beach heading north. So she would know where to come and get him if the hospital or one of the other physician’s exchanges called. He was required by state law to return all such calls within an hour.

I explained to him how my life had been changed over the last few years by doing a word study in the original languages about what Jesus taught about how to pray. I turned to a couple of passages and explained what they said in the original.

Then I explained what I had learned about dealing with demons over the nine-year period during my absence. I said, “Jesus has given every believer the authority over the activity of demons – the problem is that most don’t understand how to use it, or how to break through into the consciousness of that authority fully.”

A question popped into my mind. “Have you ever noticed any difference between how MPDs respond to you as opposed to how they react to the nurses or other psychiatrists?”

“It’s interesting you ask that,” he replied, because MPDs will always respond and do what I say. For example if I confront one that has a number of different personalities trying to take over, I just say, ‘I only want to talk to the primary personality right now.’

The patient always responds then in his or her own voice and their own personality.” I’ve tried to train the nursing staff to do the same thing, but it just plain does not work for anyone except me.”

“Isn’t it true,” I asked, “That you have the legal responsibility and authority over everything that goes on at the hospital, at least from a medical or psychiatric stance?”

“Absolutely. Anything goes wrong and I’m the one that gets hung for it,” he said wryly.

“Plus whatever you say goes in the hospital? I mean you are the authority figure there, isn’t that right?” I asked. Jim nodded in the affirmative.

“You see, Jim, the reason the other personalities, and I’m going to tell you flat-out that they are demons, obey you is they recognize your authority. Authority the other physicians and the nurses just don’t have. By the way, just because the personalities are demons doesn’t mean that the diagnosis is flawed, it simply makes it easier to understand. Now, if you are ready to use that authority in prayer you can end all those crazy phone calls.”

Until his retirement a few years later, Jim would tell you that he never again had weekend phone calls regarding MPDs, full moon or no.

THIS IS AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO DIGRESS.

Have you ever wondered why Jesus could do “no mighty works” in an atmosphere of unbelief? In the sixth chapter of Mark that’s exactly what the narrative says. In Nazareth, the district where Jesus grew up, Jesus had no authority to do a great deal, except for a few that did believe and came to him for healing. He was amazed at the level of unbelief in Nazareth. The people there knew he was the son of Joseph the local carpenter and they seemed to be offended at both the miracles he performed and his teaching.

If you do break through into the consciousness of being able to do what Jesus did, including having the authority to dispatch demons rapidly, you will find your ability to do so rapidly diminishes in places where there is no belief.

I am about to say something that will shock many readers, but it is absolute truth. I learned early on to avoid something like the plague. If someone asked me to go with him or her to visit someone for the purpose of healing or deliverance I would ask them if the person was involved in a church? If the answer was “yes” my questioning became more pointed. If the individual referred to someone as his or her “pastor” I would not go. The reason is either the pastor or his denomination has placed himself in a position of spiritual authority over the people in that church. The dynamics are that the religious spirits in control of that church will not recognize my authority over them. It will be just like Nazareth.

Here are two examples of situations where authority comes into play. The fifteen-year-old niece of a man I knew was in the hospital. She was unable to eat anything without throwing up. She had been doing this periodically since she was ten. The original onset coincided with the divorce of her mother and father. Sometimes this phenomenon would last for several weeks. This time it would not stop. She had developed lesions in her throat from the constant vomiting.

The doctors had run several tests and eliminated every medical possibility. They had moved her into the psychiatric ward for testing and evaluation. I met at the hospital with the girl’s mother and uncle, the brother of the now divorced father. The uncle had told the girl’s mother that he had seen me work with many people and they were either delivered or healed.

She was a devout believer. I explained briefly about authority – that she being the mother had the ultimate legal authority, but she would need to exercise it. The girl was in a hospital and under the doctor’s authority. I asked her if she felt she could stand up to the doctors and insist that her daughter be released if she knew her daughter had been healed.

I was surprised at how quickly she grasped the concept of authority and agreed that there was no way the hospital was going to hold onto her daughter for even one second if God had already healed her. I warned her that the doctors would intimidate her and say she needed to stay in the hospital. She was adamant in her resolve. She went to get her daughter so that we could meet in a room set aside for families to visit privately.

I got the history about the divorce and the onset of the illness from both of them. It was obvious that there was some bitterness between her mother and her father. It was also evident that the girl had some resentment toward her mother for having left her father, even though she loved and admired her stepfather. We spent several minutes talking about the need for forgiveness. I led them through several passages about demons in the Bible so that they were comfortable that this was a possible cause of what was going on. I was amazed at their faith and how quickly they both understood exactly what I was saying. I asked the mother for permission to talk to the girl privately and she quickly granted it.

We went off to a quiet corner. The girl was quite mature in her belief system. She clearly stated that she wanted only God’s will. She quickly saw the need to completely forgive her mother, father and stepfather. I explained to her that demons do their work by gaining what Jesus referred to as “strongholds.” I explained how all kinds of diseases have their onset from anger, bitterness, and unforgiveness. I also explained to her that what psychiatrists referred to as “secondary benefits” from an illness could cause conflicts that demons could use as well. I told her that it looked to me as a possibility that she had gotten attention from mom and dad and stepfather from having this illness. While she was unaware of that consciously she did see the possibility and said she wanted no part of this illness any more. We quickly sent the spirits on their way. Her face had a glow of radiant health. I asked her if she was hungry (it had been three weeks since she had been able to keep any food “down”). She just nodded with a smile.

I told her that we’d go back to her mother and see if she couldn’t get a nurse to get some food for her. We went back to her mother and uncle who immediately saw the difference in her appearance. The uncle exclaimed, “Hey look at her now!” She told them enthusiastically that she was completely well and knew that she could eat without throwing up and that it was never going to happen again.

I told her mother that it was probably a good idea to get her discharged as soon as possible. It was about 1:30 in the afternoon. I heard later that night from the uncle that she was not released until almost 7:30 that evening and the mother practically had to threaten to sue the hospital to finally gain her release.

The last I heard the girl was serving as a missionary with the Youth With A Mission (Y-WAM) organization somewhere in the Pacific – operating in the presence and power of God, fully able to cast out demons and understood the dynamics!

I hesitated to use this episode only because of the questions it would raise for many readers. “Why couldn’t she have been prayed for and healed? She had been prayed-over many times – her mother, stepfather and her were quite active in a Four Square Gospel church about 150 miles from the hospital in the little town where they lived. Her uncle and her father had prayed for her many times over the five years of her illness. The girl herself had prayed that she would be healed. She had been anointed with oil and prayed over by the elders of the church, all to no avail.

Another question I could anticipate was all the seeming knowledge it took how could anyone else gain that kind of training – including the emotional dynamics? It really didn’t take any knowledge or training. Jesus Christ lives in me – I was led step by step as to what to do and was given understanding. This isn’t about “me” this is about the Father in me that does the work. Anyone else can do the same thing if they are willing to go through the prerequisite preparation Jesus said was necessary. Yes, much fasting and a specific kind of prayer about which Jesus gave explicit instructions.

Another question that might arise (I’ve had it asked of me many times), since the Bible says that those that believe will lay hands on the sick and they will recover, why didn’t you just lay hands on her? Well, there are two things I have to say to that. One is that the same passage that says, “lay hands” also says “they shall cast out demons” – those are two separate things.

Which leads me to another true story. In Alaska, a woman and her husband had been coming to church ever since I had made a call on them at their home. They had both invited Christ to take over their lives on that initial time together. During a meeting at the church she had asked for prayer. She had vertigo (extreme dizziness and loss of balance) due to a painful infection of her inner ear. She'd been to doctors, taken antibiotics, and nothing seemed to help. Her husband said he thought she was actually getting worse. Without thinking (or taking the time to ask) I put my hands over both her ears and then placed them on her shoulders – that didn't help her any either.

The next day I had a painful infection in my inner ear and vertigo – a hard lesson to learn about the ability of demons to transfer and about the need to refrain from the indiscriminate laying on of hands.

Let's go on with the story. The next day I was jogging and all of a sudden I had a terrible pain on the left side of my head. It felt like a bad toothache. I stopped running and immediately became dizzy and I fell to the sidewalk. Fortunately I was fairly close to home and was able to crawl (literally) and walk and stumble onto my bed. Just as the couple had described to me the night before, as long as I was prone in bed the pain stopped and the room stopped spinning. I literally had to crawl on my hands and knees to get to the bathroom.

After putting up with this for several hours, I finally asked Spirit, What is going on? Immediately the answer came. It was a demon that had transferred from the woman onto me. I did say that reading about "spiritual warfare" could stretch the limits of credulity (or words to that effect), did I not?

My wife insisted that I go to the doctor. I told her no and to please leave me alone. It took only a few minutes, but I got to the root of the problem and got rid of the spirit causing it. I called the couple and asked if I could come over, I had something to tell them I said.

We sat in the living room so "Wanda" could lie on the couch. I told them about having the vertigo and earache. I said, "You have never ever heard me teach or even speak about this subject before, but occasionally I have encountered a problem at the church and dealt with it quietly." I opened my Bible to the 17th chapter of Matthew.

"I came upon this passage a couple of years ago – and I want you to listen carefully, because it is the key to you being healed, Wanda." I had their attention!

I said, "This man brought his young son to Jesus, I'll read it from the 15th verse the way it is translated in this particular version, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to your disciples, but they couldn't cure him.'

"Something very interesting happens here," I told them – "this translation has it that Jesus said," and I read from it, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?" In the original language he is actually and literally saying to his disciples, "You are a bunch of faithless perverts! How long do I have to put up with you?"

"I'm going to come back to what he said here in a few minutes, but what I want you to see this moment is what happened next. I went back to reading, 'And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.'

"Did you hear what the cause of the problem was? Did you hear what the cure was?" I waited to see if they would answer. There was just silence. "Here, Bob," I said, pointing to the verse, "read verse 18 out loud."

Bob read the same verse I had just read: 'And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.'

They were both stunned and looked at me for a few minutes. Bob finally said, in not much more than a whisper. "That's interesting."

"The reason I had vertigo and the pain in my ear this morning," I said, watching them carefully for a reaction, "is that when I laid hands on you last night, Wanda, a demon transferred from you to me, sounds a bit shocking doesn't it?"

Bob said, "Can you get rid of this thing in her?"

"Yes," I answered, "but I also want you to understand some dynamics because I believe the Lord might be showing us something, okay?"

"I'm all ears," Bob said eagerly.

"Let's go back up to verse 16, look what the man tells Jesus, here, Bob, you read it."

"So I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him."

“You see,” I said, “they were expecting the same thing you expected last night, when you guys asked for prayer. You wanted to be healed, right? Well, in my experience we could have prayed until we were blue in the face and nothing would have changed.”

Wanda interrupted from her position on the couch, “I have been praying until I’m blue in the face and it just seems to get worse. Can you get rid of this thing? I’m sick of it.”

“You are going to get rid of it, Wanda,” I replied, “and all I’m going to do is share with you what I’ve learned. First of all, I want to confess something to you. I knew better than to do what I did last night. It is why Jesus was so upset with his disciples – enough to call them a bunch of faithless perverts. They had gotten rid of demons in the past. So they figured it was just a piece of cake. But they found that this demon was a little more than they were able to handle.

“Just like last night with you, Wanda. I just went through the religious routine of laying hands on you – and look what happened – nothing, right?”

“Well something sure happened,” she quipped, “you wound up with the same problem.” We all laughed for a few seconds.

“Yes,” I admitted, “and until I finally asked what was going on, I was struggling with the problem just as you have been. You see, right here in verse 19, the disciples apparently still smarting from being called faithless perverts – here, Wanda,” I said pointing to the verse.

She read, “Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

I interrupted, “Okay what is the ‘it’ they couldn’t cast out?”

Bob answered, “The epilepsy.”

“No! Wait a minute,” Wanda interrupted, now looking hopeful that she was about to be released from the clutches of the infection and vertigo, I’m beginning to see it, they couldn’t cast out the demon that was causing the problem.”

“Keep reading, Wanda,” I encouraged, “what was Jesus’ answer?”

“So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief;”

“Let me stop you there for just a second, Wanda. In the original language Jesus is saying, the reason you couldn’t cast out the demon is because you don’t have enough faith. I think that is an important distinction and I’ll tell you why. I worked with an evangelist down in the lower 48 strictly in what he referred to as his deliverance ministry casting out demons. And when I came upon this passage, it struck me that so many of us Christians don’t even ask Jesus what the reason is that we are unable to do many of the things he said we would be able to do if we believe. This is the key. We don’t have enough faith.” I said this strongly emphasizing the word “enough.”

“You know,” I continued, “we saw a lot of great things happen in that ministry, but when I came upon this passage I saw just how much we were missing. Here Jesus is saying nothing will be impossible to us if we have enough faith. Now read verse 21, Wanda.”

She read, “However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

“Again, you guys,” I said, “in the original language what Jesus is clearly saying and in context, this kind of a demon doesn’t leave unless you have been prepared through much fasting and prayer. When I saw this, we were casting out all kinds of demons, but it would take hours sometimes – and Jesus simply rebuked the demon and it left and the boy was cured immediately. So I began fasting and praying for more and more faith. The longer I fasted the more my prayers were answered. It really is that simple.

“There are a couple of things I’d like you two to consider. We’re going to get rid of this stuff in you, Wanda, but I’m seeing that we should really learn from this experience. I’d like you to present a course of study here in your home for those in the church that might be open to it. I wrote it a couple of years ago. Please don’t give me an answer now – but pray about it and see if you are being given the green light about doing it.

“So, Wanda, are you ready to get rid of this junk in you?”

“Yes, I’m a little nervous about what all this means though,” she answered honestly.

"This is going to be a practical lesson in what I have in mind for you, if the Lord confirms this in your hearts as well. Because I have fasted and prayed sufficiently to understand the authority we have over demons, I want you not to worry about having enough faith right now. I have enough faith, okay?" They both nodded.

"Holy Spirit, you just lead us," I prayed and then just spent a few minutes in silence, listening. I knew what to do.

"Demons are sometimes quite subtle, I told Bob and Wanda. They almost always work by lying to our minds. When I got the same symptoms as you this morning I didn't make the connection with you at all, Wanda. I started praying without any understanding and I was tempted to go to a doctor. Seemed a quite reasonable thing to do except that I have learned that going to a doctor takes a person down a path that maybe I don't want to go down. I started having fear thoughts also something to be aware; the Bible says that God did not give us a spirit of fear – same word as "demon" of fear, but of a 'strong mind.' The same words translated as 'strong mind' are translated elsewhere as 'the mind of Christ.' So I began binding spirits from talking to me and began demanding to have only the wisdom of Christ, PERIOD! Immediately a picture came into my mind of touching your ears and laying hands on your shoulders. I knew immediately what I was dealing with. A demon had transferred from you to me and caused the same symptoms. Sounds a bit weird, doesn't it."

"Well a couple of hours ago, it sure would have," Bob said, "but now I'm pretty much ready to believe anything!"

"There are so many passages in the Bible," I continued, "that reveal we are in a battle spiritually once you become attuned to them. Here's one to keep in mind, 'Bringing every thought captive unto Christ.' Jesus tells us that agents of the enemy, demons have only one purpose, which is to destroy our faith and kill us. They do this by lying to our minds. The way we overcome these demonically inspired thoughts is to capture them and take them to Him!"

"This is really getting fascinating. Why haven't you taught on this at church?" Bob asked.

I answered, "primarily because the Lord showed me not to make a big issue over it, but just to deal with it when it was evident that it was going on – just as I am tonight. Some people are just not ready to hear these things and it does no good to force it on them. I knew you were ready and that is why we are going through this – that and to get you on your feet, Wanda. How long has this pain and vertigo been on you?" I asked. She told me about six weeks.

"Another thing I was shown, Wanda, I was experiencing not only the same pain and dizziness that you are experiencing, but the very same fear. The fear that something serious could be going on and that I might even be dying."

"Oh my," Wanda almost gasped, then looked over at her husband, "This is something I haven't even told you about, Bob, but I've literally been scared silly that this thing was going to kill me, I mean seriously. This is amazing!"

"Okay, let me ask you a question, Wanda. Do you want the will of God and nothing else in your life, no matter what the cost?"

Wanda looked a bit bewildered at the question and I knew why I had been directed to ask it. "Wanda, a fear thought has just struck you. Tell me what it is?"

"Can you also read my mind?" She asked.

"No," I quickly responded, "I'm just being shown what is going on. Tell me what you were just thinking."

She answered hesitantly, but honestly, "That if I said yes to your question, 'Do I want the will of God, no matter what the cost' that I might have to give something up, or what if it is God's will that I die??"

"I knew it was something close to that," I said, in a matter-of-fact manner, "Here's what Jesus said, Wanda, 'the enemy has come with but one purpose, to kill and destroy you, but I have come to give you life, real life in complete abundance.' See how they keep trying to trick us with their lies?"

Wanda said immediately and emphatically, "I want God's will, only God's will no matter what the cost. That is what I want and these lies can just go straight to hell!"

I burst out laughing. "There you have it, Wanda, you just rebuked the demon and it left. You can stand up now."

She immediately got off the couch and onto her feet. "Is that all there is to this stuff?" She asked.

"Sure," I said easily, "but let me prepare you for a possibility. The only power a demon has is to lie to your mind. But our minds are powerful instruments and can create all kinds of havoc when we don't keep them tuned to Christ. I'm going to tell you something, last night, my laying hands on you was an act of the ego. I didn't do what I know to do and

that is to tell Spirit I wanted His direction. I just jumped into something in one sense I had no business doing. Here's the other side of the equation," I continued, "The Bible tells us that all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purposes. That act brought us together tonight – hasn't been all that bad, has it."

"I'll say," Bob said musingly.

"Okay, Wanda, how are you feeling right this moment?"

"Uh, fine," she stammered..

"No pain, no vertigo?" I inquired.

"No, not a bit, I really feel great," she said with a huge smile on her face.

"If you do happen to experience any pain or dizziness it will most likely be accompanied by the thought, 'Oh no, it's back..' That is a demon feeding your mind that thought. That demon is not back, it has no right to come back, and you sent it to hell, remember?" I asked with a grin. "This will sound crazy, but it is a new demon masquerading as the old one complete with giving you the thought, 'oh no, it's back.' Just say to the symptoms and to the thoughts, 'that's a lie! I want only God's will and you have no right whatsoever to be in me. Now get out and stay out.' You got it, Wanda?"

"Can I call you if I need to?" She asked almost plaintively.

"Sure, but why would you want to call a substitute when the real thing is living inside of you? God has shown me how much of what we call ministry is nothing more and nothing less than plain old ego. You don't need me – but I'll be there."

"Wait a minute," Bob said, "you asked us to pray about teaching some material on this stuff here in our home. Isn't that ministering in a way?"

"Of course, but we don't want to get hung up on it do we. Remember, even Jesus said that it wasn't him that did anything, but the Father in him. That's all true ministry is, Bob, just Jesus doing the Father's will through us. So we cannot ever take any credit for ministry now, can we?"

"You know, what I learned tonight? Bob asked.

"What?" I replied.

"I learned that I've got a lot to learn."

"Don't we all," I said. The key is that Jesus said there is one leader and one teacher – the Source of all wisdom is always ready to lead us and guide us. So most of what we think we have to learn is just plain silly. What we have to learn is to go to Him for everything. Then we learn most of the dynamics and details while just following his lead."

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