

THE BLOOD ALWAYS DELIVERS

Richard C. Hobbs

**A Practical Approach to
Helping Others Enjoy Freedom**

***“The book *The Blood Always Delivers* contains powerful
and needed information for our world today.”***

**From the Foreword by
Arthur Blessitt**

The Blood Always Delivers

By Richard C. Hobbs

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Foreword

The book *The Blood Always Delivers* contains powerful and needed information for our world today. Ricky Hobbs shares his life, heart, and studies of the truths that will enable you to live and witness in the fullness of Jesus. The truths often shared and expressed ‘inside’ the walls of the church building are now being taken ‘outside’ where the people are.

As a person who has carried a cross around the world to every nation witnessing for Jesus, I know the need of the power of God to overcome the evil we encounter. There is victory available for every bound person, freedom for them over satan and the demonic forces. The Blood of Jesus cleanses from sin, sets one free and covers us in our daily walk. I like the fact that this book and in his life Ricky focuses on Jesus! Not the problem!

You can live with Jesus, covered by His Blood, in the fullness of the Holy Spirit anywhere, all the time. Look out world! True followers of Jesus are moving out into the streets, sharing Jesus in power, full of love and believing ‘all things are possible’.

The world is open before us ‘there are no walls’ because ‘the Blood of Jesus always delivers.’

Pilgrim Follower of Jesus,

Arthur Blessitt

Carrying the Cross around the World for Jesus

Luke 18:1

Introduction

When I minister in the streets, I find so many people that are bound by the enemy and they are unable to loose themselves from their bondages. When Lazarus was raised from the dead he was still wrapped in his grave clothes and had to be loosed from the clothes that bound him.

John 11

44 “*And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.*”

This is much like the lives of many that want to follow Christ but cannot because of the strongholds that grip their soul. I had studied much on the subject of deliverance; however, it seemed that most teachings focused on the enemy and his power rather than on God. Also, I had a desire to see people go free immediately. In the streets we may only see a person one time and their deliverance needs to be immediate and complete. Furthermore, the individual would need to participate in their deliverance in order to know how to defend their new found freedom. It was on this desire that I sought the Lord through prayer and He began to teach me in the streets how to set His people free. I hope you find the truth in this book that you are looking for to further your ministry to others.

Our personal ministry is established in our relationship with Christ. We can never lead others further than we have been ourselves. As we prepare to help others enjoy freedom, we will seek to establish our relationship with Christ; the knowledge of the Cross; a greater understanding of the Blood of Jesus; and His redemptive work in our lives. God is wanting to pour more into our lives as we allow Him to remove those things in our lives that are not of Him. As we seek to establish our personal ministry, we will find ourselves going further with God than we have ever been. There is a cost to enjoy our

position of authority over the enemy. The cost is your life and total submission to God.

We are to demonstrate satan's defeat in our own life and in the lives of others! It is time for believers to declare war on the enemy and begin to assume our position of authority in Christ. We need to understand the principles of spiritual warfare and to prepare for war against satan. Spirit-filled believers are preparing to move deeper with God and to assume their positions of authority to loose lives that are in bondage and seek to become closer to the Lord. In a fallen world, we need everything that is available to invade the enemy's camp and take back the souls that he has captured and to loose the lives that are held in bondage. However, much is required of our life through a commitment to follow Christ with a pursuit that is greater than life itself.

Joshua 3

5 *“And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”*

It is my prayer that the Lord will use the teachings and scriptures in this book to free the lives of His people. Also, I hope this book will challenge you to pursue a closer relationship with the Holy Spirit and enjoy the fulness of His Spirit.

Richard C. Hobbs

Chapter One Freedom In Christ

The leading of the Lord has taken me to the darkest areas of city streets. I am amazed as I push deeper into the worst areas of inner cities. Although the areas are so spiritually dark, I feel like a spectator as the Lord delivers freedom to His people. How can God flow so freely and so gracefully in areas of poverty, addictions, danger, and evil? Seeing Him work in these areas has brought such brokenness in my life.

Psalms 51

17 *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”*

As I have led others to Christ, the Lord has led me closer to Him. He continually establishes my relationship closer to Him. It seems that the Lord is more interested in me than what I do for Him, just as He is more interested in you than what you do for Him.

We must be convinced that God can save and deliver any life and that He is able to keep it. It is through the work of the Cross and the Mercy of God that the Lord touches a life. We are in a world that is lost in sin and there are so many lives in bondage. As I have witnessed along the sidewalks and streets I have led people to Christ and entrusted them in the hands of God to keep them. Oftentimes, I receive words of encouragement from someone that had become established in their faith and was enjoying their freedom. These testimonies thrill my heart. I can see that God is able to direct the paths of new converts and establish them in Him. As my ministry has matured, I have oftentimes seen lives saved and delivered simultaneously. As we prayed deliverance over lives, we were amazed to see the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit on the sidewalks and streets.

Many have been delivered from heroin and crack and have found their way to churches and have become established in the Body of Christ. It is so fulfilling to see the worst addicts become delivered.

We are in a time that the Holy Spirit is no longer just using mighty warriors of faith but those willing to loose themselves that others may be loosed. Are you willing to allow the Holy Spirit to use you to set others free? The Holy Spirit uses people to minister to people. Let's prepare our hearts that others may be touched for God's Glory. We must be free to minister freedom to others.

It seems that God in His mercy is ministering freedom to His people. I have seen more freedom and miracles in the streets of the night than I have seen in most churches. This is not a negative comment about the church but a challenge that we must take the message and our ministry wherever the people are. The church is the people, and today it is mobile and moving in the streets of communities. I have seen such a Holy presence of God in the streets. When we see people delivered, they are overwhelmed with the holiness and love of God as He touches their lives in the midst of sin and bondages.

His anointing is being released into lives of people that will take this message to the lost and hurting. It is the forgiveness of God for sin that allows the worst sinners to hear the Holy Spirit speaking to them. When we are praying for others in the street, we are aware that the person who is really doing the ministering is the Holy Spirit. We must come to this realization and allow Him to receive all the Glory and Honor as lives are changed. I have often wondered why people in the street are so honest with us as we witness to them. The Holy Spirit touches their hearts and prepares the way for the witness. What an exciting experience to see lives being changed and to find friends everywhere we go!

We must know the magnitude of the freedom we have through the Blood of Jesus. We fight battles that try to rob our lives and our souls everyday. We must have a deeper understanding of our relationship in Christ. Many of us wait until we experience tragedy or are in the midst of a storm to begin to prepare for war against the enemy. The enemy of our freedom is given too much authority and opportunity in our lives. If we really knew the magnitude of our freedom in Christ,

we would never find ourselves trying to reestablish our relationship with Him daily. It is impossible to win a war by being in a defensive posture rather than an offensive one! Let's begin a walk that will lead us further into freedom than we have ever been before. God has chosen to flow through you!

Colossians 1

13 *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."*

We are free through the work of the Cross. The Blood of Jesus is to be trusted! The Lord has impressed on me so many times that He wants His people free. It was the cry of my heart for so long to see lives immediately changed as we led them to Christ. Now we are in that time that God is changing lives and removing bondages. It is not only the people of the night that are in bondage. So many Christians have situations in their lives that can become a stronghold that will ultimately lead to defeat. We need to maintain our relationship with the Lord. The Bible says in Romans 10:17, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." So then the likewise is true—Faith goeth by not hearing. Let's prepare to minister to others and take back all of the ground that the enemy has stolen.

If we had a home on a 100 acre estate and it was fenced and electrified with a gate, it would seem as though we were safe. Then we could have an alarm on the home and double locks to secure us even more. What if one day we forgot to lock the doors, close the gate, and alarm the systems? It is through this open door that the enemy would seek to come in. You see, God has a spiritual fortress that He wants to encircle about you. All promises in the Bible are conditional. We must follow Him and walk with Him. All Christians are to put on spiritual armor against the enemy of their souls. Provision for our protection has been provided in the Word of God.

Ephesians 6

10 *“ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

11 *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

13 *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

14 *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

15 *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

16 *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

17 *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*

18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”*

Romans 8

15 *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”*

Zechariah 4

6 *“Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”*

I have come to realize that Jesus wants us to trust Him and His completed work. Trust and serve the One who created you. Always remember that God is there through all of life's struggles. If we simply present our lives to Him and trust Him, we will find the relationship that we are looking for. If we cannot find this relationship we are in search of, then we must pursue a deeper relationship with

God. The Holy Spirit is wanting to do so much in our lives and in the lives of others through us.

I remember that before the Lord called me to the streets, He began to change my life through a process of steps. Each time I thought that I had given the Lord all of my heart, my life, and my emotions, He wanted more of me. Then He would begin to show me another area of my life that He wanted to change. I have now discovered that the change I have felt has become part of my heart. As our lives are changed, He will place more of His nature in us.

John 3

30 *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”*

2 Corinthians 3

17 *“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”*

18 *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

2 Corinthians 4

5 *“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.”*

6 *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*

7 *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*

Enjoy your relationship in Christ and seek more of Him daily as you enjoy your journey through this life and pursue freedom in Him.

Chapter Two Pursue Freedom

You are free in Christ and never let anyone or anything take that from you. Any journey in our life begins with one step at a time. If we set out on a journey and fail to pursue the right direction, we will never arrive at our destination. It is mercy and grace that appropriates much to our lives. However, there is a place in God where obedience can bring us to a deeper relationship. It is His very nature that He wants to place inside of us.

Ephesians 4

13 *“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”*

If we begin to walk everyday in the right direction, we will soon find that we have established a pattern in our lives that God will use. An established heart is a heart that God will pour Himself into. So many people want the power of God without the pursuit of God. There is nothing that is free. Everything has a cost. The cost of the anointing is everything. He wants all of you to pour Himself into. We must allow him to cleanse us from all that is not of Him. Our journey will then lead us into experiences that will not only change our life but the lives of those we encounter.

Romans 8

1 *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

Romans 12

1 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

In our pursuit of freedom we need to be on watch. Oftentimes, we are more interested in watching over our possessions or property than being on guard for our own souls. Never would we let someone begin to slowly move all that we own away from us until we can no longer touch our possessions or see them. We would demand that they immediately bring them back, and we would aggressively defend what is ours. Why would we let the enemy steal from the treasures of our heart? We need to be on guard for our souls and seek to stay free and maintain our relationship in pursuit of our freedom. Let’s assume our position of authority, watch for the enemy of our souls and defend what is ours.

Mark 13

34 *“For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.*

35 *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:*

36 *Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.*

37 *And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”*

The pursuit of God will cost us a life of self denial and watchfulness. Certainly Christ was willing to pay the price, and the cost was His life. It is so important that we finish our journey and walk a victorious life. We must make a quality decision to follow Christ at all costs.

Philippians 2

8 *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

If we are not able to live above worldly desires, then we should examine our relationship with Christ. It is worth the cost to follow

Christ. Our pursuit or our journey through this life is so insignificant in contrast to life eternal. We need to change our focus and look into eternity to count the cost of our pursuit.

Luke 14

28 *“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?”*

Take time to establish your life deeper in Christ before beginning your ministry. Your relationship in Christ will prepare you to move freely without fear or doubt. Oftentimes, we face an enemy that will seek to counterattack, and we need to ensure that every area of our life is covered with the Blood of Jesus Christ. Attacks will come but they will not prosper if you are established. Therefore, take the necessary steps to allow the Holy Spirit to deal with every area of your life. Fear can no longer be in our lives. Fear is a force that the enemy uses to approach us in difficult situations and open an entrance of doubt that leads to defeat. Remember the enemy only desires to take your soul and will try every weakness in your life to defeat you. Take steps to establish your heart and your relationship with Christ.

1 Peter 5

8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

9 *Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*

Chapter Three Authority of the Believer

Christ is freeing lives and restoring relationships with Him. Anyone in Christ who is willing to be free will be free. Jesus is still ministering to His people. I enjoy seeing the works of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people. We don't need a deliverance ministry—we just need Jesus. His Presence in the streets and in the lives of the people will deliver them through His Blood. His Holiness and His Authority will bring His people freedom. As I minister to His people, I stand in amazement while I watch the Lord work. It seems when we lay hands on someone and pray for their deliverance, we clearly see it is the hand of Christ doing the work. Although we extend our hand and speak with authority in the word, we must remember who does the work and receives the Glory. I firmly believe we have authority as believers, but we must remember under whose authority we are.

Ephesians 4

8 *“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.”*

If you were a traffic officer standing in an intersection, you would expect people to stop as you raise your hand in their direction. It is the authority that you would represent that stops the traffic. Although you are one person, you still have a police department to come to your rescue, and you are under their authority. You still must raise your hand and speak the word of authority for the traffic to stop. This is much like spiritual authority. When I pray for someone who is in bondage, I am aware that the authority of the Name of Jesus will cause them to be free. We can remember the Roman soldier that simply asked Christ to speak the Word.

Matthew 8

5 *“And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,*

6 *And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*

7 *And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.*

8 *The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*

9 *For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.*

10 *When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.”*

It is the power of the spoken word and prayer that will set people free from bondages. Today, people have made deliverance complicated. It is the same faith I walk in that I command evil to flee from someone’s life. However, we must ensure the person is willing and has a relationship in Christ. When the person is willing, we already know God is willing to deliver their life. The enemy cannot stay where he is not welcome. It is so important to immediately have a delivered person disciplined for Christ. The Blood of Jesus always delivers. Expect it! While most of the Christians are waiting for Jesus to come back, let us remember that He came. Jesus came to this earth and paid the price for sin and has the keys that held our souls captive.

Revelations 1

18 *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”*

Matthew 16

16 *“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

17 *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock*

I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19 *And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

We have the keys of authority to live a victorious life. We can declare war on the works of the devil. We can exercise our authority on this earth and demand that the enemy take his hands off our lives and the lives of those we minister to. Authority is a position and a responsibility. Let’s continue the works of Christ and set lives free in His Name. The Apostle Peter was given the keys because of his awareness and knowledge of who Jesus is. The revealed knowledge of Christ is a powerful force, and that knowledge comes with authority and responsibility to help others. Let’s use the keys and pray that God will loose the bondages in the lives of others, and walk in the delegated authority of Christ. It was with great authority that the apostles ministered to others.

2 Corinthians 10

4 *“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

5 *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”*

The delivering power of God is an incredible force in this world. There are so many waiting for salvation and deliverance. It is this simple to pray for people to be free. With an understanding of authority and a realization of who is doing the work, we will see lives changed. To God be all the Glory!

Joel 2

32 *“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.”*

Chapter Four

Spiritual Weapons

We will need to be prepared to minister and be armed with weapons of warfare. We need to clothe ourselves with obedience to the Word and His armor. Warfare from the enemy will seek first to attack the area of the mind. The enemy will use doubt, discouragement, despair, and temptation to take our eyes off our ministry and our Savior. A military soldier in combat must not be drawn into confusion but must respond with his training. I am amazed that those who are in the ministry or involved in ministering to others are so easily deceived by the areas of their lives that are known to be weak. If Satan attacks our weakest areas then let's prepare our lives and when an attack comes, recognize it and close that area of our life. There is a price to pay, and it costs everything. Our relationship and submission to God is the most powerful weapon we have. Let's prepare our defensive weapons and be prepared to battle the enemy.

2 Corinthians 10

3 *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”*

James 4

7 *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”*

1 Peter 5

8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

9 *Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

10 *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”*

Once we have prepared our defensive weapons, we can prepare our offensive weapons. These weapons are the ones that we use to set God’s people free. We are an advancing army and we will take ground back from the enemy. I enjoy going into the streets at night and ministering to those who are hurting and in bondage. The enemy is really confused when Christians go into the spiritually darkest of areas and minister with love to the people of the streets. We have ministered in bars, crack houses, and poverty stricken areas. We should spoil satan’s fortresses of drugs, sex, and addictions in cities and leave him little area to operate. Satan places people in bondage, and we need to be willing to go into the worst areas for God and spiritually rescue the lost and those who are bound. We can be prepared with our weapons and take back the lives the enemy has stolen.

The Word

Hebrews 4

12 *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

The Whole Armor of God

Ephesians 6

10 *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”*

11 *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*

12 *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

13 *“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*

14 *“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”*

15 *“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”*

16 *“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”*

17 *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”*

18 *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”*

The Blood

Revelation 12

11 *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”*

The Holy Spirit

Matthew 12

28 *“But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.”*

The Name of Jesus

Mark 16

17 *“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;”*

Prayer

Matthew 18

18 *“Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

19 *“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”*

Praise

2 Chronicles 20

21 *“And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should **praise** the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, **Praise** the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

22 *And when they began to sing and to **praise**, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.*

23 *For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.”*

Can obedience to the Word of God be so powerful? When we simply trust the Word of God as our weapons and defenses, God will fight the battle and the enemy will be rendered helpless. When our life is in line with the Word of God, we are under God’s protective hand. Yes, the Word of God is all powerful. It is alive and is the most powerful force in this world. God is looking for people to trust Him and present their lives to Him. He is looking for access into this world, and He uses His children to minister to others. It is through an obedient vessel that He will flow His full authority and set lives free. When we are under authority we can use authority, and the name we use is Jesus. His Name is above every name and every situation. Jesus wants us to use His Name. He has already paid the price for the freedom of others. Let’s prepare ourselves to minister to others.

1 Peter 4

10 *“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”*

11 *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*

Chapter Five Spiritual Warfare

When God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt He wanted to take them into the promised land by the way of the Philistines. The Philistines were a people of war and enemies of the people of God. The journey that God had planned for the children of Israel was to be a three day journey to Canaan land. However, God knew that they were not ready for war and if they would see war they would retreat and go back to Egypt. Although Canaan was a few days journey, God chose to lead them another way and through the wilderness. The journey to the promised land though the wilderness was a forty day journey; however, they were rebellious and most did not make it through the wilderness. It became a forty year journey. They had much to learn about God. They needed to hear His Word for instruction on how to depend upon Him for protection and learn to respond in faith.

How soon would you like to find your destiny? Would you like to spend your life trying to reach the potential God has for you? God wants his people dependent upon Him. If you find your life in a wilderness then you must know that God will lead you though it. Place your trust in Him and acknowledge your dependence upon Him.

Exodus 13

17 *“And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:*

18 *But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.”*

Many of us have experienced warfare and sometimes we do not respond as God would have us to respond. Preparation for warfare is so important. How long we spend in the wilderness

depends on our faith and reliance on God. I meet many sincere people that start out on a journey to do something for the Kingdom of God. However, I am saddened when I see that their desire and destiny often falls short when they seem to struggle over the battles in their own lives or they become distracted from their calling. How long must we struggle with the same sins and the same fears? It's time for those that want to fulfill their destiny in Christ to win the personal victory over the sin in their own life. Most want an anointing in their life to minister, however, few are prepared to pay the cost. It will cost you everything. It will cost you a life of obedience to the Word of God. Jesus declared that the enemy has nothing in Him. Can you say the same? If you struggle with sin, free yourself through the Word of God that you may enjoy the freedom to free others.

John 14

30 *"Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."*

Christians are not defenseless against the enemy. The presence of Christ in your life can be more powerful than any influences that the enemy would use to control your life. Victory is available through your faith in Christ as you allow Him to live His life in you. The protection that God has for us is sufficient. We need to learn to trust and to know our redemption is complete in Him. Begin to walk a life of obedience and enjoy the life He has for you.

Many nights I would walk the streets of inner cities in search of lost souls to lead them to Christ. I have seen many situations that could be dangerous. It seems that at the last second a finger would relax off a gun trigger that was squeezed and the danger would pass. Sometimes I have seen people run at me to hit me then all of a sudden they would take my outstretched hand as I welcomed them to a life in Christ. At times like these I really did not notice the danger but I had an overwhelming desire to help those that were in need of Christ. My battle was not with the people but the enemy. The Lord has placed an overwhelming care and concern in my heart for all people. I will not let danger or darkness of night separate me from those that I am there

to minister to. Allow the Lord to have full access to your life and to give you a love for all people. Prepare your life for warfare and follow His leading on this journey of life. We need to be a people of faith, instead a people of fear and possess the land that the Lord has given us.

Numbers 14

9 *"Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not."*

We can see in Numbers 14 that the children of Israel were clearly not ready for war. They rebelled against God and were afraid. However, Moses and a few others saw through the eyes of faith. The worst threat to the children of Israel was not the enemy but their own fears and disobedience that gave place to the enemy. All along God was prepared to protect and to lead them. He only needed them to trust Him and to go forward with Him. How do you see the enemy?

Psalms 41

11 *"By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me."*

12 *"And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever."*

Your enemies will not triumph over you. God has promised the same to us that He promised to them. He has sent His Son to atone for our sin. He has taken the keys from the enemy and given them to us. We now have the keys of authority on this earth. He has sent the Holy Spirit to lead us and to speak to us. He has even placed His own nature within our heart that we may know Him and follow Him.

Exodus 14

13 “And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.”

14 “The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”

The Lord’s instructions are very clear. We are not to fear. He needs to trust us and we need to trust Him. He does not want His people to retreat when engaged in warfare. So many people fight the same battle over and over again. If Christians could learn how to have victory and maintain it, then they could move forward again onto new victories. I wonder if then and only then would this great harvest of souls on this earth be complete. I wonder how much suffering could be eliminated on this planet. Is the Lord waiting upon us to complete the final battle of a war that was won over two thousand years ago by Christ’s victory over the enemy?

Let’s place our trust in the Hands of God, His Word, and be an instrument of His access into this world. Let Him place His nature inside of you and cause you to walk in His ways as you obey His Word and His voice. Then and only then will you see the nature of God in the very streets in which you live and see lives freed from a lifetime of bondage.

There is a war over who will sit on the throne of your heart. Our adversary, satan is in pursuit of the authority of mankind by challenging all those that are born into this earth. We cast the deciding vote as to who will be on the throne of our heart. The enemy wants to control and to destroy all of God’s creation. The enemy knows his time is limited and he will soon find himself in the very place that he seeks to take mankind. He will find himself in a lake of fire and eternal torment. We need to be serious about this war and prepare ourselves for confrontation. The enemy is looking for those he can destroy and those he can control.

Exodus 15

9 “The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.”

We need to remember that the warfare is in the spiritual realm with the enemy. While the spiritual realm has an effect in the physical realm by seeking to gain access through your flesh. The enemy has chosen to wage war upon us. He seeks to influence the physical realm. He is a created being and therefore, he has limitations. Through the work of Christ we can pursue the enemy and keep him on the move. All that we need to oppose the enemy has been provided through Christ’s work on the Cross. To understand the war we need to understand his weaknesses. The future of the enemy is certain as he will be cast into hell itself. His life has been judged for all of eternity. As Christians, we must limit the enemy’s access to those in this earth. We must teach and train others that they can be free from the influences of the enemy. Those that are bound should be loosed by those that know and experience the freedom of Christ.

Isaiah 14

12 “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;”

We live in a fallen world with an adversary, however, we are not helpless. We have all that is needed to live a victorious life in this earth. Christ has taken back all the authority over our lives that was possessed by the enemy. No more do we have to yield ourselves as

an instrument to satan and obey his wishes. He has nothing to offer a Christian. We have all peace, all power, and all dominion needed to live in this world. Actually our authority in Christ is above our adversary. We can rest in the presence of God and know that we can live and enjoy our lives. However, there is a price to pay and it is to give Christ our life and He will place His in us. Christ wants to live in us and to conquer the enemy of our lives.

Colossians 1

13 *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

15 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

16 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

In Psalms 68, we can clearly see that God can deliver those that desire to be free and lead them along life’s journey. Although you may find yourself in a wilderness, trust that God will make provision and protect your life from the adversary that seeks to destroy your life. God wants His people dependent upon Him. The Lord even made provision for His people to hear His Word as He sent prophets along this journey in the wilderness.

Psalms 68

6 *God setteth the solitary in families: he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*

7 *O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah:*

8 *The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.*

9 *Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.*

10 *Thy congregation hath dwelt therein: thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.*

11 *The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.*

Place your life in a position to be dependent upon God. He wants you to present all that you are to Him that He may present all that He is to you. We must deal with the fact we must change to experience all that God has for us. The Lord want so much to speak to His people, but because of certain conditions in our lives, He cannot. I find it so comforting to know that God is not only the destination along the journey but the way. Trust the Lord to destroy every work of the enemy that would come against your life and the lives of others. Trust that He would lead you to help others. As followers of Jesus Christ we are to demonstrate satan’s defeat on this earth.

Chapter Six

Praying Deliverance for Others

In every circumstance we can see in the New Testament, bondages had to leave on a simple command. We do not have to wrestle with evil spirits or be afraid. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit to minister deliverance and rely upon the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Spirit and the Blood of Jesus. The Blood of Jesus always delivers! The Holy Spirit will reveal to us how to pray for the people. While there are no specific methods of praying for someone's deliverance, you will see results when you rely upon the Word of God, authority of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

As I have studied the scriptures and watched Christ and the apostles pray deliverance for others, it is clearly demonstrated that the authority of Christ produced immediate results. Some have made deliverance long, drawn out, and complex. When we minister in the streets, we cannot have a long session with the person that seeks deliverance, but often we have a one time encounter with them and the Holy Spirit does an immediate work. In one example, Christ simply said one word when He prayed for someone's deliverance—He said, "Go." It was the Word of God, the Person of the Holy Spirit, and the authority of Jesus Christ that produced the deliverance.

Authority of the Name of Jesus

Matthew 8

32 *"And he said unto them, **Go**. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters."*

Matthew 8

16 *"When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he **cast out the spirits with his word**, and healed all that were sick:"*

Matthew 12

28 *"But if I cast out devils **by the Spirit of God**, then the kingdom of God is come unto you."*

The scriptures relating to Jesus's ministry and His encounter with the enemy are very clear. Spirit-filled believers have been commissioned to use the name of Jesus to set His people free. It is interesting to note in Mark 16 that although Jesus is ascended, He is still working with His believers to deliver those who are His.

Mark 16

14 *"Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*

15 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

16 *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

17 *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

18 *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

19 *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.*

20 *And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."*

We can see in the verses above that Jesus has commissioned believers to use His name to cast out devils. In verse 20, the

scriptures are clear on who is doing the works. Although the Word states in verse 19 that Jesus ascended, He is still confirming the Word with signs following. It is God who receives all the Glory for lives that are delivered. It is the desire of Christ that His works continue. He is looking for believers to go in His name to minister to His people. We are His voice in this world today. We must respond to the needs of people and take Christ to them.

Jesus is in Control of the Situation

Jesus used His authority to keep the situation under His control when He ministered to those in bondage. Jesus forbade the enemy to speak, and He took authority over the spirit that was in control of the person to bring about a sudden and full deliverance. Too many times in churches the enemy is allowed to manifest and produce fear in the lives of others watching. The enemy is no match for the Name of Jesus, and we need to use that authority and allow the Lord to keep any situation under His control. There is a divine order and control in every situation that the Holy Spirit is involved. Never let the enemy control the situation but rather follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 4

41 *“And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.”*

In the Book of Acts, the Apostle Paul is seen ministering deliverance to those in bondage. The enemy attempted to create a diversion for Paul on his way to prayer. However, Paul simply spoke with authority in the Name of Jesus and the damsel went free from a spirit of divination. We can see the ministry of deliverance was complete and immediate to such an extent that her masters were upset because she no longer had the ability to bring financial gain to them.

Acts 16

16 *“And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:*

17 *The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.*

18 *And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.”*

Binding The Strong Man

We can speak with authority in Jesus’s Name and bind the enemy from operating. This will cause the enemy to cease from any hindrance or control over the person we are ministering to. When confronted with the enemy, always bind it in Jesus’s Name to ensure that it cannot operate to cause you or the person harm and to bring it under authority.

Matthew 12

29 *“Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he **first bind the strong man?** and then he will spoil his house.”*

Prayer, Fasting, and Faith

In Matthew 17, there is an account where the apostles and Christ was confronted with a demoniac. In this scripture, Christ’s attention was focused upon three things—prayer, fasting, and faith. He was explaining why the apostles could not cast out a spirit which was tormenting a young man.

Matthew 17

18 *“And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.*

19 *Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?*

20 *And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*

21 *Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”*

We need to take time and prepare our lives to minister to others. In the example, we can clearly see that our prayer life, our ability to fast or control our flesh, and our faith is important to our ministry to others.

Salvation and the Will

It is important to ensure that those we minister to are saved and willing to be free. I always share Christ with them and ask them if they are living for Christ. If they are not sure about their salvation, I will lead them to Christ. I take time to ask them if they want to be free from the things that limit their walk with the Lord. I will not minister deliverance to an unsaved person or someone who is unwilling. To ensure the person is willing, I have them first pray their own deliverance and take authority over the bondages in Jesus's Name. Next, I pray and take authority over the bondages in Jesus's Name and we see a saved, willing person always go free. The Blood of Jesus always delivers! Be sure to have the person who was delivered discipled and see that they attend church. They need to exercise their will to stay free by serving Christ and establishing their relationship in Him. A person that I prayed for their deliverance once said, "It is not a sacrifice to serve Christ but an honor."

Deliverance Prayer

I often will lead the person being delivered through a similar prayer as outlined below. When I hear specifically from the Holy Spirit, I will add to the prayer the words He speaks about specific bondages or strongholds.

"Father, in Jesus's Name, I ask that You forgive me and cleanse me. I want to rededicate my life to You. I am sorry for my sins and I want to turn from my ways and follow You all the days of my life.

Through the Blood of Jesus I ask you, Jesus, to set my life free. Satan you have no place in my life anymore. I am free in Jesus's Name."

Next, I pray in agreement with the person and take authority over the enemy that has come against their life. I listen to the Holy Spirit very carefully as I begin to pray. I will pray a prayer similar to the prayer below.

"Father in Jesus's Name, I bind the enemy from operating in the life of this person. I take authority through the Name of Jesus over all that is not of God and command it to go. Leave in Jesus's Name and enter no more. Father, I ask all that is of You would remain. Lord, I ask that You would cover their life with Your Blood and fill them with the precious Holy Spirit. I thank You that my friend is free in Jesus's Name. Help them to serve You, follow You, and grow in Your knowledge. In Jesus's Name I pray. Amen."

Immediately after we have prayed they have an overwhelming knowledge that they are free. They often say they can see more clearly. Many experience the Presence of the Lord for the first time or for the first time in many years. For many it is like a storm has been calmed in their life. Most importantly, they begin their walk in their new found freedom. Encourage them to immediately read

their Bible and to attend church. They must serve Christ to continue their freedom.

Never be afraid to pray for someone's deliverance. When you are secure in your life in Christ and Spirit-filled, the enemy will not be able to resist the commands that you make in Jesus's Name. Nothing can keep a person who wants to be free from going free. Is it this simple to pray freedom for someone? The Blood of Jesus always delivers!

Romans 8

38 *"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,"*

39 *"Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Since the person that was bound participated in their own deliverance they will be able to resist counterattacks by satan. They know that they too have authority through the Name of Jesus and their relationship in Christ. Encourage them to exercise their authority and to resist the enemy, and he will flee from them.

Chapter Seven Bondages

In the New Testament, we can see many examples of different types of bondages being dealt with by the apostles and Christ. While I do not believe that Christians can be possessed, I do believe they can be oppressed and have strongholds in their life. This thought reminds me of the account in the Bible where Lazarus was raised from the dead, He still was bound by his grave clothes or the past.

John 11

43 *"And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth."*

44 *And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."*

We live in a fallen world and the enemy will try to use weaknesses in our life to defeat us. However, the enemy does not have a legal right to oppress a Christian. We have been redeemed by the Blood of Jesus, but we must defend what is ours. Some Christians will allow circumstances to control their actions and thereby allow themselves to be oppressed. Since freedom has been provided through the Cross of Jesus Christ, Christians should be free from the influences of the enemy.

The following is a list of many bondages and spirits noted in the Bible. When the Holy Spirit reveals the name of a particular spirit or bondage, I will command it, by name, to leave the person in Jesus's Name. I believe that all that is not of God must go when we pray for someone who is bound. Therefore, we do not need to be overly concerned with types of spirits or bondages. However, the Holy Spirit can reveal to you the spirit or bondage that the person is dealing with.

Romans 8

15 “For ye have not received the **spirit of bondage** again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”

2 Timothy 1

7 “For God hath not given us the **spirit of fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

1 Chronicles 10

13 “So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a **familiar spirit**, to inquire of it;”

Numbers 5

14 “ And the **spirit of jealousy** come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and she be defiled: or if the **spirit of jealousy** come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and she be not defiled:”

Hosea 4

12 “My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the **spirit of whoredoms** hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.”

Isaiah 61

3 “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the **spirit of heaviness**; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”

Luke 4

33 “And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a **spirit of an unclean devil**, and cried out with a loud voice,”

Luke 13

11 “And, behold, there was a woman which had a **spirit of infirmity** eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.”

Acts 16

16 “And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a **spirit of divination** met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:”

1 John 4

3 “And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that **spirit of antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

1 John 4

6 “We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the **spirit of error**.”

Romans 8

21 “Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the **bondage of corruption** into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

Mark 9

25 “When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou **dumb and deaf spirit**, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.”

1 Kings 22

21 “And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.”

22 “And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a **lying spirit** in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.”

Isaiah 19

14 “The LORD hath mingled a **perverse spirit** in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggereth in his vomit.”

1 Timothy 4

1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing spirits**, and doctrines of devils;”

There are many other types of bondages and spirits; however, we need to be more concerned with the delivering power of Jesus. The information was provided to display the various types of bondages. It is important to remember that the Blood of Jesus always delivers anyone that knows Christ and is willing to be free!

John 8

36 “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

Trust Christ to keep your life free and watch Him free lives when you pray for others in bondage.

It is my prayer that the Lord will use you to minister to those that are hurting and in bondage so others may know the freedom they have in Christ. There is no greater joy than to see people go free. We are in a fallen world and a war has been declared on planet earth when Adam fell and it has been against God's creation. However, Christ has purchased freedom for all who would receive Him and all who would choose to loose their bonds for freedom. Today, Christ is prepared to deliver His people and to wage war on the enemy. No more will God's creation be held hostage to sin. Jesus Christ has come to this world and His Blood remains the most powerful force in this world and it will deliver. Let's continue His work, speak His name to those in bondage, and watch Christ set them free.

*Richard C. Hobbs, Evangelist
Mercy Street Ministries
P.O. Box 121
Alma, Arkansas 72921
<http://www.mercystreet.com>*

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