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HOW TO MAINTAIN OUR DELIVERANCE

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43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation (Matthew 12:43-45).

Spirits try to return after they have been expelled. The following principles, if practiced daily, will help keep us free.

- **We must be filled with the Holy Ghost** after deliverance if we have not already been *(Acts 1:8; 2:4)*. The power of God will come upon us to assist us in our warfare with the enemy. When we receive our prayer language, we should pray in tongues daily to build up our inner man. *(1 Corinthians 14:1-4).*
- **Expect demons to try to come back** with thoughts in our minds *(Matthew 12:43-45)*. Remember, anything the devil whispers to our ears or minds is a lie *(John 8:44)*. He will try to make us feel that our freedom really didn't happen.
- **We must be prepared to resist them** *(James 4:7; Ephesians 4:27)*. Jesus resisted the devil with the word three times by saying "It is written" *(Matthew 4:1-11)*. We must find scriptures according to the area of bondage where we have gained freedom. If it was fornication or sexual immorality, use *1 Corinthians 6:15-18; Hebrews 13:4*. We speak the word vocally out of our mouths to resist him and take our stand: *"Satan, it is written that I must flee fornication because adulterers, fornicators, and whoremongers, God will judge."* We should say it every time he brings a thought to our minds. We know he is trying to return when he brings our old thought patterns.
- **We must renew our minds daily with God's Word**, especially in the areas where demonic spirits had us in bondage *(Romans 12:2-3; John 15:3; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 4:22-24)*. We can carry Scripture verse cards with us for our free time to meditate *(Joshua 1:8)*. Satan will try to regain entry through a lax, undisciplined life.
- **We must get into a Word, Bible-believing, Bible-teaching, Spirit-filled church**. We should look for a church that believes in the filling of the Holy Ghost, gifts of the Spirit, the preaching and teaching of the unadulterated Word of God, prayer, praise and worship *(Hebrews 10:24-25)*.
- **We must realize that sometimes complete deliverance is little by little** *(Exodus 23:30; Deuteronomy 7:22)*. As we apply these steps, we take back a little more ground from Satan each day.
- **We must apply the blood of Jesus daily**. We overcome Satan by the blood *(Revelation 12:11)*. Vocally, by faith, we apply His blood to our spirits, souls, and bodies, our spouses, children, homes, cars, and everything that belongs to us.
- **Don't hesitate also to use the name of Jesus.** The blood protects us, and the name causes demons to tremble *(Exodus 12:13; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 10:23; Philippians 2:9-11)*.
- **We must trust in God's power each day** to help us make the right choices *(Deuteronomy 30:19)*.
- **We should expect continuous and increasing freedom** when Satan has previously bound us or used us for his purposes *(Philippians 3:13-14)*.
- **We must avoid deliberate sin at all costs**. *"We know that whosoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one touches him not"* (John 5:18). If we sin, then we should confess it immediately and receive forgiveness and cleansing *(1 John 1:9)*. This will stop Satan from weighing us down with guilt and condemnation *(Romans 8:1; Hebrews 10:22)*.
- **We must rely upon the Holy Spirit** to control our lives, emotions, desires and imaginations, together with our will, by deliberately giving Christ lordship over them each day *(Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:18)*.

- **We put on our armor of spiritual warfare every day**. We put on each piece thoughtfully and prayerfully so we are protected at all times. The seventh piece is prayer *(Ephesians 6:10-18)*. See the Armor of God prayer below.

  In Jesus' name, I put on the whole armor of God so that I may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. I do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places.

  Therefore, I take unto myself the whole armor of God that I may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. I stand, therefore, having my loins girt about with truth. Your Word, Lord, which is truth, contains all the weapons of my warfare, which are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

  I have on the breastplate of righteousness, which is faith and love. My feet are shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. In Christ Jesus I have and pursue peace with all men. I am a minister of reconciliation proclaiming the good news of the Gospel.

  I take the shield of faith, wherewith I can quench all the fiery darts of the wicked; the helmet of salvation (holding the thoughts, feelings and purpose of God's heart); and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. In the face of all trials, tests, temptations and tribulations, I cut to pieces the snare of the enemy by speaking the Word of God. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.

  Thank you, Father, for the armor. I will pray at all times – on every occasion, in every season- in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end I will keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding on behalf of all the saints. My power and ability and sufficiency are from God Who has qualified me as a minister and a dispenser of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ]. Amen.

  Scripture References: *Ephesians 6:11-14a; John 17:17b; II Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:14b,15 (Amp); Ephesians 2:14; Psalm 34:14; II Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 6:16-17 (Amp); I John 4:4b, II Corinthians 3:5-6 (Amp)*

  Prayers That Availeth Much, Germaine Copeland, Harrison House, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

- **We must keep our eyes and ears open for all the sneaky traps** the devil will leave around for us. Then we can holler for help to our heavenly Father, and He will immediately answer and give us the victory *(1 Peter 5:7-10)*.
- **We must humble ourselves** in thinking we can make it alone without God. We have to be smart, admit we can't do it all by ourselves, and then do things with His help *(John 15:5)*.
- **We must break wrong friendships** and choose positive, clean-living friends who put Jesus first *(James 4:4; 1 Corinthians 15:33)*.
- **We must break away from former habits or temptations** that led to sin. We have to avoid wrong magazines, movies, and TV programs that we should not see *(Romans 13:14)*.
- **We must never let up** on warring against the list of no-no's. Criticism, negativity, grieving over the past, oversensitivity, doubt, selfishness, and prayerlessness are all on the list. We should seek to help others *(Galatians 5:19-21; 26)*.
- **We should be praising, thankful people.** We lead lives of praise by putting on the garment of praise *(Isaiah 61:3)*. The spirit of heaviness will not come near us when we praise.
- **We have the authority** to loose the angels of the Lord to battle demons and protect us *(Hebrews 1:13-14; Psalm 34:7; Psalm 91:11)*.
- **We must bind the devil** every day as he tries to attack *(Matthew 12:28-29)*.
- **We should pray in the Spirit or in tongues** *(1 Corinthians 14:2, 4, 14-15)*.