

## HOW DID THAT GET HERE?

### INTRODUCTION

The Lord has been bringing us on a journey over the past few weeks. Two weeks ago, I preached the message, "A case of open and shut". Last week I spoke on how to Walk in our God-given authority. Today we will ask, how a person can become demon possessed, or oppressed? Secondly, how can we avoid it or become free from it?

Today I will identify some of the doors that the enemy commonly uses, to gain access to possess, or oppress people, and by knowing what these are, hopefully, we will be able to avoid these pitfalls in our own lives & the lives of our loved ones. We will also be in a position to gain victory through applying our God-given authority that I spoke about last week.

Before I begin, I must remind you that the devil is LIKE a roaring lion going around and seeking who he may devour, BUT... we serve Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, the TRUE LION OF Judah who came to make us free and give us the abundant life.

### MESSAGE

#### WE ARE AT WAR

**Eph 6:10-12** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

I shared this scripture last week: **Matthew 11:12** And from the days of John the Baptist until now the **kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.**

We must never forget that we are in a spiritual war. It's violent & it's real. The devil, our enemy, is a schemer, always looking for ways to rob, kill & destroy. If we give him even the smallest opportunity, he will use it to attack us. But we must also remember that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (**2 Timothy 1:7**), and **2 Corinthians 2:14** says "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ,"

#### WHAT IS THE DOOR THAT WE CAN OPEN TO THE ENEMY?

It's **the door of our hearts!** **Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- This is a door that **only we can open** – even the LORD has to knock.
- When someone knocks on this door, you can hear who it is – Jesus said: **“if anyone hears my voice and opens the door”**.
- **When we open the door, whoever is there comes in!** – “I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”

Sin also waits at this door to our hearts, looking for an opportunity to pounce: **Genesis 4:6-7** Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, **sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.**

**Proverbs 4:23** says that we must guard our heart with all diligence as it is the wellspring of life!

***Are you guarding your heart? Have you possibly opened to sin instead of to Jesus? We need to be wide awake!***

## **HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO OPEN THE DOOR TO THE ENEMY?**

Here are some examples. These are certainly not all:

**WILLFUL SIN:** When we sin willfully, it gives the enemy a legal right to affect or bother us in one way or another.

As sin grows deeper, it becomes a stronghold for the enemy. This means that the deeper the sin, the wider the door is for the enemy to enter, and then there is a risk of either oppression, or possession.

## **UNHOLY THOUGHT LIFE**

**James 1:12-16** (TPT) When you are tempted don't ever say, "God is tempting me," for God is incapable of being tempted by evil and he is never the source of temptation. 14 Instead it is each person's own desires and thoughts that drag them into evil and lure them away into darkness. 15 Evil desires give birth to evil actions. And when sin is fully mature it can murder you! 16 So my friends, don't be fooled by your own desires!

- One such example is lustful thoughts, they can open the door to a demon of lust, which can cause the person to commit adultery or other forms of fornication. This can lead to further demonic access.
- An unholy thought life starts when the enemy tempts us to think the wrong thing. The temptation itself is not a sin, but then when we accept it and begin thinking about the sin, it opens the door for the enemy to move in further.

- Then behind the bad habit which can be formed, lies a demonic compulsion that isn't easily resisted, and the enemy is able to bind the person.

### **The remedy?**

- When we recognize a particular thought pattern that has opened the door to demonic bondage, we need to specifically confess & repent and then renounce that sin.
- **1 John 1:9** tells us to **confess our sins**. If we don't confess our sins and instead try to hide them from God, those sins begin to control our lives. We must confess and repent and renounce.
- **We need to tear down thought strongholds: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5** (NKJV) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Here's how to avoid the demon of lust completely: **Romans 13:14** (NKJV) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

### **SOUL TIES: Sexual relationships, close relationships and vows.**

It is possible for two persons to share spiritual ties (like spiritual bridges that connect the two persons). Often through adultery or fornication, but there are also other sources of soul ties:

**1 Corinthians 6:16** (TPT) Aren't you aware of the fact that when anyone sleeps with a prostitute he becomes a part of her, and she becomes a part of him? For it has been declared: The two become a single body.

- When a person has demons tormenting them, and you have sex with them, the two of you are united, and therefore a soul tie is created, allowing the demons tormenting that person to have rights to torment you.
- This does not apply to married couples, because there is no unhealthy soul tie created from sex within marriage. The Bible says that the marriage bed is un-defiled, and defilement is required to create an evil soul tie.

**Other soul ties** can be created through unhealthy relationships, such as being so close to someone that you take their advice over God's advice. Paul wrote, "bad company corrupts good character".

**1 Samuel 18:1**, "And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.",

### **The remedy?**

- Confession, repentance, renunciation and breaking of soul ties!
- First, specifically repent of the sin which caused the soul tie to be formed in the first place. Then you can **use your authority in Jesus to break and sever the unholy soul tie**. Saying something like this should do the job, "I now renounce, break and sever all unholy soul ties created between myself and \_\_\_\_\_ through the act of \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus' name!"
- **Something that could hold back the breaking of a soul tie**, is a physical object given to you from the other person, through a sinful relationship. If you were given a ring, or underwear or a love gift through an adulterous relationship, for example, then those gift(s) can hold the soul tie together. You need to destroy those items.

### **DEMONIC VOWS:**

A demonic vow can be like a spiritual signature that the enemy uses as a legal right to gain access into our lives.

- Demonic vows can be **made consciously or unconsciously**. Often when a person joins a cult coven (a group of witches), they are required to make vows with the devil.
- We know that the Freemasons make vows when they are inducted into Freemasonry.
- Demonic vows can be made unconsciously just by dabbling with the occult. Just by getting curious about the occult and reading or watching forbidden materials, reading horoscopes or tarot cards. Books, movies, music, electronic games, yoga and other meditation type activities that have their source in foreign religion etc. – all of these can give the enemy your spiritual signature.

### **The remedy?**

- Confess, repent and renounce those vows verbally and seek God's forgiveness.

## **CURSED OBJECTS:**

Physical objects can carry spiritual value, such as idols, occult books, rings, charms, crystals etc. If you brought any pagan religion artifacts into your home, you could be opening the door for demons to enter and bother the people within your home. Buddha statues are a good example of such objects.

### **The remedy?**

Burn, destroy or get rid of any physical objects that you have located that could be cursed. **Isaiah 2:18**, "And the idols he shall utterly abolish."

Repent for bringing such objects into your home if you are responsible for them! Property can be cleansed by anointing it with oil and praying.

**Acts 19:18-20** (NKJV) And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

## **POINTS OF WEAKNESS**

Any time when a person is not in control of their own body as a result of addiction, or if they have been hypnotized, or go into fits of rage, a door can be opened to the enemy because when we are not in control, we open the door for the enemy.

### **The remedy?**

- Confess, repent and renounce that sin. Seek help. Our greatest helper is the Holy Spirit, and our victory comes through the word of our confession and the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

## **UNFORGIVENESS:**

When we don't forgive others, God won't forgive us. When God doesn't forgive us, it leaves our sins remaining, which can give the enemy legal rights into our lives. The legal ground the enemy may be standing on to torment you may very well be rooted in unforgiveness!

- **The remedy?** Confess & repent for holding bitterness in your heart against others and make a genuine decision to forgive those who have wronged you (also confirm your choice by verbally forgiving them) and release the bitterness and hurt from your heart against them.

There are many other doors which I can't address today due to time constraints.

## **CONCLUSION**

Jesus came to set the captive free. There is no form of demonic oppression or possession that Jesus can't deliver us from. We do however need to want that help.

**Isaiah 61:1-2a** (NKJV) "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God;

You can absolutely be free. Jesus has authority over each form of enemy attack and He is our victory today!

I leave you with two well-known scriptures:

**James 4:7** (NKJV) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

**1 John 4:4** (NKJV) You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.