

THE BONDAGE BREAKER

INTRODUCTION

John 10:10 Tells us that Jesus came to give us ever increasing abundance of life. On the other hand, it tells us that the devil is always looking for another way to rob, kill and destroy. One of these ways is by bringing people under bondage. The Bible is clear that God wants His people free, Jesus gave this as one of the reasons from His ministry when he quoted from Isaiah 61:

Isaiah 61:1 (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;

It goes on to say much more, but I want to focus on these two points:

- To proclaim liberty to the captives.
- And the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

These two points speak of slavery, bondage and a yoke. Christ came to make us free!

Today my goal is:

- to identify yokes of bondage that may be present in our lives,
- to give clarity as to how they got there,
- to help those here who may be struggling with various types of bondage from the enemy to break free.

MESSAGE

WHAT IS A YOKE?

- A yoke is an implement which is placed over the neck of an animal to prepare it for carrying burdens or pulling loads.
- A yoke itself isn't the burden or the load.
- A yoke is the implement to which the burden or the load is strapped.
- If there were no yoke, there would be no burden or load.
- The yoke is the thing which keeps your neck down – i.e. your head hanging!

In Scripture, the word "yoke" is usually mentioned together with words like **burden, bondage, slavery and oppression**. This is a typical tool of the devil who walks around like a roaring lion, seeking who he can devour. He would love to put a yoke upon you so that he can control you, rob, kill or destroy you and make a general mess of your life.

Leviticus 26:13 (NLT) I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the **yoke** of **slavery** from your neck **so you can walk with your heads held high.**

Examples:

What does a spiritual yoke look like?

A yoke is a bondage or a bad habit that you cannot seem to break and leave behind you for good. It can also be something you have become addicted to:

Here are some examples:

- **Addictions** to various foods, drinks and substances are yokes (food, alcohol & drugs).
- **Behaviors** (self-pity, critical spirit, self-condemnation, gossip, low self-esteem).
- **Emotions** (anger, rage, lust, neediness, jealousy, envy, suspicion, depression).
- **Activities** (entertainment, games, TV shows, Facebook, sport, gambling, pornography)
- There are many more...

Humans can be addicted to almost anything.

Did you know that "YOGA" Means "YOKE"?

Believe-it-or-not, there are many addicted (yoked) to the practice of yoga, not realizing it is Hinduism and thus yoked to a different god. In fact, the postures in yoga are "offerings to the 330 million Hindu gods" .

Comfort Food vs. The Comforter

ANYTHING that we turn to for comfort which does not include THE Comforter, the Holy Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, can become an addiction. We need our "fix" – and the sad part is, nothing and no-one but Jesus *can* "fix" us.

WHERE DOES A YOKE COME FROM?

Samson was a Nazarite from birth. God sent him to free the Israelites from the Philistine oppression. He had no power of his own, it came from the Holy Spirit.

The Philistines soon discovered that they were powerless against Samson's supernatural strength, and that they would never be able to conquer him as long as he was thus empowered. They tried everything to determine the secret of his strength to enable them to rob him of it. The devil finally seduced Samson by giving him a love for foreign, immoral women – to such an extent that he even visited a prostitute in Gaza (Judg. 16:1). He eventually ended up

with Delilah. The Philistines used her to discover the secret of Samson's strength. They were determined to rob him of his supernatural abilities and reduce him to a powerless slave in their prison.

In spite of his success to overcome all the physical force mustered against him, he succumbed to Delilah's charm and continuous nagging and revealed his secret to her. They cut his hair and thereby, with Samson's full cooperation, broke the Nazirite vow that he had made to the Lord.

The spiritual defeat and unfaithfulness of Samson had immediate and tragic consequences, clearly demonstrating the power of sin in a person's life. The very first consequence of his deliberate sin was that the Lord departed from him: "But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him" (Judg. 16:20). Samson was no longer consecrated to the Lord and by his actions induced the Lord to take His Holy Spirit from him. Samson did not break with His sin, thereby affording sin the opportunity to take full control over him and to break him. It happened as follows:

- **He lost his strength.** When the Lord's Spirit departed from Samson he had no power to resist the efforts of his enemies to take control of him.
- **He lost his sight.** Samson's eyes were gouged out and he had to serve his enemies as a blind man.
- **He lost his freedom.** Samson became a slave of his enemies. They bound him with bronze chains and incarcerated him in a prison where he had to grind grain, yoked like an ox to a millstone!

In most cases, the power of the yoke of bondage comes from the power of sin.

The devil also has great powers which he incessantly uses to fight against God's people – collectively or individually. He fills people with hatred, hostility, craving for power, covetousness, lust and various other propensities to sin, and also suggests evil plans to them to bring these evil desires to fruition.

HOW CAN THE YOKE OF BONDAGE BE BROKEN?

Isaiah 9:4(NKJV) For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian.

Samson finally came to his senses and he sought forgiveness and prayed that the Lord would restore his strength. God did so, Samson defeated the Philistines with one final act of strength and today, his name is recorded among the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11:32.

Jesus came to destroy every yoke. No yoke is impossible for Him to break, no matter how we may struggle with it. **Today is the day for every yoke to be finally and completely broken!**

If we want to break the yoke of bondage in our lives, we need to call on the name of Jesus, repent of any sins which led us into bondage, and ask God to restore us and we will walk forth in victory.

Isaiah 10:27(NKJV) It shall come to pass in that day That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke **will** be destroyed because of the anointing oil.

God said that His anointing, will remove the burden of the oppressors, and destroy the yoke of bondage.

The anointing is the burden-removing and yoke-destroying Power of God. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit which heals and sets us free.

WE MUST NOT ACCEPT THE YOKE

2 Corinthians 11:20 (NKJV) For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.

The Corinthian believers were accepting false teachers and false teaching. They were allowing themselves to be brought into bondage.

Today we see the same things happening. A recent example is the so-called "pastor" who "heals" people by spraying insecticide in their faces...and the people accept it!

We should NEVER allow ourselves to be oppressed or deceived. This is only possible if we STUDY and KNOW the Bible. In the Bible, we learn of our authority over such attacks.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 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,

We must not allow ourselves to be brought under a yoke, instead we must tear down strongholds of deception and lies and allow God to break the yoke of bondage which comes from the lack of understanding of His Word.

We must make the right choices:

Quote by C. Joybell: You will find that it is necessary to let things go; simply for the reason that they are heavy. So let them go, let go of them. I tie no weights to my ankles.

Quote by Mary Morrissey: Even though you may want to move forward in your life, you may have one foot on the brakes. In order to be free, we must learn how to let go. Release the hurt. Release the fear. Refuse to entertain your old

pain. The energy it takes to hang onto the past is holding you back from a new life.

TO MAKE SURE WE ARE NOT YOKED AGAIN, WE NEED TO TAKE ON A NEW YOKE!

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV) Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

If we are not carrying Jesus’ yoke, the devil will lay his yoke on us again. When God takes away our yoke of bondage we need to take Jesus on. His yoke is easy, we will not walk with our heads bowed in shame, we will walk in joy because of the victory He brings.

CONCLUSION

Nahum 1:13 (NKJV) For now I will break off his yoke from you, And burst your bonds apart.”

What yoke of bondage do you need broken today? If we repent of the attitudes and behaviour which bring us under a yoke, God will remove our yoke and our bondage and make us free once again.