

## **LESSON 28 - FAITH FOR DELIVERANCE**

### **How Can We Overcome The Toughest Kinds of Demonic Oppression?**

**By Brian S. Holmes**

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**W**e face many tough trials in life, one of which is demonic oppression. Demons are angels that rebelled against God and were cast out of Heaven to the spiritual realm on earth. They continue to sin against God by deceiving and oppressing humans, and influencing them to sin. They encourage *immoral behavior* like murder, addiction, violent acts, rape, revenge, jealousy, and sexual immorality. Demons may send intrusive, harmful *thoughts* that blaspheme Jesus, teach false beliefs, or deny the Gospel. They like to remind us of our past sins, current struggles, or shortcomings causing us to doubt our salvation and live in fear of Hell. They can provoke *emotions* like anger, rage, lust, bitterness, guilt, or unforgiveness. They can cause *mental* infirmities like PTSD, anxiety, or depression (1 Samuel 16:14-23), or *physical* infirmities like heart disease, cancer, and musculoskeletal problems (Luke 13:16, Job 2:4-7). Demons can produce *supernatural* manifestations like visuals of demons, dark shapes, aliens, or ghosts; feelings of being assaulted, controlled, or in the presence of something; hearing voices or unusual sounds; or religious oppression such as an inability to think clearly or difficulty praying, worshipping, going to church, or reading the Bible. Demons are like parasites that live off of their host. They try to indwell people, preferring to live inside us, while working against God and us, rather than outside in the Abyss (Luke 8:31). Every born again Christian has authority over demons, but how can we overcome the *toughest* kinds of demonic oppression? We'll examine a story of Jesus healing a demon-possessed boy, recorded in [Mark 9:17-29](#), [Matthew 17:14-21](#), and [Luke 9:37-43](#). The keys to victory are: 1) People seeking deliverance from demons need faith, 2) Christians casting out demons need faith, and 3) prayer and fasting are spiritual disciplines that can help develop our faith.

**1. People Seeking Deliverance From Demons Need Faith.** The demon-possessed boy's father came up to Jesus, "*kneeling before him, saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son... have compassion on us."* He continued, "*Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute... it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid... he suffers terribly... it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him.*" The man rightly called Jesus teacher and Lord, knelt before Him, and pleaded for His compassion and mercy. If you're self-righteous, arrogant, and blaming God, your requests will be denied. Jesus responds, "*O faithless and twisted generation... How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.*" God doesn't owe us anything; the world's broken because of the sinful choices we, His creation, have made. If He heals us it's *only* because He's gracious, not because we aren't sinful, guilty, and deserving of our afflictions. The faith God looks for is reverent,

acknowledging and seeking Him in humble submission. The faith God desires has humility, repentance and confession of sin, and belief and trust in His righteousness, love, grace, and power. The father says to Jesus, *“If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”* Jesus responds, *“IF you can! All things are possible for one who believes.”* Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, *“I believe; help my unbelief!”* Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.” If you are seeking deliverance from harmful thoughts, broken or sinful emotions, immoral temptations, physical or mental infirmities, or any other kind of trial, trust in the goodness and grace of God, believe in Jesus, and cry out to Jesus the same way that this father did!

**2. Christians Casting Out Demons Need Faith.** God does deliver and heal us throughout our entire sanctification process. However, the most biblical model and example of deliverance, and God’s primary way, is through the hands and prayers of fellow believers. Jesus taught His disciples to cast out demons and said this would be one sign they were His followers (Luke 9:1-2, Mark 16:17). Christians casting out demons need to also have faith—the same *kind* and measure described in the previous section. Returning to the previous story, the father then said to Jesus, *“I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him... I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.”* Later, after the boy was healed, *“the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”* Continue to grow your faith—your knowledge, belief, and trust in God—as well as your sanctification and relationship with God. You will need a confident, strong, and disciplined faith to be victorious through all tough trials you will face, especially those dealing with demons.

**3. Prayer and Fasting Help Develop Our Faith.** In Mark 9:28-29, Jesus’s *“disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer (and some manuscripts add) [and fasting].”* Some translations include Matthew 17:21, *“This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”* Prayer and fasting are not religious exercises that force demons out at our command. They’re spiritual disciplines, to practice and grow in, that can help develop our faith. But it’s our *faith in God*, and closeness to Him, that forces demons out. Hebrews 11:6 says without faith it’s impossible to please God. Jesus told many people that it was because of their faith that God healed their affliction (Mark 5:34, Luke 18:42). Jesus healed the Canaanite woman’s daughter from demonic oppression because of her great faith (Matthew 15:28). Spiritual disciplines, done with right motives, help us draw near to God to spend time with Him away from worldly distractions. They help us fix our focus on God, treasuring His Word and promises in our heart, so we can know His heart and better hear the voice of the Holy Spirit guiding us. They help us sharpen our ability to resist the temptations of the sinful flesh, and silence the thoughts, emotions, and attacks of the enemy. As we grow in discipline, God’s presence fills and surrounds us, developing our faith, empowering us to be victorious or gracefully endure every trial we go through together.

Let’s pray. Heavenly Father, I believe; help my unbelief! Deliver us from the evil one and every evil. Increase my faith. Help me trust that, with You, I will overcome every trial. In Jesus’ name. Amen.