

Jessica Flores

TH/IC720.NA-Power Encounter

Reflection Paper:

Developmental Plan:

Currently, I believe that I am strong in the Lord. I do abide with Jesus daily and use His authority in ministry, in my life and with my relationships. I currently practice the following disciplines of the spirit and will continue to utilize them within this plan: I pray, worship, meditate on His word, I take retreats where I spend alone time with Jesus. I like to do my retreats in nature out on prayer walks. I sit in contemplation prayer I have a personal and private life with Jesus. I sacrifice, in that I lay down my own rights and abstain from always having my way, so that God's will be done. I am disciplined in my study of His word. I celebrate what He does in my life. I perform acts of service unto people to give Him glory and model who Jesus is. I fellowship with other believers and live a confessional life. I also submit to the Lord and His ways. Some disciplines that I will incorporate to increase in authority will be to fast more regularly. I will practice on cutting down on material things, practice frugality (this is one area where I struggle, I enjoy shopping). I will also incorporate some days to being silent and separating myself to be in His presence. The disciplines I am incorporating to increase in authority, I have begun while working on this assignment and in regard to a timeline I will monitor until May 2020. I will see how fasting more regularly, at least 1-3 days each month and build up to longer fast (at least 3 weeks long), practicing frugality (daily), going on silent retreats (at least once a month) impact my authority. The disciplines bring me closer to God and in knowing Him more intimately. I have found in the past the more I know Him, the easier it is to pass the difficult testing. I have passed some difficult test, that I struggled with in the past. I

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find I have more authority in these areas, in ministry. My plan is not to stop after May 2020 but to continue to grow and practice these disciplines.

While meditating on Ephesians 1, I found that God's plan is that I too walk in the authority to fulfill the ministry that Jesus began years ago. God's greatness and power put everything under the authority of Christ on heaven and on earth. When we believe in Jesus we have been adopted into God's family and given His inheritance. Jesus was risen from the dead and seated at God's right hand. Scripture affirms that Jesus is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else in this world and in the one to come. On earth those who believe in Jesus are filled with Him/His authority and power, for we are the church, His body. So, as I practice these disciplines of the spirit, I will know God more intimately, and will give Him access to enact His authority through me, to bring, deliverance and healing to God's people and to usher them into His kingdom into a love relationship with Him.

Deliverance Ministry Reflection:

When I was a teenager the first deliverance ministry I was introduced to was at a Pentecostal church. Honestly back then that experience was scary. Because in that setting at that time, the leaders would do deliverance without setting boundaries on the demonic spirits. So, these spirits would act out and embarrass the people who were demonized. These deliverances did not appear to be loving but cast shame on the individual. I also noticed that in these deliverances there was no soul care before the deliverance. And during the deliverance there was no instruction to the individual. I never heard the question asked whether they were

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believers before deliverance. This is important because deliverance is for the believer in Jesus. When a demon is cast out, if Jesus is not in the vessel, the demon will return with more demons and make the individual's condition worse. What I have learned in this class is that soul care work needs to be done before the deliverance. In Dr. Rob Reimers book Soul Care, one must work through the seven principles of soul care which are 1. Working through Identity issues; 2. Repentance; 3. Overcoming Family Sin Patterns; 4. Forgiveness of self and others; 5. Healing wounds; 6. Overcoming fears; then 7 deliverance. This makes more sense, and this model seems to be more loving. I find this method more empowering. In that the individual's mindset is being shifted to see who they are in Christ and how dearly loved they are. We are also breaking ground by confessing unconfessed sin and not allowing the enemy to have a foot hold or access point. In Dr. Reimer's method for deliverance, we must confess sin and bring it into the light. Something else I found loving is that when doing deliverance around a lot of people one can confess their sins directly to Jesus (in their thoughts) without sharing information with people who do not know them. I also learned that some demons could hide through a family secrets which will need to be exposed. To expose we can ask the hard questions (Natural knowledge) or find out through supernatural knowledge, where God will reveal it to you. We are to live a confessional life without secrets. Demons can be inherited from grandparents and parents. So, for children who were born to parents who were demonized they will need deliverance as well. In this model we also deal with curses, in that we are to bless those who curse us. And we are to be mindful that we are not speaking word curses over ourselves. The individual is to renounce any word curse or religious curse. In this model we explain

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deliverance, so that the individual understands what is happening and does not filter responses. You lead the individual in prayer and acceptance of Jesus and set the parameters or boundaries that the demons can not cross. In this model we cast out the demons in their hierarchical structures. Make all of your commands in the name of Jesus because He is above all. You interview the individual to see if there might be any demons, which come through abuse, witchcraft, addiction and rebellion. Anything contrary to the word of God. When a demon is cast out you do a test (ask questions). You ask the spirit its name and break ground and command the spirit to go where Jesus sends it, then move on to the next spirit. Keep testing and casting out until you come up with a clean test. Meaning the spirit of God is answering the questions. At the end you can ask what does the spirit of God want to tell the person. Then end in prayer and instructions on how to stand in Christ and submit to God. Empowering the individual to know that they have the authority to tell the enemy to leave. This will be the model I will utilize in my ministry, it is biblical, dignified, empowers and sets people free.

Deliverance Ministry Improvement at my current church:

At my church, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had a ministry called the Healing Rooms. The leaders were trained in deliverance using a model from Randy Clark's Ministry Team Training Manual. Which is similar to Dr. Rob Reimer's model above. Before starting this training and ministry, they used to word to vision cast the ministry to the leaders. Then our pastor began speaking more about the power and authority of Christ on the pulpit. Letting the word of God sink in and open eyes, ears and hearts to the gifts of the spirit. What I would do

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differently would be that instead of just doing one class covering the book. I would do continual trainings on the subject of deliverance. I would check in on the leaders and see where they are in building their authority monthly. Are they abiding in Christ? Are they acting in faith and obedience? I would pour into the leaders building them up. Training them on how to grow in faith and authority. I would require the leaders to first learn soul care before learning deliverance. In this pandemic, I would continue with the healing sessions via zoom. And if need be individual sessions could take place at the church in an open space where social distancing and wearing masks would be utilized. I would also train the leaders on helping the people remain free. In that after the deliverance I would give the people printed information/instruction on how to remain free. I believe this is something that needs to be part of discipleship in that on the pulpit in every ministry setting and in relationship we need to empower the children of God to understand the power and authority that has been given to them and the importance of obedience to the word of God. The disobedience is what opens people up to demons and weakens their authority. This world is bringing into awareness that the spirit world exists, we see it in movies and cartoons. The problem is that the world is corrupt, so it is glorifying the enemy and minimizes, rejects or makes fun of Jesus's authority over all in the spiritual and natural here on earth. We as a church need to feed our faith with what God says about the power that we inherited and take the risk to go beyond the boundaries and act on His word.

In order to act on His word, we will need emotional healing and some growing up. That is why it is important to do the Soul Care before deliverance. People need to forgive, let go of

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the hurt. We need to get to the root issue on why people do the things they do. They will need to process the hurt, mourn it, in order to move into wholeness and joy. Only with Jesus can this transformation take place. Only Jesus can heal the emotional hurt and introduce you to your true self in Christ. What He says about His children are their true identity. The world tries to break and confuse people about their identity. But the word says that we are image bearers of God, that we are His children, that we are more than conquerors and that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. God says that He has not given us a spirit of fear but of power love and sound mind. Talking about it, sharing this good news is our mission and purpose, that Jesus died on the cross then rose again so that we can be reconciled with God the Father and adopted into His family. His obedience granted us keys to the kingdom of God. To do the work of God's kingdom we need to develop a certain kind of faith. Lack of faith stops kingdom work. I did not see change in my life until I started taking God at his word. I also surrounded myself with people who were kingdom minded. So, the key is keep using what God gave us, which is his Word, the Holy Spirit and the power of storytelling. We need to build awareness about what God intended for His children by telling His story and how His story impacted our story and changed our lives. Building awareness to His power His authority and our inheritance will start to shift the mindset and will get people to start believing. Only God's word transforms. When people start believing their behaviors will change and demons will flee, all because of the name of Jesus.

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Bibliography

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