

**Journey to Spiritual Authority and Deliverance**

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### ***From a Fearful Egg to a Fearless Caterpillar***

If I were to compare the current level of my spiritual authority with the developmental stage of a butterfly, I would say that I am a caterpillar that just hatched from its egg. For quite a while, I was aware of the spiritual realm and the existence of demons after witnessing a demonic manifestation when I was young. I remember being startled and nervous, not knowing what to do. The pastor asked us to surround the person and pray for the demon to leave immediately. Albeit scared, I found myself unwillingly shouting for the demon to leave as instructed. Unfortunately, nothing changed when we prayed for her, so a group of pastors took her away. After a while, she was delivered from the demonic spirit. Although I was relieved that the demonic spirit was no longer present, I was intrigued by what I had witnessed and had many questions. Yet, I was fearful of what I had seen that I never had the courage to ask.

The fear I experienced made me passive and hesitant to learn about the spiritual realm, demons, and deliverance. Consequently, I never actively sought to learn more about demonization or deliverance. I avoided learning by thinking that I should focus mainly on Jesus and developing the “essential” spiritual practice to become more Christ-like such as reading the Bible and praying. Not having to witness another demonic manifestation since then also made me unconsciously believe that it is a rare occurrence. Perhaps, I even thought that it was more pertinent to the Biblical times or in developing countries that I would not have to learn. Furthermore, even if it happens, I believe that only those gifted with “special” power could perform such a supernatural act. Thus, I never dared to engage in the journey of developing spiritual authority for deliverance. I was like an egg not ready to hatch because of all my fear.

Therefore, learning more about demonization and deliverance was eye-opening and liberating. For so long, I trapped myself in fear of demons that I never actively sought to discover what this ministry was all about. I believed in the lie that they are scary and powerful. I believed in the lie that I was not gifted to do such work and that I had so much internal work that needed to be done to perform such a tremendous supernatural act. However, as I learned more about the spiritual

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realm, the apparent existence of demons, and the absolute need for deliverance, I felt like I had discovered a fresh revelation and felt a sense of freedom. Hearing Dr. Reimer's stories were relieving because they testified to Christ's authority and victory over the demons. His lessons and readings also clarified all my questions and misunderstandings about demons and the spiritual realm. Class after class, I recognized that layers of fears were peeling off, and I became more eager to learn about demons, deliverance, and spiritual authority. As I learned more, I was breaking the shells of my egg, crawling out from passivity, and ready to discover more and to prepare myself for this spiritual battle.

### ***Developing Spiritual Authority: Becoming a Butterfly***

However, the journey has not been easy. As I read the book *Soul Care*, I discovered that there was much work that needed to be done. There were wounds that I did not recognize, sins that I had to repent, people to forgive, fears to address, and even demons from which I had to be delivered. I could not ignore them because without addressing them, I would not have a secured identity in Christ and grow in deeper intimacy with Christ. Thankfully, God has been opening my eyes to these issues and giving me the faith to trust Him in the process of tackling these issues. Amongst all these issues, God highlighted two things that needed to be immediately addressed. First, I have demons in me. Especially after reading about the symptoms and Dr. Reimer's group testing last week, I recognized that I picked up demons because I was sexually molested when I was young. Interestingly, recognizing my condition was actually "freeing," knowing that my fleshly desires were not the cause of these perverse thoughts and images.

Therefore, I will seek to be delivered by another spiritually mature brother or sister in Christ as Reimer taught that one cannot deliver him or herself. I hope the deliverance session in class will deliver me from all the evil spirits I picked up. However, if it does not, I am planning on taking the *Soul Care* course next semester. Meanwhile, if I am not fully delivered through the session in class, I will be working on identifying the unconfessed sins that are allowing the demons to take ground. To do so, I will commit to practicing quiet time at least twice weekly. I want to commit to doing more,

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but because I work every day from 9-7 except on Tuesdays and Sundays, I will plan on doing it often once I get used to this rhythm. Because I am tired after work and I usually wake up early in the morning, I will be dedicating 30 minutes of my morning before work to pray and meditate on His scripture. During this time, I hope that God will reveal any unprocessed pain or unconfessed sins so that I may break the ground that the demons have in me.

Moreover, I hope to increase the frequency of my quiet time because God revealed that the second thing I need to address is my intimacy with Him. Ever since the pandemic, I felt like my intimacy with God has not been growing much. I know it is because I have yet to invest much intentional time in seeking His presence and learning His words as much as I used to. There was a season in my life when I woke up at 6:00 AM every day and dedicated my morning to my quiet time with Him. During this time, I have tasted the sweetness of His presence and discovered how good it is for me— it was great food for my soul. Likewise, I desire to be in such a place of profoundly falling in love with Jesus again. I want to be in that place where nothing else matters. Even if the outer circumstances are not good, I want to be in that place where I can declare that I am at peace because Jesus is good. Yet, I know I can never be there without developing greater intimacy with Him. Thus, as I spend at least two times a week meditating on God's word and being in His presence, I will attempt to increase the days that I do quiet time by one day every month.

Furthermore, I will also cultivate greater intimacy through practicing two spiritual disciplines— fasting and solitude. Fasting and solitude helped me to be keen on God's heart and His voice in the past. However, because it has been a while since I have done both, I will first fast for one meal once a week. I will do it on Tuesday because it is the day I am off from work. During that meal time I am fasting, I will also turn off all electronic devices and isolate myself in my study room. I will then soak myself in silence and solitude and practice dwelling in God's presence. Realistically, I want to be able to do so for hours and hours. However, knowing I have such a short attention span, I commit to doing so for 10 minutes. Then, I will journal afterward to reflect on why I am doing this and what God has revealed to me. Hopefully, as I do it once a week, I hope to increase the number of

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meals I fast during the day and work up so that it may eventually become an entire 24-hour period. Likewise, I hope to improve my time in solitude by 5 minutes every month until I can be in total solitude and silence for an entire hour. Through practicing fasting and solitude, I cannot wait to grow in greater intimacy with Christ. I also hope these routines will eventually make fasting and solitude an integral part of my daily routine so that I may be full of Christ's presence. Consequently, I hope Christ's presence in me may transform me so that I may finally become a 'butterfly' that may display Christ's beauty and presence to the world. As I am being transformed and 'fully' developed, I pray that I may develop greater spiritual authority to combat the Kingdom of Darkness with great confidence and display Christ's victorious Kingdom on this earth.

### ***Deliverance Ministry: What, Why and How***

Sadly, many have ignored or neglected the existence of demons and even thought of such reality as irrelevant in the Western world. I myself never consciously believed in its existence until I learned about it. Therefore, deliverance ministries should first be about addressing these three questions— what is a deliverance ministry, why is it required, and how is it practiced? Providing answers would then offer people the perspective to understand the purpose and impact of deliverance ministry, and then equip them with the tool of deliverance —spiritual authority.

### ***What & Why: Restoring the Kingdom of Heaven***

Becoming like Jesus is what Christians ought to do, and doing His work is part of the process of becoming more Christ-like. Therefore the church ought to examine what Jesus' ministry consisted of and emanate his message and imitate his work. According to Dr.Reimer, Jesus' ministry always involved two things. First, He always shared the Gospel of the Kingdom<sup>1</sup>. Wherever he went and preached, Jesus always mentioned that the Kingdom of God was near. This is because Jesus acknowledged that Satan is real and his Kingdom of Darkness manifested on this Earth. He notices all the various schemes of the Kingdom of darkness as presented in the gospel of Mark— people characterized by physical conditions such as blindness and paralysis and others possessed by impure

<sup>1</sup> Rob Reimer, *Spiritual Authority: Partnering with God to Release the Kingdom* (Tennessee: Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020), 62.

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spirits. Therefore, Jesus confronts the Kingdom of darkness and its schemes. He demonstrates two signs of the Kingdom— healing and deliverance. Likewise, the church should share the Gospel of the Kingdom and perform healing and deliverance. Why? Because they are about restoring things to be in the manner that God intended. They are about overturning the effects of sins and allowing the transformative power of the Kingdom of heaven to be displayed. Thankfully, healing ministry has been more commonly observed in different churches. Yet there has not been much deliverance ministry which is why the church needs to recognize its urgent need now. It is an essential part of the work of the church because not only it is about doing Christ's work, but it is also about proclaiming the victory of the Kingdom of Heaven over one of darkness. It has to be done in order to holistically battle against the Kingdom of darkness.

### ***How: All About Spiritual Authority***

To perform deliverance, developing spiritual authority is key. At all times, Jesus was dependent on spiritual authority to perform his supernatural act of healing and deliverance. Such authority was dependent on knowing His identity under His Father who was the creator and king on this earth. Consequently, Jesus knew that he had the authority to command demons and its schemes to disappear. In this sense, it seems like spiritual authority is positional. However, Dr. Reimer reminds that spiritual authority is also developmental.<sup>2</sup> Albeit some may be gifted with it, Jesus understood that no one could have performed the miracles He did, if it was dependent on his divinity. Therefore, Jesus gifted us with the authority He had. Through his death and resurrection, He had gained the long-lost access to our Father and gave it to us. Doing so, he enables us to be strengthened and to be equipped with the same spiritual authority He had to heal, deliver, and bring the Kingdom on this Earth.

Therefore, spiritual authority is clearly developmental. Since everyone has it through Jesus Christ, it is now a matter of unlocking the potential and activating it. To do so, Dr. Reimer reminds

<sup>2</sup> Rob Reimer, *Spiritual Authority: Partnering with God to Release the Kingdom* (Tennessee: Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020), 82.

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us of three things about spiritual authority<sup>3</sup>. First, it is rooted in identity. The journey of fully grasping what entails our identity as sons and daughters, and how God created us uniquely. It is also about processing the wounds, pains, and lies of our lives to allow formation of a deep identity in Christ and to confidently live as a chosen, deeply loved child of God. Secondly, spiritual authority is expanded in intimacy. Through deeper love and intimacy cultivated with God, one would have greater understanding of God's Heart and allow His powerful presence to indwell in one's life. Yet, it requires a persistent and whole-hearted pursuit for His presence. Thirdly, spiritual authority is activated by faith. Thus, one should consistently develop faith that focuses on Jesus and trust His power to bring great transformation beyond our expectation and circumstances. When we do such work of rooting our identity in Him, deepening our relationship with Him, and faithfully believing that He will do the work, one can develop greater spiritual authority. It is what would lead to a victorious lifestyle and enable one to become ambassadors of light and God's Kingdom.

### ***Moving Forward: Creating Deliverance Ministry***

Unfortunately, the church that I currently attend does not offer any deliverance ministry. Albeit addressing other spiritual needs such as discipleship, prayer, creative arts, there is nothing that would address issues of demonization and the need for deliverance. Therefore, if I were to begin a deliverance ministry, I would start with sharing the Markan Theology and Kingdom theology that were presented in our course. For both theologies display the existence of the Kingdom of darkness, Jesus' active work and his methodology in healing and delivering those who were demon-possessed. Then, individuals have to develop greater spiritual authority. This is where the church has to provide spiritual formation opportunities that address the three components of developing spiritual authority. It has to first allow one to discover their true identity in Christ and begin the work of sanctification to live as true sons and daughters of Christ. Secondly, it also needs to challenge one to relentlessly pursue God and for greater intimacy. Thirdly, it needs to also bring people to a place where their faith can be grown. However, it does not mean that people cannot begin delivering people.

<sup>3</sup> Rob Reimer, *Spiritual Authority: Partnering with God to Release the Kingdom* (Tennessee: Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020), 83.

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Simultaneously, they can also engage in doing deliverance on those who recognize that they have demons and want to be delivered.

As I have not been presented with any other methodology, I would probably implement one that Dr. Reimer presents in his book *Soul Care: 7 Transformational Principles for a Healthy Soul*. In his book, Dr. Reimer presents his eight step process of deliverance. Yet before doing so, he advises individuals to go through a preparation step of making one's confession current, and making sure the individual being delivered has also done so, processed all pains and has forgiven those who they need to do so. Then, he advises to first explain what deliverance is about, how demons communicate and to also remind them to always report anything they hear, feel, experience and see. Secondly, one needs to boldly pray for protection, discernment, wisdom, and power of the Holy Spirit so that everything may be about Him. In this stage, one can also command to limit the demonic manifestation. Thirdly, one then should call the spirit to attention and ask a series of questions that tests whether or not there is a presence of an evil spirit. Such questions include asking whether Jesus Christ is the Lord or if the spirit honors the blood of the Lord Jesus. If there are any negative answers, one should then ask the spirit at attention key questions to figure out their name, function, its ground to stay, any spirits they have under their control, any leaders above them, and any gates that give them ground to return. After enough information has been collected, and ensuring that their ground to remain is broken, one should command the spirit to leave in Jesus' name. Then, one should repeat the test questions from the third step to ensure that there are no other spirits that are hiding, and all spirits have been casted out. After several repetitions of this process and that the person has now answered all test questions correctly, one should invite the Holy Spirit to speak. After ending with the powerful word of the Holy Spirit, one should end with prayer and any final instructions of reminding one about their renewed, truthful identity especially if it is someone who needs follow-up deliverance. Amid going through this process, Dr. Reimer advises not to forget to follow these steps with another person who will be praying and interceding alongside.

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Obviously, these would not be perfectly executed at first. However, I am learning that I should never make it about myself. All of this work of deliverance is about Jesus. He has prepared humanity to do such work through his death and resurrection. He has transferred the authority and his work and given us the Holy Spirit to do His Kingdom work. Thus, I commit today in taking another step to partner with God, Jesus and Holy Spirit so that His Kingdom may manifest on earth as it is in Heaven through deliverance.

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### **References**

Reimer, Rob. *Spiritual Authority: Partnering with God to Release the Kingdom*. Tennessee: Carpenter's Son Publishing, 2020.