



Jesus Provides Strength for Deliverance **Adapted from “Jesus Is” series by Wayne Murray**

If you are a follower of Christ and you have trusted Christ to save you then you have been given authority over demons and every evil spirit. You do not have to let them harass you or bother you in any way.

Has the enemy has been harassing and bothering you? It might not be demon possession. In fact, if you are a follower of Jesus you cannot be possessed by a demon. It is impossible. Jesus said how can a house divided against itself stand. The Bible also teaches we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. But, even with the Holy Spirit, it is possible to be oppressed or harassed by demons and evil spirits. The good news is as a believer, you can take authority over them.

You no longer have to be deceived by the enemy. What is a Christ follower to do when harassed by the enemy? Consider the following story from Neil Anderson:

When I was a boy on the farm, my dad, my brother, and I would visit our neighbor's farm to share produce and labor. The neighbor had a yappy little dog that scared the socks off me. When it came barking around the corner, my dad and brother stood their ground, but I ran. Guess who the dog chased! I escaped to the top of our pickup truck while the little dog yapped at me from the ground. Everyone except me could see that the little dog had no power over me except what I gave it. Furthermore, it had no inherent power to throw me up on the pickup; it was my belief that put me up there. That dog controlled me by using my mind, my emotions, my will, and my muscles, all of which were motivated by fear.

Finally, I gathered up my courage, jumped off the pickup, and kicked a small rock at the mutt. Lo and behold, it ran! Satan is like that yappy little dog: deceiving people into fearing him more than God. His power is in the lie. He is the father of lies (John 8:44) who deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9), and consequently the whole world is under the influence of the evil one (1 John 5:19). He can do nothing about your position in Christ, but if he can deceive you into believing his lies about you and God, you will spend a lot of time on top of the pickup truck! You don't have to shout him or outmuscle him to be free of his

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influence. You just have to out truth him. Believe, declare, and act upon the truth of God's Word, and you will thwart Satan's strategy.¹

¹ Neil T. Anderson, *The Bondage Breaker*, (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000) Pages 22-23.

COURAGE

C1: What are your thoughts concerning the introduction?

C2: What comes to your mind when you think or hear about evil spirits or demons?

C3: Jesus tells the story of healing the Demonic of the Gadarene in Mark 5:1-20. Read this passage of Scripture and answer the following questions

- From this passage of Scripture, what are three things you can learn about Jesus?
- Why was the power of Jesus important in this story? Why is the power of Jesus important for you today?

STRENGTH:

S1: Read Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) and answer the following.

- List the four opponents the believer fights today.
- Describe a time when you have engaged in warfare against each of these four opponents.

S2: Jesus tells the story of healing the Demonic of the Gadarene in Mark 5:1-20. Read this passage of Scripture and write out four takeaways from these verses?

S3: There are those that do not believe demons are real. They believe there is no such thing as demons or demonic influence. Read Mark 5:2 (ESV) and write your thoughts about demons and demonic influence?

ENDURANCE

E1: Evil spirits love to make you think they are more powerful than God. They want you to think they are more powerful than they really are. Read the following and answer the questions.

Mark 5:6, 9-10 (ESV)

Philippians 2:9-11 (ESV)

- When it comes to the pecking order in the spiritual realm, what are three things you can learn from these scriptures?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very confident and 4 being not very confident, rate yourself on how confident you are that Jesus has authority over all evil powers. How can you improve your confidence?

E2: In our confrontation with evil, we know Jesus has authority over evil. Read the following verses and answer the questions.

Luke 10:19 (ESV)

Matthew 10:8 (ESV)

Mark 16:17 (ESV)

- From these scriptures, as a believe what can you gather about your authority over evil spirits?
- On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being very confident and 4 being not very confident, rate yourself on how confident you walk in your delegated authority over all evil powers. How can you improve your confidence?

E3: If we as believers have delegated authority over evil, why are so many men harassed by evil?

E4: This week, meet with 3 men and discuss this lesson. Discuss what taking authority looks like for you. What did you gather from your time together?