



Week 9

Connect (15 minutes)

- **What is ONE highlight from our time together doing Soul Care?**

SOUL CARE PRINCIPLE #7 – DELIVERANCE (70 minutes)

- **What are some of your initial reactions from the chapter you read on deliverance?**
- This teaching on deliverance may well have stirred strong or uncomfortable feelings for you. You are not alone in those feelings! It's okay to wrestle with this topic, but please wrestle with it. Sometimes we believe things because it's what we have ALWAYS believed. The topic of deliverance challenges our traditional understanding of the unseen spiritual world. I challenge you to wade into these uncomfortable waters, to study the Scriptures and to come to a conclusion based not on what you have always believed, but on what God has said.
- **VIDEO – “Deliverance”** (19 minutes)
 - **What stood out to you from the video?**
- **Changing World**
 - “We now have a generation that believes in supernatural beings, but also that there are no absolutes” (pg. 207).
 - **What kinds of spiritual “experimentation” do you see happening in the lives of people you love?**
- **Christians and Demonic Influence**
 - Read Mark 1:32-34, Matthew 10:5-8, Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 8:6-8.
 - Jesus clearly believed in the demonic world and a great deal of His ministry was given to healing the sick and setting the demonized free. He gave authority to His disciples to do the same and before He departed, Jesus commanded that they make disciples, teaching them to observe ALL that He commanded. Deliverance was part of the ALL that Jesus commanded His disciples to do, as we see in the early church (Acts 5:12-16, 19:11-12).
- **We have a very real enemy who does everything he can to steal, kill, and destroy.**
John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly” (ESV). There is a very real spiritual battle – see 2 Cor. 10:3-5.

- **Can a follower of Jesus be influenced by or give a place of opportunity to a demonic spirit?**
 - A follower of Jesus CANNOT be possessed by a demon! Why, because you are already owned by Jesus, you were bought for a price by the blood of Jesus. You are His and no other entity can lay claim to you.
 - Perhaps a better term is “demonized” to describe demonic influence on a person, including a follower of Jesus. The Bible teaches that Satan or the demonic world can be given a place of opportunity in the life of a believer.
 - Read Ephesians 4:25-27. Paul is warning the church, followers of Jesus, not to give an OPPORTUNITY to Satan or his demons. The Greek word translated “opportunity” literally means a PLACE. This instruction would be unnecessary if it were not possible to allow that kind of influence.
 - Paul is giving this warning because he believes that we CAN give our adversary a place of opportunity. A place of influence in our lives. In this example, that could be through anger that gives way to sin. See also James 3:14-15 for other opportunities.
 - Paul believed it was possible to give a place to the enemy and so he told believers not to give the devil that kind of opportunity. However, when ground has been given, we have the authority in Christ to take it back and in doing so the enemy loses that influence.
 - **To what degree do YOU think demonic forces can influence us?**

- **Two more points on believers and demonic influence.**
 - Some think that believers can't be demonized because we are given the Holy Spirit upon conversion. If demons were cast away at conversion, then deliverance would never have been needed. Jesus would have simply taught His disciples to bring people to faith and there would be no need to deal with demonic strongholds.
 - In Luke 11, Jesus teaches a parable which indicates that we should not do deliverance on a non-believer. If so, that person would end up worse off than before.

- **Symptoms of Demonization**
 - Have intrusive thoughts, rage, torment, blasphemous or condemning thoughts, suicidal ideations, self-harm.
 - **Does everyone need deliverance? Why or why not?**

- **Breaking Ground**
 - Engaging in the work of soul care is vital in the process of breaking ground.
 - **Unconfessed sin creates ground. How should we deal with shame & guilt over past sins that have been confessed, but we can't seem to move past?**
 - **Secrets (known & unknown) can create ground.**
 - **Curses create ground.** “Blessing those who curse us is a spiritual weapon with the power to break curses. It prevents the curse from landing on us and sends back a blessing to the one who is cursing us, which gives them an opportunity to repent” (pg. 226).

- **“If the church doesn’t do deliverance, who will? If the church does not own her spiritual authority, who can? If the church does not set people free in the name of Jesus, where can these souls go for help” (pg. 237)?**
- **Any more questions?**

Spiritual Action Steps (35 minutes)

- **Let’s walk through the questions at the end of the chapter and share our responses. Make sure everyone has adequate time to share.**
 - **1. Reflect on your worldview as it relates to demonic strongholds. Does it align with the biblical worldview?**
 - **2. Ask yourself the list of questions related to how spirits enter. Is there a history of addiction in your family tree? Is there a history of abuse? Have you been abused in any of these ways? Are there any mental hospitalizations, suicides, or suicide attempts in your family? Is there a lot of depression and suicide ideology? Has there been occult activity, witchcraft, ancestor worship, or other religious practices? Have you engaged in any occult activity?**
 - **3. Examine the symptoms of demonization. Do you experience any of these symptoms?**
 - **4. If you feel like you might need to explore deliverance, reach out to the church and we can help discern with you.**

Pray Together