

## SESSION 5 DEALING WITH BARRIERS TO WHOLENESS



Reading: Romans 8.31-end

### 5.1 Categories of Healing

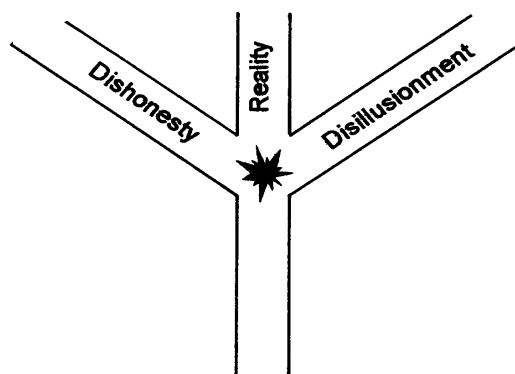
#### 4. Deliverance from evil

- Cause: Sin by self or others
- Remedy: Renunciation & repentance, Prayer for deliverance
- Aim: Freedom from Satan's bondage to follow God (James 4.7-8)

Barriers come from ourselves and the forces of evil (spiritual and human) but never from God who always gives us a way out (1 Corinthians 10.13).

### 5.2 Roadblocks – how do we handle the bad things in life?

Jeremiah 6.16 and 18.15 – the ancient paths



### 5.3 Decide - Do you want to change?

- Jesus said to the man at the pool of Bethesda “Do you want to be made well?” (John 5.6)
- Christian healing is free but there is usually a requirement to change
- We lose our excuses and have to take personal responsibility

## 5.4 Decide - Is Jesus Lord?

- No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12.3)
- Do we welcome all that God gives?
  - His gifts (1 Corinthians 12.7ff)
  - His body - the church (1 Corinthians 12.12ff)
- Apart from Jesus, who or what holds power over us?
  - Need to renounce, reject and repent of the lies and false gods that we have allowed to control us (eg possessions, money, other people, reputation, power, role, status)
- We are to allow Jesus to bring wholeness to us in his way and in his time
  - Receive our new name and identity from him (Isaiah 62.2-4, Revelation 2.17, 3.12)

I will change your name, you shall no longer be called  
wounded, outcast, lonely or afraid.  
I will change your name,  
Your new name shall be confidence, joyfulness, overcoming one;  
faithfulness, friend of God, one who seeks my face

DJ Butler ©Mercy Publishing/Thankyou Music  
(Published in Songs of Fellowship)

## 5.5 The Works of Satan

- he tempts people to doubt and disobedience -  
Genesis 3.4-5
- he can inflict disease - Job 2.7  
(N.B. not all disease and sickness is caused by Satan)
- he brings bondage - Luke 13.16
- he is a liar, the "father of lies", deceiving and confusing people  
John 8.44
- he promotes sin - John 13.2
- he blinds people's minds to the truth - 2 Corinthians 4.4
- he can perform counterfeit signs and wonders - 2 Thessalonians  
2.9
- he is a destroyer - 1 Peter 5.8

There are two equal  
and opposite errors  
into which our race  
can fall about devils.  
One is to disbelieve  
in their existence.  
The other is to  
believe, and to feel an  
excessive and unhealthy  
interest in them.

CS Lewis  
Preface to the *Screwtape  
Letters*

## 5.6 The Defeat of Satan

- Jesus came to destroy his works - I John 3.8
- From the very start of Jesus' public ministry Satan revealed his hostility
  - Temptations in the wilderness - Matthew 4.1-11
- Jesus' Kingdom ministry was an attack on the works of Satan
  - Good News - Luke 4.18-19 (Isaiah 61)
  - Man with unclean spirit - Luke 4.34-36
  - Woman in synagogue - Luke 13.10-13,16
- Jesus cast out evil as part of his healing ministry
  - Boy with unclean spirit - Luke 9.42
- It was part of his teaching about the Kingdom
  - Strong man - Luke 11.20-26
- He taught his disciples to overcome the power of Satan
  - Sending of the 70/72 - Luke 10.19
- By his death and resurrection Jesus was victorious over death, the last weapon of Satan.
  - Death defeated – I Corinthians 15.3-8
  - Lake of Fire - Revelation 12.10
  - Rescue from the power of darkness - Colossians 1.13-15
  - Destroy the power & fear of death - Hebrews 2.14, 15
  - Satan still allowed some power until the end time, some say this is similar to D day and VE day at the end of World War II, it is consistent with the “now and not yet” of God’s Kingdom.
- Make use of the spiritual protection offered to us – Ephesians 6.13-18

## 5.7 How we can be held in bondage

### a. Voluntary Bondage - where we choose to keep God out

- Deuteronomy 18.9-13      Avoid occult practices
- Deuteronomy 30.11-end      Choose life
- Ephesians 1.4      Be holy
- Satan usually only has power over us if we choose to let him have it
- Landing pads – the areas of our lives where Jesus does not have first place
- Some examples:
  - Our own deliberate sins of thought, word or deed; especially those sins we find difficult to admit to others (e.g. abortion, sexual sin, criminal acts, pornography, addictions)
  - False religions, cults, Freemasonry
  - Faith healing not in the name of Jesus
  - Occult involvement
  - Pronouncements and self-curses
  - Superstitions
  - Fascination with death and the dead

### b. Involuntary Bondage

- Oppression not Possession: We can be “bothered by an unclean spirit”
- Sin of others does not remove our responsibility to respond in God's way - we can forgive and gain freedom
- Some examples:
  - Ancestral/Generational sin eg Exodus 20.4-6 with punishment to 3rd & 4th generation
  - National / Cultural traits, resentments and identities
  - Pronouncements/Curses
  - Rejection
  - Domination / Abuse
  - Violation (eg trauma / violence / burglary)

## 5.8 Possible symptoms of demonic affliction

- Addictions that cannot be broken: alcohol, drugs, smoking, gambling, eating, sex, pornography, superstitious actions.
- Unpredictable behaviour or violence.
- Inability to accept forgiveness.

- Unusual physical manifestations when the Holy Spirit is invoked; fear of receiving Holy Communion or being prayed for, or saying the name of Jesus.
- Irrational fears.

**NOTE: All these could also be symptoms of emotional dis-ease (see Session 3) or mental illness. Spiritual discernment by more than one person is vital. Normally a church leader or denominational specialist should be involved before diagnosing that deliverance is necessary. Avoid telling anyone that they need deliverance. Wherever possible also seek medical or psychiatric advice.**

## **5.8 Gaining freedom in Christ**

1. Affirm loyalty to Christ.
2. Confess to another Christian. (James 5.16)
3. Repent and be cleansed by the blood of Christ. (Hebrews 9.11-14)
4. Renounce the sin, its pleasure, and all the works of Satan.
5. Receive prayer for deliverance only if necessary and only under proper church authority. Very frequently, the normal spiritual disciplines of repentance and forgiveness are sufficient to effect freedom. Often a silent, private prayer of deliverance/freedom is sufficient for a troubled person to accomplish steps 1 - 4.
6. Prayer for filling with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11.24-26)

## SESSION 5 PRACTICAL WORK

Submit yourself afresh to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and ask to be filled with his Spirit (Ephesians 5.1-21).

Ask God to reveal any barriers to wholeness in your life. Wait quietly. Write down the things that come to your mind.

We will then renew our baptismal promises together.

If you feel that you need help in overcoming any specific barriers God has revealed, ask one of the course leaders or your own church leader to pray with you.

### Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life in him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?  
**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?  
**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?  
**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?  
**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?  
**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?  
**I come to Christ.**

May God who has given you the desire to follow Jesus, give you also the strength to continue in the Way.

**Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
And will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

May God, who has received you by baptism into his church,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace,  
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people  
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,  
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.  
**Amen.**

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.  
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread,  
and in the prayers?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

Will you recognise Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by  
defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?  
**With the help of God, we will.**

Lord God, in our baptism you called us and brought us into your Church, commissioning us to  
witness to the faith of the crucified Christ and to be his faithful disciples to the end of our lives; so  
now with joy we take upon ourselves the yoke of obedience and for love of you engage ourselves to  
seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

**We are no longer our own, but yours.  
Put us to what you will, rank us with whom you will;  
put us to doing, put us to suffering;  
let us be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you or brought low for you;**

**let us be full, let us be empty;  
let us have all things, let us have nothing;  
We freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are ours and we are yours.  
So be it. And the covenant which we have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,  
that you may be rooted and grounded in love  
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.  
**Amen.**

(Compiled using material from *Common Worship, New Patterns for Worship* and the Methodist Covenant Service)

## **SESSION 5      LINKWORK**

Review the course and your journal.

Make two new lists in your journal:

- firstly list the things that God has done in your life during the course, and
- secondly list the things that have surfaced for you but which have not yet been resolved.

Identify one thing from your second list and write out a prayer concerning it.

In prayer, thank God for what he has already done and for what he is going to do in the future.

Prayerfully consider your expectations, hopes and fears concerning the healing service.

Meditate on Ephesians 6.1-18.

Is there a new characteristic or habit that God wants you to develop?