DELIVER ME



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BY A. A. ALLEN

FOREWORD

This series of sermons is presented just as preached to thousands under the Miracle Revival Big Top Tent. as well as to our national radio and television audiences. They were delivered in the power of the Spirit — under the anointing of the Holy Ghost — inspired of God.

Never has there been a time when so many thousands confessed their need of deliverance.

No doubt the reason you are interested in this book is because you, too, feel the need of deliverance.

Before you read these sermons, it is suggested that you pray and open your heart for the truth. Then ask God to build faith in your heart so that, by the time you read the last page, you too can be delivered from any and all things to which you may be held in bondage.

The Author

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Chapter I

THE GOSPEL OF DELIVERANCE

"Deliver me . . . O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness . . . and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise." Psalms 51:14, 15.

David, the greatest king who ever ruled over Israel is crying out to God, is crying out for deliverance.

"Deliver me!"

He is in bondage and needs to be set free.

There was a time in King David's experience when he was free — free in the Spirit. He was free to shout, to sing, to dance, to leap, to praise the Lord, even to run in the Spirit. There was a time when he was so free that literally his feet ran like hinds' feet. When David was free, his hands praised the Lord on the harp. He played so skilfully that he actually played a demon out of King Saul. (1 Sam. 16:14,23).

Now the blessing of God has departed from David. The Spirit of the Lord is no longer felt as in days gone by. The anointing of the Lord is no longer upon him. He is no longer singing in the Spirit. He is no longer shouting. No longer can he clap his hands from sheer joy. No longer do his feet dance before the Lord with all their might. David is no longer praising the Lord. The song has left his soul. He is bound! He is in bondage! He is crying out, "DELIVER ME!"

Multitudes today, even so-called ministers of the Gospel, have taken their stand against the Gospel of Deliverance and have even declared, publicly and openly, that they are in opposition to deliverance campaigns.

Throughout the entire Bible, God has admonished His people to *"Praise ye the Lord;" "Shout unto God;" "Clap your hands;" "Praise God in His sanctuary;" "Rejoice evermore;" "Praise Him in the dance;" "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."*

Furthermore, all this has been encouraged as a part of scriptural worship!

The Lord wants His people to be free to worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

There are many scriptures, both in the Old and New Testaments, that show us this. God's people, whether Old or New Testament saints, are called to *"shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness —."* 1 Pet. 2:9-10. We are told to *"Offer up a sacrifice of praise to God CONTINUALLY —."* Heb. 13:15. David says, *"At ALL times."* Psa. 34:1. We are told that the *"Dead praise NOT the Lord."* Psa. 115:17; but that *"Praise is comely for the upright."* Psa. 33:1.

It is scriptural to praise God *"In the house of the Lord."* Psa. 135:2. *"In the congregation."* Psa. 22:25. *"In his sanctuary."* Psa. 150:1-6. In fact, we are told to *"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise."* Psa. 100:4, Psa. 42:4.

Note the results of PRAISE in both Old and New Testament. 2 Chron. 5:13-14 and Luke 24:53 with Acts 2:1-4. Why shouldn't Satan discourage praise in the worship services today? He knows what happened in the past when people included PRAISE in their worship services. HE IS AFRAID it will happen again if people get away from their forms! When skeptics disapproved praise, CHRIST STAMPED HIS APPROVAL UPON IT! (Luke 19:37-40.) God begs for it today: *"Oh, that men would praise the Lord —."* Psa. 107:8.

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a JOYFUL NOISE to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence (go to church) *with thanksgiving and make a joyful NOISE."* Psa. 95:1. (Also see Psalm 100:1; Psalm 81:1.)

Some may say they do not believe in making noise in church. In other words, they disagree with God and what His word teaches. They don't believe in doing what GOD WANTS THEM TO DO! Evidently they are out of harmony with God. Why not worship the way HE wants you to worship Him instead of the way man (form that denies the power) wants? So long as the "noise" is joyful, certainly it is scriptural!

God wants His people to serve Him with GLADNESS! *"Serve the Lord with GLADNESS."* Psa. 100:2. *"Let the saints be JOYFUL."* Psa. 149:5. We are told to *"Make his praise GLORIOUS."* Psa. 66:1.

Even when playing instruments unto the Lord, we are exhorted to *"Play skilfully with a LOUD noise."* Psa. 33:3. Note what happens to the enemy when God's people shout. They said, *"Woe unto us."* I Sam. 4:7. When God's people again worship God as He desires, it will again be "WOE" to the enemy!

"O clap your hands all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph." Psa. 47:1. Some may say, "Why should I do that?" Because God tells you to. THAT SHOULD BE REASON ENOUGH! Another will say, "I don't feel like doing that." I have found that when the REAL JOY AND GLADNESS of salvation comes, people feel like doing what God tells them they ought to be doing. (See also Psalm 98:4-9; Isa. 55:12.)

Solomon declared that there was a time for all things, including *"A TIME TO DANCE."* Eccl. 3:4. David

danced before the Lord "*WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.*" 2 Sam. 6:14. He further states that we are to "*Praise his name in the DANCE.* Psa. 149:3. (Also see Jer. 31:13.) When Miriam was delivered from captivity and bondage, she danced. (Ex. 15:20.) So did all the women.

It is also scriptural to *leap before the Lord.* 2 Sam. 6:16. "*Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy; for, behold, your reward is great in heaven*"; Luke 6:23. ". . . *And he leaped and walked.*" Acts 14:10.

Also, according to Solomon, there is "*a time to laugh.*" Eccl. 3:4. In Gen. 21:6, we read: "*And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.*" Psa. 126:2 says, "*Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongues with singing: then said they among the heathen, the Lord hath done great things for them.*" (See Luke 6:21 and Job 8:21.)

However, while many declare that they do not believe in deliverance in this day and hour, multitudes are coming to at Miracle Revival campaigns. to be delivered from sickness, from disease, from infirmity, from deformity, from the many bondages with which Satan has captivated them today.

Surely nobody is more bound than the person in a wheel chair or lying on a sick bed. These people need deliverance *today* just as much as those whom Christ set free in the days of His flesh and instructed, "*take up thy bed and walk.*"

America's Number One sickness today is MENTAL SICKNESS. These people are in bondage! They are in captivity! They must be freed! They *will* be freed, for in Joel 2:32, Christ promised deliverance for this day and for this hour: "*And it shall come to pass, that who-*

soever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call."

"Mount Zion," "Jerusalem," "the holy place" refers to the church. Therefore, it is evident that God has promised deliverance in the church. It is for *"whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord."*

In 1 Pet. 4:17, 18, we read, *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"*

Thus we see that judgment must begin with the people of God and that the righteous will scarcely make it through. The reason is that they are so far from God. They are bound by sin, bound by sickness, bound by ungodliness, bound by unholiness, by the devil and by the works of the devil. BUT GOD SAID, *"I WILL DELIVER THEE."* Psa. 50:15.

The purpose of Christ's coming to earth was to bring deliverance to those in bondage. *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."* Isaiah 61:1-3.

EITHER DELIVERANCE IS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE *TODAY* OR THE COMING OF CHRIST WAS IN VAIN. He was anointed to preach good news, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to open the prison to them that are bound. God does not want them to remain in bondage.

CHRIST CAME TO SET HIS PEOPLE FREE — free from sin, free from sickness, free from disease, free from deformity, free from all the works of the devil! He came to set His people free from even more than sickness, disease, and sin. He *came to deliver them from false doctrines,* from religious ritual, form, and ceremony.

But even as the multitudes failed to accept the message of deliverance in the day of Christ, they are likewise failing to accept the message of deliverance today.

Jesus said, "*And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*" John 8:32. But the scribes and Pharisees referred to here answered Him, "*We be Abraham's seed and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*" John 8:33.

Christ had an answer for them. "*Verily, verily I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.* John 8:34-36.

Multitudes today will die in bondage and will never know the joy of freedom, because their hearts are not open to the truth. The group referred to in John 8 died in bondage, not because they could not have been set free, but because they were *satisfied* with cold form, ceremony, and ritual.

Writing to Timothy, the Apostle Paul said, "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some*

shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." 1 Tim. 4:1,2.

When a person departs from the Bible, from God's way, from the faith, he is wide open for the devil to lead him astray by seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Satan does not care how religious a person may be so long as he doesn't find real deliverance and the joy of the Lord — so long as he doesn't receive the knowledge that his sins are gone, and experience the power of God in his own life.

It is the devil's business to sell everybody a brand of religion. Never has there been a time when so many people were being led into false doctrine, being led astray from God's word, and away from reality.

Never has there been a time when people were so bound by cold, dead ritual and form — a mere *form* of godliness that denies the *power thereof* — the reality. Paul said, "*From such turn away.*"

God promised that in the day people departed from the faith, the ministers who would fast and pray and believe Him would receive the power to set men free.

In Isaiah 61, we read that Christ was anointed to bring deliverance. Acts 1 tells us that Christ ascended and sat down at the right hand of the Father. When Christ died at Calvary, He declared, "*It is finished.*" In Acts 1:1, the Scripture is plain that "*Jesus began both to do and teach.*"

The Book of Acts is an unfinished book. Bible scholars agree upon this fact. The Book of Acts is simply an account of the acts of the Holy Ghost and it has not been finished, because the Holy Ghost is still performing

His acts today. He will continue to carry on His work through His church. The Book of Acts is still being written.

So long as the church is in the world, she will have a deliverer. This is what Jesus meant when He said, "*The works that I do shall he* (the believer) *do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father.*" John 14:12. The great work that Christ began is being finished by those He has called and anointed to bring deliverance to the multitudes.

"*Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?*" Isa. 58:6. This promise is to God's ministers and preachers, to those He has called today to bring deliverance to the mentally oppressed and to the sick.

THIS PROMISE CAN BE CLAIMED BY EVERY PREACHER WHO WANTS THE MINISTRY OF DELIVERANCE.

There is a beautiful picture in the 14th and 15th Chapters of Exodus. It is a picture of liberation, of DELIVERANCE.

(It is well to remember that everything that literally happened in the Old Testament has a spiritual application in the New Testament. The Children of Israel who were in bondage and in captivity under Pharaoh are a type of the church today. Pharaoh is a type of the devil, binding God's people and standing over them with a whiplash. Moses is a type of the person God has raised up to bring deliverance to His people in bondage. He is a type of the minister today.)

Back under Pharaoh when the Children of Israel were in bondage, there was no freedom; there was no liberty;

there was no victory; there was no power. They were all depressed, oppressed, bound spiritually and mentally.

They cried unto God, and He heard their prayers and raised up a man called Moses to lead them out of bondage into freedom. God performed miracle after miracle to set the Children of Israel free.

After He had opened the Red Sea and brought them out of bondage, the first thing the Children of Israel did was to sing, to shout, to dance.

They were no longer in bondage! They were no longer under Pharaoh's whiplash! At last they were happy! They were joyful! They were rejoicing! They were singing and beating tambourines, and dancing up and down the shores of the Red Sea because they knew that never again would they be in bondage to Pharaoh!

THE SONG OF DELIVERANCE

"Then sang Moses and the Children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

"The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

"The Lord is a man of war: The Lord is his name.

"Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

"The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone." Ex. 15:1-5.

"And Miriam, the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

"And Miriam answered them, Sing ye unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. Ex. 15:20, 21.

Since God wanted His Old Testament Church to sing the Song of Deliverance and to be free from the whiplash of Pharaoh, he certainly wants His New Testament Church to be free today.

According to Paul, Jesus is coming back for a church without spot or wrinkle, blemish, or any such thing — a glorious church. He is coming back for a church not in bondage and captivity, but *free*, enjoying deliverance from Pharaoh, deliverance from the devil, deliverance from oppression and possession, deliverance from sickness, disease, and infirmity, deliverance from the devil and all his works. He is coming back for a glorious church which is singing the Song of Deliverance.

And friend, as you read the following chapters, remember that God wants to give YOU a song; He wants YO*U* to sing the Song of Deliverance!

Chapter II

OUR BATTLE AGAINST DEMON FORCES

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Eph. 6:12.

"But we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Cor. 2:11.

The Apostle Paul states that we are in a battle. Do you believe we are in a battle? Take note what we are fighting and battling against:

1. Principalities.
2. Powers — not one but many.
3. Rulers — not one but many. They are the rulers of the darkness of this world.
4. Spiritual wickedness — literally, wicked spirits — in high places.

Our battle is not just with the devil — it is with DEMON FORCES, but the victory is ours through Christ Jesus.

Note the emphasis in the above scripture is placed on the *plural*, not on the singular. PrincipalitieS, powerS, rulerS, wicked spiritS.

Friend, if you don't know what you are fighting, you won't know how to fight. The reason some folk have lost the victory is because they don't know what they are fighting. I say again, if you don't know what you are fighting — what you are battling — how in the world can you win the battle?

Thousands of so-called saints, and I dare say thousands of preachers, have gone down in defeat because they didn't know what they were up against and didn't know how to fight.

Thousands of people have come to me and said, "Brother Allen, the devil's on my trail, the devil's talking to me. The devil's after me."

I have said, "I don't think you're so important that the devil is *personally* after you. But he has ten-thousands of demon forces and he may have assigned some of them to stay on your trail."

When a demon is after you, it may be a lying demon; it may be a demon of lust; it may be a covetous demon; it may be an insane demon; it may be an infirm spirit; it may even be a religious demon.

According to the Word of God, there are many kinds of demons. There are principalities. There are powers. There are wicked spirits, many of them in high places. They are the rulers of the darkness of this world.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING!

The reason the United States won World War II was because we knew how the enemy was fighting. We knew their implements of warfare. Our Secret Service men learned exactly what their plans were and how they planned to win.

We are in a fight. We are in a battle. Rev. 12:12 states: "*for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*" So the devil knows his time is short and he is actually exercising every bit of power that God will allow him to exercise.

The devil, so to speak, is on a chain and God will let him go only so far and no farther.

Many good men and women of God have fallen on the battlefield because they didn't know that it was POWERS, PRINCIPALITIES, SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS (wicked spirits) in high places they were battling against.

Somebody says, "Oh, it's just the devil and I'm being tempted," when in reality he is oppressed of the devil. He doesn't know how to get the victory and finally the devil takes control — enters in — and he becomes DEMON POSSESSED.

One of the greatest secrets one can discover is that HE IS ACTUALLY FIGHTING DEMON FORCES, and learn how to fight to get the victory!

David, the greatest king who ever ruled over Israel, found himself the victim of the devil and had to cry to God for deliverance. If he had recognized the fact that his whole trouble was a trick of the devil, and if he had known how to fight, he could have come through victorious.

If there ever was a man after God's own heart, it was David.

It was David who said in Psalms 33:3: "*Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.*" It was David who said in Psalms 81:1: "*Sing aloud unto God our strength: Make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.*" And in Psalms 100:1, "*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.*"

But the time came when David was down on his knees, crying and praying because he had no victory. He was no longer shouting and singing and praising God. Something had happened to his victory. The

devil had put one over on him.

In Psalms 51:14, he cried "*DELIVER ME!*" Then he said, "*My tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.*" He will again praise the Lord.

David, have you quit singing of God's righteousness? Have you quit praising God?

"Yes, I can't tell of God's righteousness."

Why?

Because he lost the battle since he didn't recognize the plan of the devil to subdue him and to cheat him and to steal from him the victory. So David cried to God, "*DELIVER ME!*"

If you had seen David dancing in days gone by, you would have thought, "There's a man who will always make it. There's a man who is going to go through with God. There is a man with the power of God in his life."

Once David could play the devil out of Saul, but LOOK AT HIM NOW! He's down on his knees. He's come off the throne and stripped himself of the royal purple. He has sprinkled ashes on his head and said, "My God, the devil's got me now. God, if you'll deliver me, I'll shout again. If you'll deliver me, I'll sing again. If you'll deliver me, I'll tell people of thy righteousness, and sinners will be converted unto thee."

Once David was so anointed of God that he could cast the demon out of Saul; now the demon has David bound.

AND DAVID IS CRYING TO GOD FOR DELIVERANCE FROM THIS BONDAGE!

Chapter III

DELIVERANCE FOR THE WHOLE MAN
Body, Soul, Mind, Spirit

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify me." Psa. 50:14,15.

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call." Joel 2:32.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." Isa. 61:1.

The Bible teaches deliverance from everything that is unscriptural, from everything that is unholy, from everything that is unlike Christ — deliverance from everything that is unlike God.

When Christ died on the cross of Calvary, he cried, *"IT IS FINISHED"* for both soul and body. He purchased deliverance from sin and sickness and disease. Hallelujah!

His purpose in coming to this earth was to open prisons and set people free, to open the doors to everybody who is bound and to set them free from whatever may hold them in captivity.

I heard a well-known preacher say that if you are not free from EVERYTHING, you are bound by something.

He said if you are bound by one thing, you are no better off and no closer to God than somebody who is bound by something else — YOU ARE BOUND! And he was right.

The devil can use almost anything to bind you. He doesn't care what it is, so long as he can bind you by something. He binds some with blindness. If he can't do that, he binds them with arthritis, or to wheel chairs, or to crutches, or to hearing aids, or to sick beds — binds them to something.

BUT JESUS CAME TO SET MEN FREE! "*If the son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*" John 8:36. "*Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*" John 8:32.

ARE YOU FREE TODAY? If you are not free, you are BOUND. Isaiah 61:1 says it is like being in prison. Jesus came to open the prison to them that are BOUND, to set at liberty those that are captive.

If you are bound, the devil will use that very thing to depress and discourage you.

If you have cancer, he will say "God's failed; God's failed. God's not going to heal you. You're going to die of cancer."

If you are bound with the cigarette habit, he will stand over you and say, "You can't quit smoking; you can't quit smoking. I've got you. I've got you. I've got you bound. I've got you tied."

IF YOU ARE BOUND BY SICKNESS OR BY HABITS, I DO NOT BELIEVE YOU ARE IN THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD. He does not want your body to be sick any more than he wants your soul to be sinful.

I don't believe Jesus is coming back for a church full

of sickness any more than He is coming back for a church full of sin. Paul said in Ephesians 5:27, "*That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.*"

"Holy" speaks of spiritual cleanliness. "Without blemish" speaks of physical cleanliness. All the way through the Bible, the word "blemish" refers to the physical. So Jesus is coming back for a church that is CLEAN SPIRITUALLY (holy) and CLEAN PHYSICALLY (without physical blemish).

I have found that if the devil can't afflict your body with sickness or infirmity, he will try to afflict your mind with an insane or tormenting spirit — bind you down, tie your spirit so that you won't be free to worship God and rejoice in the Lord.

This was David's condition when he prayed "*DELIVER ME, O Lord God of my salvation.*" "*Renew a right spirit within me. Uphold me with thy free spirit.*" HE WAS BOUND IN SPIRIT AND IN SOUL.

It is true that the devil is out to bind everybody he possibly can. There are four different ways he can bind you: In body, in mind, in spirit, in soul. Some are bound in all these ways. Some are bound only in body. Some are bound only in mind.

Not long ago, we prayed for a man who had a strong physical body but the devil had seized control of his mind. He was a raving maniac. It took ten men to hold him down on the platform while we cast the foul demons out of him. The devil had him bound only in his mind.

Some have brilliant minds but their bodies are gone. Some have good minds and good bodies, but their souls

and spirits are gone. Held captive by the devil! BOUND BY THE DEVIL!

Nothing will bind you as quickly as sin. You can be bound by lukewarmness, by coldness. You can be bound by pride, by formality. You can be bound by false doctrines, even by religious demons.

Paul said that in the last days some would depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. (1 Tim. 4:1). GIVING HEED TO SEDUCING SPIRITS! The word "seduce" means to lead astray, to lead away from. So this means that some will listen to and obey spirits that lead them away from the Word of God.

Now, our thought is DELIVERANCE. Christ is the deliverer! HE HAS RAISED UP A CHURCH THAT IS GOING TO BE A DELIVERER!

If you are bound today, there is no need for you to be. He will set you free from sickness. He will set you free from disease. He will set you free from a binding in your spirit.

Many who claim to be Christians are bound in spirit. David referred to this when he said in Psalms 51:10, 12: "*Renew a right spirit within me . . . and uphold me with thy free spirit.*" In other words, "I am bound Lord. Let a free spirit get hold of me." Here is a man who used to shout, who at one time danced in the Spirit, who at one time praised the Lord. Now he's no longer praising the Lord. He can't, because he is bound — bound in his spirit, and bound in his soul.

If you are bound in your spirit and bound in your soul, you will soon be bound in your body. When you become bound in mind and spirit, even your digestive organs

are affected. All the organs of your body are affected. They cannot function normally when you are mentally oppressed and bound in spirit.

At least ten of the major diseases (perhaps more) are caused not by germs but by a mental condition. Doctors tell us that eight out of every ten who think they have heart disease, palpitation, etc. have nothing organically wrong with their heart (the organ) — the trouble is merely psychosomatic — something wrong with their minds.

Doctors also tell us that stomach ulcers are due to worry and oppression and heaviness of spirit.

A man came to me with stomach ulcers and said. "I am on my way to Minneapolis for an operation. Brother Allen, I believe God can heal me if you will pray for me."

I gave him a special prayer card and marked a big capital N T on it. He said, "What's that N T for? I replied, "Nervous tension." "Nervous tension!" he protested. "I didn't tell you I was bothered with nervous tension! I told you I had STOMACH ULCERS! What did you put Nervous Tension on there for?"

"Stomach ulcers," I explained, "are not a disease. They are a *condition* — a condition your stomach is in because of worry and distress, because of anxiety and oppression, because of nervous disorders. You have this trouble because of NERVOUS TENSION. You are under a weight. You are under pressure."

"Yes," he agreed, "you are right. I have never worried so much in all my life. I am under tension! I just worry day and night!"

"That's why you have stomach ulcers," I said. "You get out from under this tension and this worry and

oppression, and you won't have stomach ulcers."

Ulcers are caused by a mental condition. You are so worried and distressed, anxious and fretful that you can't digest your food. Every time you eat, there is something in your stomach burning like fire. You have to take Tums or something else, for the "stomach burns."

If you will get peace in your soul and peace in your mind, and become settled down in your spirit, your digestive organs will work right and you will find you do not have so much trouble in your body.

God wants to set you free in your spirit and free in your soul. The scripture says, "*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.*" Prov. 17:22. Get your heart right, and your soul right. It's a better medicine than any you can buy. I'm speaking of the heart medicine that comes right out of heaven.

If you find yourself in need of deliverance, cry out to God!

"God, help me to get my heart right. I want some heavenly medicine. You promised to give it to me when I get my heart right. Uplift me! Let a free spirit get hold of me! Lift me up in the Spirit! Let me get my heart right because I want to get my body right physically. Help me Lord!"

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Chapter IV

DELIVERANCE FROM DEMON SPIRITS

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

"Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness." Psa. 51:10-14.

We see David on his face, crying to God for deliverance. The blessing and the power, the shout and the rejoicing are no longer a part of David's life. He has allowed a demon of lust to get hold of him and cause him to sin. Now it is trying to control his life. And he is calling mightily on God to deliver him.

David did not need to be in this condition if he had known how to fight against these demon powers (see Chapter II of this book); if he had realized he was actually fighting against wicked spirits in high places, and had known how to come out victorious.

But now he is in defeat. He is calling for DELIVERANCE.

If we don't know how to fight this battle, we are going to find ouselves in the same predicament — on our knees crying out to God.

Even though once delivered, we can find ourselves again in bondage and in worse condition than at first. We find this taught in Matt. 12:43-45:

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

"Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

"Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first . . ."

These unclean spirits, or demons, are numerous throughout the whole earth, sweeping in great armies through the air. They are anxious for a dwelling place on earth, none being more pleasing to them than a human soul; therefore they are described as wandering through the earth, seeking a resting place in the human spirit.

These demons are so exceedingly numerous that in some cases a whole troop or army crowd into one person, who may give lodgement to a lying demon, a demon of lust, a demon of pride, a covetous spirit, a jealous demon, a tormenting spirit of fear, a foul, unclean spirit, a melancholy suicide demon, a familiar spirit, or a gambling demon of chance such as the one that influenced Belshazzar.

In Matt. 12:43-45, a solitary demon (we know not of what species) has taken possession of this poor sinner, driving him under his whiplash, making him get drunk in spite of himself; or perhaps making him drop his last quarter in the "one arm bandit," telling him surely this will be the time when he will hit the jackpot. This demon may be directing him into a brothel, where he spends the money that should be buying shoes for the feet of his children.

Fortunately, the man attends a great deliverance campaign where many are being loosed and set free from such demon powers. He sees his need, and is freed at last.

Nowhere in the Bible do we find evidence that these demons cannot or will not return and try to regain an entrance. In this instance, the demon that was cast out walks through dry places and returns to the same man from whence he was cast.

He finds the space empty, swept and garnished. The man had made one big mistake. He had failed to be filled with the Holy Ghost. The demon could not then have returned. But he secures seven other demons even more wicked than himself. All eight of them enter in and abide there.

Now instead of the thing from which he was originally delivered, HE HAS SEVEN MORE. Now, instead of just smoking, he is drinking, perhaps, or using dope. Perhaps he is bound with a demon of lust and the spirit of infirmity. Perhaps he has cataract, tumor, or goiter now. Maybe arthritis has hit him now. Maybe even insanity!

Medical doctors have never been so perplexed as today over the multitudes of people who are going violently insane. America's No. 1 sickness is MENTAL SICKNESS. A few years ago, it was heart trouble, then cancer; now MENTAL SICKNESS. Psychiatrists cannot be trained fast enough to meet the needs. More than half of our citizens cannot go to sleep at night without sedatives, drugs, or sleeping tablets.

One night in one of the Miracle Revival Campaigns, God spoke through the supernatural gift of utterance,

the gift of prophecy, and declared that he would deliver all who cried out to him — that he would deliver them ALL from such bondage. I gave the altar call, and I have never seen so many people just RUN down the aisle. They began to THROW upon the platform sleeping pills, drugs and sedatives, snuff and cigarettes. They called on God and believed Him and GOD DELIVERED THE PEOPLE! He set them FREE!

When the preacher mentions cigarettes, somebody says, "There's nothing wrong with that. It's just a little thing."

If you think it is such a little thing and you can quit just any time, why don't you do it? BECAUSE YOU CAN'T! It has a vise-like grip on you. When you try to quit, IT'S THE BIGGEST THING IN YOUR LIFE!

But if you will call on God, He will DELIVER you and set you free.

God will deliver YOU from whatever it is that has you bound. Many of you are bound by cancer or tumor. Many of you are bound by cataracts, by a wheel chair, by a sick bed. Or you are bound by crutches, or by a hearing aid. Or in bondage to a habit. But Jesus came to set you free.

David cried, "DELIVER ME!" and he was delivered. He was big enough to tell God what it was he needed to be delivered from. He cried "*Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God . . . and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.*"

If you want to be delivered, be big enough to be SPECIFIC about the thing that has you in bondage. If it is sin, call it sin. If it is lust, call it lust. If it is unclean-

ness, call it uncleanness. No matter what has you in bondage, confess the truth and ask God to set you free.

For instance, if you are guilty of quarreling, don't call it "earnestness." If you are bound by a demon of covetousness, don't call it "economy." If you know you are downright stingy, don't call it "good management." If you are fretful, don't call it "nerves." If you are bound by pride, don't call it "self-respect."

PRIDE may be considered under five headings:

PRIDE OF FACE: (How much better we DO look than those around about us!)

PRIDE OF PLACE: (Don't ask THAT kind of a service of one in my POSITION!)

PRIDE OF PACE: (Anyone should be able to see that we are the most capable and efficient persons available! No one else could keep up with us.)

PRIDE OF GRACE: (Proud of our spiritual accomlishments; proud of the length of our fasts; proud of our visions and dreams and revelations; proud of the gifts we think we possess, feeling that we must be a special favorite with God; even proud of our HUMILITY!)

PRIDE OF RACE: (We come of an excellent family you know. We must uphold the family honor at any cost. We belong to the WHITE race; we belong to the . . . (any other) . . . race. PRIDE OF RACIAL INHERITANCE.)

Not long ago when we were holding a great campaign in a city in the South, in an integrated crowd, there were a lot of white people who weren't going to be baptized with colored folk. But some of the colored folk were just as bad. They weren't going to be baptized with that "white trash."

We went ahead and held the baptismal service anyway. We baptized about 700 people in the afternoon. At night, the power of God began to fall and the Spirit of the Lord began to move. I preached on pride of race. I preached about 375 people almost into hell — white and colored. They were the ones who should have been baptized in the afternoon and would not submit to the Lord.

He began to get hold of them. I told them if they didn't come down those aisles with their Sunday clothes on and get baptized *right then,* they were going to hell. I said they had too much pride to be baptized in the afternoon just because there were colored folk there. The white people came running!

And I said to those colored people, the reason they didn't get baptized in the afternoon was because they had too much pride; they weren't willing to be baptized with the white people. I told them they were going to hell. And the colored folk started running down the aisle!

The baptistry was still full of water. I just jumped over the rail into it and said to the pastors around there, "Come and help me!" People were screaming and crying because God had taken them and shaken them right over the pit. I never saw finery lose its beauty so quickly. They forgot they had their best hats on. Men forgot they had their wallets in their pockets. They forgot they had their watches on their arms. Some were so anxious they ran up the steps and jumped in and said, "My God, baptize me before I burn up! Baptize me before I go to hell!"

God dealt with them and we had one of the greatest

baptismal services we ever had. God got hold of the hearts of the people and delivered them from their pride.

I tell you, friend, when you are delivered from pride, you won't care whether your face is white or brown or yellow or red. When you are delivered from pride, you won't care whether your hair is kinky or straight. When you are delivered from pride, you won't care whether your hair is red or blonde or white. When you are delivered from pride, you will not be coming around with red toenails and red fingernails - you'll be FREE.

There has never been a time when so many were in bondage to demon spirits. They need to call upon God like David, "O, God, DELIVER ME!" ASK AND BELIEVE AND CLAIM YOUR DELIVERANCE IN JESUS' NAME.

Chapter V

FAILURE OF THE CHURCH TO TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD

"Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

"And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.

"There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil." Ex. 23:24-26.

There has never been a time when there were so many sick and afflicted. And there has never been a time when so many millions of dollars were solicited and spent in research in an effort to find a cure for devastating diseases.

God knows how to heal. He doesn't have to make research. I am not belittling medical science; I am simply saying GOD KNOWS HOW TO HEAL THE SICK! He has all power in heaven and in earth.

God can heal a cancer in two seconds. He can stop it in a split second. He can raise you up and heal you.

But multitudes are dying because they are depending upon that which cannot help.

The above scripture tells us that when God brought his people out of bondage and out of captivity, He said he would take away sickness from their midst. *"The number of thy days I will fulfil."* I hear somebody say, "Then why doesn't God do it?" Because the people of God will not let Him do it.

If God's people are sick, there is either something wrong with them or something wrong with the Bible. And since we know there is nothing wrong with the Bible, we know it is with the people.

God's people are not believing God. They are not paying the price. They are not claiming the promises. God will do exactly what He promises — exactly what He says. He will take away all sickness from the midst of His people, and that means ALL sickness.

In our Miracle Revival Campaigns, about eight out of ten are sick and diseased and afflicted. They are brought in on stretchers. They are wearing hearing aids, suffering from high blood pressure, from mental sickness. They are bound, sick, in pain and misery, in agony and woe. Very few of God's people are perfectly well.

If I were to ask how many of you are children of God and belong to a church, most of you would say, "I'm a church member. I belong to Christ. But I can't get Him to do what He wants to do — can't get Him to fulfill His promise."

I'll tell you why! There is an obligation and a condition connected with every one of God's promises. God never made one promise that was not conditional. But very few of us ever meet the conditions.

In this scripture, God said before He takes away your sickness, there is something you must do. What?

You are not going to bow down to other gods or serve them. You are not going to go after their works, but you shall . . . overthrow them . . . break down their images.

That means you are going to be breaking down images, that you ought to be in the *business* of breaking down

images and tearing down heathen altars. You have not done what God said to do. He said to preach the gospel to every creature. He said, "Go ye!"

I mean every one of you is going to have to go. Or you are going to have to send somebody in your place. You are going to have to begin to become missionary-minded. You are going to have to help me and other preachers to fulfill the Great Commission, and you are going to have to GO. You are going to have to GIVE. You are going to have to PAY SOMEBODY to go in your place.

When the people of God once more lay everything down and even sell their lands and possessions and put the work of God first, He will be able to fulfill His promise to them, and take away from his people ALL SICKNESS.

As long as folk just put pennies in the missionary march, they are not going to get anything much from God. Pennies aren't going to tear down very many idols, and break up very many images, and win very many of the heathen for God.

Hear me! When you are willing to give, sacrifice and suffer, willing to give to tear down images and break up idols, God said "*I will take away from thee all sickness.*"

Can it be, my friend, that you are still sick and diseased and afflicted because you haven't done what God has told you to do toward winning the lost?

Chapter VI

DELIVERANCE FROM RIDICULE AND PERSECUTION

"And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth.

"Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

"And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

"And Hannah answered and said, No, my Lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

"Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto." 1 Sam 1:12-16.

Multitudes need to be delivered from dominating religious influence that is not in the right direction — not toward faith but toward unbelief — not toward the miraculous but against it — not toward signs and wonders and miracles and manifestations and the move of God, but toward coldness, dryness, deadness, formality and pride.

Some don't need deliverance from tobacco — they don't smoke. Some don't need deliverance from alcohol — they are not alcoholics. Some don't need deliverance from narcotics — they don't use it. Some don't need deliverance from lust — they don't have a lustful, sinful, nature. Some don't even need deliverance from sin

— they have already been saved. Some don't need deliverance from sickness — they have already been healed, and have good strong, healthy bodies.

But it is amazing how many people, who have been delivered from sin and from sickness and from the works of the flesh, are still in bondage — in bondage to religious leaders who won't let them go on with God. They are in bondage to religious Eli's (high priests, typifying religious leaders today) who will not let them enjoy one bit of the move of God around the altar in their temple, in their church, or perhaps it is not a church but just a religious building.

Preachers, I'm on your trail! Eli, I'm on your trail! I said, I'm on your trail, Eli, and God's on your trail, too!

No wonder your sons are all backslidden. *You don't want a bit of the move of God around your altars.*

I am going to show you the greatest need for deliverance the world has ever known. Joel 2:32 says, "*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.*"

DELIVERANCE IN MOUNT ZION AND IN JERUSALEM! IN THE CHURCH — right in the holy place.

The greatest need for deliverance isn't always on skid row or in the red light district. It is right in Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, right in the holy place. The church people need to be delivered, the Christian people so-called.

The church-elect needs to be delivered because so many claim to be a part of the church but actually, according to the Word of God, they are not. They are not free. They have been trained and taught to put a limit on God, and to be fearful of the Lord.

Here is Eli. He is the religious leader, the high priest. He is "ruling the roost." Do you know what I'm talking about? In other words, he is "running the show." He is "running his outfit."

And here is a little woman in his church. Tears are running down her face. She is seeking God. She is crying out to God. Probably she knows enough not to pray out loud for if she does, they will kick her clear out. She is going to have to be pretty quiet and calm in this ritzy church, because if she becomes too noisy and "beside herself," and *really* begins to pray under the anointing and the power of God, she can't stay there very long.

But she wants to stay, because grandma helped build the pews, grandpa put in one of the stained glass windows, you know, and his name is on that window, and great grandpa's name is on the pulpit, because he paid for it and dedicated it. *And she is going to stay in that church until she dies.*

She doesn't have much freedom or liberty. She doesn't have much victory. She is not allowed to pray in the Spirit. But today she is going to be real quiet and calm because the preacher is on a rampage. He has made up his mind that there is not going to be any "MOVE OF GOD" in his ritzy, religious building.

This poor woman is burdened because of her barren condition. In the Old Testament time it was a sin for a woman to be barren.

(Of course, you understand that everything that literally happened in the Old Testament has a spiritual application in the New.)

The spiritual application of this barrenness of Hannah is that it is a sin for a church to be barren. It's a sin for your life to be barren. God wants his people to bear fruit. The scripture says *"As soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."* Isa. 66:8.

Now I'm speaking of the spiritual church. God wants men and women to be saved at our altars and added to the Kingdom.

I believe all God's people are sheep of his pasture and that every one of these sheep ought to be reproductive and that we ought to double ourselves and triple ourselves every year or two.

A ewe that doesn't bear any lambs is not worth anything except for mutton. Your pastor can't afford to give you green grass and clear, cool streams if all you're going to do is produce a little wool once in a while. You are supposed to reproduce your kind. And you ought to have twins once in a while. And once in a while you ought to have triplets. Come on, now! I'm talking about old dry ewes who aren't giving birth to any lambs. God wants all you sheep to reproduce every year.

Here's Hannah! She's barren. She knows it's an abomination in the sight of God. And you ought to know it's a sin today not to have a spiritual church and not to have revival in your church — not to have souls being saved and born again.

She's praying and here is what the Bible says, *"And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth."* Eli, the religious

leader, watched her mouth. "Bless God, I'd better not see her mouth move today. I'd better not see her lips move because I've already made up my mind that if I see her lips move, *I'm going to tell her that she is in the flesh.* I'm going to tell her it is the work of the devil. I'm going to tell her she is drunk on strong whisky or something, because I've made up my mind that any kind of move around my altar is of the devil."

What do you think God put this account in the Bible for? I tell you, friends, THE CHURCH NEEDS DELIVERANCE. She needs deliverance from Eli.

I wouldn't stay where Eli is the leader. Now I'm not talking about churches — I'm talking about religious organizations that don't want the move of God and the power of God, that don't want the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Ghost, the gifts of the spirit, signs, wonders, and miracles.

This is what Paul meant when he said *"Come out from among them and be ye separate."* He also said *"From such turn away."*

Eli marks her lips. *"Only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken."* (He didn't know it — he THOUGHT it.) Anyway, he is the leader and has the "say." He can accuse her of anything he wants to. He runs to her and grabs her up by the hair of her head and yells, "Listen here, woman! I want you to know I'll have none of this in my lovely, beautiful edifice. How long will you be drunken? Put away your wine!"

Here is the sin: Eli, the religious leader was so backslidden in his own soul and so bound *himself* that he thought *she* was bound by something mean and sinful.

He was so in bondage *himself* that he thought *she* was in bondage. You can't measure everyone else's corn in your own half-bushel. That is what some people are trying to do. Because they are mean, they think everyone else is mean.

Hannah looks up and says, "*No, my lord, . . . I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.*" "Ah," cries Eli, "you're drunk! (Can't you just hear it?) A-a-a-a-h, that's of the DEVIL! That's of the FLESH! That's not of the Spirit! That's RANK FANATICISM! That's MASS PSYCHOLOGY!

Hear me! You don't have to go far to find a group (there are thousands) bound and controlled and domineered by religious Eli's who don't know the difference between the genuine moving of God, the real power of the Spirit of God, and the spirit of the devil. No wonder Joel said that the church needed to be delivered!

And the church needs another deliverance as shown in this scripture:

"*And as the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart.*

"*Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!*

"*And David said unto Michal, it was before the Lord, which chose me before thy father, and before all his*

house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel! therefore will I play before the Lord.

"And I will yet be more vile than this, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour." 2 Sam. 6:16, 20-22.

It's not just the harlot or the drunkard who needs deliverance. It's not just the man who smokes marijuana who needs deliverance. Sometimes these David's need to be delivered. Sometimes it's these Michal's—laughing at David as he dances before the Lord.

She hated David for that which he was doing.

The thing that was in Michal's heart is in the hearts of thousands of people today.

Many of you are DESPISED by your own wives, DESPISED by your own husbands, DESPISED by your own sons and daughters. You are actually despised and hated. For what? For your scriptural, Biblical worship of God. Many of you are despised by some of your fellow ministers because you have gone in for the *Full* Gospel, for the blessing of God and *all* the power of God. You are despised because you want miracles and visions and all the power of Pentecost, while others have only gone part of the way.

Some have found Ezekiel's river all right but they are not swimming. They're only ankle deep. They are only passing around the edges.

Some have gone a little farther and found the water up to their knees. Others have possibly found the water up to their thighs. But thank God, when you begin to find a river you can SWIM in, a river that can't be crossed over, and begin to get lost in God's power and

God's anointing, you are going to begin to be despised.

There is going to be something in the hearts of those who have never been changed that is going to cause them to despise you in their hearts. Why? Because they haven't got it and they are not in sympathy with it. They have not had the experience and they are not in accord with people who have had the experience. They hate it, and it will not take them long to let you know they HATE IT.

And it makes things very bad for you when the pastor or leader of the church begins to hate you, to despise you in his heart. Many a saint of God has been blessed in a church, has had a true anointing from God, but just like David of old, has been despised by those who are not in one accord and not in agreement.

Many a saint of God in this great outpouring of the Spirit of God has had to pull up stakes so to speak and move his church home — move out of a church he had helped build and had put money into, because people in that church despised him in their hearts. You can't worship God in the power of the Spirit when you feel you are despised.

Sometimes you don't even have to guess. David didn't have to guess. He KNEW that Michal despised him.

David returned to bless his household. He wanted to bless Michal (his wife) and his whole household. He wanted them all to receive this supernatural blessing. He wanted them to know something about the anointing of God that makes people run for joy, leap for joy, and clap their hands and shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

They said, "Huh! You can't stuff that down our

throats, you HOLY ROLLER." I'm talking to you about *deliverance.*

Some of you may need to be delivered from that thing that causes you to despise other people who have the blessing and the power and the anointing of God that you don't have.

If somebody shouts, there will be a temptation to say, "That's just of the flesh;" if somebody prophesies, to say, "Ah, that's just him making that up;" if somebody speaks in tongues, to say, "Ah, that just sounds like an old tin pan to me;" If somebody lays hands on the sick in your church and starts praying, to say, "Ah, who does he think he is, A.A. Allen.

Too many of God's children are allowing Michal to put them in bondage. When you find that you can't bless the household and find that Michal won't have anything to do with the shouting, the handclapping and dancing in the Spirit, don't backslide. It's time to come on out. Don't let Michal send you to hell. Turn her over to the Lord and GO ON WITH GOD!

In sarcasm she said, "*How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!*" SARCASM! PERSECUTION! She hated him. Why! Because she had never had a change of heart.

God says in Ezek. 36:26, "*A new heart also will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you.*"

This opposition today to Pentecost, to old-time holiness, to this kind of revival is coming mostly from those who have never had a change of heart.

Here's Michal in sarcasm, Michal in ridicule, laughing

at David. And he retorted, "*It was before the Lord... I will yet be more vile than this, and will be base in mine own sight; and of the maidservants... shall I be had in honour.*"

David took his stand. He said, "Listen here, Michal! Listen here! You're not going to cheat me out of the victory any longer. What I have done was before the Lord and it was of God. If you think I've been wrong up until now, just keep watching me. You haven't seen anything yet!" He took his stand before Michal even though she was his wife.

Some of you will find that your greatest deliverance will be deliverance from your own household. I don't mean divorce. I don't mean separation. I mean deliverance from the effect of persecution and ridicule upon your spiritual life. Some of your greatest persecution, your greatest ridicule, is from those of your own household.

Some of you don't need deliverance from cataracts or tumors. But do you know that you can be in just as great bondage in your Christian life if you are bound by the thought, "What is my husband going to think?" "What's my wife going to think?" "What is the public going to say?" "What is my preacher going to do?"

Take your stand. Take deliverance from Michal — from the people who despise you in their hearts.

Some of you are cowering down and sitting down and losing the anointing and losing the blessing of God just because old Michal has been making fun of you. Take your stand and say, "Lord, deliver me from Michal, free me Lord, from fear of her. Deliver me, Lord, from fear of persecution. Deliver me from fear of ridicule. Deliver me from fear of man. I must be free."

Chapter VII

DELIVERANCE FROM HINDERING FORCES

"And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the wayside begging:

"And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant.

"And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by.

"And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

"And they which went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

"And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him,

"Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight.

"And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.

"And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God." Luke 18:35-43.

Blind Bartimaeus had surely heard much about the great healings of Jesus and how the blind were made to see. It was no doubt his constant hope that some day he could be where Christ was and receive his sight.

As he sat by the wayside begging, he had time to ponder, to think, to hope — to hope that some day Jesus would come by. He felt certain that whenever He did, it would be his time to receive his sight.

Now, the devil knowing this, had already laid a subtle plan to hinder Bartimaeus from receiving his healing. Already, Satan had picked out certain religious leaders to do all in their power, when the time came, to see that he did not receive this miracle.

Satan had used this group before — this group that followed Jesus not because they believed in what he preached and did, not because they were receiving anything from Jesus.

They made it their business to rebuke people for shouting. They even begged the Lord to rebuke them for rejoicing with loud noise. They made it their business to discourage the multitude rather than encourage them. They made it their business to find fault, to criticize, murmur and complain, to stay between Jesus and others for the express purpose of keeping them from the Lord.

Even so today, when a person makes up his mind to reach the Lord, in order to receive a miracle of Jesus or of someone used of the Lord, he is sure to discover some kind of hindrance from Satan.

Even as the woman with an issue of blood found a crowd in her way and was obliged to press her way through it to reach Jesus and receive her healing, there is generally someone or some other obstacle between us and the Lord.

We have considered in Chapter VI how the devil used Eli in an attempt to keep Hannah from praying through, and how he tried to use Michal to discourage David from rejoicing in the Lord. In fact, she openly ridiculed him.

In Luke 15:25-32, in the account of the Prodigal Son, we read how Satan tried his best to use the elder son to draw the people away from the place of rejoicing, which must have been a great revival service. Satan, no doubt, felt that if he could prevent the elder son from going in to the feast, the people would come outside and thus he would break up the meeting.

In Luke 19, we read that the devil did everything in his power to use the Pharisees who were among the multitude, trying to cause Jesus to rebuke the disciples who were shouting and rejoicing.

So it is little wonder that Satan had placed a group between Bartimaeus and Christ for the purpose of hindering him from receiving his sight.

As we have studied the scriptures, we have noticed that when one is determined to reach God, Satan usually puts in his path a person who will be used to discourage and hinder. He may be the preacher, typified by Eli, the high priest. Perhaps husband or wife, typified by Michal. Or son or daughter. He may be a brother, typified by the elder son. The hindrance may be religious leaders, typified by the Pharisees — "REBUKE THY DISCIPLES." As in the case of Bartimaeus, it may be "those who went before" — a type of leaders such as preachers, district officers, presbyters, overseers, Sunday School superintendents, or deacons, or even those in the church who seem to be more spiritual.

As Solomon said, "*There is a time for all things under the sun,*" there was a definite time for Bartimaeus to receive his sight. That time was when Christ passed by. That was the time for his eyes to be opened. That was the time for Bartimaeus to deal with and overcome the

hindrances. The healing was on the way. JESUS WAS PASSING BY!

But more than healing was on the way! OPPOSITION WAS ON THE WAY and stood between him and the miracle. The crowd approached. Its noise became louder. A multitude was following the Master!

As the crowd began to pass by, Bartimaeus knew that Jesus must be somewhere in the lead. He knew with positive faith that this was HIS TIME TO RECEIVE — this was HIS OPPORTUNITY!

"JESUS," cried he, with a loud voice and deep emotion, "THOU SON OF DAVID, HAVE MERCY ON ME! This was a real cry of *faith.* It was his only hope! It was now or never! He MUST stop the Lord! He MUST receive a touch! Not later. NOW! This was HIS HOUR!

Speaking of our need of deliverance today, many who seek healing or a miracle are not in need of deliverance from sin (open, gross sin) or from cigarettes, narcotics, alcohol, drugs or such things. Oftentimes they need only to be loosed from, or to know how to disentangle themselves from, "*those who go before.*"

I pray that God will give each reader special discernment to know what deliverance he needs, to know from what person or groups he should separate himself, *so that he can receive his deliverance.*

Chapter VIII

DELIVERANCE FROM POWERLESS FORM

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. 6:12.

"But we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Cor. 2:11.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Tim. 3:5.

Now we will refer back to the 6th Chapter of Ephesians: Our battle is with Satan's forces and the Word says we are not ignorant of his devices.

And they are many. If he can't cause the demon of lust to get hold of you, he will send you some other kind of demon. He will cause you to be covetous so that you won't pay your tithes, you won't bring your offering unto the Lord.

If he can't do that, he will send some other kind of demon to you. It may be a lying spirit, to tell you the Bible doesn't mean what it says. It may be a demon of lust, a demon of pride, an infirm spirit, an insane demon, or some other kind. It may be a religious demon. His special job is to lead you away from the Bible and let you have mere form and ceremony and ritual instead of the old-fashioned power of the Holy Ghost and old-fashioned revival.

You will have anthem-singing choirs, beautiful intellectual sermons that appeal only to man's intellect but never reach the soul. You will have singing that is designed for the beautiful people in the pew to hear, but

does not bless the soul. You will have singing that has to be rehearsed, and rehearsed, and rehearsed, because the choir is singing to a group of critics and they know that unless every note is perfect, those critics will find fault.

In the 14th and 15th Chapter of Exodus, we are told that Moses jumped up on a high piece of ground and cried, "*Sing ye to the Lord.*" And three million people started singing to God and the power of God fell and the blessing fell. Miriam grabbed a tambourine and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

Do you know there's a difference between just having a nice, beautiful, robed choir that practices and practices, and singing to the Lord under the blessing of the Spirit?

You can tell some of these choirs are not singing to God. If they were, they wouldn't have to practice, for God's not a critic. He doesn't find fault with your singing even if there is some disharmony.

But if you are going to sing for the critics, you better practice over and over, because there is a vast difference between singing to critics and singing unto the Lord.

Some people go to church, but not to worship the Lord. It's a mere form, a mere ceremony, nothing but a ritual. Some sing, but only for the people to hear. They do not sing unto God.

David had a choir, but I want to tell you this: When that choir sang, the glory and power of Almighty God fell. They sang down the blessing of the Lord because they were singing unto God.

Exodus 15 tells us that three million people lifted their voices to heaven and sang unto the Lord. They had

not practiced, but they sang unto the Lord with all their hearts, and the glory of the Lord came down.

The devil doesn't like that kind of worship because when you worship God in spirit and in truth, He will come down and bless you.

In 2 Chron. 5:13, the Bible says, "*And it came even to pass as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.*"

They made one sound to be heard. What's this? To be heard in praising and thanking the Lord. They lifted up their voices with the trumpets and with the cymbals (little tambourines) and with the instruments of music. They praised the Lord singing "*The Lord is good. His mercy endureth forever. The Lord is good. His mercy endureth forever. The Lord is good. His mercy endureth forever.*" Then the house was filled with a cloud of glory, even the house of the Lord.

That was in God's house. Cymbals and tambourines, trumpets and other instruments of music, and singers, all lifting their voices to heaven, shouting, and singing. And the glory of the Lord came down!

Now, the devil has many tricks, many methods to defeat the pastor and the church. His main method is to lead the church astray from the old-fashioned Bible way of preaching and of conducting services, until the church

just has a form, a ritual, a ceremony. Then the glory of the Lord will never come down and bless you.

In this account of worship, the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.

You can't have an old-fashioned revival until God's glory comes down and fills the house of God. Then the sick will be healed, demons will come out, and miracles will be wrought. The people will be blessed and will shout and clap their hands. They will make a joyful noise and dance before God.

Hear me! In Bible days, the devil knew that when people were all as ONE and they made ONE sound thanking and praising God, His glory would come down and miracles would happen, and the priests couldn't stand to minister, because there would be so much glory.

The devil doesn't want God's glory to fill your church. He doesn't want God's glory to fill your temple. He says, "If I can just prevent the people from worshipping God according to the Bible, from worshipping in the spirit, I will tie that place up and make it a cold, dead, formal ritual." And this is just what happens, because many religious leaders are not wise to the devil's tactics and don't understand his ways.

God wants you to get away from your form and your ceremony and ritual and once more worship Him in spirit and in truth. He wants you to get lost in God until your spirit meets him, and then something is going to happen.

Let's be loosed and liberated from these religious demons that have a mere form of godliness but deny the power thereof! Let's be loosed and liberated from

these seducing spirits that would lead us away from the old-fashioned Bible way of worship! It is a trick of the devil to keep the power of God *out* of your meeting, *off* you, and out of you, so that all you will have is cold, dead form and ritual.

Will you pray for God to give you an old-fashioned Bible worship service in your church until the glory can come down once more and fill the house of God?

Chapter IX

DELIVERANCE FROM UNSCRIPTURAL RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE

"And ye shall know the truth; and the truth shall make you free.

"They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

"Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

"And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

"If the son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:32-36.

In the above scriptures, Jesus was talking to the Jews — and the religious leaders of that day who should have been the first to accept him. They were bound but they thought they were free.

It is amazing how many people today are bound and don't know it. Some will never be free, and will die and go to hell.

Some have been set free but have turned back.

It is one thing to hear the truth but another thing to ABIDE by that truth so that that truth can set you free. Jesus said, *"Ye shall know the truth; and the truth shall make you free."*

He referred to freedom from false doctrine, from domineering, controlling, oppressing, binding religious influence.

Some folk have only religion, not Holy Ghost salvation. When I say "religion" I mean the hundreds of different brands of religion that are not Holy Ghost salvation.

That is the kind that sets you free. It gives you joy in your heart. It lets you know you are saved, that your sins are gone. It makes old things pass away and all things become new. It lifts the heavy burden. It puts shoes on your feet, a ring on your finger, clothes you in a robe, and sets your feet under your Father's table. It lets the Spirit of God bear witness that you are a child of God.

Aren't you tired of form and ceremony and ritual? Aren't you tired of being whipped and domineered and controlled by leaders who are merely religious but don't even know that they, themselves, are saved? That is mere religion without Christ.

There are many kinds of mere religion, even the Pentecostal "religion." These serve God with their lips but their hearts are far from God. (See Isa. 29.)

Many religious people today are noisy, but that does not prove that they have anything from God. They may be making demonstrations just because their leader tells them to. That would be nothing but empty *religion.*

One time I asked a young man, "What church do you go to?" He replied, "I got the Pentecostal religion." "You must have," I agreed. "You certainly don't smell as if you have old-time *salvation.* What do you mean by 'Pentecostal religion'?" He answered, "My mother and father were Pentecostal and I'm Pentecostal, too." I said, "No, you are not. You can't be Pentecostal smelling like you smell, with that package of cigarettes in your

pocket. Pentecostal people are godly and holy. They are clean. They are filled with the Holy Ghost and have faith. I don't know what kind of religion you have, but I know you must have more than 'religion' if you ever go to heaven."

In the above scripture, here was a group of religious leaders. They would not listen to what Jesus said because they were bound in their souls — bound by their religion. They didn't want their people to know the truth. They were afraid the doctrine Jesus was preaching would empty their synagogues.

Many church leaders today are afraid of this Miracle Revival, afraid that it will empty those beautiful edifices and they will lose some of their best tithing members.

Now I am not at war with churches — real churches. But there is a vast difference between being at war with churches and being at war with religious people who just *claim* to be part of the church.

The church is a body of called-out ones. The church is a bloodwashed throng. They are living for Jesus and living the way He lived.

These religious leaders never became free. They are in hell today without God and without hope because they rejected the truth, because they were bound by their own religion. The door to the devil's prison house never opened for them.

They were of the devil, because Jesus pointed to them and called them serpents and vipers. They were the ones who crucified Jesus. They thought in that way they would get rid of the truth. But they didn't! Jesus just raised up 10,000 more, baptized them with the Holy Ghost and sent them out to preach this glorious truth.

Those who opposed Jesus died in bondage because they would not receive the truth just as millions will die who are under domineering, binding, controlling, oppressing religious influence that will not permit them to believe the truth and walk in the light of God's word. I say, "Lord, deliver us from these religious leaders who don't know Christ."

We have an account of another group who were bound and could not accept the truth. It is found in Luke 19: 35-40:

"*And they brought him* (a colt) *to Jesus; and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon.*

"*And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way.*

"*And when He was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen:*

"*Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*

"*And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.*

"*And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*"

The Pharisees were religious leaders, but they were bound by their religion and by customs. They could not stand the rejoicing and the noise. They cried, "*Master, rebuke thy disciples.*" They are the ones who haven't seen anything because "eyes have they and they see not." They haven't heard anything because "ears have they and they hear not."

If you who want the word of God can't have a revival in that "church" or religious group, you need to do as Paul said, "*from such turn away.*" Somebody says, "I am so tied up with this religious body that I can't get loose." Yes, but you *need to be cut loose.* You need to be delivered from that group that is always wanting you to be rebuked because you are rejoicing and praising the Lord and shouting once in a whole. "MASTER, REBUKE THY DISCIPLES!"

It is one of the devil's tricks to have a group like that in every church. No matter how spiritual your group may be to start with, or how spiritual your deacons may be to start with, the devil will get an old deadheaded, dry, modernistic, icy, commercially-minded person on the deacon board to tie the church up, and tie the pastor up so that he can't preach the word of God and can't promote the Kingdom of God.

The devil will do everything in his power to get into some deacons who want to quiet everything down because they are not spiritual themselves and they don't want anybody else to be spiritual. He will bring in Eli's and Michal's and the first thing you know, the church will be divided. Some will shout a little bit when they see a miracle (*if* they see one). However, one hardly ever sees a miracle any more in most of these religious groups.

When some of the folk return after attending a big campaign and begin to tell of the miracles they saw, there are always some who cry, "Preacher, rebuke these people."

Here comes Jesus into Jerusalem and the whole multitude of disciples begin to praise God with a LOUD

VOICE. Somebody says, "I don't like all this loud noise." Oh, you don't? Well, you better watch out or you will fall into the same class as those who called on Jesus to rebuke His disciples.

Listen to me, friends; the church today is more than half-filled with this group who don't want this praise, who don't want this noise, who don't want this rejoicing. They haven't seen anything and they have nothing to shout about. They don't have anything to clap their hands over. They don't feel the Spirit of the Lord. They have never had old-time religion in their hearts. They have nothing they can feel.

They don't want to be humiliated and they don't want to bring their fine friends into the services because it embarrasses them so much if dear old Grandma Jones claps her hand and shouts, "Hallelujah!" or if some of the young people shake or tremble a little bit, or if somebody beats a tambourine. They don't like the shout of victory.

Here are the disciples praising God with a loud voice for all the mighty miracles and works they have seen. Were they right? Were they scriptural?

Certainly it is all right to praise God for His mighty works and wonderful miracles.

As sure as folk shout and praise God, the devil has some who are opposed to it. Somebody is going to cry, "MASTER, REBUKE THY DISCIPLES."

But Jesus had an answer for them then, and He has the same answer today. "I tell you that if these should hold their peace, if these people didn't shout, if these people didn't praise me, the stones would immediately cry out.

God made us to praise Him. He is going to be praised. If you won't praise Him, He will make the very stones in the pavement to shout "Hallelujah! Glory to God!"

In Ezek. 34:10, we read: "*I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.*"

One of the greatest deliverances of all time will occur when God delivers His sheep, His lambs, from somebody's mouth. Whose mouth? Michal's mouth! From religious influences that are binding and hindering and dominating. From a church group that will not let you go on with God and be free. From those who cry, "*Master, rebuke thy disciples.*" From the person or persons who are in bondage even while they think they are free, and want you to be in bondage with them.

God declares, "*I WILL DELIVER MY FLOCK.*"

Yes, deliverance from Michal's mouth: David was blessed of God; here was a true manifestation of God's spirit. After he had danced around the ark with all his might, he decided his household needed the blessing.

You come to Miracle Revival meetings and you are baptized with the Holy Ghost, and you go back to your church. You decide your church needs the blessing. WATCH OUT! Somebody may meet you at the door as Michal met David at the door.

You decide you are going to go back and bless your household and be a blessing to them. Watch out! Somebody may meet you at the door.

You are gloriously delivered from demon oppression or demon possession; you say, "I'm going to tell my pastor that this thing WAS a demon and God has delivered me. WATCH OUT! Old Michal may meet you at the door.

David went back to bless his household but found it was not "blessable." He took his stand and refused to be cheated out of his blessing. He said, "You can ridicule, you can persecute, you can point your finger at me, you can call me a Holy Roller, you can call me an Allenite, you can call me a rank fanatic, but *I'm going on with God.*"

Every full gospel church in the nation today still has some good, genuine David's in it but it also has so many Michal's that David may be afraid to open his mouth or to let God bless him.

Most of these churches are dead and cold and dry. That is because the genuine Pentecostal people knew the blessing was despised by many and instead of taking their stand, they have died right with old Michal.

The greatest need of the church today is to be delivered from the controlling influence and power of persecution, like Michal of old, who in her heart despised David because of the true manifestation.

Listen! God is getting ready to deliver that people and He is going to bring them out. He said, "*I will deliver my flock out of their mouth.*" Do you believe it?

Let this be your prayer: "God, deliver me out of their mouth. Deliver me out of this cold, dead, dry, formal religious organization. Give me that which is real and set me on fire once more so I can make heaven my home and be useful in the Kingdom of God."

Chapter X

DELIVERANCE FROM UNSCRIPTURAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away." 2 Tim. 3:5.

" . . . I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more, for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them." Ezek. 34:10.

There is a vast difference between a building and a church. Recently, on a busy boulevard in a large city, I noticed two beautiful buildings. They were called churches. But I don't know whether or not they *were* churches. That would be determined by what the building is used for, by what is found on the inside.

A church, according to the scriptures, is a body of called-out ones. A church is a people who have been delivered and set free, washed in Jesus' blood, and are living a clean, holy life. And the power of God operates through them.

But a building might not really be a church! It might just have that name.

It might be a dance hall. Why not go inside and find out? It might be a pool hall. The only way I can find out is to go inside.

That kind of building is being used for almost anything these days. It might be a secondhand store. It might be a bazaar, or a social club. Let's go inside and find out. Then we can tell whether it is a church or not.

We are not ignorant of Satan's devices. We know what he is doing. We know that he is building great, big, beautiful edifices with the architectural designs ordinarily used for religious temples or places of worship, and calling them churches. That big hypocrite! That devil has no business putting the name "church" over some of those doors.

As long as Satan can do that and get a lot of nice folk to go in there, he will even quote some scriptures once in a while so that people will feel religious.

But when it comes to the power of God and the manifestation of the Spirit, he will deny it. He will belittle the power of God and tell the congregation that the Holy Ghost is not for today. He will preach that you can't have the gifts of healing and miracles, of prophecy, or any of the other gifts of the Spirit.

I pray that God will bring deliverance to His true church; that he will open the eyes of God's true sheep and show them that there are too many goats in the church — too many people who profess to be Christians who are really hypocrites. All they have is FORM and CEREMONY and RITUAL.

I have said again and again that it is a trick of the devil to make you think you are getting into a church when it is only a social club. Most religious groups today, which claim to be churches, are ungodly and unholy, and many of them have never been born again. Many of them know nothing of the Spirit of God. All they have is a beautiful profession. They don't know the difference between the voice of the Lord and the voice of the devil. They don't know the difference between holiness

and sin. Most of them are bound by the devil and bound by sin. Yet they are *deeply religious.*

If the very devil himself, with his green horns protruding and his forked tail swishing (if he had horns and a tail) were to walk right down the aisle of most of these churches, they would make a deacon out of him in two weeks and maybe let him conduct the Tuesday night prayer meeting. And they probably would give him a Sunday School class to teach about the next week.

It is time for God's true people to come out of churches like this. They need to be delivered and separated. The Apostle Paul said, "*from such turn away.*"

Now, pastors, I said the greatest deliverance the world will ever know is the deliverance of God's sheep out of man-made forms and rituals and denominations and ceremonies. Those are man-made church governments which do not correspond with church government *according to the scriptures.*

Some church governments tie the pastor up until he can't feed the sheep. He is tied up to the deacon board and the deacons run the church instead of God.

Deacons may serve the church all right if they are spiritual, but show me one place in the Bible where God ever called deacons to dictate to the pastor. Show me one place where the Lord ever called deacons to handle money.

The New Testament Christians sold their lands and other possessions and laid the money at the Apostles' feet. They did not bring it to a deacon board. "*No man said that ought he possessed was his own.*" "Here, Peter, here is $50,000. I just sold my ranch. I want you to put it into God's work."

You don't find that today!

Somebody says, "We have a different kind of church government today." Why? Because you can't trust the pastor. If some of you gave your pastor $50,000, the first thing he would do would be to buy a mansion, or an apartment house, or some business enterprise so that he would be able to retire when the time came.

The church needs deliverance, and *the church is going to have deliverance!*

I can't find one scripture that states that anybody is to be the overseer except the pastor. God told Peter that the pastor was to take the oversight and that the Lord had made him the overseer. (1 Pet. 5:2.)

Listen to me, pastor: When we stand before God on the Day of Judgment, He is not going to call that deacon board up and say, "Why didn't you let the pastor preach the Word? Why didn't you let him have revivals?" He is going to point his finger in the face of the shepherd and say, "Why did you let a board of deacons keep you from doing the work I called you to do?"

God never did call deacons to do anything but deliver groceries!

The early church chose men full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom for that job because many of the widows had been neglected in the daily ministrations. All through the Book of Acts we read that they had a storehouse in the church and took care of the widows and orphans. Peter was so busy fasting and praying, and ministering to the thousands in his congregation that he didn't have time to deliver groceries. So a deacon board was elected to do that work.

Many churches and pastors are tied down by modernistic, stingy, covetous, grasping deacon boards that

would stop a revival immediately, if one should break out. Those pastors can't have a revival because their deacon boards would give them their "walking papers."

God help you pastors to reorganize your church governments, if you don't have the right kind. But perhaps you can't.

I used to think I would take the pastorate of a church, reorganize it and set up a government according to scripture. But I found I never could do it in any church I ever pastored.

One deacon board said, "Listen, Bud. We were runing this church before you came, and we'll be running it when you are gone." They are still running it and they are puffed up with their own pride. They should be delivering groceries, not running the church.

Many of you can't even put an ad in the paper or take a special offering without the approval of the deacons. You wouldn't dare to get up and take an offering the way I do. That deacon board would put you out in one week.

How can you have a Holy Ghost revival if you can't follow the leading of the Holy Ghost? How can you have a revival from heaven if the deacon board will not let you do what heaven tells you to do?

Pastor, you should leave that church with the unscriptural government. It would be far better to start over anew with nobody but your own family than to stay where you are. You could then be the overseer as God intended you to be. You could then feed God's sheep and obey the Lord.

May God deliver you preachers from the bondage placed upon you by unscriptural church governments!

Chapter XI

THE GREAT SHEPHERD DELIVERS HIS SHEEP

"Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord;

"As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock:

"Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord;

"Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hands, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

"For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

"As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

"And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

"I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high

mountains of Israel shall their fold be; there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

"I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God. Ezek. 34:7-15.

The Lord is going to see that His sheep find a shepherd, a pastor, who is anointed of God. Then you will have a pastor who will give you meat for your souls, who can heal the sick and cast out devils, and lead you into green pastures.

In 1 Peter 5:2, the Lord said for the pastor to feed the flock of God and to take the oversight thereof. And no one else was to do this.

One of these days the Chief Shepherd will return and reward every pastor, every shepherd, who has been true to this charge.

If your pastor is not spiritual enough to take the oversight of a flock of sheep, what business has he preaching? If he can't be trusted to be led and anointed by the power of the Holy Ghost, and if the Holy Ghost can't take the Word of God and teach him, what are you doing with that kind of man for your pastor?

If he can't be led by the Holy Ghost so that he will be in the place God wants him and in His will in a church, then you don't need a pastor.

If he is just going to stay in his office all day and read letters and look at papers, you don't need him for an overseer.

GOD IS GOING TO FEED THE SHEEP HIMSELF!

The following is the account of a vision the Lord gave the author in one of the Miracle Revival services just as described to the congregation:

I see a large valley. It's filled with people. There are millions of them. They are turning into sheep. And not all sheep; there are sheep and goats.

I see a lot of pens being built. I never saw so many pens. They are different styles and different shapes. Some are large and some are small.

I see the ones who are building them. They are men. Some pens have high walls. Some don't have such high walls. Some are made out of just plain poles, but some are made out of fancy materials.

I see the men who are building these pens driving these sheep and goats inside. They don't seem to care whether they have sheep or goats inside the pens, just so they fill them. They seem to be fighting one another to see who can get the most sheep or goats inside their pens.

I see that there are some sheep that won't go in. These men have clubs. They are trying to drive them in. But some of the sheep are running away. They refuse to go into the pens. But these men have no trouble getting the goats in. I don't see a goat outside.

Some of these sheep running outside must be choice sheep because I see three or four men after one little lamb. They are trying to club it and beat it in through the door. But some of the sheep are running away from these pens and refusing to run in.

These men aren't what I would call shepherds. They are not dressed like shepherds. They don't have a staff.

They have a club in their hands. After they get all the sheep and goats into the pens that they possibly can, they begin building high bars and gates.

Some are just beating the goats. One pen over there is full of goats; it doesn't have a sheep in it. Most of the pens are mixed with sheep and goats. They are all running together. There are too many pens to count — hundreds of them.

I see the grass is sort of green outside but the sheep are keeping it nipped close. Every once in a while, I see some of these men jump over their pen and try to get some of the sheep that are on the outside. But they refuse to go inside these pens. They don't like the club in the man's hands.

The sheep are starving. I can hear them all bleating. A pitiful bleating! There are millions of sheep. They are starving to death. The gates are closed and a few of the men who are supposed to be taking care of the sheep seem to be feeding them something. But it's nothing green. It's coming out of a sack. The sheep don't want to eat it. But I see the goats in there with the sheep seem to get most of it, and they are staying pretty fat on it.

But the sheep are starving on what is coming out of the big brown sacks. They are not giving them anything green or fresh.

I see the sheep gazing away toward a great high mountain. Back on the mountain, it is beautiful, and the clouds are white and fleecy. The grass is green.

The sheep that are bleating are all looking toward the mountain. Something is happening! All the sheep on

the outside of the pens are starting to go somewhere. They are all leaving the pens in the valley. They are putting their heads together like people, and they are talking.

They all seem to be led; however, there is nobody leading them. They see to be led by — it must be instinct, because there is no one leading them out. It must be God's people led by the Spirit of God. They are drawn out of the valley. They all have their heads turned toward the mountain and they are all leaving the valley. They are gathering together.

Oh, there are a lot more of them than I thought. I see somebody coming down a long road off the mountain.

IT IS THE TRUE SHEPHERD! He looks like a picture I saw hanging in my mother's home when I was a boy — a shepherd with a long, white garment with a little lamb in His arms, and a long, crooked staff.

He is coming down off the mountain and all the sheep seem to be so glad to see Him; they are running up to the Great Shepherd and they are around His feet and I see Him pointing to the top of the mountain.

I hear Him speak! IT'S THE MASTER! Friend, it's right out there in front of me. I hear Him say, "My children, wait thou here. I shall return. But it will be only a little while because I have come to make one sheepfold to follow only one shepherd. Wait thou here until I break down the middle wall of partition. Wait thou here until I tear down the bars and the fences and let my people go."

And all the sheep are staying together but they are watching the Great Shepherd. I see him! He's not touch-

ing a one of the sheep pens. He is just walking around. But He in encircling all the sheep pens. He is strong and powerful and mighty. He is strong enough to tear any of them down in a moment's time but after he walks around the entire circle, he raises His hand.

Something is happening! A noise! All the sheep pens — all the poles and all the boards, every one of them — are falling flat and all the sheep are jumping out, but there is not a goat coming.

The goats are all running in the other direction. But all the sheep in the pens are following Him. Oh, there are millions of them! They are thin; they are starved, but they are happy. They are loose. They are liberated. They are FREE.

The Great Shepherd holds the staff in His hand and goes before them. The sheep hear His voice and they follow Him, and a stranger's voice they do not follow. They join the other group and He is leading them up a long, narrow road toward a green pasture and a mountain where the sun is shining.

I see something coming from heaven. It looks like golden rays coming down on the mountain and on the pasture and I see all those sheep — they are white as snow. As WHITE AS SNOW! They are walking up the trail. They are going up the mountain side. They are following Him!

I see them now as they scatter out — millions of them — they are white as snow on the greenest pasture I have ever seen. They are all grazing.

Now the scene is changing. The sun is going down. The sheep are all lying down, contented and satisfied,

waiting in the right pasture, in one big pasture, one big sheepfold, with one shepherd, JESUS!

Friend, do you realize what God has shown us in this vision? *God is going to feed His flock.* He had turned that job over to some shepherds, but they became modernistic, and cold, and dry, and lukewarm. They failed to feed God's starving sheep. So God said He was going to feed the sheep and would deliver them out of the mouth of the modern cold, dead forms.

There *is* deliverance for God's people — HIS SHEEP! They are now in bondage but the Great Shepherd has provided deliverance for His sheep!

"*I WILL DELIVER MY SHEEP. I WILL DELIVER MY FLOCK.*" Ezek. 34:10.

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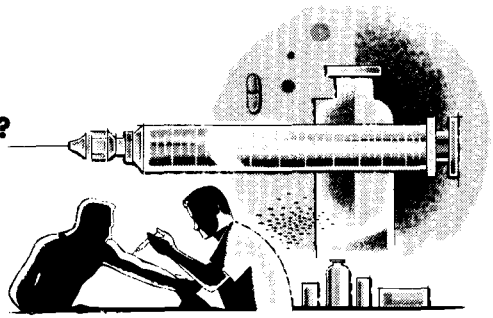

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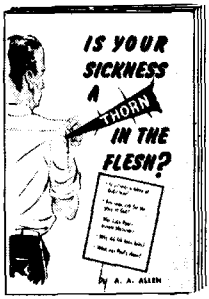

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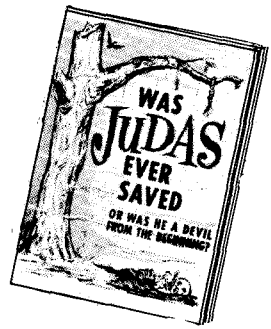

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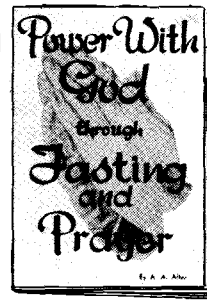

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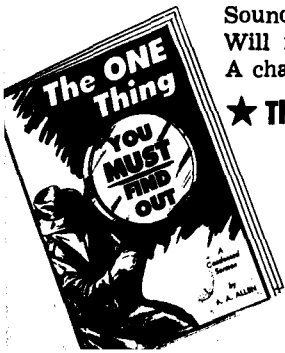

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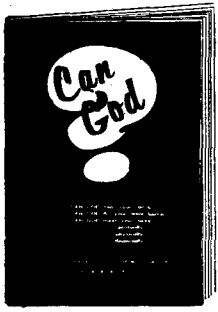

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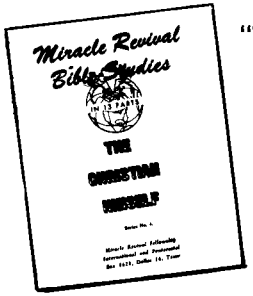

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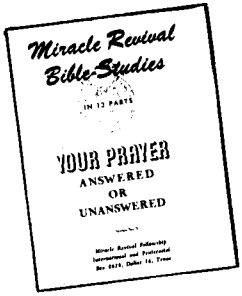

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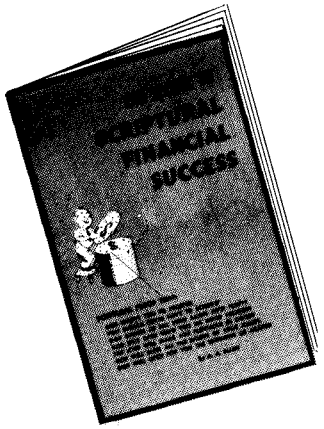

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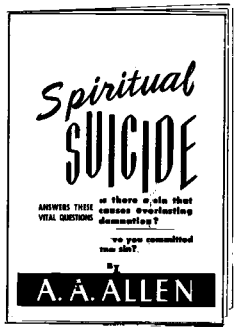

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