Tearing Down Strongholds
(part 3)

Demonic activity in the lives of believers
- Demons are evil spirits
  - Their goals are to invade and live in human bodies.
  - To control as much of that person as possible

Man is made up of 3 parts - spirit, soul & body.
- Demons can control any of the 3 parts in unbelievers.
  - If their spirit is controlled they are 'demon-possessed'
  - To be possessed means 'to be owned'
- Believers are owned by God
  - They cannot be possessed
  - Demons can attack the other 2 parts
    - The body - many incurable diseases
    - The soul

Demons are spiritual enemies.
- Should be considered undesirable trespassers.
  - A trespasser is one who has no right to be there but who will remain until he is made to leave

There are different ways these trespassers get control
- Through sin.
  - Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJ) lists 17 'works of the flesh' or 'acts of the sinful nature'
- Through circumstances in life.
  - Demons take full advantage of times of weakness in a person's life
  - The weakest time in most lives is during childhood
- Through your inheritance.
  - Your belief that you will inherit physical and emotional conditions from your family
  - Sometimes a curse is placed on a family

There are ways to know if you are dealing with demonic control in your life

- I Corinthians 12:7-11 (NKJ)
  - The gift of 'discerning of spirits'
  - The gift of knowledge

- By simply observing what the spirits are doing in us
  - Mark 7:24-30 (NKJ)
  - The woman knew her daughter had a demon by the symptoms.

Some of the most common symptoms of indwelling demons are

1. Emotional problems
   - Disturbances in the emotions which persist or reoccur
     Examples: resentment, hatred, anger, fear, rejection, self-pity, jealousy, depression, worry, insecurity, inferiority
2. Mental problems
   - Disturbances in the mind or thought life
     Examples: mental torment, indecision, procrastination, compromise, loss of memory
3. Speech problems
   - Outbursts or uncontrolled use of the tongue
     Examples: lying, cursing, blasphemy, criticism, mockery, gossip
4. Sexual problems
   - Recurring unclean thoughts and acts regarding sex
     Examples: fantasy sex experiences, lust, perversions, homosexuality, adultery, incest, provocativeness, flirtation
5. Addictions.
   - Nicotine, alcohol, drugs, medicine, tobacco, caffeine, food, etc.
6. Physcial infirmities
   - Many diseases and physical afflictions are due to a spirit of infirmity
7. Religious error
   - False religions, occult and spiritualism, false doctrine

Deliverance is the answer for believers who have demonic bondages (strongholds).

- Deliverance = a setting free; rescue or release
- As Christians, we should desire to be delivered
  - Ephesians 5:27 (NKJ)
    We do not want demons controlling areas of our lives when Jesus comes for us

The believer has a part to play in deliverance

- Revelations 19:7 (NIV)

- James 4:7 (NKJ)

- Mark 16:17 (NKJ)

- Luke 10:19 (NKJ)
  - Why would God give us power if we weren't going to have to use it?

Self - deliverance

- Every believer has the same authority over evil spirits

There are 3 reasons why a believer may want to seek help with deliverance

- Lack of experience.
- To have another believer present to operate in the gift of 'discerning spirits'
- God may reveal to you that you need to seek help
  - James 5:16 (NIV)