

“Leftovers” from Recent Studies

From recent study on Praising God: Praising God “in the Spirit”

We talked about the reasons we should praise God, and different ways to do it, but I neglected one important one – praising God “in the Spirit”. i.e., in tongues.

1 Cor. 14:15 – What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

In the same way that you can pray in the Spirit after receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you can sing in the Spirit also. You are yielding your voice in song, allowing Him to give you words of His choosing. This seems to be less common than it was back in the 70's and 80's, but there were times when all of a sudden a heavenly wave of song would move through a congregation and people would sing out in whatever words and melody the Spirit gave, and it would eventually die away. It is edifying and inspiring, and is something we should still seek to experience, either in public worship or in private.

From the study on Occult Deliverance: Deliverance from non-occult things, like traumas

Not all demonic oppression is due to occult participation. Sometimes traumatic events take place that “open the door” to oppression, in the form of nightmares, uncontrollable fear, addictions, depression, suicide, or just losing the will to live. e.g., rape or incest, witnessing a gruesome crime or accident, losing a child or a parent, having an abortion, extreme fright, etc.

Example 1:

Years ago, tornadic weather caused my wife and young children extreme fear. Immediately after, one of the children was so fearful about any loud noise, or even the sound of an airplane high overhead that she would be in a panic. She was afraid to be outdoors. We prayed for some time, and finally decided that my wife had opened a door to this spirit of fear by her own fear. Seeing the mother's fear was enough to allow a spirit of fear to afflict the child. While others may find this explanation “unreasonable”, yet we prayed - Susie repented of allowing such fear in her own heart, and for opening a door to that spirit of fear to afflict the daughter. We rebuked that spirit of fear in the Name of Jesus, commanded it to leave the daughter and our household, and declared that door then to be “closed” to any future oppression. The result? the daughter was immediately free of those fears and they never resumed.

Example 2:

A few years after that, one of our daughters would repeatedly wake us with blood-curdling screams from nightmares. We would “rebuke spirits of fear” and try to comfort her, but it continued, and we were at our wits end to know why it was happening, and why our prayers were not working. The daughter usually could not remember the dreams, but finally one time she told us there was a lion roaring at her. We do not remember what else was in the dream, but something she said led us to believe that the “lion” was one of us. We searched the matter and decided that through our anger at the children, or through discipline administered not in love, but anger, we had caused her to see us as a threat instead of loving parents. We repented and confessed that sin, rebuked the spirit of fear and commanded it to cease afflicting the child, and “closed the door”. The result? she was delivered from those nightmares and stopped screaming.

Lessons:

1. Sometimes before you can be free of demonic oppression, you must be able to discern the real cause. Not everything is demonic, but we need to seek God to show us the real cause of an affliction.
2. You may go through some “dead-end” (failed) solutions, or get sidetracked looking at the symptoms. Keep praying until you identify the root cause.
3. When you believe you have found the root, then follow these steps:
 - a. Confess your faith in Christ as your Lord and Savior
 - b. Confess, ask forgiveness, and repudiate whatever was the root cause of oppression
 - c. Command the devil and whatever demons are involved to leave and not to return, in the Name of Jesus, and declare as a confession of faith that that door of oppression is now closed.
 - d. Walk in that deliverance. Don't reopen the door through continuing sin.