

## Praying for Deliverance

### Any conversation on praying for deliverance needs some clarification:

1. There are no prescriptive (commands) formulas in scripture that present a model for deliverance. There are only descriptive (what happened) passages where an event is explained. We need to acknowledge up front that while deliverance did happen, there was no set way that it happened.
2. Any deliverance ministry that is valid will always line up with and come under the authority of Scripture. If a method is presented that is not found in Scripture, or is extra-biblical, we should test it with others who are mature in the faith and allow them to speak into it. We must be aware that miracles, signs and wonders can be counterfeited by Satan (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)
3. Deliverance in the Old Testament and the New Testament were seen differently.
  - a. In the Old Testament deliverance was primarily seen from a political/social view.
    - i. The Exodus account of God delivering the Israelites from the Egyptians.
    - ii. The time of the Judges when Israel would rebel, and God would raise up Judges to bring about renewal and deliverance.
    - iii. The time of the kings where rebellion was met with discipline and repentance/obedience was met with deliverance.
    - iv. All deliverance was not for the glory of the people but for the glory of God and for his name (Ezekiel 20:14).
  - b. A secondary view of deliverance in the Old Testament was in healings and resurrections,
    - i. God restores life to the son of the widow at Zarephath (Sidonian) through the actions of Elijah (1 Kings 17:7-24).
    - ii. God restores physical life to a Shunammite's (Israelite) son through the actions of Elisha (2 Kings 4:8-37)
    - iii. Naaman the Syrian was healed of Leprosy, by God, through words given to Elisha (2 Kings 5:1).
  - c. In the New Testament deliverance was done on an individual/church point of view.
    - i. Deliverance was done for both spiritual and physical oppression/demonization.
    - ii. Jesus brought healing to those who were physically suffering (Matthew 9:21-22), spiritually lost (Mark 5:1-17), and spiritually sensitive (Mark 1:30-31). It is important to note that during the time of Jesus, no one had the Holy Spirit living in them, this event only happened after Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13). There is no Scriptural example of someone who is sealed in the Holy Spirit being delivered from demonization.
    - iii. Jesus healed using a variety of outward methods: Mud in the eyes, bathing, prayer, simple touch, and words.
    - iv. All of Jesus' healing were done in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to point people to his Father.
    - v. The miracles were given as a sign of the authority of Jesus and his Father (John 14:11).
    - vi. The New Testament church was also given the authority to bring deliverance in the same way Jesus did (Acts 3:1-10). Deliverance also took on a very practical element. There was the freedom brought by casting out demons and healing the sick, but there was also deliverance brought about by community, reconciliation, feeding the poor and supporting struggling churches. Again, these deliverances were done to point people to Christ.
    - vii. As the church is established in the book of Acts, there is a decrease in the more sensational deliverances, and a larger emphasis on the churches unity in Christ as the primary sign of people being sent by Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:11-13; Colossians 3:13-14).
  - d. In both the Old and New Testament, deliverance is seen as something which brings freedom, restoration, and rest.