

SPIRITUAL HOUSE CLEANING

Removing uninvited demonic guests

By: Kathy DeGraw

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Rescinding Word Curses

Your words have power.

There is power in the words we speak! I will never forget the first time I had a deep understanding of this. I was in a Christian conference, and the speaker was teaching about the demonic and word curses. He was instructing that we shouldn't say slang phrases such as:

- You're going to kill me for this.
- You're making me sick.
- They are sick, and I'll catch it next.
- I'm going to kill myself for doing that.
- The flu is going around, so I'll probably get it too.

I remember clearly as he was instructing that he broke the word-curses we had previously spoken over ourselves, and as he cast out the

spirits associated with those curses, I felt three demonic spirits of death leave my body. I had been one of those people who would jokingly say, "You're going to kill me for this." It was an open door to the demonic world, and the forces of evil had infiltrated me with three demonic spirits of death in my soul.

The Bible talks about self-invited curses and how they can have an effect on us and the generations to follow.

In Genesis 27, we see an example of a self-invited curse. Rebekah was persuading her son Jacob to deceive Isaac, his father, now blind, in order to obtain his blessing (which Isaac intended to pronounce on his other son, Esau). Jacob was eager for the blessing but fearful of the consequences if Isaac should discover his deception. "Perhaps my father will feel me," he said, "and I will seem to him as a deceiver, and I will bring a curse on myself and not a blessing" (v. 12). Rebekah responded immediately, "Let your curse be upon me, my son" (v. 13a). And the curse was on Rebekah, and she lost the privilege of being with her son.

In Matthew 27, against his own judgment, the Roman governor, Pilate, consents to release

to the crowd a murderer named Barabbas and to impose the death sentence on Jesus instead. In order to disassociate himself from this act, however, Pilate washes his hands in front of the crowd and says, "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous Man" (v. 24c).

To this, the crowd responds, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (v. 25b). Here there is a self-imposed curse on themselves and a relational curse on their descendants. Since that time, bloodshed and tragedy have been interwoven in the destiny of the Jewish people.

The Bible clearly instructs us on the power of our words:

- "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." (Prov. 18:21).
- "For truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says." (Mark 11:23).
- "Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from trouble." (Prov. 21:23).

- "We all err in many ways. But if any man does not err in word, he is a perfect man and able also to control the whole body. See how we put bits in the mouths of horses that they may obey us, and we control their whole bodies. And observe ships. Though they are so great and are driven by fierce winds, yet they are directed with a very small rudder wherever the captain pleases. Even so, the tongue is a little part of the body and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles. The tongue is a fire, a world of evil. The tongue is among the parts of the body, defiling the whole body, and setting the course of nature on fire, and it is set on fire by hell. All kinds of beasts, and birds, and serpents, and things in the sea are tamed or have been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who are made in the image of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My

brothers, these things ought not to be so." (James 3:2-10).

That which we speak out of our mouth can defile our soul. "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile the man" (Matt. 15:18). A demon cannot infiltrate your spirit man; that is where the Holy Spirit resides, but a demonic entity can infiltrate your soul, your mind, will, emotions and body.

We need to clean up the words we are speaking and, even moreso, renew our mind of false expectations. Just because a person is sick

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"We have been redeemed from the curse."

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around us does not mean we will get sick. We have been redeemed from the curse. We need to be speaking out and declaring out positive proclamations over our lives and not negativity and idle words for which we will give account and that can have a negative effect on us. In my book *Prophetic Proclamations,* I have listed prophetic declarations that the Holy Spirit inspired me to write, so we are speaking out positive into the spiritual atmosphere.

We must get hold of our tongues and

renew our minds to speak out and declare out according to Scripture. We must tighten up our word choices, and if it isn't positive and doesn't produce good spiritual results, we must be careful to not speak it out into the spiritual atmosphere. How many times have you received what you have spoken in a negative sense? Phrases could include:

- My car is going to break down.
- I'm going to get fired from my job.
- This food is making me sick.
- This bag of groceries is going to rip.
- That object is going to fall on me.

We need to transition to thinking it instead of speaking it until we can renew our mind enough to not even to think it. There is power in what we speak out; that is why people can be healed, delivered and miracles can happen. However, we also need to know our speech can have a direct result in the negative too. Therefore, before you speak out next time, be slow to speak, and remember, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18:21a).

Releasing Strongholds in the Mind

Not every stronghold is demonic.

Do you need deliverance from demonic strongholds or wrong mindsets? We cannot and must not blame everything on a demon. We have responsibility for the mindsets we take on and the freedom we need to receive.

So often we relate the word deliverance to demonic entities infiltrating our soul. The definition of deliverance from American Dictionary of the English Language, Webster's Dictionary 1828, is, "release from captivity, slavery, oppression or any restraint." We can hold ourselves in captivity by wrong mindsets.

Deliverance is terminology indicating

oppression, but oppression is defined as, "overburdened, misery or heaviness." It is not necessarily demonic in nature.

I think we have a tendency to associate deliverance as being demonic, because it is often

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"We cannot and must not blame everything on a demon."

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easier to blame our oppression on a demon—something we don't feel like we can control—than taking responsibility where perhaps we played a part and caused some of the strongholds and oppression in our lives.

When we feel as though we caused our oppression, it brings forth shame, self-condemnation and regret. We experience defeat and victim mentalities and we get locked up and shut down. In our minds, we believe we will never change or won't be any good at anything.

I believe a defeat mentality from our past infiltrates our mentality of who we are today. We cannot allow our past to identify us. We cannot get emotional and spiritually paralyzed in our strongholds.

Oppression isn't necessarily our fault, even

if it's a wrong mindset. I know that may sound contradictory, but we haven't been taught in general how to release our feelings in a healthy and productive way in order to conquer oppression. We have not been raised in an environment of inner healing and deliverance.

In fact, a lot of people have been taught to stuff their feelings or that their thoughts and words don't matter. When we have been raised not to talk about our feelings and process them outward, we haven't been given the necessary tools in which to fight oppression.

When we don't fight and release the oppression that has attacked our emotions and we keep unproductive and unfruitful emotions bottled up inside our souls, that's when those ill feelings can build up over time and invite a demonic stronghold. Demons enter and infiltrate our souls when we don't process and handle our emotions. They are also given a legal right to attack us when we don't do anything to seek our freedom or we don't take responsibility in our own bondage or freedom.

We need to take a step back and seek the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to convict and correct us. Pray and seek the Scriptures about

asking God to "create in me a clean heart" (Ps. 51:10) and "search me" (Ps. 139:23). Inviting the Holy Spirit into all parts of our souls in order to receive deliverance, whether demonic activity or mindsets, will enable us to walk in the fullness and freedom of Christ and receive clarity instead of confusion.

Removing Demonic Attachments on Objects

Do any of your household objects have demonic attachments?

The demonic realm is real, and demons are looking for a body or an object with which to attach. In the Bible, we see examples of territorial spirits in Mark 5 who wanted to occupy a region.

Familiar spirits know what is in our generational line and what we struggle with. They operate to keep the same negative patterns and habits repeatedly manifesting. Territorial spirits and familiar spirits can be in the atmosphere, attempting to inflict our souls and attach to

objects. Spirits can attach to objects that are not of the Lord, have been cursed, or dedicated to a false god.

There are times we go through another territory or region, and we can feel the darkness. Additionally, there are also times we feel something is just not right. These are examples of how the demonic can infiltrate other places, and we are sensitive to it, and the Spirit makes us aware. It is similar to when we go into a church or home that has been prayed up and permeated with the presence of the Lord. We can feel an atmospheric shift, lightness and peace; that is how we want our homes to feel. It is wisdom to do a spiritual housecleaning and purge anything in our homes that could be instituting spiritual warfare on our behalf.

I remember one time going to the store and purchasing bags of crosses on clearance. As we were in prayer and worship, the bags were in the room when two of us looked up and felt something amiss in the spiritual atmosphere. We were immediately drawn to the bag of crosses. As we looked at the crosses, we could see faces in the designs. We later discovered crosses made in China were made in the same factories as

Buddhas, and that they are dedicated to Buddha before they leave China. We immediately got rid of them and prayed over my home.

In the Bible, we receive instructions on what to do with an object that could have spiritual attachments.

"You must burn the graven images of their gods with fire. You must not desire the silver or gold that is on them nor take any of it, lest you be snared by them, for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. You shall not bring an abomination into your house, lest you become cursed like it, but you must absolutely detest and abhor it, for it is a cursed thing (Deut. 7:25-26)."

We could have received an ungodly object from our grandparents (not intentionally), something we purchased while traveling or as a gift. I suggest praying over the gifts you receive. I remember one of my assistants often having to dispose of gifts her daughter would send her from overseas. But how do we know what we need to get rid of and what we can pray over and keep? We need to seek the Holy Spirit for wisdom, guidance and leading.

Objects we shouldn't have in our homes would include Buddha, false gods, dream

catchers, rabbit's foot, yin-yang symbols, peace signs, anything representing the demonic or darkness and any objects that are rooted in a false religion.

There are also what I call undercover objects we need to discern such as jewelry, gifts, wall hangings, knickknacks, heirloom items and sentimental items.

Items you should question and discern with the Holy Spirit:

- Jewelry from an ex-lover or former spouse
- Items from friendships that have ended in disunity
- Items that remind you of emotional or physical trauma
- Heirloom items, unless you know your ancestry and grandparents' spirituality
- Jewelry from your generational line
- Jewelry with occult symbolism or symbolism that cannot be identified
- Items with no reasoning behind them
- Items people left in your house without permission

How should we discern or decide what to keep and what to dispose of?

- Pray and seek the Holy Spirit.

- What feeling does the item bring forth?
- Do you have a "check" in your spirit—an uneasiness about the item?
- Do you have an unusual special attachment to the item?
- Pray and bring in a mature friend or Christian to help you.
- Remove your flesh and natural opinion—it is just an object.
- Don't take into consideration the sentimental value. The sentiment of the item is still inside you, in your heart or the memory, even after the item is removed.
- Don't take into consideration the value of the item. The warfare the item brings costs you more than the physical item itself.

Don't feel you have to throw every item away that you have a check or uneasiness about. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit if you can pray over and anoint the item or if you have to remove it. I am clearly not telling you to keep occult objects, statues of false idols or items of that nature. What I am saying is don't go through your house like a crazy person throwing everything away because it could have a spiritual

"Be wise in the decisions you make, but also don't be ignorant of the enemy's devices."

attachment. Ask the Holy Spirit. Pack the item away in the basement for a few weeks if it is in question, while you pray and discern, and bind and restrict the spiritual realm from activating through it while you are discerning.

Be wise in the decisions you make, but also don't be ignorant of the enemy's devices. Clean up your home and get rid of objects that don't glorify the Lord or that have demonic attachments. Create and permeate an atmosphere conducive for the Holy Spirit to move in your home and life. Eliminate open doors through which the enemy can cause spiritual warfare attacks against you.

Casting Out Demons

Where are we supposed to "send" demons when casting them out?

Where do we send demons after casting them out? When ministering in the area of deliverance, we can experience several ministries using different models of healing and sending demons to various places. I believe one of the reasons the church doesn't fully embrace the ministry of deliverance is because when we hear demons being cast out, there are so many variances that people get confused on what is the right way or what is the biblical way.

There are variances in deliverance. Most deliverances are not the same. We say in my ministry deliverance isn't a cookie-cutter ministry: No two sessions or experiences are alike.

"Deliverance isn't a cookie-cutter ministry: No two sessions or experiences are alike."

However, there are some biblical practices that should have commonality.

One of the most controversial and asked questions is, "Where do we send demons after casting them out?" As a minister who hosts deliverance training schools, I've heard the following responses:

- Cast them to the feet of Jesus.
- Command them back to the abyss.
- Send them to the dry places.

All of these are unbiblical practices. Our current churches are not embracing deliverance. If we want the church, people and ministries to embrace the ministry of deliverance, we must do biblical deliverance and follow Jesus' example in the way He cast out demons in the Bible. When we look at the biblical examples of Jesus casting out demons, we do not see that He sent them anywhere nor that He taught His disciples to send them anywhere.

One time the demons asked to go into the swine.

"All the demons pleaded with Him, asking, 'Send us to the swine, so that we may enter them.' At once, Jesus gave them leave. Then the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine. And the herd, numbering about two thousand, ran wildly down a steep hill into the sea and were drowned in the sea" (Mark 5:12-13).

However, this one example is not a model for us to command demons to go into animals or anywhere else. Jesus didn't command demons to go anywhere. The fact is, He just commanded them to come out.

Jesus issued the following commands and statements when casting demons out:

- "Go!" (Matthew 8:32b).
- Rebuked the demon (Matthew 17:18).
- "Be quiet and come out of him" (Mark 1:25).
- "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit" (Mark 5:8).
- "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and enter him no more" (Mark 9:25).
- "You are loosed from your infirmity" (Luke 13:12b).
- "Unbind him, and let him go"

(Luke 1:44c).

When researching these Scriptures showing the deliverance ministry of Jesus Christ, we don't find any scriptural proof leading up to these statements or after the demons released that He sent them anywhere.

Let's not get caught up in where to send them and what is the right wording. Let's do what Jesus commanded us to do: "Cast out demons." Release the ministry of deliverance by commanding the demon to get out in the name of Jesus.

Afterwards, make sure the person is filled with the Holy Spirit. Assist them in getting active in a good church. Encourage them to get discipled by a strong mentor, join a Bible study or be active in a Spirit-filled prayer group. Help them to fill back up spiritually so all the dry and empty places, the places the demons have just vacated, are filled up with the things of God so that no demon has a right to re-enter those places. Deliverance and discipleship must go hand in hand in order to truly set the captives free. Release the ministry of deliverance as Jesus did, but let's make sure it is biblical deliverance.

Rebuking Demonic Assignments

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and it goes both ways.

Jesus taught us on several occasions and modeled to us the power of our words. As Christians, we use words to create and call things forth in the positive, but do we realize the same power in our words activates the negative spirit realm?

What do we do when we have spoken something we shouldn't have? Does the demonic realm activate against our negative words or words that other people have spoken out against us? You bet! Death and life are in the power of the tongue (see Prov. 18:21), and that goes both ways.

Jesus rebuked the demon and rebuked the storm. Rebuke means to take authority over, and then He gave it a follow-up command.

"He rose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' Then the wind ceased and there was a great calm" (Mark 4:39).

"Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' When the demon had thrown

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"How do we cancel the effects that have gone forth in the spiritual realm?"

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him down in their midst, he came out of him and did not hurt him" (Luke 4:35).

When Jesus rebuked in both cases, He gave a follow-up command. He was taking authority over the situation and speaking in the natural and spiritual what needed to happen.

When we speak out words, they create. We need to take authority over words we have created and rebuke them and then speak in the natural and spiritual realm what needs to happen.

How do we cancel the effects that have gone forth in the spiritual realm? Here is a list of words we can speak out into the atmosphere to cancel any spiritual warfare assignments sent

to target against our words.

Rebuke and renounce all words spoken against you, your family, your business or your loved ones. Speak out: "I rebuke and renounce all negative words spoken against me and that I have spoken against another person. I decree they will not go forth in the spiritual realm, and I cancel their negative assignment in Jesus' name."

Break off all word-curse assignments. Speak aloud: "I cancel all word curses and attacks from the enemy in Jesus' name. I declare no weapon formed against me shall prosper."

Cancel assignments of the enemy to steal, kill and destroy your life, health, family, business and finances. "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Declare out: "I have life and have it abundantly. Thank you, Jesus; I have abundance in every area of my life."

Speak Isaiah 54:17a: "No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment, you shall condemn."

Bind the words of those who speak

negativity over you. Bind their tongue, mouth, lips and voice box from speaking negative words, gossip, slander and anything that does not edify, exhort or build up. Say, "Lord, I bind my friends' and family's words and mouths from speaking negative things in the spiritual realm about me, in Jesus' name."

Follow the scriptural example to bind and loose in Matthew 18:18: "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Ask the Holy Spirit to convict them and expose them. Pray, "Holy Spirit, convict them, reveal to them the wrong words they speak."

Repent of any ungodly words you have spoken. Make sure you don't have an open door to the enemy. Shut all demonic doors by asking Christ for forgiveness and forgiving yourself.

Keep your tongue from evil (see 1 Peter 3:10-11). Do your best to put a guard around your tongue, heart and mind. Live out the biblical mandate of 1 Peter 3:10-11: "For he who would love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do

good; let him seek peace and pursue it."

Speak and decree out, "Psalm 91:10, "There shall be no evil befall you, neither shall any plague come near your tent."

Living out these simple principles, making sure our tongue is speaking out the positive and rebuking and demolishing any attacks in the spiritual realm will help us to live out in victory and minimize spiritual disruptions to our destiny as a result of our words and words that were spoken out against us. Learn more about the power of your words in my book, *Speak Out* (Creation House).

Destroying Demonic Infiltration of the Soul

Does your exhaustion have a spiritual root?

Has heaviness plagued your soul? Do you feel weighed down? Do you feel stuck in your spiritual walk? Do you feel paralyzed in your emotions? Life happens, emotions get out of balance, and tests and trials come at us, but how do we know when it is a natural course of life versus a demonic spirit infiltrating our soul?

First of all, we need to know that we are a three-part being. We have a soul, which is our mind, will and emotions. We are a physical

being, which is our body. We are a spirit being, which is the place where our spirit and the Holy Spirit dwells. Evil spirits cannot penetrate our spirit man, but it can attack our bodies through a physical infirmity or our soul through emotional attacks and trials.

We will have normal circumstances that weigh us down and make us feel sad. However, when we can't get unstuck or move past situations is when we need to start discerning if a demonic entity has infiltrated our soul.

Condemnation nags and sticks around where conviction from the Holy Spirit is quick. When we are experiencing emotional turmoil, often with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, we can quickly move through the emotions and move on. However, when we are suffering from condemnation, guilt and shame, these often stick around longer than we would like. What we need to discern is if they are normal emotions we are experiencing as we move through the healing process, or if they paralyzed us emotionally and spiritually and created a stronghold within our minds and within our soul.

Anytime we are not living in the fullness of God, exuding the fruits of the Spirit, we should

evaluate if we are going through a difficult situation or if a demonic spirit has come in what I call our back door. Often where we get stuck is not realizing a demonic attack just came upon us. We need to find a balance between giving the enemy too much credit and not giving him

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"When we can't get unstuck or move past situations is when we need to start discerning if a demonic entity has infiltrated our soul."

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credit at all. He is a thief, and he comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). If we are not living life abundantly, as John 10 says we can, we should take a step back and ask ourselves if something has plagued our soul.

We are not meant to live in a place of bondage, stagnancy and wilderness experiences. Even when those come for a moment in our lives, it should be brief, and we should be able to move on and move forward. My saying is "Up and forward." I want to be moving up and forward at all times.

Where the enemy binds us is that we don't realize it is a demonic attack, and we think it is

life's happenings and then don't know how to move out of it. If you can't seem to move up and forward, perhaps there is a demonic entity preventing you from doing so. Receive freedom by casting the demonic spirit out of your soul as Jesus did when He released the ministry of deliverance over people. We need to stop and say, "Spirit of anger or spirit of rejection, go in Jesus' name." Are you plagued with irritability, guilt or condemnation? Those emotions can become a spiritual stronghold, and when we cast out an evil spirit attached to them, it assists us in removing guilt, condemnation and irritability from our lives by renewing our mind, living in peace and changing our thought patterns. Once the bondage of the enemy is revealed, exposed and rebuked, we can move forward.

Take a step back and evaluate where you haven't been able to receive breakthrough and where you have felt stuck. Pray, discern and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any strongholds that may have gotten in your back door, then rise up and take your authority and cast them out in Jesus' name. Freedom feels good. Being unstuck feels great! Jesus came so we can have abundant lives and keep moving up and forward. When

we remove the demonic spirit attached to our ailment, we have the freedom, drive and ambition we need to keep pressing on and moving up and forward!

Discerning Your Home for Demonic Activity

How to make your home a place of spiritual peace

Our homes should be a place where God's glory dwells. We should cultivate an atmosphere conducive for the Holy Spirit to move, not just within our churches, but within our homes. I often hear people come into my home and make comments like, "The presence of the Lord is in this place" or "It is so peaceful here I don't want to leave." Those comments are nice to hear, but I just don't want to hear them about my home, I want to hear them about your home and their home. You, too, can have what I have.

I have cultivated an atmosphere in my home

by playing worship music 24/7 throughout my house. But what about the times your house doesn't feel peaceful? How do you tell if evil is lurking in your home? We can come into our home one day and feel the presence of God, and then another day, we could discern something amiss in the atmosphere. What is it? How did it enter? What do we do about it?

Discerning the atmosphere of your home is easy. The first thing is if you are noticing there is an absence of peace of His presence, I encourage you to do a spiritual inventory.

Walk through all the rooms of your home. Are there rooms that feel more peaceful than others? Do you look at an object in the room and not have peace about it? Make a note of your discoveries or where God's peace and presence seem to be lacking or even that you can feel an evil spirit infiltrated the room.

Discern the rooms that seem spiritually disruptive to you. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Was there a recent conflict in the room?
- Did someone return from an international trip or purchase an object overseas?
- Is a computer present where

pornography could have been watched?

- Is the person occupying that room under spiritual attack?
- Is a TV or radio in that room so something could have been watched or played that released a demonic presence?
- Did you recently have visitors in your home or deliverance ministry released?
- Has a person in the home opened the door to witchcraft practices?
- Is there emotional bondage in a family member?

These can all be some of the reasons a demonic presence can be present in your home. The good part is these are the easiest demons to get out. Pray through the rooms of your home, anoint the rooms with oil and

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"We do not have to be afraid of demons; we have authority over them."

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speak out loud and command by saying, "All demons leave this room and this home in Jesus' name." If you know the name of the demon, such as heaviness or conflict, then command it to go by name, saying, "Demon of heaviness

or demon of conflict, get out in Jesus' name." Then speak and declare good things like the presence of God and fruits of the Spirit to come into the room. I suggest playing music in that part of the home.

We do not have to be afraid of demons; we have authority over them. However, we do want to be aware of when evil is lurking so we can expel evil from our presence. By living a life devoted to God in prayer, worship and Bible study and keeping our homes a place of holiness, we can prevent evil spirits from entering in and wreaking havoc. Anoint your home, pray over it, be discerning of what you allow in and out of your home and cultivate an atmosphere conducive of praise and a place where the Holy Spirit and presence of the Lord can dwell.

Conquering Paranormal Activity

I remember years ago, living in a parsonage, knowing nothing about spiritual warfare and hearing music from our supply ducts and floor registers. I always thought it was weird and wondered where the music was coming from, but I didn't realize it was demonic until we started having other paranormal experiences. My daughter, who was five at the time, would get regular visits from demons at night. She was tormented for a long time until we finally realized it was demonic.

In one night, everything changed as we anointed her bed, cast the demons out and bound and restricted future attacks, and called on angels to infiltrate her room. After we took authority over her room, she never had another attack after having them for over two years. Our

son told us years later, Satan appeared to him twice while living there and said, "I'm going to kill you." One time I had to rush him to the hospital to save his life. Every year for over ten years, he would go to the hospital for something abnormal until we broke the curse.

How do you encounter and take authority over paranormal experiences without fear rising or giving the enemy too much credit for the attacks you are suffering? How do you approach situations when demons take over a person's voice in front of you, a person is physically taken over by a demon or you have paranormal activity manifesting in your home?

We need to remember our authority is in Christ. We can't defeat the devil in our strength, but we can fight the battle in the strength and power Jesus Christ has purchased for us.

Don't be paranoid, fearful or scared. There is not a demon waiting and lurking around every corner. It is important to have a proper balance between knowledge of the demonic and at the same time not ignoring the fact there is a spiritual realm assigned to wreak havoc on us.

Don't talk to a demon except to cast it out. Tell it to get out, but don't converse with

it. Don't dialog back and forth with it. Take authority over it, rebuke it and expel it.

I was ministering in another state for years, and I would stay at a person's home. On several occasions, I encountered demons in this house. Consistently, I would walk downstairs to my room, and at the bottom of the stairs I would encounter a demon and hear it say, "I'm going to kill you, I'm going to kill you." I took no credence in the threat and simply spoke out; "I will live and not die and declare the works of the Lord" (see Ps. 118:17). I never talked about the consistent attacks.

I have witnessed several paranormal activities over my career as a deliverance minister but do not regularly speak of them. While ministering in this house, I experienced my iPod and dock, which was playing Scripture to clean up the spiritual atmosphere being thrown across the room.

An important element to consider when experiencing demonic activity is to not make a big deal about it. The more we talk about it, the more the demonic is going to ramp up the activities of what we are experiencing. Satan was the angel in charge of worship. He knows what it is

like to see our heavenly Father worshipped. He desires to be worshipped, and when we exalt his attacks, he considers it worship of him.

When the demon would repeatedly say, "I'm going to kill you," I didn't tell anyone, especially my family, because I didn't want them to worry. Towards the end of this experience, I had a prophet who prophesied over me. He said, "Now you faced some things that would have destroyed some women. The devil said, 'I am going to kill you; I am going to kill you.' But God says, 'I am the shield about you. I am the glory and the lifter of your head. The enemy that has come against you one way will now flee seven. And just to show you who's boss, I am going to let you live to a ripe old age and do the will of God until your very last breath.'" God came in and confirmed what I already knew, but it did bring inner peace and comfort, hearing these exact words come out and be spoken over my life.

In deliverance ministry, you will often encounter demons speaking through another person's mouth. As Jesus did, we simply need to rebuke the demon, take authority over it and tell it to be quiet and come out. We should not be talking to and conversing with demons. Jesus

didn't, except one time, but that is not a model for us to follow. The model we should follow is to give strong authoritative short commands as Jesus did to the demons. I too had to do that to my furnace, supply ducts and floor registers. I had to command the demonic activity in my furnace to leave, to get out of the house, furnace, ducts and registers in Jesus' name. When I took authority as Jesus did, it left, but again, I didn't run to the congregation my husband was pastoring and tell them the parsonage was possessed and music was coming from my registers when I didn't have any music playing.

Taking authority and not allowing fear to arise are the key elements in not allowing the paranormal activity to get the best of us. If we allow fear to arise, it gets difficult to take our authority because then we are paralyzed in fear. We have to remember Jesus conquered and defeated the devil. Now, we will get attacked, but we simply have to take the victory He already won and extend that personally in and throughout lives. When we do, we will have the victory too! Learn more about the demonic and spiritual warfare in my books, *Discerning and Destroying the Works of Satan and Identity Invasion*.

Spiritually Cleaning Your Home

How can you prevent your home from receiving future demonic infiltrations?

Demons can infiltrate our homes, release spiritual warfare attacks and have us feeling heavy, burdened and depressed. Uninvited demonic guests coming into our home can create stagnancy in our spiritual walk and emotional paralysis. Demons can enter in the following ways:

- Television
- Music
- New items purchased
- Territorial spirits: local or traveling
- Familiar spirits: regional or family spirits
- Object attachments

- Arguments
- Sickness
- Disunity
- Friends, relatives or visitors
- Prior occupancy and establishment

It is important to keep our home spiritual clean. Spiritually cleaning our home will prevent future spiritual warfare attacks and will create an environment conducive for a move of the Holy Spirit.

"Uninvited demonic guests coming into our home can create stagnancy in our spiritual walk and emotional paralysis."

Now that demons have infiltrated your home, how do you get rid of them?

The following are steps to spiritually clean your home:

Play Christian music 24/7. Make sure the Christian music witnesses in your spirit man and does not agitate you. Not all Christian music is as Christian and holy as it should be.

Play Scriptures or read Scriptures out loud in your home. Rotate between worship music and having the Bible read out loud through your

media device.

Pray through and anoint each room. Anoint your doorposts and exits. Anoint each room and consecrate it unto the Lord. Speak that it will exude the presence of the Lord and that the atmosphere will establish peace for all who enter.

Pray specifically over each room:

- Bedrooms: Command all spirits of lust, perversion and masturbation to leave. Command and pray out loud that demons will not release tormenting dreams, nightmares, or incubus or succubus spirits in the night. Speak and decree that your sleep will be sweet.
- Bathrooms: Bind and restrict sickness, disease, upset stomachs and intestinal issues. Command everyone's colon, digestive system and intestines to work properly in Jesus' name. Command a spirit of self-hate, self-rejection, vanity and pride to go in Jesus' name. Call forth as people look in the mirror that they will see themselves made in the image of God and feel His great love for them.
- Kitchen: Speak and decree there will be

no food poisoning. Come against sickness and disease and the spirits of obesity, anorexia, gluttony, overeating and weight problems. Pray further and bind the spirit of addiction including alcoholism, caffeine, sugar and other food addictions. Bind and restrict emotional ailments and call forth inner healing for all who enter the kitchen that their emotional challenges, unworthiness and stress will not cause them to find comfort in food.

- Dining Room: Cast out a spirit of dissension and disunity. Call forth good family relationships where the love of God abounds. Pray conversations would edify and glorify the Lord while eating at the table.
- Living Room / Family Room: Cast out every demon that has infiltrated through TV shows, vulgar language and computer pornography. Bind and restrict a spirit of electronic addition. Play Christian music in this room to permeate the atmosphere. Even if you are not watching what you would consider

terrible shows, many demons infiltrate through a variety of shows released into the atmosphere of your home.

- Furnace Room: Pray against demonic infiltration. Prior families who have lived there may have deposited unknowingly demonic influences. Demons often hide out in the furnace and infiltrate the house through the venting system. Anoint the furnace with oil and command all demons to go in Jesus' name.
- Storage Room: Be alert and aware of items brought back from traveling such as luggage. Demons can attach to objects from other regions and wreak havoc on your home. Items stored for a long period, given as gifts, or passed down from prior generations can all have demonic attachments.
- People: Pray after people leave your home who do not have a walk glorifying the Lord or who you feel deposited a spirit of heaviness. Sometimes people leave, and we feel agitated or less joyful. You may feel weighted, all of a sudden depressed or frustrated with your time

together. Say out loud and pray, "I command there will be no ungodly attachments, defilements or transferences in Jesus' name. I bind and restrict every ungodly soul tie and say you will not activate and implant in Jesus' name."

Now that you prayed through your home and have done a spiritual cleansing, how can you prevent your home from receiving future demonic infiltrations?

The following steps are not meant to be legalistic but can help you dedicate your home unto the Lord:

- Write Scripture on the walls and floors before painting and carpeting.
- Anoint each room with oil.
- Write Scriptures on your entry doorposts.
- Play music or Scripture throughout your home, even while at work, and keep on a low volume in another room at night.
- Stake out your home. Write Scripture on four stakes and pound completely into the dirt at the four corners of your property.
- Do a prayer walk around the inside and outside of your home.

These practices are not superstitious, paranoid or legalistic. They are creating a peaceful environment and stating that your home is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, and you are dedicating and consecrating your home unto the Lord.

Cleansing Hotel Rooms

Take authority over your setting.

I think we all enjoy our anointed homes that we have prayed over and where we have Christian music playing. I don't know about you, but I have cultivated an atmosphere of praise in my home. It is peaceful.

I enjoy being there in the presence of the Lord. In fact, sometimes it makes it difficult to leave my home to go out in the world.

However, as I travel for the kingdom of God, and as some of you travel for your work, ministry, vacation or holidays, how do we continue to protect the natural environment we have to live in and guard our souls when we are away from home?

We need to pray over and cleanse the hotel rooms and other places in which we need to

temporarily live. Demonic spirits are released in hotel rooms through pornography, impure sexual activity, adulterous relations, televisions, people and prostitution. Along with spirits of perversion, we could be dealing with territorial spirits, familiar spirits and a variety of other spirits that have been deposited and activated in a hotel room.

We want to cleanse the environment in which we have to occupy from addictions such as pornography, gambling, smoking and alcohol. Sometimes we have no other choice but to stay in a hotel that houses gambling, smoking and alcohol, because we are on a business or ministry trip. You can bet those demonic spirits are running rampant through the activities taking place.

Here's how you can cleanse a room you need to occupy from demonic activity:

- Anoint the doors, windows and bed with oil.
- Pray aloud and command, "Every demonic spirit in this room, I command you to leave in Jesus' name."
- Bind and restrict luring spirits from seducing anyone into any of the

addictions that have taken place in the room, such as sexual impurity, lust, perversion, pornography, masturbation, smoking, drugs, alcohol or gambling.

- Speak and decree audibly, "I command every spirit of lust, perversion, rape, sexual abuse, prostitution and defilement to get out of this room, in Jesus' name."
- Pray to dispatch angels into the room and speak out, "I cover this room with the blood of Christ."
- Take authority over the room by speaking and declaring, "There will be no demonic visitations or manifestations. I release the authority and dominion Jesus has assigned to me to reign in this room. I speak and decree this room is full of the presence of God and shalom peace."
- Have Christian music playing in the room, even when you are not in the room.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any other demonic entities you need to cast out.
- Read or speak out some Scriptures aloud in the room.

- Worship.
- Keep the television off. Don't contaminate your atmosphere with TV.

Don't be legalistic about praying everything; seek and ask the Holy Spirit what to pray. And don't be fearful of staying in a hotel room or another room away from home, but be cautious and alert. We cannot be ignorant of the enemy's devices. I've had some phenomenal times with the Lord with His glory descending while I've been in a hotel room, but I do take authority and cultivate that atmosphere of praise.

Use wisdom in the coming weeks, and if you find yourself experiencing ungodly activities or unusual sickness, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any attachments, defilements or transferences that could have manifested in the

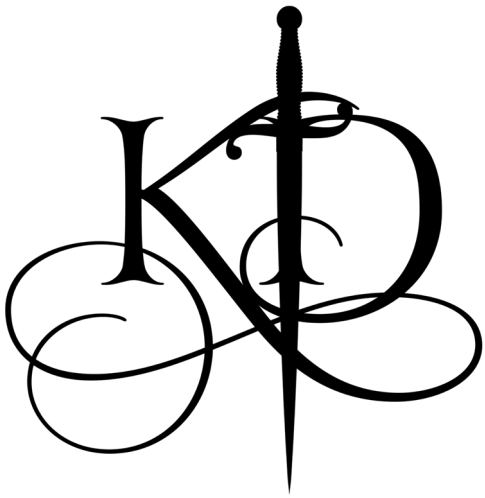
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"We cannot be ignorant of the enemy's devices."

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hotel room. Remove these demonic attacks by simply praying if you discover them, or every time you leave a hotel room, by speaking out, "There will be no ungodly attachments, defilements or transferences, in Jesus' name."

You have authority over all things. Take your authority and put the devil under your feet and cast him out of every area of your life.



KATHY DEGRAW is a prophetic spiritual warfare and deliverance minister releasing the love and power of God, to ignite and activate people, release prophetic destinies and deliver people from the bondage of the enemy. She is the founder of Kathy DeGraw Ministries and travels internationally preaching at conference events and empowering and discipling people through her teaching schools.

She writes weekly for CharismaMag.com and hosts a weekly Prophetic Spiritual Warfare show on the Charisma Podcast Network. She is a recognized prophetic voice by The Elijah List, Destiny Image and Prophecy Investigators. She is an author of several books, including *Discerning and Destroying the Works of Satan*, *Speak Out* and *Warfare Declarations*.

She is the founder of Ruach Ha'Kodesh Apostolic Empowerment Center, which she co-pastors with her husband; Be Love Outreach, a local outreach hosting evangelistic events and prophetic love tours; and Change Into Colorless, an anti-racism corporation.

Kathy is married to her husband, Pastor Ron DeGraw. Together they reside in Grandville, Michigan, and they have three young adult children, Dillon, Amber and Lauren (and son-in-law Alex), who all serve the Lord and reside in Grandville, Michigan.

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