

PRAYERS FOR THE DELIVERANCE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

"Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them (Job's children) thinking, 'Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.' This was Job's regular custom." Job 1:5.

The Principle

Under the sovereignty of God, Satan and his forces may legally influence and oppress a life on the basis of unconfessed, uncleansed sin, personal or ancestral. Release from affliction is achieved through removal of sin ground, exposure of suspected enemy schemes/spirits, and resistance in the authority of the name and blood of Jesus Christ. Generally, if oppression occurs in young children, it is primarily rooted in previous, uncleansed sin of ancestors that has opened in the bloodline doors of advantage to the influence of enemy spirits.

Possible Applications

- 1) Ungodly ancestral heritage (most typically, occultism, sexual sin, incest, hate, bitterness, rejection of the gospel), parents were non-believers at time of conception and birth of children. In some cases, familial afflicting spirits have already moved "downline" to influence the children. The parents, even if currently believers, may likewise be affected and require deliverance. (Exodus 34:7; Jer. 32:18; Lam. 5:7).
- 2) Ungodly ancestral heritage, parents are believers but through ignorance and lack of diligence fail to dedicate and pray for release of children from genealogical influences.
- 3) Believing or non-believing parents allow penetration of evil influence into the home ("holes in the umbrella"), directly affecting children, e.g., pornography, movies, television, occult games, drugs, rock music, babysitters, etc.
- 4) Children of actively involved Christian servants subject to intensive enemy attack devised to diminish effectiveness of parent's ministry. Specific, diligent prayer for protection, and wise parenting must be employed as defense against this type of oppression.
- 5) Adopted children, inheriting demonic affliction from an ungodly ancestry. Often, adoptees are conceived in circumstances of sexual sin, severe rejection, and abuse, and are thus particularly vulnerable to potential demonic influence.
- 6) Children under your direct care for supervision, either at church or in your home, for whom the Lord directs you to pray for with authority.

Instruction

Through pastoral practice, the following guidelines may be observed in dealing with children of varying ages:

- 1) 0-5: Deliverance prayer may be offered by parents to directly remove any suspected demonic influence. These procedures may be helpful:
 - a) Lay a hand on the child while sleeping, pray, and observe any specific responses.
 - b) Offer prayer verbally while holding or rocking a child.
 - c) Prayer for children may be offered in the deliverance session of a parent. The deliverance counselor should lead in this procedure.

- 2) 6-10: It is advisable at these ages to verify the genuineness of commitment to Christ. If commitment is lacking, face-to face prayer is not recommended. As with Job, parental prayer may still be offered at anytime.
 - a) Deal with confession of any sin that might give basis for enemy influence.
 - b) Give the child minimal explanation, according to the level of understanding, of what you are doing. Do not pray directly with a child if such confrontation stirs fear or confusion. (Most kids know who the devil is and what he does; explain simply that you are praying to remove his influence.)
 - c) Pray face-to-face, naming any suspected enemy activity (e.g., rebellion, anger, fear, sickness, hate) or specific sins in the ancestry. Carefully observe any facial or behavioral responses, and follow the lead of the Spirit--He faithfully gives parents who pray specific guidance. Pray to bind, break and remove enemy influence, and to loose the work of God's Spirit.
 - d) Pause at any point to ask the child to give you feedback of his impressions, feelings as you are praying: Sometimes you may sense something lifting, leaving, or "clearing," and the child may confirm this to you in very unique ways.

- 3) 11-16: It is imperative, due to activation of moral accountability at adolescence, to verify commitment to Christ prior to offering direct deliverance prayer. The same conditions of resisting the enemy as outlined in James 4:6-10 apply here:
 - a) humble submission to God
 - b) earnest desire to draw near to the Lord
 - c) sincerity in confessing and cleansing all sin
 - d) unwavering commitment

If these conditions are met, individuals themselves may seek and pray for "deliverance from all evil," as Jesus taught.

The following prayers are patterns, not formulas. God honors and answers our faithful obedience, not a polished, articulate oratory. Ask Him to guide and anoint your prayer. Ask according to Mark 11:22-25. He is bountifully merciful toward children, and will answer in marvelous ways. He waits for us to pray for the release of children from bondage that He Himself does not design, but allows.

DELIVERANCE/COMMAND

(address the Lord)

Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ, my High Priest. I ask, according to your mercy, for your Holy Spirit to expose all unconfessed sin in my (and your spouse's) blood line that give the powers of darkness any advantage in attacking (). As () parent, I forsake this sin (see Lev. 26:40-42) and ask you now to separate and remove from () any ancestral consequence of evil, through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ (name here any specific sins or individuals that apply). (resist the devil) I take authority in Jesus Christ to formally dedicate () to the loving will of Yahweh, and to separate () from all consequences of evil that come from ancestral sin. I break, with the blood of Jesus Christ, all enemy schemes devised against () through any source, at any time. I weaken and expose all enemies of Jesus Christ who hear this prayer, and command you to leave now and go where Jesus Christ commands you to go (take liberty to wait on the Lord, and pray through until your spirit is clear).

DELIVERANCE PRAYER FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

(address the Lord)

Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ, as my High Priest. I ask, according to your mercy, for your Holy Spirit to search out and expose in the light all unconfessed sin that resides in () ancestral blood line, and that gives Satan any advantage. On behalf of (), I take legal authority to forsake this sin (be specific if possible, hate, incest, murder, occultism, alcoholism). I ask you, according to my faith, to separate and remove from () any ancestral consequence of evil, through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ (observe the child's responsive behavior as you pray, and prevail until there is peace in your spirit). (resist the devil) Same as above command of resistance.

PROMISES TO CLAIM

"Though my father and mother
forsake me,
the Lord will receive me."
Psalm 27:10

"As for me, this is my covenant
with them," says the Lord. "My
Spirit, who is on you, and my
words that I have put in your
mouth will not depart from your
mouth, or from the mouths of your
children, or from the mouths of
their descendants from this time
on and forever," says the Lord.
Isaiah 59:21

DAILY PRAYER FOR PROTECTION
Scripture mediation: Psalm 18

Father, you are my refuge, my shield, and my strength (Deut. 33:26-29). I ask you, through Jesus Christ, to release for () the protection you have promised through the power of your name (John 17:11; 11 Thess. 3:3). Reveal to me now any sin or disobedience that robs me of your protection (1 John 5:18).

I ask you to surround () with presence of your Spirit, and to shield him/her from all evil (Psalm 91). Cover () today with the power of the blood of Jesus Christ (Rev. 12:11).

I ask you, by faith, to expose, break, and remove any schemes of the enemy devised against (), and to send your holy angels to guard and protect him/her according to your will (Ps. 91:11-13; Matt. 18:10; Heb. 1:14).

Lord Jesus, thank you for praying for our protection (John 17:15). By faith I receive now that protection for myself and for ().

"I love you, O Lord, my strength
The Lord is my rock, my fortress
and my deliverer;
My God is my rock, in whom I
take refuge." (Ps. 18: 1,2).