

The Word of Faith

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DELIVERED FROM HABITS

Galatians 3:13, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree."

We are redeemed from the curse of the law. The first curse of the law is spiritual death. God redeemed us from the thing that caused sin, the thing that made folk sin -- spiritual death, the nature of the devil in people that are lost.

He redeemed us from the curse of the law which is not only death, but poverty and sickness as well. That is what we are redeemed from -- spiritual death, poverty, sickness.

Now from whom are we redeemed? Colossians 1:13, speaking of God's plan that He perfected and wrought through Christ, says, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood." What He stated in the 13th verse is the redemption that He is talking about in the 14th verse.

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness." That word translated "power" means "authority". The word "darkness" refers to Satan's kingdom. So you could read it like this, "Who hath delivered us from the authority of Satan, and hath translated us into the

kingdom of his dear Son."

We are taken out of the family of Satan, and put into the family of God when we are born again. Satan was our head and our lord, and he ruled over us and dominated us, but now Jesus is our Lord and our Head. And the Church is as free from the fear of Satan as Israel was from Pharaoh after they had crossed the Red Sea.

That means then that Satan can no longer dominate us. That means then that disease and sickness are of the enemy. They can no longer dominate us. That means that old habits can no longer lord it over us.

It is the easiest thing in the world, if folks will just accept the Word of God, to be delivered from habits. I mean physical habits, like the tobacco habit that dominates many Christian folk. Yes, they are thoroughly saved, yet have great trouble along that line. But it is the simplest thing in the world to have deliverance.

I remember after I received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, I was reading a message in the magazine of a Pentecostal group, way back in about 1938, from the pen of a denominational minister. I'll tell you his experience, because my experience so paralleled his.

This denominational minister, who had now received the

Baptism of the Holy Ghost, was writing about the fact that our victory was won by Jesus, that you don't have to struggle, that really it doesn't take agonizing prayer, but simply accepting it in simple faith.

He made the statement that he had graduated from college, graduated from seminary, and was pastor of his denominational church. He had all of his degrees, about three of them. In those days the church to which he belonged was against their ministers using tobacco in any form. They would simply dismiss you, turn you out of the church.

(I know some time ago I was reading in one of our papers in Texas that the denomination to which he belonged was having a meeting in San Antonio. The bishop said, "You know, we ought to change our discipline. We are making all our ministers out liars. Our church discipline says no minister, whether licensed or ordained shall not use tobacco in any form. Not many of us are paying much attention to it." That is sad but true, that they wouldn't pay any attention to it.)

So this man said, "I knew I was thoroughly saved, but I hadn't gained the victory over that tobacco habit. I was attending a conference in Chicago, and after it was over I stayed over to attend to a little business. I was walking down the street, and I got to wanting a cigarette, so I went back up in the alley to smoke."

He said, "Now after I finished

my cigarette, I came out of that alley, then I felt badly about it. I got under conviction, so I began to talk to the Lord. I said, 'Now Lord, You know I wasn't trying to hide that from You, because You can see it and know it. After all I just smoke one or two, and never over three a day.'

"But you know, if there were any ministers left here, and they knew that, they would turn me out. And then if there were any lay members here, they would report me; and they would turn me out of the church.' But I felt worse instead of better after I prayed that way.

"I finally said, 'Now Lord, You know I know it is wrong. I know it is wrong, and You know I know it is wrong. I am not trying to say it isn't wrong. I know I ought not do it, and I want to be free.' But I felt worse than ever, walking down the street all the while, in downtown Chicago.

"I said to Him, and I got to crying right out on the street, 'Now Lord, You know I have done my best about this. I have done everything I know to do. I have prayed, I have fasted. I have fasted day after day, and sought God, and sought You. You know that. You know I have fasted day after day, and sought God, and sought You. You know that. You know I have just kicked and clawed and scratched and done my best.'

"On the inside of me, in my spirit, I heard a voice say, 'That's the trouble. You tried to do it. Don't you know that I delivered you from every sin and habit that is hateful and harmful and wrong. Don't you know I delivered you from those things at Calvary?' After I had struggled for so many years, that was the simplest thing. "Right there on the streets of Chicago I got the revelation.

I said, 'That's right Lord, You did. Thank You. I'm freed. I'm free.' From that day on I never smoked another cigarette. I never even wanted one. I was instantly delivered."

Instantly set free. If you think that just the denominational folk have trouble that way, let me tell you the Full Gospel story now.

I preached along this line one evening, invited folk to act upon God's Word, and I noticed a man who came forward. He was a distinguished looking man in some ways. There is something about fellows who are ministers or doctors or lawyers or some professionals. There are some things about them sometimes that you can distinguish them in a crowd.

He caught my eye. I didn't really know him, but he came and stood there in front of the folks. We ran the meeting on, and a couple of weeks later he came to me and said, "Brother Hagin, can I talk to you?" I said, "Yes sir."

He said, "I am a Christian and a minister. I have been saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, speaking with tongues for a number of years. I am a Full Gospel minister. I have papers with a certain Full Gospel church.

"They ask you if you use tobacco in any form, and I had quit just the week before and wasn't using it, so I told them and they gave me papers. I carried them for years, but I never did quit using tobacco. I would taper them off, but some how I never got victory over that habit.

"I didn't want to be deceitful about it, so I didn't tell them why, but I turned my papers in. Through the years I have had people anoint me with oil. This is no exaggeration, but if you just put all the oil together

that everyone has anointed me with, it would make quite a bit. I have had them lay hands on me. I have struggled and cried and fasted and prayed.

"On the job where I work I have men blowing smoke in my face every day. Two weeks ago I came down here and stood there, and I saw that He had delivered me from the very thing I was trying to get deliverance from. That thing can't dominate me. I accepted that, and you know I have never even wanted one. The desire for it has left me.

"Right out there on the job some of the men have said, 'What's happened to you?' I said, 'Well, the Lord delivered me. Actually He did it nearly two thousand years ago, but I just found out the other night.' They really gave me a good test, because everytime they light up they just blow it right in my face, and say, 'Don't that smell good?' But it is no temptation to me at all. It was the easiest thing I ever did in my life."

He had a testimony just like the denominational minister did. What am I saying to you? I said that old habits can no longer lord it over us. Old habits can no longer dominate us. Disease and sickness can no longer dominate us. Jesus set us free.

Deliverance is ours in Jesus Name! I don't know about you, but I am not in favor of any habit. God doesn't want His folks to be bound with habits. The worst habit there is, is the worry habit. (Some of you were going along real good until then.) Yes, that worry habit is much worse than the tobacco habit.

I never have been able to figure that one out. Many Full Gospel churches wouldn't let anyone join the church that had the tobacco habit, but they have a church full of people who have

a habit twice as bad--the worry habit.

The worry habit. One lady said to me, "Brother Hagin, I can't help it. I can't help it." I said, "That is exactly what the brother says that uses tobacco, he can't help it. That is exactly what the brother says that is bound by drink, he can't help it."

You can have deliverance from worry. That habit cannot lord it over you. Why? Colossians 1:13 says, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness."

Several different times I have had doctor friends tell me that more people are sick and in the hospital and in the grave because of worry than any other one thing. Don't go off and say

I have taken up for the tobacco habit. I don't believe in either one of them. No sir, but if I had to have one of them I would rather take the tobacco habit than the worry habit. It is easier on you.

Tobacco will just half kill you, but worry will kill you altogether. That is the truth. More folk have ulcerated stomachs and heart trouble, and their nerves on edge, over worrying than anything else. Do you think that is right? Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. Do you think that is right? Certainly it is not right. But thank God you don't have to. That is what is so wonderful about it.

People just get these habits. I said a thing one time, and I never said it anymore because

it shocked the person so. But I think I'll say it now. I feel led to say it. You know, sickness just becomes a habit with some folks. It is just a habit like some of these other habits, and just simply dominates folk.

Sin and Satan and sickness and old habits can no longer lord it over you, for you are not under the law. You have been redeemed from the curse of the law. You are under grace. He set you free.

THE WORD OF FAITH

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The reason so many are defeated in their faith life, is that they accept a substitute for faith. They try to substitute hope for faith. In this book we learn the difference between hope and faith and find what "real faith" is. After studying this book you will walk in a new dimension of faith that you never knew existed. This will make a difference in your life and the lives around you.

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