

Delivered From Habits ²⁵⁸

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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 who 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 who are we redeemed?

Colossians 1:13, speaking of God's plan which 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.

That word translated "power" here 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 crossed the Red Sea.

That means then that Satan can no longer dominate us. That means then that disease and sickness, which are of the enemy, 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. It was from the pen of a denominational minister.

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 it doesn't take agonizing prayer, but acceptance in simple faith.

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

So this man wrote, "I knew I was thoroughly saved, but I hadn't gained the victory over that tobacco habit. I attended a conference in Chicago, and after it was over I stayed in the city to attend to some business. I was walking down the street, and I got to wanting a cigarette, so I went back up in the alley to smoke. After I finished my cigarette, I came out of that alley. Then I felt badly about it. I got under conviction and 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. And 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 if there were any lay members here, they would report me and turn me out of the church.'

"But I felt worse instead of better after I prayed that way. So I said, 'Now Lord, you know I know it is wrong. I know it's wrong, and you know it's 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.

"So then I said to Him, and I got to crying right out on the street, 'Now Lord, you know I've done my best about this. I have done everything I know to do. I've prayed, I've fasted. I've fasted day after day, and sought you. You know that. You know I have fasted day after day, and sought God. You know that. You know I have 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, it 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 free. I'm free.' From that day on I never even wanted one. I was instantly delivered. Instantly set free."

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. He caught my eye and I remembered his coming. We ran the meeting on and a couple of weeks later he came to me and said, "Brother Hagin, can I talk to you?"

"Yes sir."

He said, "I'm a Christian and a minister. I've 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 no, and they gave me papers. I carried them for years, but I never did quit using tobacco. I would taper off, but some how I never got victory over that habit. I didn't want to be deceitful and I didn't tell them why, but I turned in my papers.

"Through the years I have had people anoint me with oil. I have had them lay hands on me. I have struggled and cried, and fasted, and prayed.

"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 since. The desire for it has left me.

"On the job where I work I have men blowing smoke in my face every day. Some of the men have said, 'What's happened to you?' I told them, 'Well, the Lord delivered me. Actually He did it nearly 2000 years ago, but I just found out the other night.' They really gave me a good test. Everytime they light up they blow it right in my face and say, 'Don't that smell good?' But it is no temptation at all. It was the easiest thing I ever did in my life."

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 this one out. Many Full Gospel churches wouldn't let anyone join the church who had the tobacco habit, but they have a church full of people who have a habit twice as bad--the worry habit.

One lady said to me, "Brother Hagin, I can't help it. I can't help it."

I said, "That's exactly what the brother says that uses tobacco. He can't help it. That's exactly what the brother says who 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 doctor friends have told 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's easier on you. Tobacco will just half kill you, but worry will kill you altogether. More folk have ulcers, heart trouble, nerves on edge, etc, over worrying than anything else.

Do you think that is right? Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. Certainly it is not right. But thank God you don't have to worry. That's what is so wonderful about it.

People just get these habits. You know, sickness becomes a habit with some folks--just a habit like some of these other habits--and it dominates them.

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.