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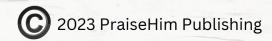


DELIVERANCE

Balanced Teaching & Resources

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SEASONAL DEPRESSION

By Waverly White

As a person who struggled with a spirit of heaviness, I've had the unfortunate opportunity to witness the triumphs and trials associated with battling depression. Since seasonal depression runs rampant around the holidays, it's a good idea to be prepared with a thorough understanding of what causes it and how we can deal with it as helievers

About Seasonal Depression

Before we dive into how to respond to seasonal depression, we must take a guick look at it and how it manifests in our lives. Seasonal depression is a distinct type of oppression that only seems to surface during certain seasons.

For example, a person who doesn't usually struggle with depression may experience feelings of emotional or spiritual heaviness during Fall or Winter but rarely in Spring or Summer. Likewise, a person who struggles with depression may find their battle with depression is much more difficult during a specific time of year.

The symptoms of Seasonal Depression

Symptoms of seasonal depression are similar to those of normal depression, but they arise in heavy concentration during certain parts of the year. The most common symptoms of depression are:

- · Unshakable sadness, hopelessness, and despair
- A loss or surge of appetite
- Weight gain or loss
- Fatigue and low energy
- Apathy
- Self-isolation or reclusiveness
- · Oversleeping or insomnia
- · Extra sensitivity to previous traumas
- Behavioral issues
- Moodswings
- Mental fog and confusion



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SEASONAL DEPRESSION CONTINUED

A What to Do About Seasonal Depression

A person may experience other symptoms as well. This includes certain physical pains or disturbing dreams. Interestingly, how seasonal depression appears in someone's life, and how we should respond to it, depends heavily on the root cause.

For some, seasonal depression can be because of hormonal or nutritional imbalances. For others, it's linked to trauma or spiritual issues. Thankfully, there are quick, healthy steps we can't take to address seasonal depression, no matter the reason for its occurrence.

A Lack of Faith?

Before we delve into what you can do to alleviate seasonal depression, it's worth pointing out that there's no shame in looking outside of yourself for help and support. Finding a medical professional who can help you identify and treat the source of seasonal depression is always a wise choice.

Suffering from depression should never be equated to a lack of faith or willingness to get well. The assumption that a person has depression because they lack faith is a dangerous and uneducated approach to dealing with depression. Many faith-filled Bible heroes also struggled with depression. To learn more check out the stories of <u>Elijah</u>, <u>King David</u>, and <u>Jeremiah</u>. Shortly before his betrayal, <u>Jesus dealt with anxiety</u> to the point of perspiring drops of blood—yikes!

For some of our heroes of the Bible, depression was a spiritual attack that required a miracle to overcome. In other instances, depression was the result of facing severe trauma. In these cases, seasonal depression was a symptom that healed over time by walking through the circumstance, hand-in-hand with God, the <u>shepherd of their soul</u>. Neither circumstance meant one follower was more faith-filled than the other.

Lastly, if you're struggling with thoughts of suicide or self-harm, don't hesitate to seek help immediately. Find a pastor, counselor, or trusted friend and ask for support. If you're unsure where to turn, you can always call 988 (the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline).





FREEDOM EVENTS

"I learned long ago, never to wrestle with a pig. You get dirty, and besides, the pig likes it." -George Bernard Shaw

NOVEMBER 2023

Demolishing Satanic Attacks and Destroying Strongholds John Ramirez Ministries

Venue:

American Finnish Club 908 Lehto Lane Lake Worth, FL 33461

Dates

NOVEMBER 17, 2023 7 PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023 6 PM 908

This is a two-day spiritual warfare training at its best to learn how to build up your inner man, your relationship with the Holy Spirit. Registration Required.

Healing & Deliverance Amber Hackney & Lisa Piper

Venue

Living Waters Church 115 Jefferson Street, Cadiz KY www.LWCCadiz.com

Dates:

NOVEMBER 29, 2023 6PM

The church just completed the SEt YOurself Free course and this is a night for prayer and mass deliverance.

Healing Trauma & Intensive Various Speakers

Venue

The Hub (River Valley Church) 12345 Portland Ave, Burnsville MN 55337

Dates

NOVEMBER 30 - Decmeber 2, 2023

Join us for a 3-day Healing Trauma Intensive, hosted by Unity Revival Movement. These are morning, afternoon and evening sessions with Dr. Charles Karuku, Jennifer Martin (Rachel Cordero and Amber Wright only from CLI), and Tim Sheets teaching and ministering on healing trauma. Registration is Required.

SEASONAL DEPRESSION CONTINUED

Why Do People Get Seasonal Depression?

Seasonal depression can be a spiritual battle, one that can be aided and overcome by deliverance ministry or inner healing. But it's never safe to assume that this is always the case.

Sometimes, seasonal depression is a reflection of our physical health, rather than our spiritual health. To help clarify, when discussing seasonal depression, I like to divide this topic into three categories: physical, trauma-related, and spiritual.

Physical Seasonal Depression

As the times and seasons change, so does our physical environment. Suddenly, the days are shorter. The weather becomes less welcoming for outdoor adventures. Our exposure to the Sun, which is our primary source of essential things like vitamin D and melatonin, drastically decreases.

In response to these changes, our bodies inform us of this imbalance. Suddenly, we become fatigued and sleep-deprived. To make matters worse, these issues sprout into more issues. We become irritable, apathetic, pessimistic, sad, and downright depressed.

Thankfully, depression that worsens or only occurs as a result of our changing environment is fairly easy to respond to. This form of seasonal depression has a physical root, which can only be made better by a physical response. Intentional exposure to sunlight, nutritional supplements, and prescription medication can be of great help in treating the physical root of depression.

Trauma-Related Seasonal Depression

Seasonal depression can also be related to previous traumas. It's not uncommon for complex emotions or mental and physical heaviness to occur around the anniversary of a traumatic event. For example, a woman who miscarried a child in June may go into mourning every time the warmer months roll around. Similarly, a man who was abused by a family member on Christmas or Thanksgiving may experience mental and emotional darkness around the Holidays.

This form of seasonal depression is directly linked, not with the absence of physical sunlight, but with the darkness cast over that season of the person's life.

Since trauma-related seasonal depression can be linked to body, mind, and spirit how we go about approaching it differs from person to person. Healing from such an event may involve several rounds of prayer, counseling, forgiving past hurt, healthy mourning, and deliverance.

Spiritual Seasonal Depression

Like consulting a doctor before taking prescription medication, we would be putting ourselves in harm's way if we didn't consult God about how to handle both spiritual and trauma-related seasonal depression. After all, it is He who knows the best way to go about healing our hearts and unburdening us when we are heavy-laden.

SEASONAL DEPRESSION CONTINUED

By Waverly White

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." — Matthew 11:28-30

Can You Be Healed of Seasonal Depression?

Yes! However, freedom from seasonal depression depends heavily on whether seasonal depression is physical, trauma-related, or spiritual.

If you're not sure what form of seasonal oppression you're dealing with there are a few key questions you can ask yourself. If you're able to clearly and concisely answer these questions, they'll give you a good idea of what you're dealing with.

Am I Healthy?

Are you being a good steward of your body? We were intended to be caretakers and good stewards of the creation which God has given us. When we don't take care of what's been entrusted to us, those things tend to rot and fall into disrepair. That includes our physical bodies.

If you're not taking care of your health there's a good chance your seasonal depression could be physically related. If you're doing all you know to be healthy, the next question is, "Am I whole?"

Am I Whole?

Once our physical health is in balance, if seasonal depression persists, it's time to ask God about the condition of our soul. Is there a wound that occurred around this season of your life?

Does that break in your heart need healing? According to Psalm 147:3, God is the one who, "heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

Ask God to reveal any hurts that need healing or wrongdoings that need forgiveness. Let him, as your spiritual cardiologist, guide you through the process of healing your heart. Once that's said and done, if symptoms persist, it's time to ask the final question.

Continued on Page 7

Demonic Movies: Can they demonize you? By Lisa D. Piper

The thought that watching a flick could actually transfer demons to a person is scary! For some, the notion that a movie could be demonic is unthinkable. But, what if demonic movies exist? What if horror shows or risqué glimpses are charged with a supernatural power that both afflicts, torments, and sabotages the viewer? If it's possible, it would be good to know, right?

What is a demon?

Before we discuss demonic movies and demonization, let's discuss what a foul spirit is according to the Bible! The Greek word spirit whether is: <u>pneuma</u>. Pneuma basically means wind or breath. So, if it's a evil spirit, then it is an evil wind or breath.

Derek Prince coined the definition of a demon to be "persons without bodies." They are not disembodied humans, but rather, evil spirits from the kingdom of darkness. There is a devil who rebelled in heaven and was cast out. <u>Luke 10:18</u> He took 1/3 of the angels with him. <u>Revelation</u>

Demonic Movies: Can they demonize you?

Continued

There are different levels of "spirits" operating in diverse areas of the earth. For example, principalities and rulers who fell with Satan are territory spirits who rule at high levels of wickedness. Daniel 10:13; Ephesians 6:12

The ground level of dark forces are called demons. The Bible does not specifically talk about their origin, nor does it matter for those seeking to be free.

About Demonic Possession

Demons have different functions and personalities, but the #1 indicator that a demon is present is torment. A few of the spirits the Bible describes are of heaviness, lying, and fear (intimidation.)

These spirits are simply known by what they do. A spirit of heaviness is depressed, lonely, withdrawn, and sorrowful. It hooks up with a person and tries to infuse the person with its own thoughts.

A spirit of fear is fearful and elicits fear in anyone it infects. A perverse spirit is perverted and downloads its twisted perverse thinking into the human mind and releases perverted compulsions into the body.

SEASONAL DEPRESSION CONTINUED

Is This Me?

We know from the Bible that healing and casting out evil spirits were separate yet complimentary practices of Jesus' ministry. Anywhere in the Bible where Jesus healing the crowds is mentioned, deliverance follows suit. And for good reason! Trauma is the favorite foothold of the demonic. After all, a broken heart is easier to infiltrate than a whole one.

Going through deliverance is a unique experience. For some people, there's a large amount of healing and forgiveness that God leads them through before they are healthy enough for deliverance (which is much like spiritual surgery).

Knowing this, we should always pray and seek God for His opinion on how He would lead us through it. In the words of Derek Prince, known as the father of modern deliverance ministry, "God has his way to heal you. But whatever way healing comes, the basis is what was done by Jesus on the cross."

Deliverance from Depression is Possible!

I remember living in a world where "No one really ever recovers" from mental illnesses like depression. That was the hope I was given by those who knew what I struggled with. All but a few fellow Christians who clung to what they knew of Jesus' healing power, equated my reclusive nature and disordered behaviors to, "that's just how she is."

But eight years ago, I found myself asking the third question—"Is this me?"

I had walked through physical healing, getting my body in proper order. Once that was under control, I let God bring up anyone I needed to forgive and anything He wanted to heal. Finally, the day came when I prayed for the next "mission", but there was no reply. Then, one afternoon, after spiraling into another deep darkness, I was left with the thought that perhaps my struggles weren't me.

I had heard of people getting delivered from depression. Secretly, I hoped my struggles were demonic too. Because if my problems were all me, I was at the end of my rope. But if all that was left was the demonic, I knew God could set me free.

I was relieved to find that it was. And happy to say that He did.

Demonic Movies: Can they demonize you? Continued

The directive is to destroy. <u>John 10:10</u> When a person lines up their thinking with that of a demon, it gives the spirit authorization to move forward and sink its proverbial claws into its victim. Demonic influence, harassments, and torment happens when an invitation is given through open doors.

Possessed vs. Demonized

Although the Greek word (<u>daimonizomai</u>) is translated in <u>Mark 5:15</u> to the word possessed, the Greek root word literally means, "to be under the power of a demon." Therefore, saying a person is possessed in modern day vernacular simply means that they are under the influence or under the power of an evil spirit. A person cannot be owned by a devil. <u>Deuteronomy 10:14</u>

Movies about demons and possession.

Demons are a popular focus in horror and scifi movies. Sometimes wicked spirits are shown like shadows, monsters, or scary red-eyed devils. Hollywood excels in both glamorizing and showcasing the wickedness in demons and the devil.

I was once preparing to command a spirit to leave a woman. She was terrified at what might happen so I asked her what she expected. She cried out, "Is a swarm of flies going to come out of my mouth like that guy in the Green Mile?" No. That kind of dramatization does not happen. I smiled and reassured her, "Your head isn't going to spin around either. I'm going to command it to go....it's going and you will be free. It's nothing like what you see in the movies!"

A good movie analogy of how demons work

Have you ever seen the doors in the movies, Monsters, Inc? Monsters go through the doors to solicit screams and fear out of children. The screams help the Monsters to thrive. That's not a bad illustration of how demons feed. A demon of death and murder seeks to release thoughts of suicide, hatred, and infirmities.

When a person gives the spirit what it wants, it feeds on the sin and gains strength from the person. Spirits of perversion pressure a person to view pornography and do detestable things. The acts empower and energize the spirit while lassoing the person with feelings of shame, guilt, and filth.

Popular Demonic Movies

Interestingly, the #1 scary movie is about a young girl possessed by demons. The Exorcist, by William Friedkin, was released in December of 1973. A reoccurring issue with moviegoers who paid to watch The Exorcist was that many ended up walking down the theater aisle only to faint, throw up, or leave the grotesque film crying! This happened so frequently that movie houses had on hand smelling salts to wake people up. As a matter of fact, there are reports of heart attacks during the movie as well miscarriage. as one Source: MovieWebs.com

There are dozens of scary demonic movies. Mixing the supernatural with horror is a favorite cocktail for moviemakers and a thrill for the viewers! Unfortunately, many people get their doctrine and ideas about demons from these fictitious stories

Demonic Movies: Can they demonize you?

Continued

Popular Horror Movies

For some, just the name of a horror movie is enough to conjure up fear: It, Chucky, Halloween, Jaws, or even Aliens can give those who have seen the films a good case of the shivers. The goal is fear, and often the fear lasts a lifetime past the 160 or so minutes that it takes to watch an entire show.

I've never even watched the Jaws movie. However, I know the sound associated with a killer fish. If I'm in the ocean and someone begins singsonging, "Dommm dom, dommmm dom,. dom dom dom...." People get real jittery and leave the water!

It's not just that horror movies have scary music, sounds, and lighting effects. Many horror movies push the edge by including elements that are tied to specific demonic spirits. For example:

- The spirits of death: murder, accidents, violence, suicide, serial killing
- The spirit of perversion: rape, incest, twisted sexual scenes, inappropriate nudity
- The spirit of fear: phobias, screaming, grotesque scenes, etc.

Are demonic movies bad?

When a movie has the ability to produce specific tormenting thoughts and bondages, how can it be good? Consequently, how is it that so much screen time, money, time, and resources are given to glorifying and even exalting these creatures that the Bible calls wicked.

One of the specific indicators, as stated earlier, of demonization is torment. For a believer and someone walking in freedom through Jesus Christ, how can we allow spirits and their activities to be our entertainment? Check out the following scripture and pay close attention to what verse 32 says about those who approve of wicked practices. It's sobering!

Romans 1:28-32

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 lundiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.



Parents Empowered

Healing and deliverance with kids and teens



Check out the interview with

authors Daniel & Esther Baumgartner on DrivenToBeFree.org



If you enjoyed Parents Empowered, you'll love The Healing Marriage.

The Psychological Impact of Scary Movies

The movie Psycho was a 1960 American horror film. A famous scene in the movie depicts actress Janet Leigh being murdered in the shower. The movie was produced at a time when graphic violence was not permitted. The producer and director, Alfred Hitchcock, was able to manipulate the imaginations of viewers to create the graphic violence in their own minds.

After watching the show, terror struck many theatergoers. Their imagination didn't stop after the show, but continued to conjure up images of grotesque and frightful scenes. As they they stepped into their own showers, new torment and fear replaced what was once a peaceful activity.

Psycho's actress traumatized

Not only did movie goers become terrified, but one of the cast members was so traumatized after the famous shower scene that she lived the rest of her life with a terrifying phobia.

In 1990, 30 years after the release of Psycho, Entertainment Tonight interviewed Janet Leigh. When asked about the rumor that she no longer showers, she said, "It is true. I stopped taking showers. I will not go into a shower unless there's no other way to bath. And then the doors are open, I have something right close by. I'm facing the door and there's no curtain. The floor looks like a swimming pool."



The Science behind scary movies and consequences

AP Psychology teacher, Heidi Mathers is quoted as follows: "Horror movies can cause a wide variety of side-effects, depending on the individual. One of the most noticeable side-effects is sleeplessness. People may have trouble sleeping or toss fitfully all night due to the residual fear and anxiety from watching a scary movie."

The writer of the article continues the quote, "The severity and longevity of the anxiety entirely depends on the individual. However, according to a research study done at the University of Wisconsin, children under 14 who watched horror movies end up having increased chances of developing anxiety conditions later adulthood." in https://news.umich.edu/scary-movies-tvhave-lasting-effects-on-youth/

The Spiritual Impact of Demonic Movies

In the article Phycological Effects of Horror Movies, Mathers is also quoted, "Other potentially long-term and dangerous effects include, "paranoia, irrational fears, interest in the paranormal or demonology, things that aren't psychologically healthy for the mind,"

Philippians 4:8 encourages believers to think on good things! When entertain demonized songs, movies, and even games, it has an impact on the growth and faith of the believer. Jesus said He gives us <u>peace that</u> passes understanding. Paranoia, fears, and perversion do not bring or sustain peace.

Demonic Movies: Can they demonize you? Continued

Can You Become Possessed from Watching A **Demonic Movie?**

In order for this to be possible, a spirit would have to be transferrable through the site, sound, touch, or environment into a person's mind or body. is this possible? Can the presence or influence of a spirit move from person to person or from an object to a person?

Since we know that the word spirit means wind or breathe, let's look at the Holy Spirit. Is His power transferable?

- John the Baptist At the sound of Mary's voice, Elizabeth was filled with the spirit and the baby leaped with joy in her womb. Luke 1:39-45
- Paul and his Hankies Handkerchiefs or aprons that touched Paul's body were placed on people and evil spirits came out of the people upon contact! Acts 19:11-13
- Hem of Garment A woman was healed when she touched the hem of Jesus' garment. Matthew 9:19-22

The evidence and the scripture absolutely back up the transference of spiritual matter. If there is transference that is good, it stands to reason that if there is an open door for the enemy to travel through, he will do it.

Demonic movie possession example

A woman made an appointment to see me a few weeks ago. I hadn't seen her for more than ten years. She described the panic attacks and perversion that had overtaken her until she was desperate for freedom. I asked her when she first remembered the fear appearing.

She concluded that it was after watching a horror movie. Afterwards, she felt an eerie presence that had not been there before. Fear was accompanied by a new hunger to watch demonic themed horror shows like The Conjuring and others. Although she hated the fear, she had a drive to digest as many perverse and terrifying movies as possible.

Pre-Possession Warnings

Often a believer will begin to feel conviction when watching something that is not okay to view. Personal conviction, experience, and the leading of Holy Spirit will guide us to what is dangerous, if we are listening. One man told me that he avoids watching any shows with nudity. He said that a couple seconds of viewing a bare chested woman gives him weeks of struggling with porn, loneliness, and perverse thoughts.

The enemy specializes in counterfeit. If the good can be tramsferred, why not the bad? Read 2 Peter 2:7-8. The Bible says that Lot was oppressed by the filthy conduct of his culture. His soul was tormented. How could he be tormented unless exposure transferred to him? We see later in his life that he was tricked into having incestuous relations with his daughters. I'm sure he never saw that coming when he began to open himself up to the perversions of Sodom and Gomorra.



Demonic Movies: Can they demonize you? Continued



Signs of Demonization After Watching a Horror Movie

Let's take a look at what demons do and then we will discuss specific signs.

According to the Derek Prince sermon on How to Identify the Enemy, demons do the following:

Characteristic Activities of Demons

- A. Entice
- **B.** Harass
- **C.** Torment

(unforgiveness opens the door to torment)

- Physical torment-example of arthritis
- Mental torment-example of fear of going insane
- Spiritual torment-fear of having committed "the unforgivable sin"
- D. Compel
- E. Enslave
- F. Addiction (compel plus enslave)
- G. Defile
- H. Deceive-pride opens the door to deception
- I. Weaken, make sick, tired, or kill
- J. General: Demonized people are restless in some areas

Demonic Movies: Can they demonize you? Continued

Specific signs of demonization after ingesting a Demonic Movie

Night terrors or perverse dreams are some of the most tormenting manifestations of a spirit of fear. And no wonder since the person is asleep and unable to reason, resist, or protest the dreamy horrors.

Other symptoms of demonic strongholds could be:

- sleeplessness
- feelings of something present in the room or inside that wasn't before
- inner thoughts that are tormenting and won't let up
- urges or compulsions to do things that are sinful that weren't there before or weren't as forceful
- depression, fear
- personality or emotional changes
- hunger for more violent, fearful and/or lust for media
- voices or chatter in the mind
- phobias
- imagery loops (re-occurring images or sounds from the movie in the head)
- unusual sounds that were not present before

What To Do If You Feel You've Been Demonized

There is one power that easily deals with and removes any darkness. Luke 11:20 Jesus not only cast out plenty of demons when He walked the earth, but He has given His followers the authority as well. Mark 16:17-18

In order to be truly set free and STAY free, a person must be born again. That is accomplished through giving one's life to Jesus Christ and following Him.

God has not made it complicated to know Him. We simply express with our mouths that Jesus is the son of God who took on our sins and was raised from the dead. We then confess Him as Lord and with our faith we follow Him. It's beautiful and transforming.

It is helpful to confess our sins and forgive others when converted. It will cleanse the soul like nothing else!

Romans 10:9-10 NKJV

"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Getting Free

If you have "opened a door" to the demonic such as viewing a demonically charged movie, the first order of business is to repent.

- Repent and determine to not do that thing again.
- Forgive anyone who exposed you to the movies and forgive yourself. Ask God to show you anyone or anything you need to forgive then give the offenses to Him
- Renounce whatever was in the movie that you need to come out of agreement with such as witchcraft, fear, perversion, depression, etc.
- Command everything that came in through the movie to release you
- If there are still issues, contact someone to pray with you and stand with you to submit to God and resist the enemy

Aftercare

Once you are free from fear and bondage, it's important to leave the doors closed that had been open to the enemy. I was set free from a spirit of fear over 20 years ago.

While I am no longer afraid, I also do not purposely entertain fearful things. I do not watch scary shows, go to haunted houses, or engage in scary activities. I am 100% not afraid of a demon, but I am not going demon hunting. I have too much good to do to give them the time of day!

Reading the Word, being involved in a local body of believers in Christ, prayer, and ingesting wholesome things will guarantee your success at long-term freedom.

If fear tries to show back up, a simple command like the one given to chase it away will suffice such as, "Fear, I command you to go now, in the name of Jesus." It has to obey.



Registration:

www.2theRiver.com/Emerging

The woman in my office

I mentioned the woman who came into my office who had been in bondage since she began watching horror movies. She was so desperate to be free that she had already done the following prior to coming to see me:

- 1. She removed all pagan objects and bad movies from her home.
- 2. She stopped watching all scary shows or anything that was sinful in nature.
- 3. She repented for having watched them and for disobeying God when Holy Spirit convicted her for fear entertainment.
- 4. She forgave her father and her boyfriend for introducing her to movies and music that she should not have ingested
- 5. The woman's mother had attended a conference where I was speaking. Afterwards, she told her daughter how to forgive, break soul ties with the movies, and even how to rebuke a spirit.

The girl told me that after she prayed on her own that she had gotten free from the addiction to sex and pornography. She no longer felt drawn to scary shows. The one thing that remained was the panic attacks and bouts of fear. Because she had already closed the doors, I had her renounce the panic and fear and then I commanded those spirits to go.

She let out some sighs and then smiled so big as what had tormented her lifted off of her as easily as it had descended. Spirits are breath...they leave as breath. I can't think of anything more beautiful than watching a prisoner be set free!

Holy Spirit Scriptures: What the Bible Says About the Holy Ghost

BY: WAVERLY WHITE

There are nearly a hundred Holy Spirit scriptures in the Bible. Still, many Christians have a hard time wrapping their minds around embodying a "Holy Ghost."

From where the Holy Spirit comes from to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, let's take a deep dive into the scriptures and clarify a few things about what it means—and how amazing it is!—to be a vessel for the living, breathing Spirit of God.

What is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is said to have appeared in the Bible over 90 times in various forms. Usually, the Spirit is depicted as a living breath or wind, depending on how the Spirit manifests in that particular scripture.

For example, in Genesis, right after God says, "Let us make man in our image..." He then breathes the breath of life (a k.a. Spirit) into the nostrils of man. Later on in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples as a mighty rushing wind.

Since God was living and working throughout the entire Bible, the Bible itself is one big history book about His Spirit. As you may have guessed, an exhaustive list of any time the Holy Spirit is mentioned would be incredibly long. Thankfully, when it comes to understanding the role of the Spirit in our day-to-day lives, there are 8 key scriptures we can look to for clarity.

John 14:16

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." NIV



Holy Spirit Scriptures

Here are several Holy Spirit scriptures from the New Testament. These passages give us a beautiful guide to identifying, accepting, and embracing the gift of the Spirit in our lives.

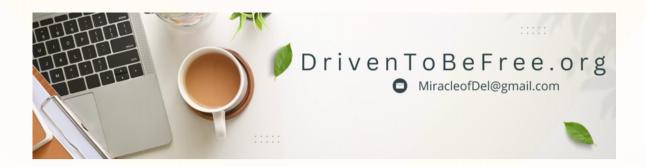
- Matthew 3:16-17 As a dove, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus. God the Father uses the Spirit to identify His son to the world.
- John 14:26 In this scripture, we receive the description and character of the Holy Spirit. Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Helper or Comforter.
- Acts 2:1-4 After Christ's ascension, the Holy Spirit appeared on the day of Pentecost, as promised.
- Romans 8:26-27 Paul tells Christians that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we
- have no words.
- 1 Corinthians 2:12 Here, we find there is a spirit of the world and the Spirit of God. As followers, we are given the Spirit so we can understand, "the things freely given us by God."
- Galatians 5:22-23 We can easily identify the Spirit through whether or not the fruits of the Spirit are present in our lives.
- Ephesians 4:30 The Holy Spirit is a signature of God that seals us for the day of redemption.
- 2 Timothy 1:14 The good things God has given us are protected by the Spirit. According to the scriptures, we can guard the "good deposit in you" through the Holy Spirit.

The Power of the Holy Spirit

Weaving these scriptures together, we find how the Spirit embodied Jesus, and returned to us after his death and resurrection, and now lives and works through us.

Our spirits, worn and polluted by the <u>wages</u> we brought on them through sin, are now traded fo a new Spirit. This Holy Spirit is a new breath of life—a second wind! -that Jesus has gifted us, freely.

Even better, the gift of the Holy Spirit is the gift that keeps on giving. According to various Holy Spirit scriptures, when we let the Holy Spirit live through us, we get bonus gifts! Each of these gifts is worth being excited about because they're all pretty neat and very useful in ministry.



Holy Spirit Scriptures: What the Bible Says About the Holy Ghost Continued

The Gifts of the Holy Ghost

Undoubtedly, a new chance at life is a great gift, but certain abilities come along with embodying the Holy Spirit. It's important to note that all of these gifts are abilities we can witness Jesus exercising throughout the New Testament. In short, the life-giving gifts that were once only reserved for those without sin are now available to us through Christ.

What Are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

A quick trek through 1 Corinthians, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4 gives us a glimpse into the gifts of the Spirit. For quick reference, here's a general list:

The Gifts of the Spirit

- Healing
- Faith
- Working of Miracles
- Leadership
- Prophecy
- Teaching
- Mercy
- Discernment of Spirits
- Speaking in Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Service
- Encouraging
- Words of Knowledge
- Words of Wisdom
- Giving



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Gifts of the Holy Spirit Bible Verses

Using the Bible as a roadmap to understanding the Spirit, we can also find scriptures that further our understanding of how we use these gifts. 1 Corinthians, Romans, Ephesians, and 1 Peter give us great insights into the gifts, how we can use them according to God's will, and how we can appreciate the gifts God has placed in others.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12:11

"All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."

Romans 12:6-8

"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

Ephesians 4:11-12

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

1 Peter 4:10-11

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."



The Fruit of the Spirit

In Matthew 7:15-20, mankind is referred to as a tree and its characteristics, the fruit. In the same way, we know that a tree is an apple tree because it bears apples, we can tell if a person is Spirit-filled or not by the fruit they bear.

By knowing the fruit of the Spirit, we can identify those who are Spirit-filled. Knowing the fruit of the Spirit is also a great diagnostic tool when evaluating our walk with God. If we do not bear the fruit of the Spirit, it's safe to say we do not have the Holy Spirit living and working through us. So, what are the fruits of the Spirit?

Just as with gifts of the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit are listed in the Bible and evident throughout the whole ministry of Jesus.

What Are the Fruits of the Holy Spirit?

According to Galatians 5:22-23, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law."

This scripture is very straightforward. However, in today's culture, each of these fruits is often given a subjective meaning. For example, someone may equate happiness to joy or lust to love.

Thankfully, the Bible also outlines the standard of how each of these fruits should look in a believer's life. Here's a quick reference of the fruits of the spirit according to the scriptures.



Fruit of the Spirit

Love

This kind of love is demonstrated by the selfless love God offered mankind by sending his son to die in their place, according to the Law (remember, the <u>wages of sin is death</u>). According to the Holy Spirit scriptures, the fruit of love casts out all fear (1 John 4:18), covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8), and without it, we are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

Joy

The spiritual fruit of Joy is more than being happy or having a smile on your face. God-given joy has a powerful and revitalizing impact on our soul and our body. According to the scriptures, it works a lot like medicine (Proverbs 17:22) and can be found even through trials and tribulations (James 1:1-4).

Peace

Spirit-inspired peace is more than the absence of struggles or hardships. In the Bible, we find the peace of the Spirit is different from worldly gifts (John 14:27), and can be found in "all times and in every way," (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

Patience

It is common in contemporary Christianity to fear lessons in patience. But, according to the Bible, Spirit-given times that require patience are opportunities to rejoice in hope (Romans 12:12) and demonstrate love (Ephesians 4:2), as Christ did for us. In short, patience is not a punishment. Like all other fruits of the Spirit, it's a gift!

Kindness

In the scriptures, we find that the kindness of the Spirit is a trait that comes from those who are holy and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12). God has also allowed His kindness to win out against His surge of anger he once had towards man (Isaiah 54:8). This everlasting kindness, extended to us through Christ, is now a trait we should seek to embody for others.

Fruit of the Spirit

Goodness

This God-like characteristic is commonly celebrated by Biblical figures we associate with being the most loyal followers of God. Through the worship offered by Biblical figures like David, Nahum, and Isaiah we get a clear description of goodness as unshakeable moral excellence.

Faithfulness

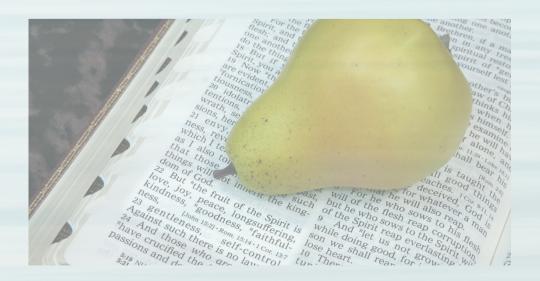
Faithfulness or steadfastness refers to being reliable and trustworthy, against all odds. The faithfulness of God is demonstrated for us in scriptures like 1 John 1:9 and 2 Timothy 2:13. A God-like faithfulness is unwavering, even when the faithfulness is not returned.

Gentleness

The gentleness of God is more than a simple lack of aggression. According to the Bible, God's gentleness creates a haven for the weary (Matthew 11:29). The scriptures also say that, as God has extended this haven towards us, we should seek to do so toward all people (<u>Titus 3:2</u>).

Self-Control

This fruit of the Spirit is the ability to exercise self-discipline in the face of our fallen nature. Self-control can be a major struggle for Christians, but the apostle Paul suggests overcoming temptation is always possible through Christ (1 Corinthians 10:13). Additionally, the Bible lists self-discipline among the gifts given to us instead of timidity and fear (2 Timothy 1:7).



Holy Spirit Scriptures: What the Bible Says About the Holy Ghost - Continued

Applying the Holy Spirit Scriptures

Jesus said that He would not leave us alone. The role of the Holy Spirit is to help us, guide us, and empower us to live a victorious life. He always reveals the character and purpose of Jesus Christ.

It is by faith that we are born again and it is by faith that we receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Jesus fully intended for us to be filled with His spirit and empowered to do all of the works that He did.

John 14:25-27

25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid, ESV





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There is a deliverer! His name is Jesus!

Editor's Notes



October was an amazing month to see those in bondage and with life-controlling issues set free! As the awareness of freedom in Jesus escalates, we are here to provide balanced teaching, resources, and help!

The Driven Magazine welcomed Waverly White as a writer in October. The November issue features two of her articles. We look forward to seeing more of her work.

We added exclusive articles to the Online Magazine that you'll want to check out:

- Divination in the Bible: What the Bible Says about Divining for Answers by Rick Hahn.
- The HEaling Marriage: Does Your Marriage Need Deliverance? by Daniel and Esther Baumgartner

Freedom Tip for the Month

During a service where God was moving, a woman began to manifest a demonic spirit. As one of the prayer workers made their way toward her, a woman beside her leaned over and said, "Push it down! Just push it down!" She did. The "episode" subsided but she left unchanged.

Pushing down emotions, trauma, and even an unclean spirit only keeps a person in bondage and pain. When what is binding begins to rise, it needs to be released. The best moment to cast out a spirit is when it's acting up. We can command it to stop acting out, but if it is to leave, pushing it down will only hinder the process.

Lisa D. Piper Editor-in-Chief

