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Welcome

You are here because you think (or are sure) that you have been called to the ministry of deliverance. Or, maybe you have an intellectual curiosity about the topic at this point.

You may be a pastor or leader and contemplate the wisdom of trying to bring this into your church. You believe in the present-day ministry of deliverance (which is vital!) but unsure how to proceed.

Have you seen deliverance ministry in person in a church environment or group setting? Maybe you've seen some sessions on YouTube and were wondering if it's just a matter of getting upfront, laying hands on a person, and calling out spirits.

Is it really that simple?

In this article, I want to cover the 7 keys to becoming successful in deliverance ministry.

How should you measure success? I believe that the presence of all these signs are reasonable indicators:

- You will see people get set free from demonic spirits when you lay hands on them! This one's pretty obvious. Not everyone who you minister to will be delivered, but you should be seeing lasting fruit.
- Your personal life is balanced, with God first, spouse second, children third, and the ministry next on the list of priorities
- You maintain strong spiritual health and do not get destroyed!
- Your ministry grows in knowledge, effectiveness, and scope. The issue is not the size of your reach, but you are growing and not becoming stagnant.

If God has indeed called you to explore training and equipping for deliverance ministry, we want to help.

There are different approaches, processes, and methodologies used in the realm of deliverance ministry today. You will need to decide which method works for you and then pursue that path.

I am not critiquing these various methods in this article, nor will I try to direct you, even though I have some strong opinions on each. I relate some of my background and experience later on. Still, I believe these 7 keys are universally applicable for all who profess a desire to become deliverance ministers.

Each of the 7 keys mentioned should provoke thought and raise questions that only you can answer. As you prayerfully research and answer these questions, I am confident that the Lord will reveal the very best course of action for you!

Let's get started...

Key #1:

Be Committed to the Call!

God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called! You may have heard that axiom before, and it certainly applies here.

It is appropriate to research thoroughly, plan and prepare in all things, and it is never more accurate than ministering deliverance! Those who enter this field engage in spiritual warfare, dealing with issues and forces that few will want to contend with.

"Deliverance minister" put a bulls-eye on their back that the demonic realm can take aim at. Anyone in ministry faces similar obstacles, and persecution and attack are to be expected!

Being committed to the call simply means that you have a God-given desire to help set the captives free through casting out demons.

You must believe that the ministry of deliverance is for today and that God wants you to be a part of it! Be willing to learn and grow in all that He has to show you.

My first exposure to deliverance ministry was when my wife and I attended a seminar in the late '90s. I received deliverance from a stronghold in my life. I felt a natural pull to the ministry because I was already part of our church's healing prayer team.

My wife and I knew that God wanted us to connect with the couple leading the workshop. We went through their training class and joined their deliverance team. I gained my degree in Christian Counseling. Eventually, the Lord brought us to where we are today: leaders of our own Counseling / Deliverance Center and Academy!

If you have a healthy and pure desire to minister in this way, then God has most likely called you, and you can do it!

Key #2:

Get knowledge and wisdom

There is more to becoming a successful deliverance minister than simply walking up to people and start trying to cast out demons.

The keyword here (and included in the title of this article) is "successful."

Many look at the gospels and see Jesus, the disciples, and others calling out spirits from people with apparently little preparation or complexity. Some would-be deliverance ministers try to follow this "model" and have mixed results at best and hurt people in the worst cases.

Deliverance ministry is one aspect of spiritual warfare. It is essential to understand the nature, tactics, and methods of the demonic realm as they torment people.

The ministry of deliverance has received some negative attention with justification. Different approaches and some, poorly done, can hurt people or discourage them from seeking further help.

Commit to reading books and articles from proven predecessors who have a solid reputation for integrity and results. Books by Derek Prince, Frank & Ida Mae Hammond, and Peter Horrobin, to name only a few, should be part of your library. Read them, and then reread them!

There are other valuable resources but be wary; some of the material out there can espouse some bizarre teachings and suggested practices.

I read many books and articles dealing with deliverance and try to incorporate what we can use in our own process. I know that others are using our resources in the same way, and that is a blessing!

If possible, I also encourage you to connect with a reputable ministry in your area that is doing deliverance. Take their training, read their books, and join them for ministry opportunities so you can gain knowledge and experience.

Wisdom is generally gained from knowledge coupled with experience. Experience takes time to acquire as you begin to move into the ministry. Experience builds understanding, but you do not have to make every mistake on your own. It's even better to acquire wisdom from the adventures (and mistakes) of others!

Key #3:

Know Your Authority and Limitations

Every deliverance minister must have a biblically correct understanding of the power and authority they have been given.

In point 1, I addressed knowing and believing that you do have the power and authority to drive out demons.

What is the scope of that calling?

1. Jesus gave us authority to call out demons in the **earthly realm** where we live!

Deliverance ministry is not engaging in spiritual warfare in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12). That is the dominion of principalities and other spiritual forces of evil.

Many intercessors engage in warfare in this realm. It can, like deliverance ministry, be a dangerous place to tread for those not called or unprepared. John Paul Jackson, in his excellent book, "*Needless Casualties of War*," details the pitfalls of fighting on battlefields we have not been called to.

Jesus said we were to drive out demons. It was one of the signs to follow believers (Mark 16:17) Out of people. Avoid the temptation to tackle second heaven spirits such as Leviathan, Python, and the like. You will be more successful and also less likely to get stomped on by the demonic realm!

2. Call out demons out of those God brings you!

Jesus only ministered deliverance to people who came or were brought to him. Do not try to call demons out of people who are not in front of you or are not actively involved in the process!

Those who do not really want deliverance are unlikely to get free. Those individuals will likely struggle to stay free when the spirits return to the house looking for an open door (Matthew 12:44, Luke 11:24).

Key #4:

Do not be a Lone Ranger

Loose lips sink ships, and so can loose cannons! Deliverance ministers should be under the church pastor's spiritual authority (if they attend there) or another ministry covering if they have a stand-alone center.

Lack of accountability and relationship are two prominent features when ministry leaders veer off the narrow road to life (Matthew 7:13-14).

As a Christian Counselor and Deliverance Minister, I have met with thousands of clients over the years. I can personally attest to the reality that it is almost impossible to maintain spiritual health if we are out on our own and away from a (healthy) church body.

Christians are called to be in a herd! We are referred to as sheep in many places, and Jesus is the Great Shepherd. Pastors and leaders are referred to as shepherds also.

Sheep are herd animals and invariably get struck down when they venture out on their own. The biblical directive is clear; we are to be part of a healthy body of believers.

This mandate also applies to ministers, including those who move in deliverance. Above & Beyond Counseling Center is not affiliated with any particular church. Still, our counselors are church attenders, and each is ordained under a ministry covering.

Humble yourself and come under authority; you will be blessed for it! If you operate without a covering, you are inviting danger.

Key #5:

Make sure there is a discipleship path

Deliverance ministry is the act of driving demons out of people. You must never forget that there is a person involved, and they will need help after the demons are gone!

Itinerant evangelists and teachers come into a church or meeting, minister, and then leave. They expect that the church leadership will follow up with those who are saved and helped.

Successful deliverance ministers also have a follow-up plan. It would be irresponsible to do deliverance in a vacuum without a process available for the person to follow. The individual will be responsible for their own walk, but you should guide them in the right direction.

Why is this important? Matthew 12:43-45 warns that when the spirit comes out of someone, it will seek to return and bring along seven other buddies that are more wicked than it! That verse provides a clear and powerful warning to be prepared for that event.

If you are going to minister out of a church environment, under the pastor's authority, be sure that they (or you) have a follow-up plan to help people after the deliverance.

We have seen that it can take up to six weeks to walk out the whole fruit of deliverance. Some are free and don't know it or don't believe it because they may not "feel" much different.

It would be irresponsible to drive demons out of someone and to leave them to their own devices. You are not responsible for the decisions and choices they make after the session(s) with you, but you must do what you can to help them start the journey to freedom.

Key #6:

Minister in love

There are many different approaches to ministering deliverance. There are no common standards in the Body of Christ, and this can cause problems. A Big Mac hamburger in Paris will taste very much like a Big Mac in Dallas, TX! That reality provides comfort and security to many travelers. They seek known menus and foods that will not surprise them.

You may choose to call out spirits at the altar. You might want to become part of a team that deals with the demonic realm in a quiet setting (our approach). The processes are various; however, you should never lose sight of the fact that you are ministering to a person.

Love and compassion should ooze out of your pores if you want to be successful in deliverance ministry. You may not be their counselor or pastor, but the person you minister to should know and feel that you care about them as a person.

If you minister in an open environment, be very wary of becoming a showman! Public ministry can be done safely and well, but some practices will suit you better. Avoid making a spectacle of a person. This is not necessary and can end up embarrassing the one receiving the help.

We minister one-on-one in a private session, and some that we see are concerned that we will yell at them or knock them down. We have to assure the client that our approach is different than they may be used to.

Key #7:

Avoid these common pitfalls

While there are few cast-in-concrete axioms to becoming a successful deliverance minister, some missteps will almost guarantee a bad outcome.

a. Don't steal the glory

Deliverance ministers have the opportunity to partner with Jesus in a very satisfying and exciting work of Holy Spirit. He gives us the power and authority to cast out demons, but He alone receives the praise.

When someone thanks you for your ministry to them, there is no need to put on false airs or pretend-modesty ("Oh, it wasn't me, it was Jesus"). Simply say, "You're welcome! Isn't God good. We give him all the glory". Keeping yourself and the ministry in a posture of humility and purpose means it will not get off track.

b. Never stop learning

No one in deliverance ministry has all the answers. We all are learning, and it is essential to stay flexible. Follow what others are doing and, in the words of a wise man, "eat the chicken and spit out the bones." Knowledge is essential (point 1), and it can become easy to move into a stale state.

c. Don't let deliverance ministry become the primary focus

If you start your own ministry, remember that your main focus needs always to be on Jesus and your walk with him. Be God-focused and not demon-focused.

When you minister, you will be focused on calling out demons but not let the ministry or knowledge about demons dominate your waking hours.

We have seen churches who position themselves as deliverance churches not prosper because they get off the track. Deliverance ministry can be (and should be) part of a healthy church, but it cannot become the overriding focus. Jesus is the head of the church, and our focus must remain on Him.

d. Do not let the deliverance session become a spectacle

Some ministers prefer to turn deliverance ministry into a public display. Many use an open format (at the altar or upfront in a meeting). It can be done effectively, but there need to be safeguards in place. We contend that it should not be necessary to yell at, wrestle or otherwise coerce demons out of people. If things start getting too messy, it is probably more practical to move to a more private location.

e. Do not be isolated from the local church

I have already stressed the importance of being under a spiritual covering and not operating alone. Excellent spiritual health also mandates that Christians be part of a healthy local church body. I define healthy as being Bible-believing, Word-preaching, and Spirit-filled. You should have the support and blessing of your pastor and commit to being an active member of the body.

The demonic realm is looking for open doors to destroy you (John 10:10). A lack of fellowship and accountability provides the vehicle for them to move. The most common pitfalls in ministry are, in the words of John Paul Jackson, "gold, gals or glory." Seductions of the flesh are easier to resist when you, as a minister, are part of a healthy church.

About Me

I want to share some of my background and perspective with you to determine whether the points I have proposed are worth considering as you ponder your next steps.

I have a Ph.D. degree in Clinical Christian Psychology, am an NCCA-Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor. Over thirty-plus years in ministry, I have met with thousands of individuals, couples, and families. I have seen the word and power of God move to help bring wholeness and restoration into their lives and relationships.

I love being a Christian counselor, and there is nothing more rewarding than seeing people set free and walking in the love, grace, and power of God. After years in another center, I started the Above & Beyond Counseling Center to use the skills and experience we had learned to people as God showed us. We minister to people in our local offices and also worldwide over the internet.

I love to teach and train saints of God for the works of ministry. That is why I began Above & Beyond Counseling Academy in conjunction with the Center.

In partnership with the National Christian Counseling Association, the Academy provides excellent Christian Counseling education and licensing to motivated students.

We are a Certified Academic Institution with them and offer their distance-learning program. As with the Counseling Center, technology and the internet allow us to work with students worldwide.

Deliverance ministry is an integral part of our Counseling Center's focus. We utilize a five-step deliverance ministry process to help set the captives free! This process is done over five sessions in a private setting, but we also conduct group seminars.

We can assist clients in our FL offices and also worldwide via the internet.

We use a process approach because we have found that there are some critical steps to take to help increase the likelihood of a positive outcome for deliverance ministry:

1. Prepare the person for ministry by teaching them about the demonic realm
 - a. There are open doors for demonic torment.
 - b. Spirits do not automatically leave when a person gets saved.
 - c. Closing the open doors.
2. Minister quietly and gently in a private setting.
 - a. The person receiving ministry is not afraid of being bullied or embarrassed.
 - b. If the spirit does not go smoothly, there is usually a reason (open door), and we seek the Lord's help to uncover it!
3. Teach a person to stay free and move forward after deliverance
 - a. We meet after the deliverance session to equip the client for when the spirits return to the house (Matthew 12:43-45). They also learn how to "walk out" deliverance.

We have programs and resources in the [Deliverance Academy](#) to train those who have a calling or interest in deliverance ministry and want to use our process. We also have a training course adapted to meet the needs of children three to twelve years of age.

Next Step

Where do you go from here? In this article, I have laid out some issues that I think you should ponder.

To learn more about our deliverance training programs, visit our website at <https://Deliverance.AandBCounseling.com/>. We also have information on our Counseling Academy website on how you can earn a Christian Counseling degree at home, at your own pace, and be licensed with the National Christian Counselors Association (<https://Academy.AandBCounseling.com>)

If you are serious about moving head in training for deliverance ministry, or if you have other questions, please [email us](#).