

UEM Asia Region

Think Tank on Magic, Witchcraft, Demon Beliefs and Deliverance

Suggested Guidelines for a Deliverance Ministry in UEM Member Churches



1. Preparation of the minister

- **Who can perform the deliverance ministry?**

The ministry of deliverance is basically open to every believer. But there has to be preparation and training before one actually engages in it.

- **Is it a gift, a calling, or a task?**

The authority to do deliverance is given to those who believe. But for practical reasons, preparation and a connection of the practice to the congregation and pastoral ministry are necessary. There is no agreement among us as to whether the ability to do deliverance is a gift (charisma).

- **What kind of actual experience is needed before one engages in deliverance ministry?**
- **What kind of exposure should someone have before he or she engages in deliverance ministry?**
- **What training is needed for those who plan to engage in deliverance ministry?**

It is recommended that those who engage in deliverance ministries receive coaching and training and preparation before they do so. The training should include the strengthening of faith, the acquisition of knowledge (culture, psychology, mental health, sociology and theology,) and counseling skills, and exposure to deliverance ministry done by others, and a period of coaching and practical hands-on training under the guidance of someone who is already experienced in deliverance ministry.

- **What kind of personal preparation is needed before one engages in deliverance?**

Someone who prepares for deliverance should live a spiritual discipline with regular Bible reading and prayer; he/she should be member of a group that studies the Bible and prays together, and that corrects and strengthens him/her. Before an actual deliverance, it is important to make oneself aware of one's dependence on God's power, to totally commit oneself to God; and to pray especially for the person to be delivered, his/her family, and for oneself and one's own family.

2. Diagnosis of the problem

- **How do we know whether a person needs deliverance?**

The presence of a demonic power can be indicated by physical signs (e.g. red or unfocused eyes, changed voice, foaming mouth, trembling body, certain physical pains, aversion to cleanliness, sudden violent outbursts), and/or disturbing dreams which vary from culture to culture. Therefore it is important to know one's own culture.

To find out the root cause of the problem of the client, it is important to collect as much information as possible through listening carefully to him/her, and perhaps also to his/her family members and others around him/her. A questionnaire may be helpful in this process, particularly to uncover involvement with occult practices.

In the end, the spiritual gift of the discernment of spirits has to come into play. Clients may not always speak the truth.

3. The actual deliverance 'ritual'

- **What is the basic formula for deliverance?**
- **What are the steps to conduct the deliverance?**

Suggested steps:

- (In case of a structured ministry to a group: Explanation about occultism based on the Bible / Bible study)
- Gathering information. If the client is not conscious of him/herself, require information from family and friends.
- (a short explanation of the process: What could be the root of the problem, in whose power are we doing this, what may or may not happen)
- Singing of hymns, praise and worship
- Prayer including confession of sins
- (Ask the spirit for its name if necessary)
- Casting out the demon or demonic power in the name of Jesus
- Asking the person what s/he feels or experienced during the process
- Sometimes, the process of asking, reading the Bible, singing, praying and casting has to be repeated several times
- Blessing the person, and praying for him/her to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to put his/her life under the Lordship of Christ

A flexible approach is needed depending on the situation.

At any step of this process, a manifestation of a demonic force is possible (e.g. screaming, falling, changed voice, other physical expressions, crying, a violent reaction.)

Guidelines for the actual deliverance

1. If possible, work in a team. Make sure that there are women to deliver women, and men to deliver men. If there is a team, only one person should do the actual casting out, while the others offer prayer support or sing.
2. When casting out the demon, shout only when necessary. In some cases, a calm voice may be sufficient.
3. Be prepared for unusual or violent reactions. Make sure that there is no possibility for the client to hurt him/herself. If necessary, let the team hold or restrain the person without using violence or hurting him/her. Be watchful. Stay calm. In case of a violent reaction, it is also possible to leave the person for a while and go to another place to pray, before resuming the deliverance ritual. Be prepared that the person may fall down. Make sure to catch him/her to avoid injury, and prepare something to lie on, and a cover.
4. Do not talk too much with the demon. Be aware that demons lie and want to create confusion. Often it is best to simply cast it out. But sometimes it is necessary to know its name to cast it out.
5. Be sensitive and careful how you touch the person. Touch can be aggressive, or it can be comforting and healing, depending on the culture and personal experience. It may not be necessary to touch the person at all.
6. The information you get about the person **MUST** stay confidential. Nobody in the deliverance team should speak about what they have learnt about the client outside of the team.

- **Should we use oil or symbols?**

There is no need to use symbols (oil, water, cross etc.) to cast out demons, but it may be helpful to use symbols during the ritual in certain cases for pastoral or cultural reasons. We must be careful in any case of the cultural implications of this use: It is not the symbol that does the deliverance, but the power of Jesus.

- **How do we know that a person has been delivered?**

There are a number of possible indicators that the person has been delivered.

- a) The person is calm and able to respond normally when spoken to.
- b) The person recognizes him/herself and the people around him/her.
- c) The person is relaxed and tired.
- d) The person is very thirsty.
- e) The person feels peaceful and relieved; pains or symptoms of illness may be gone.
- f) The person feels great joy and begins to praise God.
- g) The face and the eyes are radiant and bright.
- h) The person is able to pray and to confess Christ as Savior.

4. Aftercare

- **What shall we do for the client after the deliverance ministry?**

Aftercare is necessary, both for the short and the long term.

Short term, the client is counseled about the danger of new demonic attack, and given some Bible verses to be strengthened. The client and his/her family is also encouraged to pray and read the Bible and join church activities. A follow-up visit after a few days is also recommended. There may be a need for further counseling, or psychological, social or economic assistance or referral.

Long term, the person is encouraged to become active in the church, and perhaps even to become a member of the deliverance team. The local church should ensure that there are people who assist and strengthen the client in his/her faith.

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