

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DESTROYING THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL

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PART 4A: SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE

In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 4, Jesus quoted from the prophet Isaiah about the Messiah coming to set the captives free. Most Christians are familiar with the passage in Luke but let's take a look at what Isaiah prophetically spoke some 700 years before Christ. **Isaiah 61:1-2**

It is interesting that Jesus only quoted the first part of verse one and left out the rest:

"To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified." **Isaiah 61:2-3**

When Jesus came to earth as the suffering Messiah, it was not time for vengeance, that is going to come at the Great White Throne Judgment. **Revelation 20:10-15**

Comforting the people that mourn will not happen until after the Great White Throne Judgment. **Revelation 21:3-7**

Thus we can see that there are three stages to the prophecy Isaiah spoke more than 700 years before Christ:

- ❖ Stage One: The coming of the Messiah to pay for man's sins.
- ❖ Stage Two: Vengeance by God – the Great White Throne Judgment.
- ❖ Stage Three: Eternal life in the new creation.

WHO ARE THE CAPTIVES?

1. *All unsaved people.* **Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 1:12-14**

All unsaved people are lost in their sins. **Romans 3:23**

Their spiritual father is the Devil. **John 8:42-45**

2. *All believers in Christ who are still bound in their sins!* **Romans 6:12-16; 2 Peter 2:9-22**

MY ROAD TO FREEDOM IN CHRIST

I want to share part of my testimony to help you understand what is at stake and how you can be set free from all bondage of the Devil. It does not matter what



nation you are born in or your race since all humans are of the same blood and we all have the same problems. **Acts 17:26**

As a child I learned about my ancestors but it was as an adult that I began to ask my grandmothers, aunts and uncles about both sides of my family.

FATHER'S SIDE

In my father's bloodline there had been incest, fornication, adultery, violence by men to their wives and alcoholism.

The family diseases were arthritis, tuberculosis and heart ailments.

My great-grandfather had as a young man immigrated to the United States and stayed for some time before he returned to Sweden and married my great grandmother. He was saved during meetings with D.L. Moody in Chicago and came back as a strong Christian that shared his faith with others. Some of their children were saved, including my grandmother. Her husband was not a Christian to my knowledge.

My father accepted Christ as a young man but married my mother who was not a Christian and was backslidden until 1971.

MOTHER'S SIDE

In my mother's bloodline there were few Christians, except on her paternal grandfather's side. He came from a strong Christian family with two generations of lay preachers, but he was not a strong Christian and committed suicide when my mother was three years old. Alcohol was a family curse, including fornication and adultery. Cancer and diabetes are the main diseases in my mother's bloodline.

My parents conceived me out of wedlock and that made me a bastard who is cursed up to ten generations. **Deuteronomy 23:2**

Thus I was plagued with generational curses from conception. **Exodus 20:1-5**

There are well meaning Christians who will strongly state that we are living under the New Covenant and therefore the Old Testament doesn't count any longer. Don't tell me that because I have suffered over the years and the torment from the pain. You should just accept that the Word of God is true and I was under neither of the covenants before I was saved.

MANIFESTATIONS

As a toddler I would claw myself during sleep and my parents had to wrap my hands every night for a long time so that I would not hurt myself during the night.

By the time I was four years old I was very destructive. My parents could not visit any friends because I would destroy items in the house. At my grandmother's home I would pick up different items and throw them into the fireplace.

My brother Peter was born when I was five years old, and I tried to choke him the first day they brought him home. My parents had to drag me off my newborn brother because he was an intruder to me. From that day I was watched and never left alone with the baby.

When I started school at the age of seven I was a problem child and my teacher told my mother that I would end up in prison. I had a severe arrested development spirit, and during my school years all the way through college, I struggled and could not apply myself. I was intelligent and understood what was taught but I could not process it nor settle down to study.

At the age of seven I started to steal cigarettes from my father and smoke them.

We lived my first fifteen years in my grandmother's house. She occupied the first floor, we lived on the second floor and my uncle lived on the third floor. The house was haunted as doors would open by themselves and voices and footsteps could be heard on the floors when there were no people around.

When I was around thirteen years old I would sneak out at night and break windows on houses. I did this for some time and was never caught.

At sixteen years old I had formed a gang and my brother Peter was part of it. One day we got into a fight and I used a knife to stab a boy that was attacking me. It is a miracle that the boy did not die. My brother and I were taken to the police station late that night but we were hardened liars and they could not pin the stabbing on me. My brother and I had no remorse; we felt that the other boy had gotten what he deserved.

At the age of eighteen I started to drink alcohol. I did not like the taste of it but I liked the feeling of being drunk.

At this time I developed a great fear and always carried a large knife with me. I became paranoid and felt that people were watching and following me.

I had also started to read a lot of science fiction and felt drawn to the occult. I discovered I had the power to hypnotize people and I started to develop this gift from Satan.

I had become a bad person as I only cared about myself, was a liar, a thief and almost a murderer. I dated girls and did not treat them with respect. I had become a user and abuser. I could look a person straight in the eyes and lie to them and feel no shame or remorse. The demons in me had my body and my soul locked up. At night I was scared and did not like to sleep in a dark room; fear gripped me every day about what would happen when I died? **Proverbs 13:21**

THE HAND OF GOD (Romans 8:26-30)

At the age of three I visited pastor Johansson in his office at the Pentecostal church that was next to our house. He had a painting of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and I remember asking him what the painting was about. He took the time to tell me and then I said, *"I am going to be there too."*

At the age of five I was led to Christ in Sunday school with the full understanding of sin, who Jesus was and that He had died for me.

The same year God spoke to me during a funeral for dead American airmen in our hometown. When I saw the American airmen in their uniform march by me followed by open carriages with caskets draped with American flags, the voice of God spoke to me and said: "*These are your people, you do not belong here, and someday you will go and be with your people.*" From that day I knew I would move to America.

When I was six years old I had a vision that I was going to write and for a short time while I walked home during my vision, I had full knowledge of how to read and write even though I had not started school yet. When I sat down to start writing, the vision and the knowledge disappeared and I was so disappointed.

My parents did not attend church, but they sent us to Sunday school, which I attended from the age of five until I turned thirteen.

I also belonged to the Boy Scout program of the Swedish Mission Covenant Church from the age of seven to thirteen. During summer camp one year I began to weep during the invitation to follow Christ at a camp meeting but I was ashamed and didn't dare to go forward because I was crying.

When I was seventeen I rode my moped and passed a tent meeting. A voice told me to stop and go into the tent. I immediately began to cry and felt a need to surrender to Christ as the invitation was given. However, I looked at my leather jacket and dirty pants and was ashamed to go forward. I remember driving away weeping.

When my wife and I left Sweden in 1963 to immigrate to America, I remember a booming voice inside me said, "*You better not mess up in this new country you are going to.*" It put a great fear into me since I knew that this was God and there would be no more chances if I messed up.

Arriving in Salt Lake City, Utah, my relatives worked hard on me to join the Mormon Church. They told me I would get a good job if I joined the church. God spoke through my wife as she put her foot down and told me that we were not joining the Mormons.

During this time I had started to drink again to my wife's sorrow. One Sunday night I was tired of television and the beer I had been drinking. As I turned the dial on the radio, suddenly a booming voice told me about Jesus and the need to get saved. It was like a hook that was sunk into my soul and I listened intently. The next Sunday I tuned in at the beginning of the program and this continued for the next five months. During the month of May 1965, I was told that there would be a telecast by an evangelist named Billy Graham. My wife and I were ready to accept Christ when the telecast was over and the invitation was given as we prayed independently and asked God to forgive us of our sins and to receive Jesus as our Saviour.

My wife had lived a descent life and there were not that many visible changes in her life but I noticed the next day that I did not use any cuss words, my lying had stopped and I had a hunger to read the Bible.

We did not begin attending church until early in 1966 but I slid back into drinking beer again when my wife sent to Sweden for about three months. That subsequently stopped once we started to attend Central Baptist Church and were baptized in water. **Ephesians 2:1-10**

DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONS

After surrendering to Christ, my foul language stopped, I no longer lied, I stopped stealing and a great love for people filled me. In time I became a Sunday school teacher, then a Sunday school superintendent and then I was recruited to become a Gideon. I was teaching and preaching and leading people to Christ but there was a dark side in my life that I didn't share with anyone, not even my wife.

I was happy serving Jesus but I was tormented. Horrible and perverse thoughts would swirl in my head about stabbing, killing, and hurting people.

The Devil mocked me and told me, *"You are not saved. No Christian is like you. You are a rotten apple. God does not love you."* It was a mental torment that is hard to describe. The Devil had me convinced that I was the only person having these problems and so I didn't dare talk about this to my pastor or even my wife. No one had taught me about evil spirits and how they operated; I believed that I was the cause of these horrible thoughts. I would sit on my hands at a church dinner to make sure I would not pick up a knife and stab my neighbor or pick up a dish and throw it in the face of the person sitting opposite me.

God called me to preach in 1967 and two years later I entered seminary even though I was still a mess inside. I was like two different people, one that looked good on the outside, led people to Christ and did all the right things and one that was tormented to the hilt on the inside. It began to take a toll on my immune system and from time to time I was sick with colds and sore throats. I was plagued with allergies and had a nose operation since my nasal passage had grown together.

In the fall of 1969 there was a lot of talk about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit among the seminary students. In the spring of 1970 I decided to attend a Full Gospel Business Men's International Fellowship meeting and receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. They prayed over me but nothing happened. On the second day another student from the seminary was with me in the car when I complained about not being filled with the Holy Spirit and he bluntly told me, *"John, the reason you are not baptized in the Holy Spirit is because you are full of demons."* I exploded in anger when he said that; how did he dare to lay such a charge against me!

The next day while my wife was working and I was alone in our apartment at the seminary, I decided to pray and seek the Lord. After closing the drapes to make sure that no one would see me I prayed, *"Dear God, if I have any demons..."* and that is as far as I got when demons began to manifest in me and realized to my

horror that it was true, I really had demons in my body even though I was a born again Christian. I don't know how long it lasted but there was a fierce spiritual battle unlike I had ever before encountered. When it was over I had been baptized in the Holy Spirit and the tormenting thoughts were gone. But I didn't know that all the demons had not been removed. **Acts 8:5-8**

THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS

My theology had taken a nose dive and I realized that there was much that I did not know. How could I help people if I didn't know about demons myself? My wife and I purchased every book we could find on demons. There were no personal computers and internet in those days so printed material was the only way to get some answers.

I would cast out the demons as soon as I found out about a certain groups and recognized that I had this kind of problem.

There was a constant learning from 1970 through 2003. I wrote my first Bible study book on the subject called, "Christian Dynamics Course 1," and the first edition came out in 1975. That edition sold out and became outdated as new knowledge came in and subsequent revisions were printed.

What I learned was organized into a deliverance manual and we were breaking curses, making sure that the person seeking help had forgiven all people, including them self. Over time we learned of traumas, the arrested development spirit and mind control. It was a steep learning curve and with time we were able to help people more and more and have a complete program for them based upon the Bible and experience. I didn't learn about the arrested development spirit until late in the 1980's as I realized that I had been plagued with these kind of demons all these years. I was 49 years old at the time but I had never felt like a man, only a little boy in a man's body.

By the time I was 50 years old, I felt that I was a man for the first time in my life and didn't have to be ashamed of myself anymore. Up to this time I had always called my elders and deacons "the boys," and when we had a meeting, I told people that the boys and I were going to meet.

Only God knows how I have suffered over the years because of lack of knowledge. I never told people how I felt inside because it was a secret that I was afraid to share for the fear that people in the church would reject me. Even when I write this sermon, I feel uneasy about people looking at me and saying, "*We did not know you were that bad.*" But I am a man now and understand that others are suffering like me and there is hope to be set free when they find out they are not alone.

CHRISTIAN DYNAMICS COURSE 1

For sixteen years I have been trying to finish Course 1, which is a full account of what we have learned in the last 40 years. Satan has fought us on every front, but in January 2010 we broke loose with the final editing and now the book is

available. Course 1 is more than a book, it is a 370 page practical Christian handbook based upon the Bible and life experience. If I would have had a book like that in 1970, our ministry would be light years ahead where we are today.

I realize now that God has used me as a pathfinder to clear the way so that people coming behind me will have more knowledge of God, the Holy Spirit and Satan and that they can become strong warriors for Jesus.

The road has been long and hard but Jesus has been there all the time, even when I could not feel him. **Galatians 6:7-9**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?