SEMINAR TOPIC: DEMONOLOGY AND DELIVERANCE

FOCUS – Kenya, Ezra Conference

Venue: Kabarak University,

Date: 29th Dec 2016,

Time: 3.30-4.45PM

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Definition of Terms
   a. Demonology
   According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the term Demonology denotes: the study of demons or evil spirits belief in demons: a doctrine of evil spirits a catalog of enemies. In this presentation, Demonology is a brief study of demons or evil spirits.

   b. What are Demons?
   Virtually all religions & cultures have various supernatural entities that are considered malevolent or even evil. In some cultures, these may be simply forces of nature like hurricanes. Sometimes they are entities with capabilities for destruction such as fertility gods/goddesses. And in some belief systems, they are evil spirits hell-bent on making one’s life miserable. Demons, Satan and the powers of darkness are real beings and they are actively at work in our world.

   In the Bible, Demons are supernatural beings/angels who operate under the control of Satan and are involved in countering the work of God on earth.

   Although the word demons is not found in the King James Version of the Bible but their existence is evident in other versions and translations which use the word. The Bible teaches that apart from Satan the Prince of the power of the air, there exists evil spirits of lesser degree of leadership and power. Their designation is demon and is from a Greek word “diabolos”, meaning adversary, false accuser and slanderer, and from the Latin word daemon meaning “evil spirit.”

   c. Deliverance
   According to the Oxford Dictionary, Deliverance is the action of being set free. It is also the state of being rescued from danger, evil or pain.

   From a religious perspective, deliverance is the process or act in which someone who is possessed of the evil spirit is set free from such bondage.

   It is a process, mainly through prayer, of freeing a person, who is gripped by evil spirits. The major issue in ministry is dealing with the emotional garbage that is brought about by demonic oppression. Many
people's lives and destinies in our continent have been bound and caged by witchcraft powers and wicked spirit. Most struggles and battles that people are facing today are well planned from the occult world. Through personal and fraternal deliverance on is able to stay free or be freed from demonic bondage.

2. Controversy about Demons
The discussion about demons is Controversial – Especially due to different world views:

a. World view 1: No demons hence its weird to even think about their existence let alone deliverance

b. World view 2: Demons Exist.

Those who believe that demons exist also have varied views

i. They are powerless hence no need to deal with them

ii. They are so powerful that we are powerless before them and hence live in perpetual fear

iii. They are equal in power with the forces of God so we need always to be fighting them but we are never sure of victory

iv. They are powerful but we the power of God through Christ is available to overcome them.

Those of this view also have differing opinions.

- There are those who think that only a small band of experts can defeat demons while others believe that,
- Every believer can have power to resist and defeat them. This is the view we hold in this discussion on demonology and deliverance.

3. The Origin of Demons
God, who is good and holy, created the universe. As part of His creation, He created a great company of angels. These angels were created as very beautiful, free-willed creatures with great intelligence and freedom of choice.

One of the angels, refered to a cherub close to the throne of God, became preoccupied with his own beauty, wisdom and importance and wanted to elevate Himself in the sight of other angelic creatures and even desired to become like God (Ezekiel 28:11-18). He went berserk or mad with pride and became totally corrupt, evil and violent, demanding worship just as God is worshipped (Isaiah 14:12-14; Matt 4:9). His pride cut him away from God and His goodness and holiness. He hence became completely evil and became the adversary of God. He also persuaded other angels to join Him in His rebellion against God. God then ordered His expulsion from heaven (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6-7; Rev 12:4,9-10). The devil is the supreme spirit of evil, the enemy of God and the human kind. (Job 1:6, Eph. 2:2). The devil is also referred in the Bible as a slander, accuser of brethren, Lucifer, devil, serpent and liar is believed in many religions and myths to be a supernatural entity that is the personification of evil.
When Satan, fell from Heaven, he took a third of the angels with him. These fallen angels are the ones that we call demons or evil spirits. With these demons, Satan set up an invisible evil government over this world. These demons are the source of Satanism, false religions, cults and the occult.

II. COSMIC WAR: SPIRITUAL WARFARE
In the spiritual realm there is a cosmic war going on regardless of our opinions. We are either victors or victims. Just because we cannot see the spiritual realm it does mean it is not there. Our spiritual battles are real, even though we cannot physically see the attackers. Just because we don’t know or believe there is a real devil and demons does not mean he is not there at all. Poor old Job did not know that there was existence of Satan but this did not stop him from attacking him and his household. The Influence of Demons over a Believers life

Demon Possession / Demonic Oppression: Possession means to inhabit, to occupy, to control, to hold as property, to dominate, to actuate, to rule by extraneous forces.

While Christians can’t be demon possessed, they can be oppressed, harrassed or influenced by Satan and his demons (see Acts 10:38).

As Christians we are involved in Spiritual warfare on a daily basis. The actual job, goal and strategy of demons, under the direct command of the devil, is to steal, kill and destroy one – spiritually, emotionally, relationally, physically, economically and morally. Demons want to ruin your life as a Christian. They seek to ruin one’s health, academic life, career, marriage, children, ministry etc. They seek to overwhelm, discourage, deceive, and render believers completely ineffective in their relationship with Christ, so that the Church and the Gospel are discredited, and believers become miserable, and all the work of God, and the work of the cross, and the power of resurrection is nullified.

III. WORKS OF DEMONS AS REVEALED IN SCRIPTURES
1. Deception (Garden of Eden; 1 Kings 22:22; John 8:44)
2. Murder (John 8:44; Mark 5:5; 9:22)
4. Sexual Uncleanness and Violence – Unclean spirits (Matt 10:1; Mark 1:23; Mark 7:25; Eph 5:5)
5. Influence in Human Governments (Dan 10:12-21; Rev 16:14; 2 Corin 4:4)
6. Hindrances to the Work of the Gospel (1 Thess 2:18)
7. Hindrances to Prayer (Dan 10:12-13)
8. General Harassment of the People of God (2 Corin 12:7)
10. The Working of Strange Occurrences and Deceiving Miracles (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 16:13-14)
11. Slandering and Accusing Christians before God (Rev 12:10; Rom 8:33-38-39)
IV. HOW TO ENGAGE IN DELIVERANCE

1. God’s Provision for a Believer in Spiritual Warfare
The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesians gives a clear cut strategy of countering the work of demons in a believer’s life

Eph 6:10-20
10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. (NIV)

2. Have the right worldview
Believe in the existence of demons as the enemies of God and His people, and know basic facts about the spiritual battles we face
There are four facts that need to know before engaging in Spiritual battle or deliverance:
Fact No. 1: God has objectively defeated Satan in his agenda. He has delivered us from sin's penalty, and power, and ultimately will deliver us from sin's very presence. That's a fact. In the interim, we're involved in guerrilla warfare with demonic forces.
Fact No. 2: As believers, we have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light with all the rights and privileges and position that being a child of God entails. A believer cannot be demon possessed.
Fact No. 3: The spiritual battle that we fight involves a responsibility on our part to put on the spiritual protection that God has provided for us. We can and we will resist the enemy’s attempts to deceive, accuse, and cast out when we stand firm by what? First, being honest with God about ourselves and others: prerequisite to all spiritual battle. Second, responding to the truth that God shows us about His will for our lives: righteous living. And third, a clear understanding of the Gospel and taking opportunity to readily share it.
Fact No. 4: The vast or great majority of all spiritual warfare never need go beyond the regular practice of living out your position in Christ by faith. What we’re talking about now is not necessarily the norm.

3. Prepare for the Battle
a. Prerequisites/Basic requirements
b. Be Born-again
c. Be filled with the Holy Spirit
d. Daily quiet time or personal devotional time
e. Be in fellowship with others who walk in purity and in the right
f. Submission to authorities
g. Forgiveness of others
h. Confession of sin/faults to others

Put on the full armor of God: to use Paul’s metaphor, the spiritual armor, protects us from Satan’s ongoing attempts to break our fellowship with Jesus and, as a result, greatly minimizes any impact of the enemy. With the spiritual armor in place, most of the battles we fight will be non-existent.

i. Belt of Truth: Integrity and accountability in one’s daily living in light of scriptures
ii. Breastplate of Righteousness: Ensuring holiness, righteousness and justice
iii. Shoes of the readiness of the Gospel of Peace: Sharing your faith and being a peacemaker
iv. Shield of Faith: Confessing your faith in God and resting in His promises
v. Helmet of Salvation – Use of your testimony
vi. Sword of the Word – Daily listening, reading, study, memorizing, meditation and use of the Word of God appropriately
vii. Alertness and cover of Prayer – Individual (private) and corporate (public), Prayer, fasting,

4. Engage in Spiritual warfare
   a. Identify the Signs of Demonic Oppression
      i. Cutting /Self-mutilation
      ii. Extreme feeling of loneliness
      iii. Hatred of oneself and others
      iv. Chronic depression /dramatic mood swings
      v. Irrational rage/violent outbursts
      vi. Filthy, uncontrolled swearing
      vii. Refusal to submit to any authority
   b. Understand the Door Ways to Demonic Oppression
      i. Ouija Boards – communicating with the supernatural world including the dead
      ii. Astrology/Horoscopes
      iii. Karate/Tae kwon do
      iv. Yoga
      v. Horror books
      vi. Classic Rock and Rock music and heavy metal
      vii. Alcohol and Drugs
      viii. Séances
      ix. Consulting Mediums/Psychics/Fortune Tellers/Palm Readers/Tarot cards
      x. Transcendental meditation
      xi. Hypnosis
      xii. Sexual immorality with a demon oppressed or possessed person
      xiii. Violet video games
      xiv. Pornography
   c. Go on the Offensive
      Engage the enemy with supernatural weapons which God has provided. Go on the offensive. Start to break, a stronghold or a habit that’s been in your life, hence experiencing a real encounter with demonic influences around your life. Go out also and help others out to gain
their victory over demons.
Get involved in ministry to others

d. **Forms of Deliverance**
The various types of deliverance are:
  a. Personal deliverance (self-deliverance).
  b. Fraternal Deliverance
This occurs where Christian brothers and sisters help to cast out demons. This includes deliverance administered by the church leaders
  i. **Personal Deliverance**
In personal deliverance, the individual by faith turns to Christ committing every area of life to His Lordship. They confess and renounce all known sins and take on the authority and power that is rightfully theirs in Christ and command the evil Spirits present to leave. They also destroy all objects associated with the area of sin you are struggling with especially Occult objects and books.
  ii. **Fraternal Deliverance**
This type of deliverance occurs in extreme cases where the ministry from pastors is sought by believers to deal with the demonization. It involves ongoing pastoral care after the person has been delivered.
In other instances, there are people whom God has given special gifts of discernment, revelation, and authority to overcome Satan and evil spirits.
The Lord Jesus said in Mark 16: 1ff. that “them that believe should be the ones to cast out demons,” meaning all believers in Christ.

V. **BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR DELIVERANCE.**
From Genesis to Revelation God warned His people to be free of demon power; The following portions of scripture support the issue of deliverance:

1. **Deliverance in the Old Testament**
The Old Testament is rich on teaching about healing and deliverance. Examples of scriptures include Psalms 40:1-3; 34 :7;91; 103:2-3; 2 Kings 20:1-7; Isaiah 38:1-8; 2Chro.32:24-28; 1Kings 17:20. Moses warned against witchcraft, in (Deuteronomy 18:10-13). There was the death penalty for witchcraft (Lev 20:6).

2. **Deliverance in the New Testament**
   a. **Healing and Deliverance in the Gospels**
   b. **Healing and Deliverance in the Book of Acts**
In the Apostolic Church, healing and deliverance was evident. Peter and the other Apostles testify to Jesus’ power of healing and deliverance. Acts 3; Acts 5:15-16; 8:5-8; Acts 16.
   c. **Healing and deliverance in the NT letters**
This is indicated by the provision of various spiritual gifts as found in 1 Corinthians 12, and other
VI. JUSTIFICATION FOR DELIVERANCE MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH TODAY

The following factors should convince any Christian of the reality and necessity of deliverance ministry in the church.

a. The Ministry of Deliverance is scriptural. Jesus practiced it, and taught both His immediate disciples, and wider groups of followers to do the same. Believers have the power of Jesus name. They need to be taught that they are liberated and deliverance is possible through this very name. John 14:12-14; Acts 4: 12; Phil 2: 9-11.

b. The church has been endowed with spiritual gifts for the benefit of all. 1 Corinthians 12. Although the gift of deliverance is not specifically mentioned as one of the gifts, abundant evidence shows that that it was at work in the NT and continues to operate in the contemporary world.

c. The ministry of deliverance operates alongside other spiritual gifts such as discernment as in Acts 5: 1-10. Every believer is engaged in spiritual warfare and the enemy we deal with is a very evil. As we wrestle and withstand this enemy (Ephesians 6:12,13), we also snatch others from the fire through deliverance (Jude 23).

d. The people in the churches today face diverse challenges, emotional, mental torment, Confusion, Speech problems- outburst or uncontrolled use of the tongue, cursing, lying, blasphemy; Sex problems- masturbation, fantasy, sex experiences, lust, perversions, homosexuality, adultery, incest, harlotry; Addictions to drugs, alcohol and other substances; Physical maladies, infirmities (Luke 13: 11) and False teaching, Christian cults, Occultism and Spiritism and false doctrine.

VII. PITFALLS IN DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

While the ministry of deliverance seems to be of great importance, there are a number of areas that the Church must give greater attention on in order to eliminate misuse of this good vice. Some of the areas of concern are:

1. Dealing with the wrong or even imposed diagnosis. Trying to exorcise non-existent demons or spirits does great damage. Those prayed for can be to feel guilty when the prayers are unsuccessful and left feeling far worse than before.

2. Unfinished ministry. Ministry may begin on the right track perceiving and praying about a real problem, but somehow is never quite finished. The list of evil spirits grows inexorably and the person prayed for becomes trapped and far too depended upon the group who are doing the ministry.

3. The Minister may lack authority (Matthew 18:18-20). Deliverance ministry is part and parcel of the overall ministry of the church. Therefore, those who practice it should operate under the authority of the local church or denomination. Lack of clear guidelines for deliverance ministry from church leadership leaves those practicing deliverance room to abuse or deceive their own methods.

4. Being stereotyped or obsessed with a particular deliverance method. Jesus used different approaches and methods to minister to the many people who came to Him. Similarly, in The OT, God used various methods and strategies to bring deliverance to His people.
VIII. CONCLUSION

Deliverance is part of believer’s salvation. Although the believer has been set free from the penalty of sin, the process of sanctification continues daily. The sanctification process involves the deliverance of the believer from all kinds of evil and demonic influence (Matthew 6: 13). Christ Jesus is greater than the devil (1 John 4:4), but the believer has been commanded to resist the devil and he (the devil) would flee from him (the believer)-James 4:7.

A Holy Spirit led church cannot shun the ministry of deliverance, and therefore the following recommendations are made:

1. Teaching on the subject should be done from our pulpits.
2. The actual ministry of deliverance has to be regulated and supervised by the leaders of the fellowship. Those who have the calling into this ministry should operate under the established guidelines.
3. Every method or strategy should be fully supported by the Holy Scriptures.
4. The ultimate purpose of deliverance should be Christ-likeness of the believer.
5. All deliverance ministries should be guided by the Holy Spirit, and should be part of The Great Commission.
6. Those who abuse the practice should be instructed in the biblical way of doing deliverance.
7. A follow up should be done for those who have gone through deliverance to ensure total victory through discipleship.