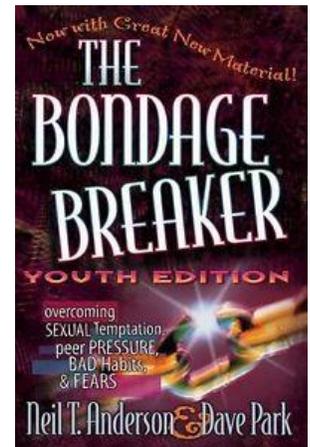


Neil T. Anderson: The Bondage Breaker

Monarch 1996 (USA 1990)

Summary notes by Alison Morgan, October 1997



Part One: Take Courage!

1. You don't have to live in the shadows

Misconceptions about bondage:

- demons no longer active
- we call it mental illness
- some problems are psychological, some spiritual: no, there is no problem

which is not

spiritual, and no problem which is not psychological, because there is never

a time

when your mind, emotions and will are not involved.

- Christians aren't subject to demon activity: but if Satan can't touch us, why are we told to put on the armour of God?
- demonic influence evident only in extreme behaviour and gross sin. No. Satan's first strategy is deception.
- freedom from spiritual bondage is result of a power encounter with demonic forces: no, a truth encounter. Pursue truth, not power.

Setting captives free - not much in epistles. This because prior to resurrection, specifically appointed apostles were necessary to take authority over demonic powers in the world. Since, every believer is seated with Christ in the heavenly places; no need therefore for an outside agent. You have only to understand and appropriate your position in Christ. Emphasis therefore now on life of individual.

2. Finding your way in the world

World is experiencing massive shift in its world view; cf rise of New Age, acceptance of parapsychology as a science, popularity of supernatural, increasing visibility of Satan. Now have 2 tier world view. Upper tier contains transcendent world of God and spiritual forces; realm of religion. Lower tier contains empirical world of senses; realm of science. Between the two is a buffer zone; they don't overlap. But they do. In the buffer zone is the real world of spiritual forces active on earth. Need to include kingdom of darkness in our worldview. Many Christians battle against physical symptoms when real problem is spiritual.

Discipleship of Christ the only answer.

3. You have every right to be free

You are alive and well

You are changed from sinner to saint

You are a partaker of divine nature

You can be victorious over flesh and sin

You can be free from the power of sin

You can win the battle for your mind - illus of computer. Take every thought captive (2 Cor 10.3-5).

Some strongholds of bad habits and sinful thought patterns were est when you learned to live your life independently of God. Your non-Christian environment taught you to think about and respond to life in a non-Christian way, and those patterns and responses were ingrained in your mind as strongholds. But when you became a Christian, nobody pressed the 'clear' button in your mind.

Your old fleshly habits and patterns weren't erased; they are still a part of your flesh which must be dealt with on a daily basis.

4. Confronting the rebel prince

Authority in Christ comes from position in him as believer; not from maturity. Every Christian has capacity to resist devil.

In ministry remember you minister the truth, you don't fight demons. Kingdom centred not demon centred ministry.

Jesus gave disciples authority (right) and power (ability) to rule over evil spirits. Every Christian has same authority in the spiritual world, and can minister effectively.

Satan not an equal power with God; if he can deceive you into thinking he has more power and authority than you do, you will live as if he does. You have the authority over the kingdom of darkness; but if you don't believe it and don't exercise it, it's as if you haven't.

Ephesians 1 - our spiritual authority. Limited to spiritual realm; we do not have authority as the apostles did over all diseases.

Only reason we don't experience more victory in our lives is that we don't believe Satan has been defeated.

4 qualifications for demonstrating authority over spiritual powers:

- belief you have it
- humility
- boldness
- dependence

5. Jesus has you covered

People often experience more struggles after becoming Christian than before - because Satan starts to bother with them.

'Some Christians are a little paranoid about evil powers, suspecting that demons lurk around every corner just waiting to possess them. That's an unfounded fear. Our relationship to demonic powers in the spiritual realm is a lot like our relationship to germs in the physical realm. We know that germs are all around us: in the air, in the water, in our food, in other people, and even in us. But do you live in constant fear of catching some disease? NO - unless you're a hypochondriac! You know enough about wellness to eat the right foods, get enough rest, and keep yourself and your possessions clean. If you happen to catch a cold or get the measles, you simply deal with it and go on with your life. It's the same in the spiritual realm. Demons are like little invisible germs looking for someone to infect. We are never told in Scripture to be afraid of them. You just need to be aware of their reality and commit yourself to live a righteous life in spite of them. Should you come under attack, deal with it and go on with life.'

P.77.

Christian's magna charter of protection is Eph.6. You already have belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace; are told to add shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of word of God.

Protective power of prayer. Mother: Jim, have you been praying for me? Jim: of course I have mother. Mother: well, don't, because you're disturbing my aura.'

Prayer targets in spiritual warfare:

- pray for spiritual sight for the person; Satan causes spiritual blindness
- bind the strong man (Mt 12.29)
 - : pray that demons may be cut off from communication/help from all other demons and from Satan
 - : pray that they would be confused and weakened in their hold on the person
 - : pray that the person would be strengthened in faith to understand his position in Christ and to trust and obey god's word
 - : pray that the person will distinguish between own thoughts/feelings and those of Satan
 - : pray that the person will recognise the demonic presence and seek help
 - : pray that God would protect and guide his child and send angels

Part Two: Stand Firm

6. Dealing with evil in person

Conversion of high priest of Satanism Harry. Wife sees Neil, says God speaks through voice. He commands it to identify it to her mind. Expect them always to lie.

Satan ruler of this world. Jn 12.31; 14.30; 16.11. Lk 4.6.

Authority of Jesus, and thru him of us. Mt 28.18. 1 Jn 3.8.

We born spiritually dead and subject to prince of power of air (Eph 2.2); thru Jesus God delivered us from darkness and transferred us to kingdom of son (Col.1.13); citizenship changed from earth to heaven (Phil.3.20). Spirit of truth helps us discern evil one's schemes (Jn 16.13).

Best description is Eph 6.12 - struggle not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Also Col 1.16; 2.15; Romans 8.38,39.

Harry said structure in Satanism corresponds to 4 level hierarchy of demonic rule in Eph 6. Rulers is royal court, with 7 world covens. Powers is host level priests. World forces is legion level priests. Spiritual forces is local covens. Only ever hear about activities at level of local coven.

Waking up at 3 am - 12 till 3 is peak time for Satanists to meet; part of their ritual is to summon and send demons. 1 Jn 4.4 greater is he than he who is in the world. Resist Satan with spoken word and go back to sleep.

Luke 11.24-26 personality and individuality of evil spirits. (Story of it coming back with 7 others). Conclude:

- demons can exist outside or inside humans
- can travel at will
- can communicate
- each has separate identity
- can remember and plan
- can evaluate and decide
- can combine forces
- vary in degrees of wickedness

How do they interfere with our lives? Imagine Christian life as walking down street of maturity. Street lined with houses. Nothing to stop you going down it, except demons hanging out of every house trying to get your attention. Have no power other than that which you give them. Strategies are temptation and deception.

Levels of bondage. Gradual process. Scale goes from Paul (victory) to Gadarene demoniac (complete control). Estimates only 15% of Christians are completely free of Satan's bondage. Others on one of 3 levels of spiritual conflict:

- normal Christian life on outside; wrestling with sinful thoughts on inside; virtually no devotional life; no idea that in a spiritual conflict; blame selves (65%)
- those who can distinguish between own thoughts and strange voices which seem to overpower them; mostly still fail to see it as spiritual conflict; seek counselling; eating and drinking disorders, depression, paranoia etc; 15% of all Christians
- loss of control; voices tell person what to do. 5%.

Three possible responses: believe the demonic thoughts (sit in street); argue with them (stand in middle of street shouting at them); ignore them (shield of faith, choose truth; walk on).

7. The lure of knowledge and power

Demonic influence is not an external force in the physical realm; it is the internal manipulation of the central nervous system.

Harry. Deliverance ministry. Satan - first technique deception. If you challenge it, intimidation. Read scripture and pray aloud (Eph 1 the best). Lead in prayer of commitment to Christ. Then there will be trouble staying free.

Lure of occult is based on acquiring knowledge and power.

Bible on not getting into occult.

Music important. Whenever evil spirit came on Saul, David would play harp and it would depart (1 Samuel 16.23); Elisha asked for musician when about to pray (2 Kings 3.15); in David's reign 4000 musicians assigned to sing in the temple night and day (1 Chronicles 9.33; 23.5); Eph 5.18-20 Christians sing psalms, hymns, spiritual songs.

Converse is destructive power of secular music. 85% heavy metal and punk music groups owned by Satanists (US). New Age is occult in new clothing.

8. Enticed to do it your way

Temptation. Essence is enticement to have legitimate human needs met through the resources of the world, the flesh and the devil instead of through Christ (Phil. 4.19); invitation to live independently of God.

1 Jn 2.12-14 3 levels of Christian growth in relation to sin

- little children; forgiven
- younge men; have overcome the evil one
- fathers; have developed deep personal knowledge of God

3 channels through which we enticed by Satan to act independently of God (1 Jn 2.15-17)

- lust of the eyes (self-interest, testing word of God)
- lust of the flesh (physical appetites)
- pride of life (self-promotion)

Way of escape 1 Cor 10.13. First step for escaping temptation is to apprehend every thought as soon as it steps through doorway of your mind.

Confess and resist.

9. Don't believe everything you hear

After temptation comes accusation. Common among Christians to find deep sense of self-depreciation; I'm not important, I'm not qualified, I'm no good. But in Christ we are all these things. Don't have to listen to these defeatist voices.

Zechariah 3 whole chapter provides essential truth we need in order to stand by faith against Satan's accusations and to live righteously in service of God. Satan the accuser points to Joshua's filthy garments; God orders new ones, proclaims him righteous, calls him to obedience, to live by faith not fear.

Conviction by HS produces repentance that is without regret. Accusation by Satan produces death. 2 Cor 7.9-10. So feelings of guilt, worthlessness, stupidity come from accusation, because as Christian you are none of these things. If you are sorrowful because your behaviour doesn't reflect your true identity in Christ, you need to repent.

10. Appearances can be deceiving

Deception is keynote of Satan's activities. 3 avenues: self-deception, false prophets/teachers, deceiving spirits. Self-deception: when hear word but don't do it; when we say we have no sin (little earthquakes reassure you big ones won't happen); when we think we are sth we are not; when we think we are wise; when we think we are religious but do not bridle our tongue; when we think we will not reap what we sow; when we think the unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of God; when we think we can associate with bad company and not be corrupted.

False teachers and prophets.

If s.o. says to you 'God told me to tell you', they are functioning as a medium! God doesn't need intermediaries, he can speak directly. P.162.

Signs and wonders doesn't prove it is of God.

How to identify false prophets - engage in immorality; and won't submit to authority.

3 leadership roles in OT - priest (pastoring and shepherding), prophet (teaching and preaching), king (administration). Need to divide these roles; no one individual can do them all.

Prayer to disassociate self from deceiving spirits:

'Heavenly Father, I commit myself unreservedly to Your will. If I have been deceived in any way, I pray that you will open my eyes to the deception. I command in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that all deceiving spirits depart from me, and I renounce and reject all counterfeit gifts (or any other spiritual phenomena). Lord, if it is from You, bless it and ause it to grow that Your body may be blessed and edified through it. Amen.'

11. The danger of losing control

Debate - is it possible for a Christian to be demon-possessed. Better question is, can an evil spirit and the HS occupy the same space in a human life? Both occupy place in our atmosphere, so why should it not be possible for demonic influence to partially control the life of one in whom the HS also dwells. Only NT word is demonised. Not a matter of extremes but of degrees. Critical to understand our vulnerability to demonic influence; otherwise have to blame either self or God.

Passages suggesting believers may be affected by evil spirits;

Lk 13 woman with sickness caused by spirit

Lk 22 Peter

Eph 6 armour of God - armour is there to protect from enemy arrows; therefore we are to expect them.

Js 3.14-16 possibility of being controlled by wisdom which is earthly, natural, demonic.

1 Tim 4.1-3 some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons

1 Cor 5.1-13 man committing incest to be handed over to Satan

Eph 4.26-7 not giving devil a foothold

1 Pet 5.6-9 devil like roaring lion

Acts 5.1-11 Ananias and Sapphira

Many Christians today who cannot control their lives in some area wallow in self-blame instead of acting responsibly to solve the problem. If you don't take responsibility for resisting, you will lose control. Choose truth, live righteous life, put on armour of God.

Part Three: Walk Free!

12. Steps to freedom in Christ

Freedom in Christ from demonic deception and interference is inheritance of every believer. Gal. 5.1

7 specific steps to freedom.

1. Counterfeit vs real.

Renounce previous/current involvements with satanically inspired occultic practices or false religions.

Use an occult sheet (included) and pray for God to reveal anything.

2. Deception vs truth

Prayer for awareness of truth (p.190).

Doctrinal affirmation (p 192); to be read daily for several weeks.

3. Bitterness vs forgiveness

Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin.

First acknowledge the hurt and the hate; you need to get to the emotional core of your past.

Prayer p 196

Include forgiving self and God; because when you discovered you couldn't blame God you blamed self.

4. Rebellion vs submission

We live in generation who feel it right to sit in judgment of those in authority over them. Need to submit to both God's and human authority.

Prayer p 198

5. Pride vs humility

Feeling you can get out of the mess without God.

Prayer p 199.

6. Bondage vs freedom

Dealing with habitual sin.

Prayer p 200.

7. Acquiescence vs renunciation

Renounce sins of ancestors and curses which may have been placed on you.

Prayer p 203.

13. Helping others find freedom in Christ

No such thing as exorcism. Helping others to freedom does not require exercise of a special gift; just the application of truth.

Deception is Satan's strategy; low profile. Challenge it and you get roaring lion. Not good idea therefore to address the spirit; just get into power struggle. Must take epistles as model, not gospels; gospels record ministry of special

agents with divine authority - no HS because before cross. Reason there is little in the epistles about deliverance is because responsibility for resisting devil lies with each Christian.

Freedom is product not of power encounter but truth encounter.

Have wrongly assumed main qualification for helping others find freedom is an unusual giftedness or calling. Not so. Maturity in character and knowledge of truth all that required.

Guidelines for helping people find freedom.

1. Gather background info
2. Confront false concepts
3. Deal with the individual, not the demons (he gets them to tell him what inner opposition they are experiencing as go along). Prayer for binding spirits.
4. Lead them through the steps to freedom.