

Overcoming Curses in Your Life

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CURSES ARE REAL

The phenomena of "curses" are very real and impact everyone to some degree each day. Many people's lives are blighted by curses on their health, their families, their finances, and their personal and spiritual well-being. There is no one immune to the ravaging effects of curses except those who have learned to appropriate deliverance through the power of the cross of the Lord Jesus.

In His becoming a curse on the cross, Christ fully redeemed you from the power and authority of all curses, granting to you instead blessings and release from the consequences of curses in your life. (see Galatians 3:13-14)

DEFINITION AND NATURE OF CURSES

A good definition of a curse is as follows:

A general term for the calling down of evil on someone or something.

Nearly everyone believes in the existence and operation of blessings, but for some reason, particularly in the sophisticated cultures of the west, curses are generally looked upon as an unreality or figment of the imagination. However, that is an illogical assumption. For any pair of opposites, if one is real, then the other must be real as well; for instance if there is hot, there must be cold, if good, then evil; if day then night. So it is also in this case: if there are blessing, so are there curses.

Blessings and curses tend to take the form of words. Solomon said that death and life reside in the power of the tongue. (see Proverbs 18:21) Your words are packed with spiritual power and can have lasting beneficial or devastating effect on those to whom they are directed. Also, once released, blessings and curses continue on through time until their power is revoked or annulled. There are many examples of the lasting effects of blessings and curses in the scriptures. The blessing bestowed upon Abraham nearly 4000 years ago is still in effect today. The redeemed life that we now experience comes through the blessings of Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham, upon all that believe in His name. (see Genesis 22:15-18)

The curse that God spoke against all those that cursed Israel still operates to this very generation. All nations that have taken up the banner of anti-Semitism have suffered under the curse of God. The ultimate demise of Germany in the 1940's revealed this truth in our age. In fact, in the Old Testament we're told that a curse uttered by Joshua concerning the rebuilding of Jericho came to pass exactly as spoken over 500 years later. (Joshua 6:26 & 1 Kings 16:34)

AREAS OF OPERATION

Curses can operate in many areas of a believer's life. For instance, personal relationships can be affected. Feelings of insecurity, inferiority, and rejection may well be the result of inherited bondage's and sins. Controlling personalities bent on having their way in manipulating other's lives can be straightened out as the underlying spiritual forces are discovered and rooted out. Sicknesses and diseases of many kinds are also often the result of curses in a person's life. Infirmities such as allergies, arthritis (often the result of hidden bitterness), asthma, bronchitis, cancer, diabetes, hemorrhoids and heart attacks, and many other ailments often find their origin in family line curses and weaknesses.

A person's finances and ability to keep a job may also be affected. Continuing financial insufficiency, particularly where the income appears sufficient, may be evidence of the operation of a curse.

Repeated failures, whether occurring with one's job, home life, or personal walk with the Lord, can often be attributed to the workings of what's called an 'automatic failure mechanism' that may have existed in a family for generations.

RECOGNIZING CURSES IN YOUR LIFE

There are certain recognizable signs that reveal the working of curses in your life. For instance, areas of struggle that you've never been able to master or overcome; patterns of behavior that may not have any direct cause in your own lifetime - all of these may be the result of a curse. A curse can best be understood by thinking of it as a 'dark shadow' or an 'evil hand' from your past. This unseen power oppresses you, holds you back, and seems to be the force behind compulsive behaviors and habits. It's like a negative atmosphere that surrounds you at times and never leaves you totally free.

In a word, curses produce 'frustration:' patterns of failure and defeat that reappear over and over in areas such as business, careers, relationships, finances, or health.

CAUSES OF CURSES

Solomon tells us in the Proverbs that wherever you see a curse in operation, you can be sure there's a cause behind that curse. To put it more simply, where there's a curse, there's a cause. (see Prov. 26:2) Shortly after Adam and Eve's shameful fall, God pronounced a curse on the beguiling serpent, saying,

"You shall eat dust all the days of your life." (Genesis 3:14)

God then cursed the ground upon which the man and woman trod saying,

"Cursed is the ground for your sake; in sorrow shall you eat of it until you return unto the ground; for out of it were you taken: for dust you are, and unto dust shall you return." (Genesis 3:17-19)

The serpent's food was to be dust. Man was declared to be of the dust, and to that element would he return. When a man lives out his life laboring under the old Adamic curse, he becomes the serpent's meat. Satan, later revealed to be the serpent's name, is truly the fallen god of this world, holding all the nations of men under his sway and dominion. (see 2 Cor. 4:4, and Rev. 12:9) However, all those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb have escaped the old, satanic curse. They now have the privilege of living free from the power of the evil one, and the authority to tread him under foot.

When we choose to live out of the 'old man,' or that nature that needs to be identified daily with the death of the Lord Jesus, we become vulnerable to the appetite of the serpent - as we are again walking on the 'cursed ground' of the Fall. Often, the causes of many curses operating in our lives can be traced back to some trespass upon the ground that was to bear thorns and thistles.

Jesus once cursed a fig tree, resulting in its being dried up from the roots overnight (see Mark 11:12-21). In dealing with curses in your life, it's essential that the root causes be discovered and acknowledged. This is not easily done. As it is nearly impossible to determine the root structure of a tree without digging it up, so it is very difficult to determine exactly when and how a curse began operating in one's life.

It is in the nature of God's sanctification process that individual areas of bondage and sin must be recognized and confessed in order for complete deliverance to occur. But God has not left us without excellent help. If we humbly submit to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, sources can be uncovered, roots can be exposed, and full freedom from devastating curses can be found.

SEVEN SPECIFIC CAUSES OF DIFFERENT CURSES

(1) Any and all involvement with the occult. This includes supposed 'harmless' participation in occult activities. This also involves wearing, or having in the home, occult pendants, tokens, rings, charms, dolls, and other objects of dubious nature. Such things should be destroyed, and the curses broken. (see Deut. 7:26)

(2) Illicit or unnatural sex. This includes all perverted sexual activities, pornography (which is occult in nature), fetishes, fantasies, etc. These all bring great bondage to the soul. All involvements must be renounced, and curses broken in order to cast out any indwelling spirits.

(3) Self-inflicted curses. Speaking words that bind, limit or belittle your self can bring about a self-fulfilling curse (see Job 3:25). It's best to keep your words edifying.

(4) Spoken curses against others (deliberately or unwittingly). When you speak evil of another, a curse is generated in the spirit world that may bring the utterance to pass. Words are powerful, and so is the admonition in the Word to bless those that curse you. Yielding to revenge, anger and bitterness can draw you into occult power with all of its devastating results. (see Eccl. 10:20)

(5) Unscriptural Covenants. Curses can pass down the family line through covenant involvements with organizations, groups and ideologies that are evil, cultic and alien to God. Even cursory involvements with such groups can bring about awful results in the succeeding generations as: retardation, paralysis, epilepsy, broken homes and other blights. Some examples of such groups include: Freemasonry, Eastern Star, eastern philosophies and religions, Theosophy, false religious cults, and groups that deny the divinity of Christ, the atonement of His shed blood, the validity of His resurrection. (see Exo. 23:32)

(6) Unfaithfulness and stinginess toward God with finances. In a very clear passage in the book of Malachi, God pronounces a curse on those that withhold finances from Him. There's also a blessing pronounced on those who are faithful in this area: He will rebuke the devourer from their lives. (see Mal 3:8-11)

(7) Trusting in yourself or anything but God. In the book of Jeremiah God pronounces a curse against any reliance upon man or the flesh. There's also a blessing written towards those who trust in Him alone. (see Jer. 17:5-8)

DOORWAYS FOR CURSES

There are three doors through which curses can begin to work in your life, thereby opening the way for enslaving and oppressing spirits:

(1) Generational sins, curses and bondage's that are passed down the family line (This includes not only mental, emotional and spiritual attitudes, but hereditary weaknesses, infirmities and disease.)

(2) Childhood rejections, traumas, and bondage's brought about by the various people and forces involved in the child rearing stage.

(3) Present day willful sin, self-inflicted curses, involvement in various other scriptural prohibitions, as well as spoken words directed toward others.

OBTAINING FREEDOM FROM CURSES

Christ provided all that you'll ever need to get free from every curse in your life when He became a curse for you on the cross. (see Gal. 3:13) Now, it's up to you to appropriate His grace by doing the following four steps:

(1) Recognize and acknowledge the area of bondage and, if possible, the source of the curse (in other words, the door through which it entered your life).

(2) Next, confess all sin involved (whether your own or your ancestor's - see Leviticus 26:40). Forgive everyone who's ever hurt or disappointed you, and break all ungodly ties in those relationships.

(3) Now, renounce all involvements and attachments to any curse or accursed thing.

(4) Finally, exercise the authority you have in Christ to release yourself (or your children) from the power of any curse. Bind any demonic spirits involved and command them to release their hold on your life. (Luke 10:19)

CURSE BREAKING PRAYER

Pray the following aloud and believe it as you pray it:

Lord Jesus,

I confess to you that I have been in bondage in the following areas (Name the specific areas), and I ask you to reveal to me the cause or causes that brought this into my life. (Here, confess to the Lord whatever He brings to your mind.) I thank you for the release that you gained for me when you became a curse on the cross.

I ask you to forgive me or my ancestors for any sin that has exposed me to a curse (Name any specific sin that you are aware of.) I receive your forgiveness and I choose to forgive those who've sinned against me (Name these people.)

I break any ungodly ties that still bind me to anyone in my life who's ever hurt or disappointed me or to whom I have related in an ungodly way. (Name these people as you break the unhealthy bondings and 'soul ties'.)

I renounce any and all contact with the occult and promise to destroy any occult objects that I may possess. (Name the specific occult involvement's.)

I renounce any and all sexual sins, and I break the power of pornography that may have a hold of me.

I renounce any and all self-inflicted curses that I've pronounced on myself, and I break those patterns from my heart and tongue.

I renounce any and all curses that I've spoken against others, whether knowingly or unknowingly: gossip, bitter words, anger, and judgment. I break the authority of any such occult power in my life.

I renounce any and all unholy covenants in which I or my ancestors have been involved (Name them)

I renounce any and all patterns of stinginess with finances that I or my ancestors have engaged. I resolve to be obedient to the Lord in the area of tithes and offerings. I renounce all attitudes of reliance upon man and the flesh. I resolve to put my trust solely in the Lord, my God.

I do once and for all release myself from the power and authorities of any curse. All demonic spirits and powers involved (Name them if they've been discerned), I bind you and command you to cease your activity in my life and to leave my life, my body, my soul, my mind, my family, my house, my job, etc.

I pray all these things in the authority of the name of Jesus and give you thanks and praise, Lord, that all these things are done. Amen.

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