

I've got the Father on my side, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and 2/3 of the angels. What do you think I'm going to do? Sit down and cry?"

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Prayer Study #255

PYTHON AND LEVIATHAN

TWO SPIRITS THAT PLAGUE THE MODERN DAY CHURCH

My people perish for lack of knowledge...

Hosea 4:6a

I. The Binding and Loosing Ministry

A. BINDING: The Kingdom of Darkness and the Gates of Hell are in conflict with the Church, the called out ones representing the Kingdom of God on the earth. The principalities, powers, and spiritual wicked spirits and demons must be bound. First bind, then loose.

Matthew 12:29: *Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.*

Matthew 13:30: *Let both [the wheat and the tares] grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."*

Matthew 18:18: *"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

The Word of God cannot be bound: 2nd Timothy 2:8-9: *Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, for which I suffer trouble as an evil doer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.*

B. LOOSING: The Church has the power to loose the bound, i.e. those who are possessed or oppressed by demons.

Luke 13:16: *"So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound-think of it-for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"*

Isaiah 61:1-8: *the Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND THE OPENING OF THE PRISON TO THOSE WHO ARE BOUND; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*

C. THE CHURCH CONNECTED TO HEAVEN: We are not binding and loosing on our own and in our own power. We are working hand in hand with heaven. That is what makes the ministry of binding and loosing so powerful. Unless heaven works with earth, we on earth will be powerless and get caught up in meaningless religion and tradition and have a form of godliness but deny the power. (2nd Timothy 3:5)

Matthew 28:18-20: *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

II. We have power (dunamis) in the Holy Spirit

2nd Timothy 1:7: *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power [dunamis] and of love and of a sound mind.*

Acts 1:8: *But you shall receive power [dunamis] when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Colossians 1:26-27: *...the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Since we have been given the *dunamis* power of the Holy Spirit, and we have been given the ministry of binding and loosing, we should be engaged in warfare against the kingdom of darkness. Two of the most common, besides Jezebel, of the spirits that we must bind are Python and Leviathan.

III. PYTHON

Acts 16:16-19: *Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.*

The English translation of *spirit of divination* is literally translated in the Greek as the *spirit of python*. Python comes from the name of the region where Delphi is located. Delphi was the home the famous oracle or witch who practiced divination or soothsaying or, what we more commonly today call fortune telling. It is a form of witchcraft. Divination is the art of obtaining secret knowledge, especially as pertains to the future, in a demonic counterfeit to the gift of prophecy. The scripture is very adamantly clear that believers are not to engage in any form of divination, manipulation or mind control, or witchcraft whether through consulting of mediums, psychic readings, hypnotism, horoscopes, tarot cards, crystals, satanic music, TM meditation, drugs, spells, séances, 8 balls, Ouija boards, palm readings, etc. Just to give one of many scriptures dealing with these subjects:

Deuteronomy 18:10: *There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer.*

In Greek mythology, Python was a snake that lived in the caves of Mount Parnassus. This snake was slain by Apollo who founded the oracle at Delphi, taking it over the guardianship of the python which he had killed. Christian sources believe that the priestess at Delphi was intoxicated by fumes escaping from the underground cavern from which she spoke. They say that she really spoke gibberish which had to be interpreted by a priest, and any questions asked had to have a "yes" or "no" answer. People came

from all over the world to get direction and revelation from this oracle who was obviously possessed by demons.

Pythons kill their prey by constriction and slow suffocation. One of the only ways to kill a python who is in the process of choking a victim is by cutting his head off.

I believe that there are two main ways this spirit of python gains a foothold in a ministry:

1. Through rebellion, especially of leadership (1st Samuel 15:23a: *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...*)
2. Through witchcraft, especially from outside sources who demonically pray against a ministry.

What does this spirit do?

1. Tries to keep you from doing what God wants you to do by crushing your hopes, dreams, faith, vision, drive, motivation, and fight. This is often done by the spirit filling your head with lies, accusations, condemnation, fear, unbelief, and shame.
2. Brings a spirit of apathy, despair and depression.
3. Can be the spirit behind addictions.
4. Is often a spirit behind unusual problems with choking, gagging, tightness of the chest.
5. Squeezes the life out of people, making them feel usually tired and down, apathetic, joyless, hopeless.
6. Is closely linked to the spirit of suicide, infirmity, and death.
7. Wants to control, much like the spirit of Jezebel.

To get rid of this spirit:

1. Break all generational curses involved in any ancestral involvement in any form of witchcraft.
2. Repent of any, even innocent, involvement in any kind of divination or witchcraft.
3. Ask the Lord if there is any witchcraft being directed at you, and break its power in spiritual warfare.

IV. LEVIATHAN: Leviathan is a very strong spirit affecting great numbers of the Body of Christ. Its primary task is to cause miscommunication in order to separate relationships because it knows that there is great power in agreement in the Body of Christ. (Matthew 18:19: *“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything*

that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”) Pride, especially in one’s competence, is an open door for this spirit to come in. It seeks control and often partners with Jezebel. It is also often most prominent around areas of water, such as seacoast towns and islands. This creature seems to be related to the crocodile or alligator or dragon or water serpent-like creature.

Job 41:34: *He beholds every high thing; He is king over the children of pride.* (For a complete description of this creature, read all of Job 41.)

Isaiah 27:1: *In that day [the Kingdom Age] the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan, that twisted serpent; and He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.*

What does this spirit do?

According to Paul Cox, in Guidelines to Deliverance:

1. It works against worship.
2. It affects thoughts and emotions.
3. It changes how people see things or how they hear things.
4. It twists communication to cause damage to relationships. (Often the hearer disregards the words that are said because he feels he knows the motives behind the words. Sometimes the hearer simply mishears what is spoken.)
5. It causes the hearer to keep from connecting a current comment with the big sequence of events. The mother says, “Sally is sick and can’t bring Johnny home from soccer practice, so I will have to go get him myself.” In her mind, the mother has just told her husband that dinner will be late, but he may not hear that at all.
6. It causes a person to be unaware of the need to tell others when he has changed their mind about something, leaving the possibility that this minor change might affect someone else’s day in a major way.
7. It causes division between Christian leaders because of miscommunication.

To deal with Leviathan, you need to look at three areas:

1. Territorial areas
2. Generational patterns
3. Personal attachment

Prayer Against Levithan by Paul Cox: *I break, shatter, cut-off, dissolve, and destroy Leviathan. I ask Lord that no parts of Leviathan be left behind or be allowed to reconnect to me in any way. I break, shatter, cut-off, dissolve and destroy any curses against worship, my throat, stomach, emotions and thoughts. I break, shatter, cut-off, dissolve and destroy any demons affecting my Godly spiritual giftings or spiritual death. I command all demons leave my presence now and go to the place that Jesus sends you.*

THE LONGER I SERVE HIM BILL GAITHER

Since I started for the Kingdom,
Since my life He controls,
Since I gave my heart to Jesus,
The longer I serve Him,
The sweeter he grows.

Ev'ry need He is supplying,
Plenteous grace He bestows;
Ev'ry day my way gets brighter,
The longer I serve Him,
The sweeter He grows.

CHORUS

The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows,
The more that I love Him, more love he bestows;
Each day is like heaven, my heart overflows,
The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows.