When you were poor and ugly in your own sight, then was the time God exalted and used you, but when you get to be some great Nebuchadnezzar, then God turns you out to eat grass like an ox. Keep little and God will use you.

Apostolic Faith papers #5

Prayer Study #299

Discerning of Spirits of God, Demonic Spirits, and Familiar Spirits

When we speak of discerning of spirits, we sometimes forget that there are good spirits, too, that can be discerned. For example, have you ever walked in a house and felt the presence of Jesus? At least in a measure that is discernment operating. That could be a natural ability instead of the actual Gift of Discerning of Spirits, but those who have the gift pick-up all kinds of things that are there, whether good or evil. Thus, we are going to look in this study at both demonic spirits and spirits of God. First, let's go to the good spirits!

Spirits of God

The Spirit of Life: Romans 8:2-*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

The Spirit of Adoption: Romans 8:15-*For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

The Spirit of Truth: John 14:17- *Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him; but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you.*

The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation: Ephesians 1:17-*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him...*

The Spirit of Holiness: Romans 1:4-*And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection of the dead.*

The Spirit of Power, Love, and a Sound Mind: 2nd Timothy 1:7-*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

The Spirit of Faith: 2nd Corinthians 4:13-*We, having the same spirit of faith....*

The Spirit of Grace: Hebrews 10:29-*Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counting the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insult the Spirit of grace?*

The Spirit of Glory: 1st Peter 4:14-*If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*

Demonic Spirits

(Taken from *How to Try a Spirit* by Mary Garrison)

Spirit of Bondage: Romans 8:15-*For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

Spirit of Fear: 2nd Timothy 1:7-*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

Dumb and Deaf Spirit: Mark 9:25-27-*When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it:* ***Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"*** *Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.*

Spirit of Heaviness: Isaiah 61:3-*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 might be called trees of righteousness...*

Spirit of Infirmity: Luke 13:11-*And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.*

Spirit of Jealousy: Numbers 5:14-15a-*If the spirit of jealousy comes upon him, and be becomes jealous of his wife who has defiled herself ; or if the spirit of jealousy comes upon him, and he become jealous of his wife,*

although she not defiled herself, then the man shall bring his wife to the priest.

Perverse Spirit: Isaiah 19:14-*The Lord has mingled a perverse spirit in her midst....*

Spirit of Divination and Familiar Spirit: 1st Samuel 28:7-8-*Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her..."*

Spirit of Whoredoms: Hosea 4:12-*My people ask counsel from their wooden idols, and their staff informs them. For the spirit of harlotry* [whoredoms] *has caused them to stray, and they have played the harlot against their God.*

Spirit of Haughtiness: Proverbs 16:18-*Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

Lying Spirit: 2nd Chronicles 18:22-*"Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."*

Antichrist Spirit: 1st John 4:3-*And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming and is not already in the world.*

Familiar Spirit

A Familiar Spirit is an evil or unclean spirit that is familiar with people, places, or situations. These spirits often bring about generational patterns and cycles of bondages, addictions, and spiritual difficulties in generations of families. Perry Stone

These spirits are mentioned in the Old Testament in Leviticus 19:31, 20:6, 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:9-14; 1st Samuel 28:7-9; 2nd Kings 21:6 & 23:24; 1st Chronicles 10:13-14; 2nd Chronicles 33:6; Isaiah 8:19, 19:3, 29:4. In the New Testament, Familiar Spirits are found in Matthew 12:43-45, 15:22, 17:15-18; Mark 5:1-20, 9:17-26; Acts 16:16-18, 19:15-16; 1st Timothy 4:1.

These spirits have become accustomed to the lifestyles, moods and behavioral patterns of an individual life making them impossible to detect unless the Holy Spirit is revealing them. Those who are controlled by a familiar spirit are not able to discern if these patterns are part of their lifestyles or are they motivated by these spirits?

Dr. Jonathan David

Ida Mae and Frank Hammond, authors of *Pigs in the Parlor,* list the following as a partial list of ways that people can and do acquire familiar spirits:

1. Divination (spirit mediums, witches, Haitian voodoo, water witching, Ouija Boards, psychics, etc.)
2. Transcendental Meditation
3. Imaginary Playmates
4. Visualization
5. Drugs
6. Rock Music
7. Games and toys (ex. Dungeon and Dragons)
8. Conversing with demons during deliverance
9. Necromancy (communication with spirits of the dead)
10. Incubus and Succubus

Dealing with Familiar Spirits

Dr. Jonathan David

1. **Familiar Spirits have become familiar with a person's lifestyle, its moods and behavioral patters.** They have learned to work around the person's character. They have become accustomed to his ways and behavior patterns. They have taken time to study your weaknesses and strengths. They have infiltrated your emotional and thought patterns. They know how you will react or act in various situations. They know your comfort zones as well as explosive zones.
2. **Familiar Spirits open doors for other spirits to invade your life.** They are informers of areas that are open to sin. They know the entrance points of your heart and life. They know your past history and intimidate future advancement. They know how to afflict our weaknesses and keep us sorrowful. They control us by our past weaknesses and failures.

3. **Familiar Spirits are residential spirits.** They stay with the individual or family. They sometimes carry forward from past generations. They are permitted by other spirits to move with you to different places or cities. They can choose not to follow you but stay in your home. They can only influence the person they have taken position to reside with. Spirits familiar with you may not be familiar with another person.
4. **Familiar Spirits refuse to let us change.** They make us resent change and fear of losing our comfort. They depress us with the cost of allowing change until it becomes distasteful in our sight and unwarranted. They cushion our comfort zones with well-padded thought patterns and humanistic reasoning. They stir our emotions until we are upset with change, and we feel change is a nuisance, and it is inconvenient.
5. **Familiar Spirits thrive in unrepentant lives.** They can dominate the Cycle of Continual Defeat. They open doors to religious spirits who often cause us to put more value on rituals and religious ways, instead of RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. They afflict us with the sense of guilt and condemnation by tormenting us with sin-consciousness.
6. **Familiar Spirits are responsible to transfer a problem, a sickness or a curse from one generation to another.** Spirits do not die, and thus they are capable to carry it into many generations. They also work to establish themselves through natural genes of the family lineage. The similarity of personality and character exposes the new generation to the old sins. These spirits attack also on the same areas of temptation on the family.
7. **Familiar Spirits control regular negative emotional cycles.** They control outburst of anger, depression, swings of moods, bitterness, etc. They engineer circumstances in your life to allow the continual manifestation of these cycles. They control the thought patterns that govern these areas so that we see no reason to change. These areas are seen as "weapons" we can use for our benefit instead of calling it sin.

Someone with the gift of discernment can discern these familiar spirits. We can be set free through deliverance ministry once we recognize that we have these spirits.

Ida Mae and Frank Hammond's prayer to be set free from a Familiar Spirit:
Lord Jesus, I belong to You. You have saved me and redeemed me by Your

blood I have need of no spirit other than THE HOLY SPIRIT. Forgive me for having sought from other spirits that which should only come from You. I renounce and separate myself from all familiar spirits, however acquired. I call upon You , Lord, to deliver me from the lies and deceptions of familiar spirits. Teach me Your truth and Your ways. It is my earnest desire to walk in Your will and to glorify Your name. Satan, I renounce you, and I take back all the ground that I ever yielded to you. God is my source of wisdom, knowledge, guidance and power. You familiar spirit, leave me, in the name of Jesus. Thank you Lord Jesus for delivering me and cleansing me from all unrighteousness by Your precious blood. In Jesus' name. AMEN.

The Family of God
Bill and Gloria Gaither

I'm so glad I'm a part
Of the family of God;
I've been washed in the fountain,
Cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus
As we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family
The family of God.

You will notice we say brother
And sister 'round here,
It's because we're a family
And these folks are so near.
When one has a heart ache
We all share the tears,
And rejoice in each victory
In this family so dear.

From the door of an orph'nage
To the house of the King.
No longer an outcast,
A new song I sing;
From rags unto riches,
From the weak to the strong,
I'm not worthy to be here
But, praise God, I belong!