"Lord, I thank You for coming to earth so You could redeem me. When I think of the extent to which You were willing to go in order to save me, it makes me want to shout, to celebrate, and to cry with thankfulness. You love me so much, and I am so grateful for that love. Without You, I would still be lost and in sin. But because of everything You have done for me, today I am free; my life is blessed; Jesus is my Lord; Heaven is my home; and Satan has no right to control me. I will be eternally thankful to You for everything You did to save me! I pray this in Jesus' name!"

Rick Renner, Sparkling Gems: From the Greek

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First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia USA
Prayer Study #554 MM

## MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

First, I believe you should never minister to children without the permission and participation of the parent, because the parent is the God-ordained authority in the child's life. It is always helpful to give a simple explanation to the child, in front of the parents, about what you are going to be doing, no matter what type ministry (healing, deliverance, blessing, etc., is going on.) . If the ministry is deliverance ministry, you need to tell the child that you are not talking to them but to bad things around them that are bothering them. Otherwise they will be offended or frightened by words of command addressed to evil spirits. Since the children feel more secure with a parent, it is often best for the parent to hold the child during the ministry, especially if the child is younger than 5 or 6.

Sometimes demons will try a delay tactic where they try to convince the adults that the child is being hurt or wronged. The minister and parents, if they don't recognize this, will sometimes stop the ministry, and the demons will retain their hold.

Especially in ministry with children-but really in all situations-it is well to remember the fact that it is not the loudness of the command that moves the demon, but rather the authority of the Name and the Blood of Jesus and the Power of the Word of God. The commands for the demon to loose the child and let him go can be done so calmly and quietly that the child hardly knows what is taking place.

Began by asking the child if he sometimes does or says things that he doesn't really want to do or say, things that get him in trouble. After the child responds, "Yes!", tell him that sometimes ugly things called spirits get into people that make them do bad things. Then ask him if he wants those things to come out of him if they are there. Children seldom want problem-causing things and usually readily consent to prayer.

Pray for the child quietly, taking authority over the spirits and commanding them to leave. If they are stubborn and the father of the child is present, have the father take authority and guide him in what to say.

If parents wait until the child is grown up before attempting deliverance, they will discover that the enemy has burrowed in deep, often scarring both the child's body and mind. The demons will work tirelessly to put a child in bondage, drag him out into the world, and expose him to many sinful habits.

Including in any deliverance ministry to a child, I believe, should be an opportunity for the child to invite the Lord Jesus to come into his heart, if he has not already done so.