

HOW TO BREAK THE CHAINS OF DEMONIC INFLUENCE

SETTING CAPTIVES

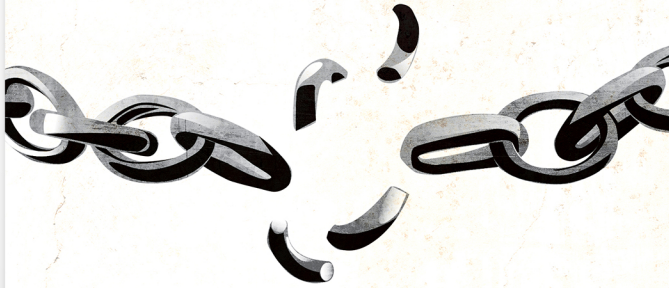
FREE



JAKE KAIL

HOW TO BREAK THE CHAINS OF DEMONIC INFLUENCE

SETTING CAPTIVES FREE



JAKE KAIL

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ENDORSEMENTS

Setting Captives Free is one of the most comprehensive books I've ever read concerning the ministry of deliverance. Jake Kail has brought our vital call to "cast out demons" into the light—free from the apprehensions and misunderstandings that have kept us from confronting darkness head-on. Our church, along with many other churches in our region, has benefitted greatly from Jake's ministry. "Deliverance" is no longer a shrouded, back-room brawl with evasive spirits. Instead, setting people free from spiritual bondage has become a powerful component in our ministry life. I highly recommend this book!

DR. DAVE HESS

Pastor of Christ Community Church
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

Author of *Hope Beyond Reason*; *Hope Beyond Disappointment*; and
Side by Side: Women and Men Leading Together in the Church

Jake Kail's *Setting Captives Free: How to Break the Chains of Demonic Influence* is one of most thoroughly written manuscripts on deliverance that I have ever read. He profoundly surveys the Old and New Testament Scriptures, capturing the true essence of the ministry of deliverance and revealing that it is a central emphasis of Jesus' ministry for us today. In this book, Jake does an excellent job dispelling many of the modern-day myths and misconceptions on the subject matter, arming you with revelatory insights and a solid biblical foundation in helping you to understand, against popular beliefs, that deliverance is in fact another aspect of healing.

In *Setting Captives Free*, you will discover and learn that casting out demons was a normal occurrence in Jesus' ministry and a byproduct and proof of the Kingdom of Heaven being present. Jake Kail,

who is an emerging apostolic leader, shares that deliverance was not just another side issue, but a vital aspect of what Jesus Christ taught, demonstrated, and imparted to His followers. The Church, and every believer then and now, is to continue in setting captives free according to Luke 4:18-19.

I highly endorse and recommend this powerful deliverance manual from my friend who has masterfully and carefully written with you in mind. It is both an invaluable tool and a spiritual weapon for leaders, believers, and successive generations to recognize demonic entrances, influences, and manifestations in order to minister in the supernatural ministry of setting captives free!

DR. NAIM COLLINS
President, Naim Collins Ministries
Wilmington, Delaware
Author of *Realms of the Prophetic*

Jake Kail has done a masterful job in simplifying this sometimes-controversial topic. *Setting Captives Free* is a book that anyone young or old can read and understand God's heart for each believer to walk in wholeness and freedom. Jake's compassion for people to walk in freedom is felt throughout each chapter. This book will empower and equip you to walk in freedom and learn how to set others free. It is one of the best books on deliverance I have read!

ELIZABETH TIAM-FOOK
Founder, International Young Prophets
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida

Jake Kail has been a minister of deliverance for years. His experience, wisdom, and concern are quite evident within the pages of this book. He is passionate about seeing both believers and nonbelievers set free from the clutches of the devil. This is quite evident when perusing his latest literary work. In *Setting Captives Free*, Jake takes us on a journey into a world where deliverance is not always

commonplace, but should be. He emphasizes the significance of this vital ministry for today's generation. Jake sounds the alarm, alerting those under demonic oppression that there is a path to total liberation. Jake brings illumination to that path through concise tenets and persuasive examples. His approach is biblical and practical, giving the reader a solid foundation to assist them on their way to total liberation through Jesus Christ. He lavishly utilizes Scripture as an underpinning throughout the chapters.

Within this book, Kail assists the reader in demystifying deliverance ministry, provides keys for receiving deliverance, explains how demons get in, and much, much more! There are also breakthrough prayers and anointed declarations that are mandated to free you and your loved ones. This is a book that causes satan to tremble at the very thought of it getting into your hands! It is written in a compacted yet exhaustive style, loaded with content but extremely reader-friendly.

I love how Jake includes actual testimonies of people who received tremendous freedom from demonic influence and opposition. He is a very transparent, intelligent, and effective writer. As you read *Setting Captives Free*, you can literally feel the author's heart regarding those who are in bondage to the hordes of hell. He is very serious about getting them set free. There is a genuine concern here for the natural and spiritual health of the reader that feels tangible. I can hear chains breaking in the spirit and falling off due to the anointing that rests upon this great work. Don't miss the great opportunity to add this book to your arsenal as another weapon to be used to bankrupt hell by setting the captives free!

DR. JOHN VEAL

Author of *Supernaturally Delivered* and *Supernaturally Prophetic*
Johnveal.org

I love my friend Jake Kail's new book, *Setting Captives Free*. This book contains a desperately needed message for today's Church: how

to find freedom from the influence of evil spirits. Jake draws from his own life and from the Word of God, showing us how every person can find freedom, and then teaches us to do the works of Jesus—casting out demons. God is restoring the biblical truth of casting out demons through His Church today. *Setting Captives Free* is a gift to our generation as our God restores the ministry of deliverance to the Church!

LARRY KREIDER

DOVE International Director and author

Jake Kail is a gift to the Body of Christ and provides a clarion call to awaken the Church to the freedom available through deliverance. He brings clarity and practical understanding to a topic that has been disregarded by so many. *Setting Captives Free* is a helpful tool for your own healing and provides answers to effectively minister deliverance to others. I highly recommend this book! It is power-packed with truth, experience, and testimonies to secure our freedom.

I thank God for Jake and his heart to transform the Body of Christ in the area of deliverance. He has ministered effectively and powerfully at Gateway House of Prayer the past few years, setting many captives free!

BONITA KEENER

Director, Gateway House of Prayer

Setting Captives Free is not merely an exhaustive commentary filled with information. It was written with the intention of being used as a handy, user-friendly, easy-to-read reference guide full of divine impartation to assist believers in destroying the works of darkness. Jake Kail is an apostolic voice and leader who has released a timely arsenal to equip, educate, and empower the body of Christ in living victorious as warriors of the cross. *Setting Captives Free* shares practical and effective strategies, spiritual truths, and biblical realities taken distinctively from the ministry of Jesus, His apostles, and the first-century New Testament church era. This power-packed literary

work simply positions every Spirit-filled believer on the offense rather than defense. Jake's book gives the reader a clear spiritual advantage over the enemy.

Setting Captives Free helps you cast off the darkness and walk in the Light because deliverance is the "children's bread" for *all* God's people (see Matt. 15:22-28). In addition, it exposes and dismantles present-day myths on the subject of deliverance with present-day biblical truth to commission believers to walk in the supernatural power of God while breaking demonic influences, torment, oppression, strongholds, curses, and so much more in their lives. I highly recommend and endorse the pages of this book for every believer, church, small-group study, and leadership team ready to break every chain holding one's destiny, purpose, and God-given gifts captive.

DR. HAKEEM COLLINS

Prophetic voice, author, international speaker

Author of *Heaven Declares*, *Prophetic Breakthrough*, *Command Your Healing*, and *101 Prophetic Ways God Speaks*

Many are searching for freedom and God is ready to set us free. While people try all kinds of things to find freedom, the biblical answer of deliverance is powerful and effective. But it is often overlooked because of our anti-supernatural bias. Satan uses a variety of means to oppress people and Jake Kail covers them all in *Setting Captives Free*. This comprehensive manual on deliverance is great for those looking for personal freedom or for those who want to gain the understanding needed to help others. Even the appendix section is a valuable reference guide with prayers and other practical helps. This book is a great resource for the body of Christ!

DR. BARRY WISSLER

President of HarvestNet International

Setting Captives Free is authentically penned through life experiences and systematic biblical knowledge and wisdom. Jake Kail lays

the groundwork for our legal positioning and skillfully reveals how freedom can become our experiential reality. Courage to believe and partner with Heaven's progressive purpose is awakened in us, for us, and ultimately through us for others. I personally know the harassment of shame and fear but also how deliverance released a double-portion inheritance in my life. My journey to health could have been accelerated if *Setting Captives Free* was in my hands all those years ago. Jake is truly a champion of God's justice, equipping us individually and corporately to walk in freedom.

DR. MELODYE HILTON

Author of *Higher Living Leadership* and *Unmasking Prejudice*

Jake Kail is a trusted minister and man of God who was truly born for such a time as this. His passion to see the body of Christ walk in wholeness and holiness bleeds through every page of this book. With a gift for writing and many powerful stories, you will be deeply stirred to walk in a greater realm of freedom than ever before. I wholeheartedly endorse not only this message, but the man who wrote it, for he has become the message and it's evident to all who come into contact with him. Get ready for CHANGE!

JEREMIAH JOHNSON

Bestselling author and speaker

www.jeremiahjohnson.tv

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HOW TO BREAK THE CHAINS OF DEMONIC INFLUENCE

JAKE KAIL

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to those who have been taken captive by the enemy and are in need of deliverance. May the chains of demonic influence be broken from your life even as you read this book. May you be completely set free in Jesus' name!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to my wife, Anna, for your constant encouragement, love, and support. We have walked side by side in this journey of setting captives free. You are an amazing partner in life, family, and ministry. I love you!

Thank you to Threshold Church for embracing the ministry of deliverance as a normal part of church life and for helping to pioneer this ministry in our region. It is a blessing to serve this church family! And thanks also to Gateway House of Prayer for hosting monthly deliverance services to see more people set free and equipped to minister to others.

Thank you to the Destiny Image team for working with me on this project. Thanks to Larry Sparks, Tina Pugh, and Shaun Tabatt for welcoming me into the DI family. Thank you to all who worked on the editing, design, marketing, and other facets of producing and distributing a book. It's been a joy to work with this great team!

Thank you to the group of intercessors who committed to pray for me and this book throughout the writing and publishing process. Your prayers are appreciated very much!

Above all, thanks to our amazing God who sent His Son to die for us that we might be forgiven, restored, and delivered from the devil's grip. He is still in the business of healing broken hearts and setting captives free!

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INTRODUCTION

As the title states, this is a book about *setting captives free*. We will explore what the Bible teaches about demonic influence and how evil spirits gain access into people's lives. And we will learn how to receive deliverance and break the chains of bondage, oppression, torment, and affliction. My goal is not simply to give you information, but to lead you into an encounter with God so that you can step into greater freedom and help others into the same.

The New Testament has many examples of freedom from demonic influence. But many modern believers have struggled to see how the topic of demons and deliverance is relevant to their lives. The Church has often ignored or neglected this topic, or relegated it only to the most extreme of situations. Jesus, however, made deliverance from evil spirits a central part of His earthly ministry. He preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and then He demonstrated the Gospel by healing the sick and delivering the oppressed. He called people to

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repent and believe the Good News, and He also showed that the Kingdom had come near as a present reality. Casting out demons was a normal occurrence in His ministry and a by-product of the Kingdom of Heaven being at hand. It was not a side issue, but a vital aspect of what He came to do. He also passed this ministry on to His followers and commissioned the Church to continue to set captives free. But in much of the Western Church, the ministry of deliverance has been lost or forgotten. Thankfully, this is changing. There is a fresh awakening happening in the Church regarding the reality of evil spirits and the need to cast them out.

Demons can impact a wide range of areas in our lives. Our spiritual growth, physical health, emotional and mental well-being, and relational dynamics can all be affected by demonic influence. Because of this, the ministry of deliverance can have a far-reaching impact. We must clear away the confusion, misunderstanding, and fear of this topic so that many more captives can be set free.

Obadiah 1:17 says, “But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.” This passage gives a progression of how God establishes His people, just like when He first established Israel. He delivered them from the bondage of Egypt, then He set up the law and called them to holiness, and then He led them into the Promised Land to “possess their possessions.” Before Israel could walk in holiness to the Lord or enter into their inheritance, they had to be set free from slavery. Deliverance was a necessary step in the process of their destiny, but it was not the end goal. In the same way, believers will not be able to grow in the Lord and walk in the fullness of His plan for them if areas of their lives are still in captivity to the enemy. If the Church is to be all that it is called to be, we must break free from the shackles that bind us. A Church in chains will not be able to advance the Kingdom of God on the earth or be able to fully emerge as the body of Christ to the world.

Jesus is still setting captives free and breaking the chains of demonic influence. Many are seeking help, but don't know what to do or where to turn. I pray that this book will be a resource to facilitate the process of deliverance for you and many others. Throughout the book I have included prayers for deliverance that will help break chains and bring freedom. You can use these prayers for yourself or when praying for others in need. I have also included many modern-day testimonies of freedom from demonic captivity because I want to demonstrate that deliverance from evil spirits is very real and very relevant for today. If you are in need of deliverance, turn your heart to the Lord, let the Holy Spirit lead you, and call on the name of Jesus. He will break the chains and set you free!

...

Please note that in the stories throughout this book, all names have been changed in order to protect privacy.



JESUS CAME TO SET CAPTIVES FREE

One of my greatest passions is to see captives set free. There is nothing like seeing chains of demonic oppression, torment, bondage, and affliction loosed from people's lives. In many cases, those set free had been bound in spiritual shackles for many years. They had assumed that they would always have to live with these chains, and resigned themselves to a life of turmoil and defeat. But God had other plans. He stepped in with His grace and mercy, broke through the fetters, and set the prisoners free. This should not surprise us in the least; it is a part of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When we read the Gospel accounts, it doesn't take long to see that central to the mission of Jesus was to *set captives free*. Shortly after He began His earthly ministry, He spoke these words, first recorded in the book of Isaiah:

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*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:18-19).*

If Jesus had a mission statement for His earthly ministry, this would be it. We will come back to this passage several times throughout this book. Sometimes we'll look at it in Luke and sometimes in Isaiah, in order to draw out some of its specific nuances.

Jesus called people to repent from sin, believe the Good News, and step into the Kingdom of God. And not only did Jesus preach the Gospel, He demonstrated the Gospel by healing the sick and setting captives free. He confronted powers of darkness wherever He went, breaking the chains that had kept people bound. Freedom is a central part of the Gospel. And one of the reasons I am so passionate to see others set free is because of my own testimony of deliverance from captivity.

My Freedom from Captivity

My parents became believers when I was very young, and I grew up in a wonderful Christian home. I attended our local church regularly, heard the Gospel, and considered myself a Christian. I never questioned the facts of who Jesus is, how He died on the cross for our salvation, and how belief in Him is the only way to Heaven. But I did not have a living relationship with God and I had a shallow understanding of salvation. And beginning in my middle school years and into high school, I was deceived by sin. I was exposed to pornography

by a classmate in sixth grade and a seed of sexual immorality was planted. I was drawn into drinking and partying in high school, but still lived under my parents' roof, so I felt restricted.

When I went to college, I no longer had my parents watching over me and giving me consequences for poor choices. I thought this was freedom. I was a freshman at Johns Hopkins University and part of the football team. I went headlong into the party lifestyle, all the while attending Bible studies with a campus ministry and church services on Sunday mornings. I didn't think twice about going to a Bible study and then getting drunk with friends and going out to a club to party. I didn't feel guilty about drinking and engaging in sexual sin on a Saturday night and playing on the worship team at church on Sunday morning. I was living a double life without even knowing it. I was terribly deceived.

Not only is sin deceptive, it is enslaving. It seeks to bind and control us, and the more we give ourselves to it, the more imprisoned we become. I was becoming more and more a prisoner of sin and deception as my freshman year in college continued. At the end of that school year, I was invited to go on a retreat with the campus ministry that I had been attending. Little did I know that my life was about to be drastically changed by a powerful encounter with God.

The retreat was several days long. We did an intensive study through the first half of the Gospel of Mark during the day and worship sessions every evening. People were worshipping the Lord freely during these worship times, singing out and lifting their hands to God. But I couldn't seem to engage. I was stifled and bound, and the atmosphere of freedom around me made this all the more obvious. During the Bible study times, the Holy Spirit began to convict me of my sinful lifestyle. My eyes began to be opened to the double life I was living, and there was a battle raging in my mind. I was coming to a fork in the road, being drawn by God on one hand and tempted

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by the devil on the other. I knew I couldn't continue to live the way I was living and had to make a choice. On the last night of the retreat, I finally came to a point of surrender.

I asked the leader of our group if I could talk to him in private and began to pour out my heart. I was weeping as I confessed my sin to him and prayed for forgiveness and cleansing. I experienced godly sorrow over sin and a deep work of repentance, and I felt the love of God coming into my heart as I turned to Him. It was so real, so personal, and so powerful. And in the process of this encounter, chains and shackles of bondage were powerfully broken off of my life. A pull toward sexual fantasy, pornography, or any type of sexual sin was completely gone. I had no desire to drink alcohol, get drunk, or engage in the party scene. Sin had lost its hold on me and my desire was to know God and share Him with others. I was set free and my life has never been the same!

Called to Deliverance Through a Dream

Before I knew anything about the ministry of deliverance, I had a passion to see Christians walking in the freedom that Jesus purchased for us on the cross. Because I had been so powerfully set free from the grip of sin, I had a desire to see other believers experience this same kind of liberty. However, I had no idea that casting out demons had anything to do with helping believers gain freedom. My church upbringing did not include the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit or the reality of healing and deliverance for today. And my freedom had come without any mention of evil spirits or prayers for deliverance (though looking back, I have no doubt that I was sovereignly delivered from unclean spirits in that encounter). I had always assumed that a true Christian could not have a demon. When I read the accounts of Jesus casting out evil spirits, I believed that they were true, but I was not sure how they were applicable to me or fellow believers.

My journey into the ministry of deliverance started with a simple question: How come everywhere Jesus went He cast demons out of people, and yet I have not seen this happen even one time in going to church my whole life? I asked this question in a conversation with a good friend during my junior year in college. I wasn't so much expecting to find the answer from my friend, who was a fairly new believer with little church experience. The question was more of a reflection on some things I had been pondering. I had similar questions about healing as well. The bottom line was that I knew something was not adding up when I compared the ministry of Jesus with my current Christian life and church experience.

That night I had a vivid dream in which I cast a demon out of someone. The setting of the dream was an all-you-can-eat buffet restaurant. I arose from my table to get more food from the buffet, and on the way I noticed a man with a very dark appearance and an evil look in his eyes. When I sat back down, the man started to walk directly toward my table. I stood up, and as I did I felt the power of God well up within me, giving me a supernatural boldness. I instantly perceived that the man had an evil spirit, and with this fresh empowerment from the Lord, I commanded the demon to come out of him in Jesus' name. The demon left the man through his mouth with a heave. Once the demon was gone, the man's countenance changed, he was filled with joy, and he thanked me for casting it out.

I awoke from this dream with a clear sense that it was from the Lord, but I did not know what to do with it. I actually became concerned that I might soon run into the demonized man I had seen in the dream! The prospect of confronting a demon was not appealing to me, nor did I feel the least bit equipped to do so. Sure, I knew in my mind that the name of Jesus was all-powerful. But *me*? Casting out a demon? Certainly not! Even still, I believed that this dream was part of God's answer to the questions I had been asking.

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I began to have other dreams of a similar nature, where I would find myself casting demons out of people. Because deliverance was not part of my church upbringing, I didn't have any biblical foundations in this area and had never seen it modeled. But God has a way of equipping us through various means. During this time, I happened to be browsing through books at a Christian bookstore when a particular title stood out to me. It was called *They Shall Expel Demons* by Derek Prince. I immediately remembered the original dream I had and decided to purchase it. This book was very eye-opening for me. The clear scriptural teaching coupled with the amazing stories of deliverance was a convincing combination. I had a newfound understanding, saw things in a new light, and felt more equipped to cast out demons. Not long after this, I began to pray for people who needed deliverance and see them set free from demonic influence.

I have now been actively ministering deliverance for many years. I minister in personal prayer ministry settings as well as retreats, conferences, and churches. I teach and equip others to minister deliverance and have a passion to see this ministry restored to the Church. It is certainly not the only focus of my ministry, but has been a consistent and fruitful part. Because of my church background, I saw myself as an unlikely candidate to be used in deliverance, but God had other plans. You too can experience God's freedom and be equipped to set others free.

Jesus, the Deliverer

As was the case with me, for many believers in the Western Church deliverance from evil spirits is a foreign concept. We read about it in the New Testament accounts, but don't see it happening in many churches, and so we don't understand how it is relevant to our lives. But for Jesus, deliverance was completely normal. In fact, when He began His earthly ministry, it was His authority to cast out

demons that first caught people's attention. The passage below is an account that demonstrates this:

Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee (Mark 1:21-28).

Jesus was preaching and teaching in the synagogue when the people recognized something different about Him: His teaching carried *authority*. His words had a weightiness they were not used to hearing from the scribes and teachers of the law. The power and anointing with which Jesus taught began to stir up the demonic; a man with an unclean spirit suddenly burst into a manifestation and cried out, "Let us alone!" The demons knew who Jesus was before anyone else did. They wanted to be left alone, but Jesus would not comply. He commanded the evil spirit to be quiet and come out of the man. With a violent convulsion and a loud cry, the demon left the man and he was set free.

The people were astonished. They were aware of the reality of evil spirits, and their religious leaders even had methods and rituals

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by which they attempted to free people from their influence. But never before had they seen this type of authority. Jesus gave a direct command to the demon, and to their shock, the demon obeyed. Soon, everyone was talking about the new Rabbi who had power over evil spirits. That very evening crowds gathered to His door, seeking to be healed of diseases and set free from demons. They were not disappointed: “Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons...” (Mark 1:34).

A few verses later, Mark 1:39 goes on to summarize the ministry of Jesus like this: “And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.” This verse puts the ministry of casting out demons side by side with preaching. Deliverance from demons was not a rare activity only reserved for the most extreme of situations. It was everyday life and ministry, a normal part of the Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus preached. Deliverance was an open demonstration of the defeat of satan, showing that Someone greater was here. It was part of the reason that Jesus came—to destroy the works of the devil (see 1 John 3:8).

The Freedom We Are Promised

We are promised great freedom in the Gospel of Jesus. The nature of our salvation is multifaceted, and the blood of Jesus is more powerful than we know. Consider Colossians 1:13-14: “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Redemption, forgiveness, and deliverance from the kingdom of darkness. Look also at how Jesus described how the Gentiles would receive salvation through Paul’s apostolic ministry: “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in

Me” (Acts 26:18). Notice that while these verses above include forgiveness of sin, they don’t stop there. As amazing as forgiveness is, our salvation contains so much more.

Through the finished work of Christ on the cross, believers are promised freedom from:

1. The penalty of sin: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). We are to live with the weight of sin lifted off of our shoulders, knowing that we are totally forgiven because of the blood of Jesus.

2. The power of sin: “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace” (Romans 6:14). We are not to be enslaved by sin, and we are not to be bound by addictions. We are to be able to walk in holiness by the grace of God working within us.

3. The curse of the law: “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’)” (Galatians 3:13). Because Jesus became a curse for us, we are empowered to be free from every generational curse. We are also not to be bound by legalism and other religious bondage such as condemnation and paralyzing guilt.

4. The dominion of satan: “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Colossians 1:13). We are to be totally free from the devil’s power. We are not to be oppressed by demonic spirits or tormented by the enemy’s lies.

The above is not an exhaustive list, but it gives an idea of the freedom we are meant to have in Christ. And this does not even begin to mention what we are saved *into*. In Christ, we are a new creation, saved into a relationship with God, a divine purpose, and so much more.

While we are promised great freedom in Christ, the reality is that many believers are not seeing this in their actual experience. In

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other words, what they have *legally* they do not have *experientially*. So, we often reduce the Gospel message to only include forgiveness and assume that we will live the rest of our lives in some type of bondage or oppression. We believe the lie that we can't really expect to be free on this side of eternity. Instead of seeing freedom as the norm, we lower the bar and expect people to live in captivity, even using religious language to enable it: *That's just your cross to bear. It must be your thorn in the flesh. You can't expect to really be free; we're all sinners after all.*

Do you really believe that Jesus died on the cross so that we could obtain relief from guilt but continue to be enslaved by sin and bound by oppression and torment? This is certainly not God's plan. While we will not be perfect and we will certainly experience trials and difficulties, we are clearly called to walk in liberty. No matter what chains may be keeping you in captivity, this is not how you have to remain. Do not settle for anything less than freedom!

Factors for Freedom

If freedom is the biblical norm and Jesus paid the price for it on the cross, why are so many Christians not experiencing the reality of this freedom? One of the simple reasons for this dissonance is that many believers are under demonic influence and in need of deliverance. Throughout this book, we will consider how casting out demons is a powerful way to set captives free and break chains that enslave. Without the ministry of deliverance, many people will not experience the full freedom that God intends for them to walk in. However, I certainly don't want to give the impression that deliverance from evil spirits is the only aspect of getting free from bondage, oppression, torment, or affliction. On the contrary, there are various factors that can be involved, and everyone's journey is unique. We should be careful not to have a formulaic approach or assume everyone's experience of salvation and freedom will look just like our own.

Like my own testimony, many people have experienced breakthrough and liberty from sin through encounters with God and deep works of repentance. Some emphasize the need for renewing our minds, being rooted in our identity in Christ, and believing and standing in the truth. Others highlight inner healing and restoring the broken places in our soul. Some have found that after a powerful baptism of the Holy Spirit, they were delivered from oppression and bondage that formerly enslaved them. Some are set free through a process of time as they immerse themselves in the Word of God and embrace the reality of the cross. Some have a deep revelation of the grace of God and experience the tangible love of the Father and find that chains that used to bind them are no longer there, and they are free from torment and fear.

Everything in the above paragraph is valid, and we should be careful not to diminish one emphasis in order to validate another. An emphasis on deliverance does not invalidate the need to be rooted in love and established in our identity. Repentance and renewing the mind does not negate the need for inner healing or deliverance. Perhaps you were set free through the breaking of a generational curse, but that doesn't mean that this will be the key for everybody else's freedom. We must embrace all of these valid forms of ministry, and in fact they are all meant to work together. Let's be grounded in the Word and led by the Holy Spirit, and let's leave room for God to work in a variety of ways. While the main emphasis of this book is deliverance from evil spirits, be aware that everyone's journey is unique and there are various ways that God brings freedom, healing, and restoration to people.

He Sets Captives Free!

We serve the God who loves to open prison doors and set captives free. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and to redeem us

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with His own precious blood. He came to deliver us from the penalty and power of sin, and pull us out of the kingdom of darkness. He came to make us new creations, established as sons and daughters of the living God. There is no need for us to stay in captivity any longer.

Sometimes we end up in a spiritual prison because we have been deceived by the lies of the evil one and pulled into bondage to sin. Sometimes we are taken captive through terrible trauma and abuse we have endured. Sometimes we are bound and oppressed because of our rebellion and dismissal of God's Word and God's ways. But no matter how we end up in captivity, Jesus paid the price for our liberty. When we humble ourselves, come to Him in repentance, and call on His name in faith, there is healing and freedom.

As we come to the close of this chapter, take time to slowly meditate on the words of Psalm 107. It will prepare your heart to step out of captivity and into freedom.

*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
And gathered out of the lands,
From the east and from the west,
From the north and from the south.
They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way;
They found no city to dwell in.
Hungry and thirsty,
Their soul fainted in them.
Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
And He delivered them out of their distresses.
And He led them forth by the right way,*

*That they might go to a city for a dwelling place.
Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!
For He satisfies the longing soul,
And fills the hungry soul with goodness.
Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,
Bound in affliction and irons—
Because they rebelled against the words of God,
And despised the counsel of the Most High,
Therefore He brought down their heart with labor;
They fell down, and there was none to help.
Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
And He saved them out of their distresses.
He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,
And broke their chains in pieces.
Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!
For He has broken the gates of bronze,
And cut the bars of iron in two.
Fools, because of their transgression,
And because of their iniquities, were afflicted.
Their soul abhorred all manner of food,
And they drew near to the gates of death.
Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
And He saved them out of their distresses.
He sent His word and healed them,
And delivered them from their destructions.
Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,*

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And for His wonderful works to the children of men!
Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving,
And declare His works with rejoicing (Psalm 107:1-22).

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ABOUT JAKE KAIL

Jake Kail was called to ministry in college after a life-changing encounter with God. He is passionate for the presence of God and to see His Kingdom come and will be done “on earth as it is in heaven.”

Jake is the author of multiple books, including *Setting Captives Free* and *Hypocrisy Exposed*. He speaks at churches, conferences, retreats, and other events, preaching and teaching with a demonstration of the Holy Spirit’s power.

Jake lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Anna, and their kids, and serves as the lead pastor of Threshold Church.

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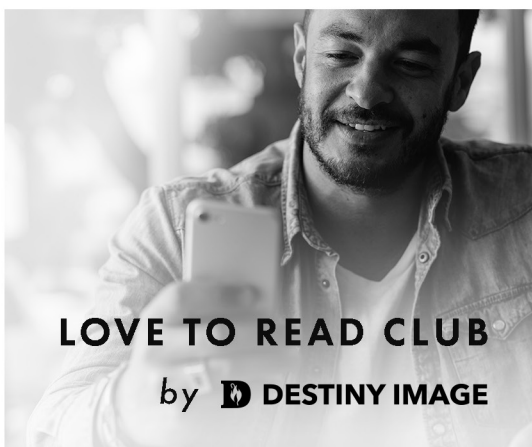
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