HOW TO

RESIST THE DEVIL

AND HIS DEMONS

by

Oral Roberts

I WANT YOU TO BE FOREWARNED AND FOREARMED...

"The devil made me do it. "

Do you remember that line from the television show several years ago? It became a popular expression and made the devil a household word. Yet in the midst of the "joke," many people seemed to think that the devil himself was just a joke—that he isn't real. In fact, not too long ago I received a letter from a man who said, "Oral Roberts, why do you talk about the devil as if he were real and able to have influence on people's lives?"

I talk about the devil being real because he is real. According to the Word of God, and according to experiences I've had that are too numerous to tell in this small book, I want to assure you today that the devil is very much alive.

He not only exists but he has the ability to influence and deceive all human beings who choose to follow him. He has great power, although it is but a fraction of the power belonging to God.

Many people seem to think of the devil as almost a cartoon-character idea of a man dressed in a red suit with a long pointed tail holding a pitchfork—

which is not true. The devil is not a cartoon character. He is real. His talk is a lie ... his tune is always the same rebellious one against God ... his purpose is always the same (death and destruction) ... and his power is but an illusion of the real power of the Holy Spirit.

At the same time, the devil's very purpose is to try to exert great influence ... *always ending in something negative or destructive* ... over human beings. He stalks the earth as a lion (notice, he is not a lion, he just tries to act like one), seeking whom he may devour. He oppresses ... depresses ... impresses people to perform evil acts ... and *in some cases,* possesses people completely so that their wills are subjected totally to the devil.

While we who place our trust in Jesus Christ have no reason to fear the devil, we must always be aware that the devil exists and he is our number-one enemy every day that we live on this earth.

I do not want to "scare" you in talking about the devil and his demons, but I want you to be forewarned and forearmed against them. In the following pages, you'll find some of the questions that people ask me the most frequently about the devil and his demons, and my answers based on the Word of God, the Holy Bible.

1. WHO OR WHAT ARE DEMONS? ARE THEY REAL?

The Bible teaches that demons are "fallen angels." They fell along with Lucifer, the beautiful archangel of heaven, who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven to become "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4) and "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2).

'How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, 1 will exalt my throne above the stars of God... I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof, that opened not the house of his prisoners?" (Isaiah 14:12-17).

There were once three great archangels in heaven: Lucifer, Michael, and Gabriel. Each of them ruled one third of the angels of heaven. Lucifer is the only one who became filled with pride and sought to elevate himself above God. He is the only one who transgressed the law of God and was cast out of heaven. One third of the angels of heaven followed Lucifer in his rebellion and were also cast out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-9). They became Satan's army of demons. In one place in the Bible they are called the "devil's angels" (Matthew 25:41). We are also told, "Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels."

The Bible also says that these fallen angels are now "reserved in everlasting chains [or pits] under darkness" (Jude 6). Note that the chains that bind them are not ones forged of steel, but they are chains of *darkness.* The light in which these angels walked while they were in heaven has been taken from them. They have lost their spiritual illumination and they are devoid of godly wisdom.

Without godly knowledge and balance, they have become perverted... miserable ... psychopathic ... abnormal personalities. Their total lack of spiritual goodness keeps them in darkness, where they are not capable of knowing the truth, and this darkness is bondage for them. Since they cannot know truth, they are capable of knowing only lies and deception, and thus, they can only speak lies and deception. They are tormented by these "chains of darkness" that hold them captive and, as a result, their purpose is to inflict torment (John 10:10a).

Satan and his demons continue to be in rebellion against God. That is a very important point for you to remember. Satan and his cohorts are still at war against the hosts of heaven and the saints of God.

2. WHAT DO DEMONS WANT WITH HUMAN BEINGS?

When Lucifer's angels fell from heaven, they also lost their celestial bodies and they became "spirits." They now seek some type of human or other physical embodiment in an attempt to regain their former glory. When a demon enters a human being, he is able to transfer some of his strange behavior and express some of his evil personality through the person he has entered. That is why, in my opinion, demons particularly seek human embodiment. Man has the greatest powers of expression through which demonic spirits can display their own evil lusts and desires to strike back at God. A person who becomes the demon's instrument to fight against God and His work on the earth is a "pawn" of the devil. And along with the demon, he is separated from his only Source of help, salvation, and deliverance—Jesus Christ.

Never forget that Satan and his demons were in heaven with God before they were cast out. They were there before man was created. They heard God when He first spoke about creating mankind. They know a great deal about how man is made and many of the other secret counsels of God. Based on this knowledge, Satan harassed and tempted the first man and woman to disobey God in the garden of Eden. He has continued to harass mankind through the ages, trying to destroy man by getting him to join his rebellion against God.

My personal belief is that somehow when Adam and Eve sinned and all of mankind was influenced, an openness in the human spirit was created that demon spirits know about. They probe for entrance to that opening in the way water probes for a weak spot or a crack in a wall. The demons come at a man or woman, or even a young person, at their weakest spot—sometimes in an area where there is unconfessed sin, or in an area where there is a natural bent toward a particular kind of sin. And when the demon spirits find entrance through that opening, they begin to weasel their way in and to torment, or try to control. The main point for you to remember is that the devil and demons know a great deal more about you than you may think they know. But you have power over Satan and his demons to keep them out. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them [spirits of Antichrist]: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

Another reason that the devil and his demons seek to enter human beings is because man is the creature that is most like God. Man is the creature so dearly loved by God that God sent His only begotten Son to die on his behalf. (See John 3:16.) Man is God's prize ... God's desire ... God's beloved. The important thing is to stay on God's side.

By going after man, the devil is going after the apple of God's eye—the treasure, the most valued "pearl of great price" in God's eyes! The devil only wants a man or woman because *God wants that man or woman more so.* The devil isn't motivated by love for a man or woman, as God is. No, the devil doesn't love people, he uses them. He uses people to strike back at God and with the purpose "to steal, kill, and destroy" (John 10:10).

3. AREN'T WE HUMAN BEINGS STRONGER THAN DEMONS?

No, not in our own limited human power. The Bible says that we are made *"a little lower than the angels"* (Hebrews 2:7). Satan and his demon "angels" know the weaknesses of man and how to play on those weaknesses in a way that men and women in their own strength will have difficulty resisting their temptations (just as Adam and Eve). Satan and his demons know how to mask their evilness and to make wrong appear to be right and right appear to be wrong. They are very cunning in their lies and deceit.

Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross and resurrection, robbed Satan of his greatest power: the finality of death. In place of death, Jesus offers life, *and that more abundantly* (John 10:10)! Jesus offers both "eternal life" with Him in heaven and an "abundant life" here on earth for those who believe in Him and follow Him. But until Jesus Christ returns to the earth, God has allowed Satan to continue to have the power *to tempt* men and women and to influence those who yield to his temptations. God will not override the free will He gave to man when He created him. So while God calls us to "life —and that more abundantly," the devil also has the ability to call us to rebellion and death.

Nowhere does the Bible make light of Satan's power ... and neither should you or I.

4. AS HUMAN BEINGS, THEN, ARE WE AT SATAN'S MERCY?

Absolutely not! When you give your life to Jesus Christ, He gives you the power to overcome Satan and his demons. The Bible says that "having spoiled principalities and powers, he [Jesus] made a show of them openly, triumphing over them..." (Colossians 2:15).

If you are a soundly converted born-again Christian who is living for Jesus, you are not under the dominion of Satan. Still, as long as you are in this world—which by and large is in a lost and unregenerate state over which Satan rules—it is important that you remember that you are in the middle of what the Bible describes as a "wrestling match" with the devil and his demons. (See Ephesians

6:11,12.) Satan will not concede defeat to you without your resisting him so he will flee. (See James 4:7.) The good news of the gospel is that *through* Jesus we know we can defeat Satan.

When we believe in Jesus and repent of our sins and accept Jesus as the Lord and Savior of our lives, we are filled with His Holy Spirit. (See Acts 2:38.) The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit as our "divine counselor" who is in us. We also have the Bible itself to show us the nature of God and the will of

God for our lives. The Bible also tells us very clearly about the devil's nature, his purposes, and his tactics. So read and study your Bible. Know the Word of God!

Therefore—and this is very important for you to understand—as a Christian you have been given insight into the very nature and plans of the enemy. And if you can know who the enemy is and what he is up to ... that's very often the turning point of any battle!

5. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE DEVIL'S NATURE AND HIS PURPOSES?

In Jesus' own words, we know that the devil is "a thief, a murderer, and a destroyer" (John 10:10). In Malachi 3:11 the devil is called "the devourer." Throughout the Word of God, Satan is given various names and titles. He is referred to more than 175 times! Here are just a few of the things the Word of God calls the devil:

Satan
(meaning "opponent").....Revelation 12:9
Beelzebub
(meaning "lord of the flies," which refers to total corruption).....Matthew 10:25
Dragon
(meaning "having keen sight").....Revelation 12:3-12
Serpent
(meaning "venomous").....2 Corinthians 11:3
The tempter.....Matthew 4:3
Your adversary..... 1 Peter 5:8
The wicked one.....Matthew 13:38
God of this world.....2 Corinthians 4:4
Prince of the power of the air.....Ephesians 2:1-3
Accuser of the brethren
(or believers in Jesus).....Revelation 12:10
The father of lies.....John 8:44

Murderer.....John 8:44

The enemy.....Matthew 13:39

The devil isn't just one of our enemies in this life. He is THE enemy, according to God's Word. You and I may think sometimes, when things go wrong all around us, that other people are our problem. But they are not really our problem. Satan works through people but he, SATAN, is ultimately our problem! The Bible makes that clear in these words:

'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood [human beings], but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places "(Ephesians 6:12).

Ultimately the devil and his demons are behind every evil, sinful, bad thing that happens in this world. And I mean they are *actively* behind it.

The Bible also clearly spells out the devil's three purposes as they relate to us human beings: to steal ... to kill ...and to destroy (John 10:10).

We must realize constantly—and especially when something bad strikes us—that the devil is *not* on our side and he is not neutral toward us. He is our sworn enemy out to do us harm and ensnare us in any way he can. Ultimately he seeks to destroy us. Satan is constantly on a "death mission."

'Be careful—watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart" (1 Peter 5:8,TLB).

6. AND WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE DEVIL'S TACTICS?

The devil tempts us at the point of one great desire that all human beings have to some degree or other: *the power to be your own god*. All other temptations lead up to that one overriding temptation.

The devil tempts us to ignore God ... to say that the things of God don't matter ... to avoid association with people who believe in God ... to ridicule and persecute those who attempt to follow God ... and finally to say that God's way is wrong and our way is right. Those are the temptations we must face, and by the power of God, they are the temptations we must resist with all our might.

A key word in describing the devil's tactics toward us is the word *power*.

Not long ago I, along with millions of other people in this nation, watched a prime-time documentary special on television in which a well-known investigative reporter attempted to uncover Satan's underground and the dreadful practices of satanism—practices which, in their final form, often lead to brutal, bizarre murders and deaths. As I listened to those being interviewed on the program, I noticed a very specific pattern emerging for the motivation behind

their involvement with the devil. *I wanted power,"* they all said ... the satanic power of having absolute control over their own lives, and over the lives of other people around them. Ultimately, they sought the power to determine who would live and die and they lived to destroy others in order to show their allegiance to the devil.

Satan always promises power. Power to be in control of your own destiny. Power over others. Power to obtain things. But the power that the devil promises is always power meant to usurp the power of God. And his promise is always a false promise of power, because in the end, those who follow Satan exert only "temporary power." Their power is eventually stripped from them and the destruction they experience is always far greater than the evil they have inflicted on others. The only true everlasting power belongs to God and God alone.

7. HOW CAN WE SAY "NO" TO THE DEVIL'S TEMPTATIONS IF THE DEVIL IS MORE POWERFUL THAN WE ARE?

More powerful than we as human beings? Yes. More powerful than we as human beings LINKED UP WITH JESUS CHRIST? No!

The Bible teaches us that when we are tempted by Satan we are *to resist him in the Name of Jesus* and that when we do, he will flee from us. (See James 4:7.) In other words, when we are faced with temptations from the devil, we must stand up on the inside and call the devil for what he is, *a liar and a thief and a destroyer*. And we then must command him, in Jesus' Name, to leave us alone because we are God's property! We say, "Devil, I'm God's property and in the Name of Jesus I tell you to go right now!"

When Jesus walked this earth as a man, he faced the same battle that we face against Satan and his demons. He used only three resources to protect himself against the devil and to overcome temptation and sin. Those three resources were (1) His faith in

God, (2) His obedience to God, and (3) using the Word of God. You and I have access to these same resources! It is up to us to "put on the full armor of God," as Paul instructs us to do in Ephesians 6 and then to "fight the good fight of faith," trusting God to bring us through our battle with Satan victoriously. And God will do it!

8. CAN A PERSON BECOME POSSESSED BY THE DEVIL WITHOUT KNOWING IT? DOES A PERSON HAVE TO BE A WILLING PARTICIPANT?

My personal belief is that there are some human beings who are "tormented" by evil spirits through no conscious fault of their own, but as a result of the curse that is upon this earth and the fact that we are living in a world that, generally speaking, is without God. I mean by this, some people are tormented who have not *consciously* given themselves over to sin *that is regular and habitual* in some area of their life, and they have not been involved in some way in occult practices.

For example, in these cases a person may have had a "curse" or a "spell" placed on them by someone who is involved in witchcraft or some other area of the occult. Perhaps a person has had a member of their family involved in the occult in the past—even a generation or two back—and they need to pray and ask the Lord to break that familial connection with evil. Or it may be that a soundly converted born-again Christian has been "stepping on the devil's toes" by the impact they are having for Christ in their family, their place of work, or in some other area of a strong witness for Christ.

What I am speaking about now is harassment by the devil. This harassment may be experienced as torment, or as *oppression.* It may be experienced as a *depression* that is spiritual in origin. (Other cases of depression are often physically based and can sometimes be helped by a physician.) These are "attacks of the enemy" against a person, Christians included.

Cases of demonic *possession,* however, are different. In cases of *possession,* a demon actually enters a person and controls him or her completely. I believe in those cases the person has generally made a choice or a decision at some point in their life that has led them into a downward progression until they eventually get to the point where *they turn over their will to the devil.* In other words, they willfully GIVE their will to Satan. It is at that point that Satan can "possess" them and control them completely.

Often people first get involved in the activities of the occult without realizing that various activities are spiritually dangerous. They think they are just having fun or "experimenting" with something harmless. The results are just as real, however, as if they knew in advance what they were doing. (You may not know the law of gravity but if you walk off the edge of a cliff, the consequences of that law will take hold of your life!)

9. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE OCCULT? WHAT ARE OCCULT PRACTICES THAT THE BIBLE DESCRIBES AS DANGEROUS?

The word *occult* literally means "to cover up, to keep something as a secret,

unrevealed power." The activities of the occult are all aimed at uncovering something about the past, present, or future that God in His divine wisdom has not chosen to reveal to us. They are "secret things" that are not yet revealed and the Bible makes it very clear that "the secret things belong to the Lord" (Deuteronomy 29:29).

In other words, we are to trust God to reveal to us what we need to know when we need to know it. We are not to seek to know from Satan those things about our life, or someone else's life, that are among the secret counsels of God.

The Bible spells out dangerous occult practices very specifically:

"Let no one be found among you who

• *sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire,* [engages in human sacrifice], **who practices divination* [predicts the future]

• *or sorcery* [uses power gained supernaturally from demonic spirits],

• *interprets omens* [uses signs, such as star and planet configurations on which horoscopes are based, to foretell future events or how a person's life should be conducted],

• *engages in witchcraft* [worships the devil or any form of evil, including the "false praise music" of many hard-rock groups],

• *or casts spells* [pronounces evil curses, or hexes, on people or in some way attempts to cause harm or to control another person's actions],

• *or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead* [anyone who conducts seances —or other meetings—to converse with evil spirits impersonating those who have died, or who purports to be the "mouthpiece" for any supernatural spirit other than the Holy Spirit of God, often describing themselves today as "channelers" or "transchannelers"]. *Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord"* (Deuteronomy 18:10,11, NIV).

You may say, "Oral Roberts, are you telling me that following my horoscope every day or listening to hard-rock music is wrong?" I'm not telling you on the authority of my own opinion that it's wrong to live your life according to the horoscope in your daily newspaper or to infill your mind with the messages on many hard-rock music albums... the Word of God is telling you! The Word of God tells us again and again that we are to live our lives SOLELY BY THE WORD OF GOD. A horoscope, or any other occult practice, is not only a very poor substitute for the Word of God, but it's "detestable" to the Lord when we put our trust in these occult activities.

When we engage in these practices we are, in effect, saying to God, "I don't trust You to be God in my life. I don't trust You to reveal to me what I need to know in my life. I don't trust You to have the power and knowledge to protect me from evil and to guide me in the paths that are pleasing to You. I don't trust

You with my life, God, and I'm going to put my trust in something or someone else. I'm going to take matters into my own hands." That brings us back to that word power. When a person engages in occult practices, they are trying to usurp the power of God's knowledge for themselves. They are making themselves out to be their own gods.

I'm sure we'll never know the great numbers of people who have come under demonic influence through their curiosity and gradual involvement in the occult practices spelled out in the Bible— witchcraft, going to fortune-tellers, practicing astrology, and so forth. What begins innocently may have life-or-death consequences.

Let me give you an example from my own healing ministry.

During one of our great healing crusades I conducted under the 10,000-seat "tent cathedral" in the 1950's, I encountered a woman who had once been a missionary to Africa for many years. While in Africa, she had been exposed to witch doctors and their practice of witchcraft and she had gradually allowed her natural curiosity about these things to take over until she became fascinated with them and to some degree became involved with what the witch doctors were doing.

Of course, I didn't know any of that when she was brought to my crusade. I didn't know that she had recently been brought back to the United States in such a condition that no one could contain her. Her mind would come and go. Physically, at times, she had superhuman strength. And when her pastor brought her to my crusade for prayer, she had to be chained to one of the tent poles during the service because of her violent outbursts.

As I was led toward this woman to pray for her, I quickly realized that something was dreadfully wrong—that demons were either in her or they were all around her, tormenting her and trying to keep me from touching her. Somehow the demons knew that the moment I was able to lay my right hand on the woman's head, I would be able—through the power of God—to discern their presence, their number, and their type.

I moved toward the woman to try to lay my hand on her head, but every time I'd put my hand out toward her, she would use her great strength to shove it away. It was as if the devil were saying, "Don't let him get his right hand on you." Then I began to try to outwit the devil by moving my hands in different directions as I reached toward her. But she blocked my reach by putting both of her arms in between mine. And the next thing I knew, she had taken hold of my clothes, ripped my coat open— which had been buttoned—and had lifted me up and had literally almost slammed me to the ground!

Now I weighed 185 pounds and this was a normal-sized woman. And I tell

you, I have never been mishandled with such physical strength in my life! It was strength beyond anything human I knew about. In fact, it was superhuman and demonic.

As I got up, I found myself standing before her face to face. The Lord has always kept me from having any fear of demons, so I was not afraid. But I knew that I was dealing with a particular kind of demon that was very powerful. Finally I was able to get my right hand on her forehead and I discerned immediately that it was witchcraft demons that I was dealing with. I discerned the number of them and began to call them out of her.

She took my hands and tried to pull my hand off her forehead. But by that time, the same hands that had just moments before picked me up and almost slammed my body to the ground could not now even pull my hand off her head. Right then I knew that the Spirit of God was in charge of the situation! And the crowd knew it too. I mean, that place got so quiet you could almost hear a pin drop.

I began to call those demon spirits out of that woman in the authority of the Name of Jesus. They began coming out of her and you could hear them almost tear her body as if they were trying to rip her limb from limb as they came out. Finally all the demons had left her and immediately she began to act differently. She looked around to see where she was as if she had just come from a different world. Her face lighted up and she cried, "Thank God!" with almost a shout. By her actions, I knew that she had been completely set free by the power of God and I forbade the demons, in Jesus' Name, to return to her ever again.

Then I began to talk to her and she told me how, as a missionary in Africa, she had observed the work of the witch doctors. First, she became *curious.* Then she began to get near them and to *know* them. And then a *fascination* took hold of her about the strange things that the witch doctors would do, and as her fascination grew, she became unaware of how the witch doctors were deceiving her and coming against her spiritually until the full force of witchcraft was upon her and demon spirits began to control her life.

Note the progression she followed. She was *curious.* Her curiosity led her to *familiarity* and *association.* And then *fascination and experimentation.* Friend, you cannot play with the devil!

If you have already been involved in any aspect of the occult—whether out of curiosity as this woman—or out of ignorance to the truth about the occult, or out of willful rebellion against God, I strongly advise you right now to renounce that involvement and to vow to yourself and to God that you will never turn to those things again as a source of power or information, but instead, you will turn to Jesus Christ and trust Him with your life.

Let's pray right now. Say this prayer out loud:

"Dear God, I renounce any and all involvement I have had with Satan and the occult, and I ask You to forgive me. I want Jesus to be my personal Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will look to You only for guidance and direction in my life.

I will study Your Word, the Holy Bible. I will get into fellowship with people who love and worship the Lord Jesus. Help me,

God, to move forward in my life with faith and to put out of my mind, my heart, and my life, any remembrance of these activities. I trust You to set me free! Amen and amen."

10. HOW CAN YOU TELL IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS UNDER THE DIRECT INFLUENCE OF DEMONS ... OR MAYBE EVEN DEMON POSSESSED?

Let me say first of all that I personally believe that the true cases of demon *possession*—where satanic spirits literally indwell a human being and have absolute control over certain areas of that person's actions or behavior—are extremely rare. And the average person's chances of ever encountering a person who is truly demon-possessed are equally rare.

So it's very important not to overstate the case when dealing with a situation where you believe that someone is under the direct influence of demons.

In most cases, I believe we are dealing with a person who is demonically *oppressed* (rather than possessed) or *demonized,* as some people prefer to call it —that is, harassed from forces *outside* their being.

The important thing to remember in the discernment of demonic influences or activity is that demons are often involved in *the excesses or of the extremes of human behavior as they try to make their victim become what they are.* That person then will exhibit behavior that goes *beyond the norm* of what we generally know as sin and human failure.

Let me give you some examples of what I mean.

For instance, if a person is being harassed or influenced by a *lying spirit* (or demon) they will begin lying to such a point and in such an extreme way that they cannot know the truth and therefore they cannot tell the truth—even in situations where it would seem easy and natural to do so.

Now I'm not talking about someone who tells a lie now and then, but who also tells the truth—which would include a majority of people, or just about everyone. I'm talking about someone who appears incapable of telling the truth,

or who may not even recognize the difference between a lie and the truth ... someone whom a doctor might call a pathological liar. If you know someone like that and their behavior has been that way for a period of time, I believe it's possible that that person is under severe demonic attack.

Again, this is where I say that we should be very careful in our estimation of what we pronounce the source to be behind a person's behavior. You need to be particularly cautious in what you tell other people about the situation or in what you say to the person himself. I am a very strong believer in the fact that not all of the meanness, cruelty, or ugliness in human behavior comes about from the direct influence of demon spirits. I have personally known many people in my life who are just plain mean, or who are cruel, of their own accord. They simply choose to be that way.

11. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEMONIC OPPRESSION AND SIN?_

I believe that, up to a point, any *form* of sin that comes out through human behavior springs from the *condition* of sin into which all men are born in this fallen world. There's a difference between an "act of sin" and the "condition of being a sinner."

Every man, woman, and child is born with the "condition of sin" in their lives. The Bible says that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That "condition of sin" is something the Holy Spirit causes us to think about and to confront in our lives. You see, it is God's desire that we recognize our sinful nature ... then repent of it (which means to make up our minds and wills that we want a change in our lives) ... then ask God to take away that sin nature ... and finally to accept the nature of His Son, Jesus Christ, in its place. That is what is called conversion or being "born again." Our spiritual nature is literally "born anew" as if we are starting all over.

Now if a human being is not continually filled up with the Spirit of God and continually subjecting his or her will to God's will and allowing God to restrain and retrain that sin part of their nature, then they will fall back into the natural man's "sin nature" every time they are confronted by the devil's temptations.

Let me say a word about the devil as the "tempter," which is what he is called in Matthew, chapter 4.

First, the tempter comes at us with a twisted, warped version of the Word of God. He misquotes, half-quotes, and perverts the promises and commandments of God for his own purposes. He even tried to do that in tempting Jesus! (Read all of Matthew 4:1-11 and you'll see what I mean.)

Second, the tempter comes at us with a twisted, warped version of who we

are. He'll tell you every bad thing he can to try to destroy your self-image and keep you from being all that you can be and all that God desires you to be. And furthermore, he'll try to get you to believe that God made you that way.

For example, this is the kind of line the tempter feeds a person, and usually right after something good has happened to them:

"Well, you're on top now, but you're going to lose it all.

"You don't deserve this.

"You're not really that good.

"In fact, you're nothing special at all.

"Other people don't see you the way you really are.

"You know how you are.

"You're really nothing. And just wait, you'll end up with nothing.

"God never meant you to be anything and He doesn't want you to have anything.

"You're a big zero in God's eyes . . . "

... and so the tempter's lies go, pulling you farther and farther down until you have to look up to see bottom. The tempter always comes to tempt you to believe something that is UNTRUE about yourself and about others.

The Word of God, on the other hand, does just the opposite. Jesus says:

"Rise up! You can make it!

"God didn't make you to be a failure or a zero.

He created you to be somebody.

"In fact, He created you to be His child.

"God loves you and He loves you so much He sent Jesus to die on a cross for your sins so that when you repent you might be forgiven and filled with His Holy Spirit and live with Him forever!

"He has the abundance of heaven available to pour out on you and He desires for you to live an abundant life and to be prosperous in every area of your life.

"You're important to God. He wants you to be whole and strong—in body, mind, spirit, emotions, family and friends, finances.

"God wants to bless you and He wants you to

BE a blessing to others! . . ."

... and that's the TRUTH of God's Word. That's the good news about God and about you that the tempter never wants you to hear or believe!

The tempter not only perverts the Word of God and perverts the truth about you, but ...

Third, the tempter comes as an "angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14).

What we see on the TV programs about satanism is what I call the *inside* of Satan—the ugliness, the evil, the absurd. That's not the way Satan usually comes

at us. He usually wears the cloak of something beautiful and enticing.

I learned early on as a Christian that the devil is usually behind those things which appear to be beautiful and exciting in the beginning, but which ultimately turn out to be ugly and evil. For example, it often looks glamorous or exciting when we see someone on TV or in movies, or someone in real life who takes a few drinks to "unwind" socially. But when you see a drinker who has gradually slipped into the degrading, heartbreaking depths of alcoholism, you can see that it was the devil at work all the time. He always tries to cover up his real self so you will accept what he is offering you. And when you participate in that thing —that sin—and continue to follow it to its conclusion, no matter what type of sin it is, then the ugliness emerges and death is ultimately the result.

Friend, the devil never shows his true face up front. He comes in disguise, in a masquerade, pretending to be an "angel of light" when he's really a pack of lies, death, and destruction.

Finally, the tempter comes at us often, and usually when our defenses are down or when we least expect him.

That's why it is so important to have a relationship with God that operates on a daily basis. Saying a prayer to God is not just a one-time thing. Going to church on Sundays isn't enough. Being a Christian is something that requires our DAILY commitment, our DAILY activity and effort, our DAILY concern.

The tempter often comes at us again and again, as if he's hammering away at us in hopes we will break. Again, it is always in the form of a LIE about who you are or about who God is.

When a homosexual man or woman says, "I was born this way," or someone who is a thief says, "I can't control myself," or a married man who is a womanizer says, "I'm just made this way," to a point, I believe they are right. *They were born with the seed of sin in their heart...* just like every other human being. But the tendency that we all have toward sin is *NOT* an excuse to live with that thing running rampant in our lives. We can do something about that tendency toward wrong. I know we can because God tells us in His Word that we can and because of my own personal experience as a young man.

I was born with a tendency that caused me to do things in certain areas of my life that were wrong and against God. As a young man, I could not look upon a woman without lusting after her. It took God to change that wrong desire in me. Oral Roberts could not change it, but *God* through Oral Roberts *could change it!* And when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior at the age of 17, God took that thing out of me. He cleaned up my thoughts and my desires to where today I can honestly tell you that I have never desired a woman other than my darling wife Evelyn in our more than 50 years of marriage. Now that's a miracle!

That's Oral Roberts allowing God to transform my heart and my mind on a daily basis.

All of us "miss the mark," or make the wrong choices, at times. (That's what "sin" means—to miss the mark.) God understands our struggle with sin and He is there to forgive us and to give us His grace to overcome temptation *when we turn to Him.* But we must never presume upon God's grace and turn to sin as a lifestyle. That would be a very foolish and dangerous proposition, because *sin that is not repented of and that becomes habitual in our lives leaves the door wide open to direct demonic influence and harassment.*

Let me repeat that: Sin that we don't admit to God and which becomes habitual, willful, and a way of life OPENS THE DOOR to demonic influence. It puts us in a state of rebellion before God that makes us ripe for Satan's temptations of power and hidden knowledge.

12. IS SICKNESS THE WORK OF DEMONS?

Not all sickness in a particular individual has a spiritual root, but sickness *may* be spiritual in origin.

Jesus indicated in Luke 13 that one woman who came to Him had *a spirit of infirmity* that had caused her to be bent over for 18 years, totally unable to lift herself upright. The Amplified Version of the Bible calls it: "an infirmity caused by a spirit [a demon of sickness]" (verse 11). Now not all bent—over people have a spirit of infirmity, but Jesus discerned that *this particular woman did.* And He dealt with the spirit and cast it out so that the woman was able to stand up straight again. Jesus *delivered* her "whom Satan had bound" from the influence of the demon.

In many other instances where Jesus healed the sick, we have no indication that the person had a "spirit."

Therefore, while I believe that *sickness in general is an oppression of the devil against mankind,* obviously not all sickness in particular individuals is caused by the direct influence of demon spirits.

Let me elaborate briefly on this point.

The Bible teaches us that Jesus came to "heal those who were oppressed of the devil." (See Acts 10:38.) Jesus' healing work against sickness and disease was actually a battle against the devil. Sickness, then, is part of the devil's "sack of oppressions" that he carries around, as are poverty, tragic circumstances, natural catastrophes, and many other things, all of which are meant to fulfill the devil's purpose of "robbing, destroying, or killing." (See John 10:10.) Sickness and disease are one of the METHODS Satan uses in his attempt to destroy us and to turn us away from God.

I personally believe there is a very definite link between cancer and Satan himself, who is called Beelzebub in Matthew 10:25. *Beelzebub* means "lord of the flies" and this term refers to the corruption and decay often associated with flies as they swarm over a carcass. Cancer, like no other widespread disease I know of today, corrupts and corrodes the body of a man or woman. Cancer can be viewed as out-of-control "rebellious cells" that ravage other cells, invading them and destroying them. This is a mirror of Satan's own rebellious campaign against the hosts of heaven and the people of God on this earth.

Now while I believe strongly that cancer is linked directly to Satan and is a vile oppression of the devil, I do NOT believe that a person who has cancer is necessarily filled with the devil. Not at all! That person is being *oppressed* by the devil, who is using cancer to inflict great agony, often robbing the person of joy, peace of mind and heart, energy, and strength; destroying the person's physical body, and ultimately killing that person. The person with cancer is "under attack" from the enemy and must be prayed for in precisely those terms.

Sickness is a work or an *oppression* of the devil. And when sickness strikes, we must recognize that the devil is on the attack and we must call upon every means of regaining health that we know. A person who is sick needs to take advantage of *all* of God's healing methods and get the best of medical care, the best of prayer, the best of love, and a good climate and nutrition and any other force that can work to bring about healing, including the Word of God. "Having done *all*, "the Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:13—meaning we leave nothing undone that we know to do—we then stand against the enemy and trust God to do all that He can do.

In some cases, however, and I might add, in RARE cases, a force is at work within a person that BLOCKS any and all attempts at healing. Now I'm not referring to a person's immune system that may fail to work properly, or to any other physical function of the body. I'm referring to something *spiritual* that has a grip on the healing processes. I'm talking about a spiritual force that simply will not allow the body to work as God intended for it to work.

Those are *situations* that may very well be demonically inspired or influenced. And if that is the case, the sickness will need to be dealt with from a spiritual angle before the person being attacked will find any relief from their condition.

In the book of Mark, Jesus delivered a young man from a demon that was causing him to throw himself to the ground in convulsions, or seizures, much like what we would call epilepsy today. (See Mark 9:17-30.) Note as you read that passage of Scripture that these were not ordinary seizures. The father of the afflicted man reported that in many instances, the boy was cast into "fire" or

"water" when he experienced a seizure. As abnormal as a convulsion might be in and of itself, something beyond even a "normal" convulsion was happening in this particular case.

Based on that passage of Scripture and on my own experience of praying for the sick for more than 41 years, *I believe that a very small percentage of cases involving epilepsy or other convulsive-type disorders are caused by demons.* Not the vast majority of cases by any means, but a few.

I recall a little boy I once prayed for whose mother told me that he had been averaging 40 convulsions a day for the past few years. When she handed me that child and I took him in my arms and looked into his eyes, I saw what those particular demons had done to him. His eyes had the peculiar luster of demons and were sunken back in his head. His body was extremely wasted, and lines of suffering were deeply etched in his face. In short, he had been transformed from a little child into a creature of almost total abnormality.

Those particular kind of convulsive demons are the strongest of all demons that I ever personally faced in my ministry. And there was a struggle before that child could be completely delivered by the authority of the Spirit of God inside of me that was greater than the demons' power. But once he was delivered, that little boy became a normal child again and never once had another problem with convulsions for all the years I knew of him afterward.

I believe that there are also many types of demons that exhibit exaggerated forms of sinful behavior. For example, I believe that there are *stealing demons.* People who come under their influence steal *compulsively* and say they can't help what they are doing. They often say that something makes them steal.

Today, all you need to do is pick up a newspaper to know that there are *murdering demons and demons of sadism or cruelty.* It's become commonplace to hear someone say, "Something inside me told me to kill that person. I don't know why I did it." And often those kinds of murders have a very strong element of sadistic cruelty in them, where a person wasn't just killed, but their body was violated or mutilated in an almost inhuman way.

The story of Legion in the fifth chapter of Mark shows us that there are also *demons of selfflagellation.* These demons took delight in causing the man known as Legion (a name that the demons seem to have given themselves, referring to the great numbers of them that inhabited the man) to cut himself with sharp rocks until he would bleed nearly to death. And in addition to those demons, there were other demons who tormented Legion causing him to leave his family and his community, to wear no clothing, and to live like a madman among the tombs.

Can you see what I mean about often finding demons in the abnormalities

and the excesses of human behavior? The Bible tells us that this man was cutting his own flesh and inflicting terrible pain on his own body. Is that a normal thing to do to yourself? Of course not! Every natural force inside of us tells us to run from pain, and to try and get away from anyone who tries to hurt us physically. But Legion was inflicting pain on himself. He found pleasure in cutting himself. Or rather I should say that the *demons inside of Legion* found pleasure in it.

Legion was like a madman. His dwelling was among the dead, rather than among the living. He had superhuman strength, so that no man was able to subdue him or to control him long enough to help him in any way. It took the supernatural power of God to bring deliverance to Legion. It took Jesus Christ commanding the demons to come out of him to set him free and to restore him to his right mind and to his family and his community.

Another demon is one often called an *unclean spirit*. It can be a demon of immorality, or a demon of unnatural sexual desire—anything dealing with the perverting of man's natural sexual desire that was put inside of him by God and that is beautiful and wonderful when it is expressed in the context of marriage in which God meant for it to be expressed. You need only to look around you in this country to see how the influence of these demons is running rampant today through sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, pornography, and the sexual molestation of children—often even by a child's own parent or other trusted friend or loved one. That certainly isn't a normal expression of love for a child!

I'm sure there are many other kinds of demons other than the ones I have mentioned here, and they may manifest themselves in any number of ways through human behavior depending on how great their influence over a person has become.

13. HOW SHOULD I DEAL WITH A PERSON WHO IS DEMON-POSSESSED OR DEMON-OPPRESSED?

First, be very certain that the behavior of the person is actually being influenced by demons. Satan is a creature of masterful deception and anyone who is being influenced or controlled by him will make serious efforts to deceive you as well.

Second, don't think that just by looking at someone, or by talking to them, or by casually studying their behavior you will know if that person is being *oppressed* (or strongly influenced) by demon spirits, whether that oppression is somewhat light or very heavy, or whether the person is actually possessed by demons. The Bible tells us clearly that spiritual matters must be *spiritually discerned* (1 Corinthians 2:14). To discern something in the natural means to perceive it with your physical senses. But to discern something spiritually means

that you perceive the truth of a situation with something that goes beyond your natural senses, and that is *through your spirit being linked up with the Holy Spirit so He can discern through you.*

When God called me into the healing ministry and showed me the depth of people's needs, He told me that He would give me the power to discern demons in a very direct and obvious way. He told me that as I laid my hands on those who came before me for prayer—as literally more than one million people have through the years—the power of God would come upon me and *if* there were demons present, I would be able to detect those demons in three specific ways:

1) by the luminous, snakelike quality of such a person's eyes,

2) by the stench of their breath that was unlike any human stench one would normally encounter, and

3) by the presence of God coming into my right hand as I laid my hand upon that person—or as I was near that person.

Whether God anointed only Oral Roberts and no one else to discern demons in this manner, I do not know. Perhaps so. God knew the numbers of people with demons who would come to my ministry for deliverance—particularly in the early years of the crusade prayer lines—and perhaps He gave me a way where I could discern what I was dealing with accurately and quickly. But what I do know is that any true born-again child of God has a certain amount of spiritual discernment of their own. And the Bible seems to indicate that the more we grow and mature in the Lord and use the discernment we do have, the more discernment God gives us and the sharper our ability becomes to discern good from evil. (See Hebrews 5:14.)

There is also a definite "gift" that the Holy Spirit gives to men and women to discern evil spirits. St. Paul calls this the gift of "discerning of spirits" in 1 Corinthians 12:10. This gift is manifested through certain believers by the Holy Spirit as He wills for the *express purpose* of discerning and casting out spirits, or demons. (This gift operates in a way similar to the "gift of faith" in that all Christians have a measure of faith, according to Romans 12:3, yet God sometimes gives a special *gift of faith* at certain times so a person is able to believe God for things greater than usual and to see them accomplished.)

Often people who experience the gift of discerning of spirits operating in their lives in *great* measure are people who are involved in *deliverance ministries*. And it's my opinion that people who deal in deliverance on a regular basis ... those who have both honed the power of discernment given to all Christians and who have "stirred up" the *gift* of discernment operating through the Holy Spirit in their lives ... are usually the ones better equipped to bring about an actual deliverance from demon spirits. Ordinarily they are the ones

most confident in what to do in situations where demons are present. At least, that has been my experience.

It's always important to remember that discerning or casting out demon spirits is a deadly serious matter. It's not something that Christians should ever play with or trivialize in any way. For when a demon spirit has been cast out of its human host, the Bible says that it returns to that same person to seek reentry and brings with it "seven other spirits more wicked than himself." (See Luke 11:2426.) And if that person has truly given his life to Christ and has been filled up with the Spirit of God so that the demons cannot find reentry, then they will seek entry in other persons who may be present at the time and in some way be vulnerable to them. Anyone who is not deadly serious about the situation, who is not covered with the blood of Jesus, and who is in disobedience to God in their own life could very possibly find themselves to be the demons' next target for habitation.

I will always remember one particular crusade service in which I spent time delivering a man who had demons and who had come before me in the prayer line. Because I understood the seriousness of the situation when demons were present and about to be cast out of someone in the presence of many other people, I always asked those in the crowd to get into an attitude of faith before God. As I ministered deliverance while on the platform, I asked the people to lay their hands on the chair in front of them as a *point of contact* for releasing their faith and joining their faith with mine for a miracle. So certain was I that this was of the utmost importance for their own safety that I also told them

I could not be responsible for what might happen to them if they did not follow my instruction. And I was always grateful for their compliance and understanding.

I began to pray in the Name of Jesus and to cast every evil spirit out of the man in front of me, and as he was set free a great cheer went up from the crowd. They knew that the demons had left the person. Suddenly, a woman came running down the aisle toward me, shrieking at the top of her lungs as if she were running for her life. Earlier in the service I had noticed this woman and in my spirit I was aware that she had had a very casual, almost mocking, attitude about everything in the meeting. She very obviously was in an attitude of unbelief and did not understand the seriousness of what was happening in the service. As she ran toward me, she screamed, "They're in me! They're in me! Help me, Brother Roberts!"

As she stood before me, I put my hand on her and in Jesus' Name cast the demons out—according to her own word of testimony, the same demons that I had just cast out of the man moments before. As soon as she was delivered, she

asked to receive Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior and I led her in the sinner's prayer as she was filled up with the Spirit of God.

On another occasion something happened that was very similar, I believe—though we were never able to know for sure because the person involved left the service before we could talk to him. I had just cast a demon out of someone in the prayer line. Often when demons come out, they shriek and scream as they come out, because they don't want to be cast out. They are coming out only because they are commanded to do so by the authority of Christ, which they recognize and must obey.

When a demon is cast out of their human host it is as if someone bigger and stronger than you had invaded your home, and then you had picked them up and physically dragged them out the front door. Can you imagine they would willingly go without a struggle? Of course not! That's exactly what was going on in my crusade service, as these demons were cast out. You couldn't see them, of course, but you could hear them moving out through the crowd, screaming the whole time. Suddenly, we heard a sound like the crack of a rifle going off. Then a man standing near the edge of the tent screamed and ran away from the tent before we could find out what had happened to him. My own feeling in my spirit, though, about what had happened to him was this:

When the demons tried to reenter the person I had cast them out of and could find no point of reentry, they immediately began looking for a new host in which to take up residence. And they took out after whoever in the crowd would provide them with an open door for habitation. The man standing near the edge of the tent was evidently unusually cynical about what was going on in the service. And the demons, knowing that, obviously were drawn to him as a potentially perfect dwelling place in which to set up their new, and hopefully undisturbed, evil abode.

So, you see, I learned long ago in my ministry that you should never, ever let your guard down when dealing with demons. The only thing that demons will recognize as being more powerful than they are is someone with that kind of spiritual anointing of God on their life. It takes that anointing of God to bring about a true deliverance and to keep all those involved protected until the demons are completely banished and unable to do further damage at that time and place.

14. WHAT SHOULD I DO THEN IF I SUSPECT THAT A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE IS DEALING WITH HEAVY DEMONIC OPPRESSION ... OR MAY

NEED TO HAVE A DEMON SPIRIT CAST OUT OF _THEM?

If you are concerned that someone in your family or someone else you love may be under heavy satanic oppression, or possibly even possession to some degree, and you are a born-again Christian of some maturity, I would suggest that *the first thing you do is to make that person a very serious matter of intercessory prayer.*

Ask God for spiritual discernment in the matter so that you may have a clearer understanding of the true source of the person's behavior. If you know of another person or two who could intercede along with you and add their spiritual discernment of the problem together with yours—providing that they will keep the matter confidential and not use it as a source of gossip to pass along to their friends—I would recommend having them join with you.

Then, if you have not already done so by this point, begin to try and rule out other things that could very possibly be a source of cause for the person's problem. Have the person go through a thorough medical examination if they have not done so recently. Sometimes a physical problem, or combination of problems, may be the source of unusual behavior. (For instance, it has just recently come to light that some women are so adversely affected by hormonal changes in their bodies at certain times of their monthly cycle that their entire personality can change for days at a time. In some extreme cases, they have been known to become abusive or physically violent even to the point of committing murder as a result. Sometimes family members hardly recognize their loved one because there is such a change in behavior and personality. But once the condition is diagnosed medically, it seems to be completely treatable and the woman is again able to resume control of her life. This kind of behavior can work in men from other causes which are also not demon possession.)

If you suspect there may be an element of emotional or mental illness in your loved one's condition, encourage them to see someone who deals in that area—either a psychologist, psychiatrist, or some other professional counselor of some type, particularly if you can find such a competent expert who is a born-again believer. In recent years we have just begun to learn that certain vital chemicals can sometimes be deficient in the human brain, causing people to exhibit abnormal or even violent behavior. If that's the case with your loved one, that could be the reason they are acting as they are. And under the treatment of a knowledgeable, caring health professional who knows how to prescribe the right kind of medication, your loved one may find the very miracle he or she needs to be restored. If it's not a matter of a chemical deficiency in the brain, it may be

that your loved one has simply become entrenched in a kind of selfdestructive behavior that over a period of time can be modified through psychological counseling or therapy.

If at all possible, I strongly recommend that you take your loved one to a Christian physician or counselor, so that as they are being treated medically or emotionally the physician or counselor may bring the power of God to bear on the situation.

You can be assured that God has a man or woman of God who is involved in a deliverance ministry and who is willing to deal with your loved one in particular. Jesus is still in the ministry of casting out demons by the prayer of faith or the command of faith.

If you don't know of such a person, perhaps your pastor will know of someone, or a Christian psychiatrist or psychologist. Do not lose hope or courage.

15. HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS ... AND IN PARTICULAR DEMONS ... THAT TRY TO COME AGAINST YOU?_

I believe that the most important thing you can do is to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, for He alone is the Master over demons, and to the best of your ability resist the devil as he comes at you to tempt you to sin.

Read God's Word on a regular basis and learn to hide God's promises in your heart. Memorize key verses and have them ready at all times to use as a sword of the Spirit.

Keep your eyes on Jesus: He is your Source of deliverance.

Tell others about what Christ has done for you. Testify of His goodness as often as you have the opportunity. Remember in Revelation 12:11 we are told we overcome the enemy "by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of [our] testimony."

Stay in a repentant attitude concerning your shortcomings as the Word of God and the Holy

Spirit bring them before you. Stay clean and pure before the Lord.

Remember the Word of God in 2 Timothy 1:12 when you need assurance of God's "keeping" power:

" ... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. "

Live in an attitude of prayer, never trusting your life to yourself. As Paul did,

"Pray in the Spirit, and with the understanding" (1 Corinthians 14:15). See Ephesians 6:18, Jude 20.

One thing I cannot emphasize too much; and that's associating with believers of like faith and understanding, and being under the ministry of a Spirit-filled church and Spirit-filled ministers who understand these things.

WILL YOU LET ME LEAD YOU IN A PRAYER RIGHT NOW?

So often I pray a simple prayer like the one I want to lead you in right now. For, although I am an evangelist of the gospel, I am a human being just like you. I have weaknesses like you. There are times when I feel so tempted of the devil that if I don't stop and pray right then ... if I don't stop and confess my shortcomings and my faults that I am struggling with at that moment, I know Satan and his demons are seeking to enter and take control of my life, just as they are all other God-called ministers.

And, friend, I'm determined that I won't let him do that. I'm determined that no one but Jesus Christ will have control of Oral Roberts' mind, will, and emotions. So I often pray a prayer something like the following.

Will you let me pray this simple prayer with you today? Will you say it out loud after me as you read it? If you will, don't think that just repeating words will work, because it won't work if that's all you're doing. Pray it out of your belly, out of the depths of your being, out of that place where you feel your deepest feelings ... where you know that you know that you know that something is either wrong or it is right.

If you'll do that, then pray these words out loud now:

"Oh, God, I need You today. I'm no match for the devil. I cannot stand against a demon within my own self or my own power. But with Christ in me, I have Him who is greater than the devil, who is greater than any and all demons. Christ alone has the power to master me and to become my only Master.

"God in heaven, Most High God, forgive me of my shortcomings, of my sins. I invite You to fill my heart. Make me a new creature. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to release my prayer language and to pray in the Spirit with understanding. Help me to love my Bible, to study my Bible, to believe my Bible, to live out my Bible every day.

"Help me to testify of Your goodness in my life. Help me to shun the very appearance of evil, the very appearance of sin, to be clean in my thoughts and to bring those thoughts into captivity to God at all times.

"By my own choice and with all of my heart, I determine to serve my God, to be God's child, and to be a witness of His goodness and grace, forever and

ever. In the Name of Jesus, I stand on Your Word, I trust in Jesus' shed blood and His resurrection from the dead. I praise and magnify the Name of Jesus, my Lord and my Savior. Amen and amen."

TESTIMONIES OF GOD'S DELIVERING POWER

My son Richard recently aired several of his daily television programs in which he and his guests—of which I was one—discussed the subject of demons. At the end of the program, deliverance was ministered to all those who felt they needed it. As a result of those programs—and others we have aired —we have received testimonies from people who had been set free from some form of satanic oppression.

I want to share three of these remarkable testimonies with you in this book to encourage your faith for a miracle. One testimony is what I would call an *extreme case* of a young teenage girl who had come under satanic bondage from her involvement of several years in actual Satan worship. Another testimony involved a woman who was under heavy demonic oppression from what I would say is a very *common* cause—past emotional hurts that she had never truly given to God to heal ... while the third is a young man who had given his life over to homosexuality and the occult and who was in a place where many people are without the power of God working in their lives: a slave to temptation and lust.

I chose these three testimonies so you could see that *no problem is too BIG or too SMALL for God.* Whatever problem you're facing in your life right now, however you feel the devil has you in his snare, remember: JESUS can set you free, and if JESUS sets you free, then "ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36)!

Teenage Satan Worshipers Find Deliverance and Salvation Through Christ

On Halloween day, my boyfriend and I walked into our house and *Richard Roberts Live* was on the air. Richard and his guest were talking about the dangers of being involved in the occult. My boyfriend snapped, "Turn that garbage off!" But for some reason I didn't do it. Instead, we sat down and watched the rest of the program. And that day our lives were transformed.

I am 16 years old and I have worshiped the devil since I was 10. My boyfriend's parents are Satan worshipers and he has been raised in it all of his life. But after watching Richard's program, we didn't want anything more to do with worshiping the devil.

I immediately threw away my satanic bible and my upside-down cross and lost all desire to be involved in any more satanic rituals. Then I called the ORU Prayer Tower. I renounced all satanic involvement as the prayer partner prayed with me, and I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord. I even

released my heavenly prayer language as I was filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

Hallelujah!

I'm so thankful that the devils are out of my life now and that I belong to Jesus. Please pray for me as I know my life might be in danger from sharing my testimony about Jesus. But I want everyone to know that Jesus can set you free from anything ... even the devil's snare.

Woman Tormented by Past Hurts Says, "Give Those Hurts to Jesus."

I was emotionally abused as a child. Those hurts built up from the time I was about nine years old, and, as an adult, I was still carrying scars from them.

Later in life I had accepted the Lord and I thought everything in my life was made whole. But very often I would find myself crying in the nighttime, and I wondered why the terrible feelings from the abuse I had suffered as a child would keep coming back. Birthdays were particularly difficult times when I always made my family as miserable as I was. Yet I never associated my troubled spirit with the possibility of demonic oppression until I watched *Richard Roberts Live* one day.

Near the end of the program, Richard said that he saw in his spirit that God was going to deliver someone who had been wearing some kind of a mask, or trying to cover up something painful in their life. Then he looked right into the camera and prayed, "In Jesus' Name, I break the devil's power over your life. You are being set free NOW!"

When Richard spoke that word, I knew it was for me. For years I had hidden and denied my emotional scars, without letting Jesus really heal them. God was saying to me through Richard that demons had been tormenting me in that area I had kept hidden ... and that now He was going to heal me and set me free.

Ever since that day I have been completely set free! My husband was amazed when my birthday came around just a few days later. For the first time in our marriage, it was a peaceful and beautiful day.

Many people have emotional scars they are hiding and covering up like I was, and demon spirits are using that to torment them as they did me. All I can tell you is to give those hurts to Jesus and He will set you free.

Young Man Set Free From the Bonds of Homosexuality and the Occult

For nine years I lived life in the fast lane as a homosexual, going to all the gay bars and bathhouses in Miami. I knew what I was doing was wrong, but I was lost in a world of perversion; the lust within me became overpowering.

The unresolved guilt that I continually carried with me caused me to despise myself, and I attempted suicide several times.

I hadn't always been a homosexual. In fact, I had been married once, and I

had done my best to make the marriage work. But when all my efforts failed time after time, I became vulnerable and I allowed Satan to make the homosexual lifestyle seem like the easier path to take.

Realizing there was an emptiness in my life, I began to search for answers in witchcraft, mind control, tarot cards, and so-called "spiritual advisers"—but nothing worked.

When the man I had been living with died, I finally decided to give God a try. Every weekday I began to watch *Richard Roberts Live* and on Sundays I watched *Expect a Miracle.* Then one day at the end of Richard's program I prayed with Richard and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. That day I was finally able to throw away all my occult materials, pornographic magazines, and membership cards to the gay bars I frequented. Where everything else had failed to set me free from the bondage I was in, God was victorious. I am living proof that Jesus Christ is alive!

Now I'm living my life for Jesus because Jesus is my life ... my hope, my strength, and my salvation. I'm a different man and everybody notices it. God has brought a wonderful Christian young woman into my life and we plan to be married soon. I've joined a church that's on fire for the Lord and I sing in the choir. I carry a Bible and I'm not ashamed to tell the world that God has set me free!

Evangelist Oral Roberts

Has been in the healing and deliverance ministry for more than 47 years. Since his ministry began in 1947, he has conducted more than 300 healing crusades on 6 continents. He has written and published more than 60 books and commentaries on the Holy Bible and has recorded the New Testament on cassette tape with a personal commentary.

Oral Roberts is the founder of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His television program, *Miracles Now,* is seen weekly on TV stations and cable systems nationwide.