

Freedom!

Breaking Generational and Spiritual Bondage

“... if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed!”
Jesus – John 8:36



Bondage – Invisible Chains

Bondage = A mental and spiritual pattern

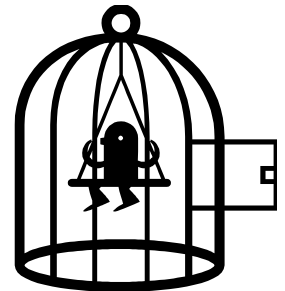
- Which impels us towards destructive behavior
- Which keeps us from living an abundant and fruitful life

In this lesson we learn...

- *Definition of a “generational curse”*
- *How problems, sins and demons pass from generation to generation*
- *How to identify and break a generational curse*
- *What is “spiritual bondage?”*
- *How certain occult or spiritual activities can bring contamination and bondage*
- *How to identify and renounce contaminating spiritual activities*
- *How to be free of demonic bondage, without living in fear and paranoia*

Illustration – Birds that do not fly

Some types of birds can be trained not to fly. Bound with a string, these birds walk around their cages, but never learn to use their wings and fly. After a certain time, the string can be removed, but the bird will continue walking in circles, without ever attempting flight. After so much time in “bondage,” the unfortunate little creature has forgotten his innate capacity to fly! Even though he has wings, he has forgotten how to use them.



Spiritual and generational bondage functions in much the same way in our lives. Our enemy, Satan, has convinced us that we are still slaves to him and can never change. In reality, the Lord Jesus has called us to abundant life, characterized by freedom from every bondage which enslaves us in vicious cycles. By faith, we can enter into our new reality, which is *freedom*. Jesus bought us with his blood and we now belong to him. Under his leadership in our lives, we can now fulfill our potential and live an abundant life in every way. It is up to us, however, by faith in him to break the bondages that hold us down!

In this lesson, we learn about two types of bondage: *Generational and spiritual*. We see how we came to acquire these bonds, and how we can be free.

Part I: Freedom from Generational Curses

Generational Bondage – A negative pattern, inherited from our family background, which impels us to behave in destructive ways.

Like Father – Like Son! Many sins and problems pass down from generation to generation.

- Domestic violence
- Occult
- Alcoholism
- Depression
- Suicide... etc.

Praise the Lord, there is no generational bondage that Christ cannot break!

The Bible teaches that sin passes from generation to generation

... unto the fourth generation.. - Exodus 34:5-7

“Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”



Cain and Lamech – Read Genesis 4:17-24

In this text we see how the sins of Cain passed down the generations and became fully manifest in his descendent, Lamech. How do we see Lamech following in Cain’s footsteps, and taking his ancestor’s sin to a new level of intensity and depravity?

1. _____
2. _____



Abraham and Isaac – Read Genesis 20:1-7 and Genesis 26:1-11

Dejavu!! We say this French Word when we experience the sensation of having previously experienced a certain moment, sometimes in rich detail. Likewise, we often re-live certain patterns which have already been established by our ancestors. The same errors repeat themselves, sometimes in perfect detail!

In this case of Abraham and Isaac, how do we see a sin pass from one generation to another?

Question: *Is it fair that we be punished for the sins of our ancestors?*

God does not punish us for the sins of others!

We are punished because *we repeat the same sins that our fathers committed*. The Word of God clarifies that we suffer generational *punishment* because we commit generational *sin*. The children and grandchildren follow the example of their fathers and commit the same sins. Thus, they suffer the same negative consequences. The Lord declares that a person is in no way guilty for the sins of his fathers unless he also *practices* those sins as well. (Ezekiel 18:1-20)

Therefore, we are not guilty for the sins of our fathers, but many times we are influenced by them in the following ways:

How are sins passed down the generations?

1. *We learn from their bad example*

- Daughters who grow up in families characterized by domestic violence sometimes marry violent men, repeating the same cycle.
- Many kids see their parents' pornography, and follow their example of immorality
- Sons of an unfaithful father might follow this negative model of manhood; and daughters might expect the same behavior from their husbands.

2. *Genetic Tendencies* – we inherit genetic proclivities

- The predisposition to alcoholism
- The tendency to mental illness
- Vulnerability to depression and/or suicide...etc.

3. *Spiritual Transference*

- Demons can pass from parents to children
- Witchcraft and occult spiritism can run in families
- Some families live under special covenants made through occult ceremonies
- The anointing of the Holy Spirit also passes along to children!

4. *Some traumas have generational influence*

- A bitter mother can pass along her mistrust of others to her children
- Some experience rejection even from the womb
- A child can carry pain suffered by his mother during the pregnancy

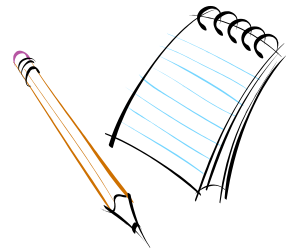
How can we break generational curses?

Be a pioneer – initiate a new beginning for yourself and your descendents

1. *Take an inventory of your family background*
2. *Confess the sins of your ancestors*
3. *Make intercession for the family*
4. *Make a prayer of faith to break every curse*

Step #1: Take an inventory of your family background

Every family leaves a legacy of positive and negative elements. We must discern between the two.



Positive inheritance from your family background

Note below two or three “good inheritances” from your family background. These positive qualities which you have observed in your parents or grandparents can be affirmed, “claimed,” and passed down to future generations.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Negative inheritance

Note below two or three “negative inheritances” from your family background. These destructive patterns which you observed in your parents or grandparents can be acknowledged, confessed, and broken.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step #2: Confess the sins of the fathers

“But if they will confess their sins, and the sins of their fathers... then I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and will remember the land.” Leviticus 26:40-42



What do we learn about the legacy of sin and the legacy of God’s covenants from this verse?

To confess the sins of our fathers is to *ask God to cancel the negative spiritual consequences* that those actions have produced for the ensuing generations.

Step #3: Make Intercession for the family

“Intercessor” = A person who represents others before God

We are connected to our family and nation

According to the Hebrew mentality, all humanity is organically connected. The sins of one member of the community contaminate all. In one case from Old Testament history, the sins of a single Israelite, Achan, provoked the wrath of God upon the entire nation. (Joshua 7). The sin of Adam clearly touches us all, right up to the present day. For good or ill, *we are connected to one another!*

There exists Generational “Blessing” as well!

Thank God, in the same way that sin “spreads,” so also spiritual blessing can be contagious. The promises to Abraham pass along to Isaac and Jacob – and all of us! Through the act of intercessory prayer, a single Jew can represent all his fellow Israelites before the throne of God. Thus we see that Jesus was able to die *for us all*, representing us before his heavenly Father, effectively taking punishment in our place. We also can represent others before God’s throne through a type of prayer called *intercession*. Such intercession can cancel generational curses, and establish generational *blessings!*



The Intercessor identifies with the group he or she represents.

Read Daniel 9:1-7 and 9:15-19

We observe that Daniel uses the first person plural (we) in his confessions, even though he personally had not committed the sins he confesses.

“... we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws...etc.”

If Daniel was a man of such impeccable integrity, then why does he pray in this manner?

Step #4: Make a prayer of faith to break curses

Dare to be a pioneer in your family line!

Prayer of Renunciation

Lord, I confess that my family has participated in _____.

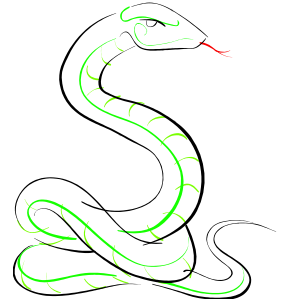
I ask your forgiveness and renounce _____.

I cancel every generational curse that this sin has produced.

Cleanse us and set us free in the name of Jesus Christ! Amen!



Part II: Freedom from Spiritual Bondage



Spiritual Bondage – *A demonic influence in our life, acquired through sinful and/or idolatrous practices.*

We all must “renounce” Satan

In the first generations of the church, new converts were required to “renounce Satan” during their baptismal ceremony. Why, one might ask? Is it not obvious that a person who has converted to the gospel and desires to be baptized has already rejected Satan in his or her life? These early Christians knew that even genuine believers may live under spiritual oppression. Through occult practices of spiritism or idolatry, we can become contaminated with demons, many times without even knowing it.

Common “portals” or entry-ways for demonic influence in our lives.

- 1. Occult practices of idolatry or spiritism***
- 2. Sexual immorality***
- 3. Bitterness***
- 4. Drug or Alcohol use***
- 5. Family inheritance***

1. Occult Practice – idolatry – an entry for demonic influence

“Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? No. But the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons. Are we trying to arouse the Lord’s jealousy? 1 Corinthians 10:19-21

There are many forms of “spiritual idolatry” today

- *Devotion to Saints*
- *Santeria*
- *Spiritual “cleansings”*
- *Use of charms and crystals*
- *Astrology*
- *Witchcraft*
- *Magic*
- *Tarot Cards*
- *New Age*
- *Hypnosis*
- *Ouija Boards*
- *Transcendental Meditation... etc.*



All Spiritism is serious sin

“Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God” Lev. 19:31

“I will set my face against the person who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute himself by following them, and I will cut him off from his people. Consecrate yourselves and be holy, for I am the Lord your God.”” Lev. 20:6-7

“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. ” Rev. 21:8



According to these verses, what are the results of spiritism and divination?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

We must break covenants established by these spiritualistic practices

The spiritual realm functions under *legal norms*. For this reason, even Jesus needed to die to satisfy the legal consequences of sin. Through certain practices, we can give our Enemy a legal *right* to influence our lives. Therefore, it is necessary to renounce Satan, *to cancel such covenants* we have established with the evil one, and to close every door which could have been opened.

2. Sexual Immorality

For good or ill, the sexual union establishes a spiritual connection between two people. This connection leads to an exchange of spirituality as well as physicality.

- ***The Sexual Relationship establishes a spiritual connection – 1 Cor 6:15-18***

... “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh.’ But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.”



- *Cultic sexuality in pagan practice*

Cultic sexuality and prostitution were practiced in ancient paganism. It was believed that engaging in sexual relations in the temple of the pagan god or goddess unleashed spiritual power to make the earth fertile. This combination of sexuality and idolatry recognized that demons and spiritual contamination transfer through sexual union. (See Numbers 25:1-9; Deuteronomy 23:17; 1 Kings 14:23)

- *Mary Magdalene, an ex-prostitute, was delivered from 7 demons (Mark 16:9)*

3. *Bitterness and Anger*

Be angry, but sin not; do not let the sun set on your anger, and do not give the devil a foothold.” Ephesians. 4:26-27

The lack of forgiveness can open a door for demons to establish a foothold in our thoughts and emotions. For this reason, sometimes forgiveness precedes deliverance from demonic oppression.

4. *Drug and Alcohol use*

Throughout human history, witches and shamans used chemical substances to alter their state of consciousness and facilitate their entering the spiritual realm. When we lower the natural defenses of the human mind, we become more vulnerable to spiritual influences.

5. *Family Inheritance*

As we already observed in Part I of this lesson, sin often passes down family lines, causing certain proclivities towards particular sins or spiritual influences. We always have the choice, however, to resist these family tendencies rather than indulging them.

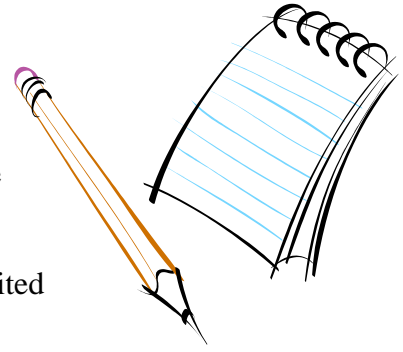
We must “clean house!” – Renounce all contamination

- 1. Take a personal inventory***
- 2. Confess all practices that could have caused contamination***
- 3. Rid ourselves or certain objects and tokens of spiritual sin***
- 4. Make a prayer of renunciation***

Step #1: Take a personal inventory

Make a list of questionable activities from your past that could have invited spiritual contamination.

Note down below any activity from your past which could have invited spiritual contamination into your life.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Step #2: Confess – to a spiritually mature and appropriate person.

“Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you might be healed.”

We remember that demons, like cock-roaches and rats, thrive in darkness. Therefore, when we confess, we turn on a spiritual light, and the demons flee!

Write the name of a person to whom you can confess these things:

_____.

3. Rid yourself of tokens or keepsakes of spiritual idolatry

Sometimes we must throw away objects which symbolize spiritual evil. Especially to be rejected are those objects which are actually used in spiritual, occult practices.
(See also Deuteronomy 7:5; 12:3; 2 Kings 18:4)

Example of the Ephesians



Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. (2.5 million dollars!) Acts 19:18-19

Why was it necessary for the Ephesians to rid themselves of their books about magic?

List some objects which represent idolatry or sin for you, which you should consider discarding.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4. Prayer of Renunciation – Be specific! (Repeat, if necessary)

Lord Jesus, I confess the sin of _____.
(Astrology, Santeria, Use of charms... etc.)

It was rebellion against you, because you only are God.

I renounce every alliance with Satan that was formed through these activities.

Jesus is my Lord!

I ask you, God, to cleanse me of all spiritual contamination

And I cover myself with the blood of Jesus.

Fill me with the Holy Spirit.

I yield control of my life to you once again.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.”





Final Note: Don't "freak out!" We need not live in fear!

Be careful not to become paranoid about demons - Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-31

What did Paul do when served meat which had been sacrificed to idols?

Careful to avoid becoming spiritually contaminated, many brothers in the time of Paul refused to eat meat which had been obtained from animals which had been sacrificed to idols. However, Paul explains that he had no qualms of conscience about eating any meat, even that which had been sacrificed to demonic idols, "*because the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.*" He believed that contamination comes through the worship of idols, but not through the eating of meat.

We need not live in fear of demons!

In Christ we are more than conquerors, and need not live in the fear that demons lurk behind every shadow. The Psalmist puts it well, "*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*" (Ps. 23). By blood of Jesus, we are free of fear, even when the enemy is near.

Affirm your freedom from every bondage!

"... and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free!" John 8:32

"Now the Lord is Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Cor 3:17

Review

What is the definition of a "bondage?"

What are some ways that sin passes from generation to generation?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

What are some steps we can take to break a generational sin or curse?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

What are some ways that people become contaminated by demonic influence?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____.

What are some steps to break a spiritual bondage?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Is it ok to eat in restaurant where idols are worshiped (Thai)? _____.

_____.