

Demolishing Strongholds Video Series

God's Way to Spiritual Freedom

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Demons: My First Encounter

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"



Freedom In Jesus Series

(Part 2)

Demons: My First Encounter

I want to take a few minutes to share with you some of the encounters I've had with demons. This is important because I want each of you watching this series to know that you ARE going to engage demonic forces in the Name and authority of Jesus. And you can evict them just as He commanded His first disciples to do when He sent them out.

My pilgrimage with Jesus began when I was first challenged to read the Bible in 1976. I was 30 years old, on active duty in the Navy as a helicopter pilot, and I'd never read the Bible. In my first reading, I went through it from front to back, looking for errors so I could refute the person who'd challenged me to read it!

When I didn't find any errors or contradictions, I read it through a second time looking for what God wanted from me. As I was finishing the second reading of the Bible, the Spirit of Jesus came into my room on the ship our last night at sea off the coast of California. He told me the steps I needed to take in order to follow Him, and I did — delightedly!

A few weeks later our ship of 2600 men deployed to the western Pacific for 9 months. I asked our Lord Jesus to help me find others onboard who wanted to follow Him no matter what the cost. Within a week Jesus brought to me 3 other men.

We had a simple way of going about our spiritual walk. If we saw it in the Bible, we believed it was true, and we acted on it! We wanted to be as bold and trusting as the earliest followers of Jesus. As weeks went by, we grew in numbers through

miracles of healing, words of prophecy, and the mutual care for each other as spiritual family that we saw in the Bible.

Soon we became aware of a large number of Satanists aboard our ship. Some of the men who put their trust in Jesus had been ex-Satanists. They told us about what they used to do in different ports we visited overseas — the Black Masses, witchcraft, and the sacrifices and praying to Satan against those who followed Jesus.

Unbeknownst to me, one of these Satanists, a man I'll call "Ryan", stood watch right along side me at night in the Combat Information Center. He was the son of pastor and could dance circles around me with Bible knowledge.

Every time we stood watch together, Ryan liked to discuss the Bible. I appreciated his vast knowledge, but I could tell he had no devotion to Jesus; nor could I detect any presence of the Holy Spirit in him.

I left the watch at 4AM one morning and walked back to my stateroom. The most horrible demonic thoughts began to plague my mind. Gross mental images kept coming to me. By the time I opened the door to my room, I was sweating and breathing like I'd just run 10 miles. As I got undressed to climb into my bunk, I felt like I'd just been spiritually and mentally raped.

A few nights later before I was to go on watch at midnight, the ship's doctor, another officer, a Marine corporal and I were together worshipping the Lord in the ship's library. As we were singing, all of a sudden I could hear thousands upon

thousands of angelic voices singing with us.

When we finished the song, I asked if anyone else had heard the voices. The ship's doctor had, but not the other two men. While the four of us were still talking about this, Ryan opened the door to the library and walked in.

As he entered the room he began to swear at us. He walked straight toward me, stopping about 4 feet away. A grayish demon with grotesque features came out of him and hovered between him and me. The ship's doctor fell on the floor in a fetal position yelling out, "Can you FEEL the evil in this room?" The other two men saw and experienced nothing except for Ryan cursing.

I reached my hand forward toward the demon, wondering about what I was seeing. It seemed to have substance, and yet it DIDN'T. As my hand neared the demon, it withered like a prune. When I pulled it back, my hand was whole again.

Just as I'd seen in the Bible, I ordered the demon, "In the Name of Jesus, you get out of here! You're not wanted!" It moved toward the wall next to me, and vanished.

Ryan sat down with us. We could tell he was changed; even his voice wasn't the same. He told us his story: He'd been married and stationed at the Submarine Base in Groton, Connecticut. There he got involved with drugs, then homosexuality. His wife divorced him, and he began to delve into the occult. He learned mind control, projecting his thoughts first on animals until he could

get them to obey him without saying a word. Then he learned mind control on people.

Then Ryan told me, "When you left the watch a few mornings ago, demonic thoughts filled your mind as you walked down the passage way. I put them there." [He went on to describe some of those thoughts to prove he'd put them in my mind.]

He then told us about the Black Masses he'd attended with the other Satanists, and about the particular demon he kept seeing in the corner of his eye. The demon he described was the same one I'd seen come out of him.

The next morning Greg, one of our Christian brothers, came up to me. "Mike, last night as I was praying next to my bunk the Lord spoke to me: 'Tell Mike Dowgiewicz I'm going to use him to cast out demons.'" I told Greg what had happened in the ship's library the previous night. We were both in awe, not only over Ryan's deliverance, but over our Lord's words to Greg.

I then went to the two chaplains onboard our ship for their advice. The first chaplain told me I was lying, and that demons aren't around any more. The second one told me to stay close to Ryan in case the devil came back to him with worse demons.

As my sea duty continued, I saw more demons come out of people. Following the next deliverance, another brother, Dale, came to me the next day. He told me that an image of me had appeared right in front of him at lunch time the previous day, pleading, "Dale, PRAY for

me. I need prayer right now!" It was at the exact time I was calling on the Name of Jesus for the demon to leave a person.

I could describe many more such events which our Lord wanted me to experience. But what I remember to be especially important in each instance is the power and authority of Jesus' Name.

I consider demons to be real, and I KNOW by experience the power of the Name of Jesus in dealing with them.

As you go through the video segments to follow, you'll grow in your understanding of the demonic forces that oppose you. You'll also deepen your relationship with Jesus as you press on to trust in the authority of His Holy Name as He calls you to. Come along with us as we share these biblical truths....