

DELIVERANCE

The dictionary explains this word as -- "to be set free, or to be saved from evil."

There are many examples in the Bible of God Delivering His people and we can very easily adapt them to our lives today. Often when our situations seem absolutely impossible, God comes through, in miraculous ways, in answer to Prayer.

Noah was Delivered from the flood (Genesis 8), Lot was Delivered from the fiery wrath of God (Genesis 19:29), Israel was Delivered from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 7-15), Daniel from the Lions (Daniel 6), the Apostles from prison (Acts 5:17-26), and Paul from death (2 Corinthians 1:9-10) -- to name just a few.

The account of the Apostle Peter being imprisoned with tight security is another example of God's Deliverance. James had just been martyred (Acts 12:2) and Peter was put in prison. The Christians had gathered to pray for Peter, and God, in answer to Prayer, released Peter and even those who were praying found it hard to believe when he arrived at the house of Mary and knocked on the door (Acts 12:13) where many had gathered together for Prayer .

Another use of our title word, Deliverance, is when God gives victory of some besetting sin in the life of an individual -- alcohol, tobacco, drugs, adultery, pornography -- things seemingly beyond our control -- but by His Power the individual is set free. We are told, *"the Lord knows how to Deliver the Godly out of temptations"* (2 Peter 2:9).

The Apostle Paul tells us -- *"For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia -- that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who Delivered us from so great a death, and does Deliver us -- in whom we trust that He will still Deliver us"* (2 Corinthians 1:8-10).

Another testimony of Paul -- *"He has Delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of His Love"* (Colossians 1:13), and then shares the secret of this Deliverance -- *"For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the Living and True God, and to wait for His Son from Heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus Who Delivers us from the wrath to come"* (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).

The chorus of a Grand Old Hymn tells it like this -- *"He is able to Deliver thee, He is able to Deliver thee, though by sin oppressed, go to Him for rest -- Our God is able to Deliver thee."*

What sin is holding you in its grip? What sin -- big or small -- is keeping you from the Perfect Peace of God? Is it a habit? Is it something from your past? Is it something that seems so very horrendous that you have given up all hope that there could possibly be a Deliverance from it?

We have Good News for you! That is exactly what the word "Gospel" means -- GOOD NEWS! -- as we said in our opening paragraph -- "to be set free" -- "to be saved from evil."

Never give up hope! God is able to Deliver! God Loves you so very much that He gave up the Life of His only Most Precious Son that you and I could be set free -- "DELIVERED" -- from whatever is defeating us -- call on Him --

GOD IS ABLE TO DELIVER!



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