

Title: Binding the Enemy: Prayers and Commands to Alleviate Demonic Harassment and/or Oppression

July 4, 2001

Greetings all,

Just posted another essay.

Blessings,

Dr. Lehman/Karl

Want to support the Lehman's Immanuel Approach work? Click here for more information:
<https://www.immanuelapproach.com/supporting-lehmans-immanuel-approach-work/>

**“Binding”¹ the Enemy:
Prayers and Commands to Alleviate Demonic Harassment and/or Oppression
(Revised 7/2/2001)**

The primary purpose of these prayers and commands is to provide temporary relief from demonic oppression and/or harassment between prayer for emotional healing sessions. These prayers and commands are not intended to provide permanent deliverance from demonic oppression and/or harassment. Our perception is that harassing/oppressing demonic spirits are usually anchored to wounds, lies, and sins that have not yet been resolved. If deliverance prayer is attempted before these wounds, lies, and sins are resolved, the demonic spirits leave temporarily but then come back easily.² A “window” for re-entry seems to open whenever something triggers the wounds and lies the demonic spirits previously infected. This is especially true if one's response to the activated lie and accompanying negative emotions is sinful behavior. We therefore agree with many others that it is best to bind demonic spirits until the underlying wounds, lies, and sins have been resolved. At that point

¹There is much scholarly debate about the meaning of “binding” and “loosing” found particularly in Matthew 16:19 and 18:18. While some believe it refers to the Christian's authority over evil spiritual forces, many do not. Our usage of the word is not intended to invoke the authority referred to in these verses. Rather we are using the term as a simple way to express the idea of rendering harmless any evil which may be attached to some wound, deception or sin in a person's mind. That we as Christians do have authority over evil spirits is attested elsewhere in Scripture (Mtw 10:1, Luke 9:1, Luke 10:17-20).

²Most ministers experienced in prayer for emotional healing seem to agree on this point. See, for example, Francis MacNutt Deliverance From Evil Spirits, pp. 182-195, and Charles Kraft Deep Wounds, Deep Healing pp. 255-273, Defeating Dark Angels pp.119-156, 177-198.

the harassing/oppressing demonic spirits can be easily removed.³

We give these sample prayers and commands to our clients as a handout. We discuss with them that all problems aren't demonic, but we encourage them to experiment humbly with this between sessions. In this humble attitude, little harm is done trying this prayer on fear, suicidal thoughts, or other thoughts and emotions that oppress them. If the problem is demonic, this simple binding prayer often helps dramatically. If it is not demonic, then we keep working to address other possible sources. As many of you know, often it is some of both, and eliminating the demonic component makes it easier to work with anything else. We have had a number of clients who were amazed to discover longstanding symptoms that resolved immediately with this simple binding prayer. Clients can also share these prayers with any family or friends who wish to support them in prayer.

Preparatory/faith foundation prayers: These prayers were especially helpful to me as I (Karl) was just beginning to minister in my authority in Christ over demonic opposition. I experienced a lot of uncertainty and insecurity, and found that the affirmations of truth and scriptural references bolstered my faith and authority.

Commands to bind the enemy: Our perception is that focusing the target increases the impact of our commands. For example, addressing "demonic spirits contributing to this sleepiness" as opposed to "all demonic spirits present." The caveat is that this only applies when you have the right target. The risk is that you can miss something. Demonic spirits are happy to take any loopholes (for example, if internal parts are causing sleepiness and a demonic spirit is contributing confusion, they are happy to dodge if you address "all demonic spirits causing this sleepiness"). The "shotgun" approach is less likely to miss, but has less impact on what it hits. We are constantly observing and learning regarding all of this. We will share as we learn. We also welcome input from you all.

Enforcement/demonic behavior modification: We are currently experimenting with using the enforcement prayer below at the end of every interaction with demonic spirits. It seems burdensome regarding time and energy, but our hope is that in the long run we will experience the same kind of benefits that parents experience when they take the time and energy to consistently enforce any rules they make (a lot more obedience and a lot less nonsense). See "Dealing With Demonic Interference/Opposition During the Session" for additional comments.

Dissociative parts: Sometimes people who have dissociated parts in their internal psychological system will feel frightened, threatened, or confused by binding and/or deliverance prayer. It can feel like the dissociated parts are being attacked and/or prayed against. If you suspect the person you are praying for may have dissociated parts (one clue is that the person will feel frightened/threatened by deliverance or binding prayer), be sure to discuss this and to clarify that this prayer is addressing only demonic spirits, and NOT any part

³See "Closing Prayer" on the Ministry Aids page for additional comments regarding this point and for a sample prayer to permanently remove demonic spirits.

of the person.

Note regarding sample prayers and commands: We are trying to provide practical ministry aids, especially to assist those who are just getting started. Please do not feel obligated to use these words or constrained to use only the content included here. We have worked hard to include in our ministry aids the components we find important and helpful, but we do not want anyone using these prayers and commands as if the exact words have some special or magical power.

“Binding” the Enemy: Sample Prayers and Commands

Preparatory/faith foundation prayers (optional):

“Lord Jesus, I/we recognize you as the supreme authority over all of creation. I/we claim the truth that you have invested me/us with your authority as your children and as your ambassadors I/we position myself/ourselves in your authority and acknowledge that all I/we do comes through you and through the power you have invested in me/us as your child/children and ambassador(s). I/we ask you to guide me/us and grant me/us discernment and wisdom.”

Satan and all evil spirits under you, I/we confront you with the truth. Jesus Christ has been Lord over you since your creation. He triumphed over you in the wilderness and every day during His ministry on earth. He triumphed over you on the cross and in the grave. His resurrection has sealed your fate, and is ultimate proof of His victory over you, and proof of your inability to oppose Him. Jesus has continued to triumph over you throughout the earth during the last two thousand years of Christian history.

I/We stand humbly in my/our position in Christ. I/We are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph 2:6). I/We abide in Christ as branches in the vine (John 15:4-8). I/We are living temples (1 Cor 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16), with Jesus and the Heavenly Father living in our hearts (John 14:23), as promised in Scripture. I/We are surrounded by and filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

I/We come boldly in the authority of Jesus Christ, speaking the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (Eph 6:17), into this situation. I/We come obeying Jesus’ explicit commands to heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out demons (Mtw 10:8). I/We come in the authority Jesus has explicitly given us over evil. I/We come with spiritual weapons in the name of Jesus for exposing and tearing down your strongholds (2 Cor 10:4-5).

Commands to Bind the Enemy:

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command all demonic spirits _____ (*examples: “contributing to this depression”, “contributing to these suicidal thoughts”, “contributing to this fear”*) or harassing or oppressing me/ _____ (*name*) in any way to be bound in and under the name and authority of Jesus Christ.”

“You may not touch my/ _____’s mind, body, or spirit in any way except as the true Lord Jesus allows in order to provide information He wants us to have. You may not harass or oppress me/ _____. You may not hinder the work of Jesus Christ in my/ _____’s life in any way.”

Enforcement/Demonic Behavior Modification (optional):

“We command you now to submit yourselves to the true Lord Jesus Christ and deal with Him personally regarding whether you have adequately complied with our commands.”

“Lord Jesus, we acknowledge you as the righteous judge and we submit these demonic spirits into your hands with respect to whether they have adequately complied with our commands. We ask you to deal with them as You see fit. (Optional⁵) We ask that you release and empower the angelic warriors you have prepared to enforce compliance in this situation.”

⁵Charles Kraft (**reference**) describes benefit with specifically asking the Lord for angelic assistance. Include this only if you feel comfortable doing so.