

CHAPTER 8

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE LIES THE DEMON WILL TELL THE PERSON WHILE YOU ARE TRYING TO HELP THEM

And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Mark 1:34 (ESV)

The whole time you are seeking to help the person get delivered the demon(s) will be lying to them

In case I haven't said enough things so far which might put you off deliverance ministry, here's another. The whole time you are trying to tell the truth to the person and helping them to be set free, the demon will be lying to them to avoid being cast out.

This is not a fair fight played to gentlemanly rules like a tennis match at Wimbledon. The demon is determined to stay and he will tell the person he inhabits whatever lies he can get away with to achieve that. He has no morals or conscience and has zero regard for truth. He respects power and authority and nothing else.

Therefore, when a demon leaves a person it is solely because he has been *forced to do so* by the exercise of your God given authority. It is not because you have persuaded the demon that he is in the wrong and ought to do the decent thing. Therefore, if the demon can deceive you or the person you are helping he will do so with any or all of the following lies. And any one of these lies can take away your authority to cast him out. For example, they will seek to convince *him* that:

- a) there is no demon – such that he no longer needs your help and you are wasting his time
- b) he need not repent because what he did wasn't wrong, or was justified or was only trivial or was a long time ago
- c) he cannot or should not forgive, or there is no need to
- d) his past involvement in the occult / idolatry / false religion wasn't wrong or wasn't his fault or had no effect or was too long ago to matter
- e) you can't be trusted, or are invalid, unqualified, a hypocrite, picking on him, trying to control him, out to get him, or whatever else it takes to convince him not to listen to you
- f) deliverance ended in the first century and is not for today
- g) it won't work anyway so why even try?
- h) deliverance would be humiliating and he will say and do embarrassing things in front of people

In addition, the demon will speak lies into *your* mind to try to convince *you* that:

- a) you aren't qualified or worthy to do deliverance ministry
- b) people will consider you weird and eccentric if you do
- c) demons wouldn't obey you anyway

- d) the ministry of deliverance ended in the first century and if it was valid today everyone would be doing it
- e) you will be criticized, if you carry on with this
- f) you will lose friends and upset people
- g) you might be driven out of the church
- h) you have no authority over demons as only very important people can do deliverance
- i) its best just to drop the whole idea

I assure you this campaign of deception, which is directed both at you and the person you are helping, **will happen**. It isn't just a possibility. Moreover, it will be sustained and intense. It is inevitable. Indeed, what else would you expect the demons to do? What else can they do? Lying is their main defence system and it is very effective.

It is made all the more effective by the fact that deception is not a Christian's natural way of thinking or operating and we don't identify with it or have enough experience of handling it. But for them lying is their native language and they are fluent in it. But perhaps their most effective lie is the way they conceal their own existence and convince the person they do not have a demon, as we see in the case study about 'Frank' below. I have come across that lie many times.

As well as telling him lies, the demon(s) will seek to confuse the person's mind and scramble his thoughts so he can't think straight

As I was writing this chapter, I was dealing with a young man and he had made a list of people he needed to forgive. So, I sat down with him to help him to go through the list properly. However, just before we were about to start, he suddenly said *"I don't know what to say. My mind has gone all confused and I don't know how to go through the list. I feel like they are interfering with my mind"*.

I immediately encouraged him and told him that was a very good sign because it meant the demons really didn't want us to go through that list. I therefore told him we should be all the more determined to go through it and all the more confident that we are doing the right things – as proved by the fact that they were trying to stop us.

I said *"If I had just asked you to read out from the phone book they would have been quite happy with that and would have left you alone. But they clearly don't want you to forgive these people."* So, we paused for a moment and I prayed for him, i.e. a prayer of supplication asking God to bind the demons and to prevent them from interfering with his thoughts so he could think straight and go through his list properly.

Then I urged him to make a similar prayer of supplication for himself. Then we resumed the process of forgiving people, by way of him proclaiming his forgiveness of them into the heavenly places. All went well and he got through the whole list properly and with a clear mind.

What's more, the following day when I met with him again, this time to go through his list of key sins which he needed to repent of, the exact same thing happened. The demons began to scramble his thoughts again just as he picked up his list of key sins to go through it. So we stopped again and each of us prayed for God's help to keep his mind clear and to prevent the demons interfering.

And it worked again. He was able to go through the list admirably and I was very impressed with his earnest determination to fully repent. Indeed, I think he also took note of what I had told him about how the interference was a positive sign and proved he was doing the right thing. So, not only had the demons failed to stop him but they had also unintentionally caused him to learn a vital lesson about how we can be encouraged by their opposition and use it to motivate us to press on.

This analogy from Bomber Command in World War Two might help to illustrate that point further. It is that when the Royal Air Force flew over Germany each night, the anti aircraft fire (flak) got much heavier whenever they were flying directly over the target. So, if they were flying over Berlin, which was hard to find because there was a strict blackout throughout all of Germany, making it totally dark, the one thing they did get was very intense flak.

That told them they were in a place where the Germans didn't want them to be. But there would have been no flak at all if they had just been flying over the Black Forest and posed no threat. Likewise, when you are up against demons, their opposition in the form of lies, confusion and other forms of obstruction will get more intense if you are doing the right things which are going to lead to the person being set free.

But if you were doing or saying something irrelevant or ineffective which would be no threat to them, they will leave you alone. Therefore, choose to be encouraged by their opposition and see it as confirmation that you are on target and let it motivate you all the more to persevere.

A case study of 'Frank', a man who felt compelled to drink alcohol, and how the demon urged him to drink while also convincing Frank it was all his own fault and not due to any demon

What happened to Frank shows how a demon can keep a person in their grip, making them feel compelled to drink alcohol while, at the same time, keeping their involvement concealed so the person believes there is no demon involved. I want to get that point across because it is of much wider application and does not only occur in cases of compulsion to drink, or any other compulsion.

Indeed, the way the demon deceived Frank, and convinced him this was all his own fault, due solely to his own weakness, and nothing to do with demons, is important. It reveals a central part of their technique which you need to recognise and be ready to explain to the people you are helping.

Frank claimed to be a Christian, albeit a fairly new and immature one, and he continued to feel a compulsion to drink alcohol and to get drunk, even after his conversion. Note that I insist on using the word 'compulsion' rather than 'addiction' because addiction implies it is something medical or psychological rather than a spiritual (demonic) issue.

The word compulsion is more precise and helpful since it indicates that where there is compulsion there must be a '*compeller*'. Moreover, that compeller must be a demon, since it plainly isn't being done by any human being as there is nobody else present. Neither can it be done by the person himself as a person can't "*compel himself*" or "*override his own will*." That would be a contradiction in terms.

If you use the word 'addiction' it misleads you into assuming you are dealing with a medical issue, or a chemical imbalance, or a genetic defect or a psychological problem – i.e. anything other than face the fact that it is a demon. That's why the world, and the Devil, push the use of the word 'addiction'. It takes your eye off the ball so you never see the real cause of the compulsion.

At any rate, the key problem Frank faced was this overwhelming urge to drink alcohol to the point of getting drunk and he would therefore hide drink in the house and also buy it secretly so his wife wouldn't see it happening. But this compulsion only arose *at certain times, not all the time*. That fact alone is important because if it had been a medical or psychological issue, why wouldn't it occur *all* the time or at *random* times?

But it didn't. It only ever occurred when Frank was *alone*, never when his wife was present or when other people were around. Again, one has to ask why, if it was a "medical problem", it would wait until Frank was alone and without the support of other people before manifesting itself. Who ever heard of an arthritic knee or an ingrowing toenail which only hurts when you are alone?

So, I spoke to Frank about this compulsion to drink and he said it would suddenly overwhelm him at certain times such that he was effectively compelled to get a drink. He then told me of how he and his family had gone on holiday for two weeks such that he was continuously with them and never alone and that during those two weeks he had felt no compulsion to drink.

However, as soon as they got back home again, and all got on with their jobs so he was alone for the first time, the overwhelming urge to drink reappeared and he succumbed again and got some alcohol. I pointed out to Frank that it was plainly caused by a demon because it was able to turn the compulsion on and off like a light switch and to ensure it only happened when Frank was alone, without support. That was when he was most vulnerable and most likely to give in to the compulsion.

The peculiar thing, however, was that Frank had a strange reluctance to accept that a demon was causing it. He stubbornly insisted it was his *own weakness* that was the problem and that he just needed to "*get stronger*". At this point his wife chipped in and said that she too had told Frank many times that this was being caused by a demon but he always resisted that idea and insisted on taking all the blame upon himself.

I challenged Frank on this and pointed out the oddness of his insistence that he alone was to blame for it, given that the normal behaviour pattern for human beings is to blame others and resist any suggestion that they themselves could be at fault. Although, of course, people are usually wrong to blame others in that way, it is nevertheless, the normal way for people to behave, because most people see themselves as obviously right.

Therefore, I pointed out this inconsistency to Frank and said his position is as follows:

- a) In 99% of cases where he *is at fault*, he *resists that* and (like most people) refuses to take the blame and automatically blames others – just as motorists do whenever anything unfortunate happens on the road. You never hear anyone saying after a near miss "*What a fool I am!*". On the contrary, most drivers instantly say, or at least think, "*What's that idiot doing?*".
- b) Yet here, *in this one case of the drinking*, where he is not the cause, Frank is insisting on taking the blame and recoils strongly from the idea that it was a demon doing it. His reluctance to accept that was partly because Frank felt ashamed of the idea of having a demon. He also claimed he was saying it because he felt it would be wrong to "*pass the buck*" and that he should face up to it and "*take responsibility*".

I said to Frank "*Are you also going to take the blame for destroying the Twin Towers?*". It was no coincidence that *the one and only* sin in his life about which he felt a strong urge to take the blame was

this one - i.e. the one which is actually being caused *by the demon, not him*. It was interesting also that the demon was even using pseudo religious terminology and reasoning to deceive him into taking the blame as if there was virtue in doing so, and denying the fact that it was actually the demon doing it.

Although most of us, *most of the time*, need to be far *more* willing to take the blame, that is not always the case and it was *not the case here*. I told Frank that he was being lied to and that the obviousness of that lie, if he could only see it, would actually be helpful to him in revealing the involvement of the demon – the very thing it was seeking to conceal. Sometimes demons go a bit too far in the lies they tell and inadvertently reveal what they are doing.

However, Frank was still unconvinced and reluctant to allocate any blame to the demon. So, I asked him to explain to me the thought process he had gone through to arrive at the conclusion that he alone was to blame. But he couldn't, because *there had not been any thought process*. No thinking at all had occurred. There had been no analysis or deductive reasoning or chain of logic to which he could now point to explain or justify his conclusion.

He had never thought it through at all. The demon had simply *planted the thought*, ready made, into his mind and he had accepted it as if it was his own thought and therefore, as we have seen above, obviously correct. But it was a conclusion which was not only inherently implausible but also one for which he had zero memory of ever having thought it through or figured it out. Both those facts were clear evidence that his thoughts on this issue were not his own but were the demon's.

However, even after all that, Frank was still unwilling to accept that his compulsion to drink was due to a demon. Therefore, even while the lie was being pointed out to him, the demon was still at work, causing him to cling onto the lie. It was so ingrained he could not shift it and was confused and bewildered. He could hear what I was saying and could hear his wife agreeing with me, but still couldn't force his mind to see what had happened and to realise he had been believing a lie.

When a lie gets really entrenched like that, as if it was carved into stone, it takes a lot of work to shift it. The remedy I suggested to Frank was to "*take every thought captive*" and be "*transformed by the renewing of his mind*" as apostle Paul tells us. I then advised him to say out loud twice a day for at least the next week or two the following statements or proclamations to help his mind to see the truth and alter its "software" or its "default settings". The statements were:

- a) "*Not all my thoughts are my own. Some are planted into my mind by demons.*"
- b) "*Not all my thoughts are true – some are wrong and some are lies.*"
- c) "*This thought, that my compulsion to drink is caused by my own weakness rather than by a demon, is one such lie.*"

Demons are very skilled at taking half-truths or garbled misrenderings of biblical truths and using them to get you to believe a lie. I then asked Frank to imagine a newsagent whose shop is robbed by an armed thug who takes the contents of the till. I asked Frank "*Do you think the police should arrest the newsagent for the offence of weakness?*"

Admittedly, if a young Clint Eastwood had happened to be working in that newsagent at the time, the robber might have had a nasty shock and the outcome could have been very different. But that doesn't alter the fact that we must identify the real, actual, proper cause of the problem and that is the robber,

not the newsagent. And, in this instance, it is the demon not Frank – notwithstanding that Frank might well be to blame for 100 other things which really are his fault.

So, I gave Frank the “homework” of reciting those three truths a) to c) to himself every day for a week or more to get them to sink into his mind and dislodge and replace the lie. That can take a lot of time and effort, especially when a lie is deeply entrenched and has been believed for a long time.

However, it is noteworthy that when I later checked up on Frank to ask how he had been getting on with reciting those three truths he said he had not been doing so because *he had forgotten what they were!* The demon(s) had made sure of that. It was no coincidence. They also made sure he didn’t ring me to ask me to remind him of what they were. That is the level of opposition you face in trying to set a person free. The demons will interfere in every possible way and at every stage.

Even when we do begin to know the truth, there are levels and degrees of knowing, ranging from being barely conscious of a fact, to a willingness to consider it as possibly true, or even as probably true, and all the way through to the other end of the spectrum where we see it as a definite known fact of which we are truly convinced and “*know in our knower*”.

It is that strong, solid level of knowing that Frank needed in order to fully dislodge and replace the lie with the truth. Until and unless he could get past this first roadblock and realise it is actually a demon causing his compulsion to drink, not himself or his “weakness”, he would not be able to take all the preparatory steps necessary to get the demon cast out because his heart wouldn’t be in it. He would be easily deceived into thinking deliverance isn’t needed, or isn’t real or is even ridiculous.

Therefore, if you want the demon cast out you need to get to a place where you are truly convinced that you have one inside you. And you need to “*know*” it in the same way you know $2+2=4$. If all you have is an abstract, hypothetical, airy fairy acceptance that you “might have a demon”, you will never be sufficiently motivated to do what is needed to be set free.

Some further advice I gave to Frank on how to identify whether his thoughts and feelings were his own or had been planted by a demon

I met with Frank again for a third time, a few weeks later and, unfortunately, he was still struggling to believe there was a demon inside him, despite all the evidence. I asked why he still felt unwilling to believe he had a demon inside him compelling him to drink and also causing several other problems. But Frank became vague and wasn’t able to spell out his reasons for still believing there was no demon inside him.

I had been quite forthright with Frank in the previous meeting, our second discussion, as I noticed he hadn’t been doing the “homework” I had set him. He also hadn’t been reading his Bible each day as I had advised him to. That’s why I felt I needed to be a bit more assertive with him.

That seemed to shake Frank a bit because I had been more gentle in the first meeting. But we went on to discuss more closely how demons lie to us. I even warned Frank that they would lie to him immediately after the meeting and seek to convince him that I was not to be trusted and that I was mistaken.

So, we met again a couple of weeks later for our third meeting and some interesting things emerged. Firstly, I asked Frank if he had thought or felt anything during or since our second meeting. He was

bashful and evasive and was reluctant to say. But his wife spoke for him and said three main things had come to Frank's mind and emotions. She knew because he had told her, though he was reluctant to tell me.

The first thing was a comment he had made to his wife which involved foul language concerning what he thought of me and what I'd been telling him. So, I said to Frank I wasn't the slightest bit offended by that but I invited him to consider whether, if that thought had been his own, it would have been expressed in such foul language.

He agreed it wouldn't have been. So, I emphasised that that thought had therefore clearly been planted in his mind and was not his own. Then his wife said there were two other things, one of which was a feeling and the other a thought. These were:

- a) a feeling of panic during the second meeting such that he had even felt an urge to run out of the house as he felt so uncomfortable about being told he had a demon inside him and also felt I was "having a go at him", i.e. attacking him.
- b) A thought which came to his mind rather than his emotions after the meeting, which was that "*a Christian can't have a demon.*" This became a real stronghold over the following weeks and he became more and more determined to prove he was right.

So, there you have three things which he experienced, two of which were thoughts and one a feeling which was not therefore expressed in the form of words. I responded to each as follows:

- a) The foul language was clearly not from himself but was planted into his mind. I also suggested it may well indicate the demon was alarmed about the prospect of being cast out and that may have caused it to go a bit too far as "its cage had been rattled".
- b) As for the feeling of panic, that was clearly not from Frank's own emotions but was from the demon and reflected its own sense of panic, like a fox being pursued by the hunt. I also asked Frank: "*Does it sound likely that I would invite people to meet with me so I can attack them?*" He laughed and agreed that it didn't. So, I then asked "*But does it seem likely that a demon might lie to you about that in order to make you wary of me so you would discontinue our meetings?*" Frank agreed that that made a lot more sense.
- c) As for the 'thought' that came to him that "a Christian can't have a demon", I asked Frank, who was a new and immature Christian with very little Bible knowledge,
 - i. "*How likely is it that your own mind would conjure up such a thought on such a deep theological issue?*"
 - ii. "*And why would your own mind put it as a conclusion rather than a question?*"
 - iii. "*And how likely is it that you, who have hardly studied any of the Bible would be right on this anyway and that I who have studied it for decades and written a book about deliverance would be wrong?*"

It might at first sight sound arrogant for me to put that third question to Frank, but my aim was to try to get him to see the unlikelihood that any of those three things had originated in his own mind or emotions. They were all inherently improbable, though he couldn't see that.

I then set Frank some additional “homework” to try to get him to see the difference between his own thoughts and feelings, and those that are planted by a demon, so he could become more skilled and discerning at recognising each, and identifying its ‘origin’. I put a few sample thoughts to him such as:

a) *“I think this lawnmower needs a new battery”*

Frank immediately agreed that would be a genuine thought of his own because the demons aren’t bothered whether he gets a new battery for his lawnmower or not.

b) *“I’m a useless husband and I’m a failure to my family.”*

I said to Frank that such a thought would never come from the Holy Spirit because He would never speak in such scathing, condemning terms. Anything He says will be wholesome and constructive, not accusing or insulting. Therefore, the options are Frank himself, or a demon, and he quickly agreed that such a negative, condemning, depressing thought would have to be from a demon.

We did some more of these exercises and Frank was able to tell quite easily each time where it came from. So, we were making some progress. I then set Frank some homework for the next two weeks which was to write down all his thoughts and feelings during each day and put them all into written words on a page.

One advantage of this is that when you write a thought or feeling down in black and white, anything foolish, false or unwholesome will immediately stand out as such. Conversely, anything genuine, healthy and biblical will look authentic when you see it written down.

I said by doing this he would steadily learn to differentiate between his own thoughts and feelings, and those that come from a demon. So, I recommend that you use this technique for a while, either for yourself or those you are helping, to assist in developing discernment.

Sadly, Frank did not take my advice, did not recite those statements and did not continue to meet with me. At the point of writing this, he is even more adamant that “a Christian can’t have a demon” and he is now angered by the very suggestion. The vehemence of his attitude causes me to doubt whether he was ever actually saved at all, which is hardly surprising in this apostate age.

A case study of ‘Ben’, a man who was lied to by the demon(s) inside him to persuade him he had not acted wrongly when he lied to various companies and was justified in doing so. They lied to him to prevent Ben genuinely repenting

I have previously referred to Ben in chapter 4 in the context of trying to get him to repent of his sins for the purpose of preparing for deliverance. Ben had drawn up a long list of sins but when I read it I noticed that one sin, or category of sin, was missing. That was dishonesty.

I knew Ben and had some knowledge of his financial dealings, for example with his insurance company and electricity supplier and also using illegal streams to watch football games he hadn’t paid for. He had spoken openly of these things beforehand, as he was quite happy with, even proud of, what he had done.

Therefore, I raised the issue of dishonesty with him months later in the context of deliverance ministry, and it didn’t go down well. By the way, when you are dealing with people who need deliverance there will be times when you have no alternative but to be assertive and even courageous, in standing up to

them. You will need to contradict what they say and continue to pursue a point even after they indicate they don't agree or don't want to discuss it.

Sometimes they express their displeasure very robustly and that was so with Ben. Indeed, anyone less assertive than me would probably have given up and stopped making the point about honesty. But my years in the police gave me Olympic level assertiveness. The point is, I knew Ben had told a number of lies including the following three:

- a) misleading his car insurer in order to be able to get car insurance for his car
- b) lying to his electricity provider by falsely claiming he was moving out of the area in order to get them to release him from his contract without a penalty
- c) using illegal TV streams to watch football games without paying any subscription

When I pursued this issue with Ben he didn't acknowledge any of this to be sin. On the contrary, he began to *argue with me* and to say the car insurance company and electricity provider were dishonest themselves, had treated him badly and were being difficult with him. So, in various ways, Ben was resisting me when I was saying his lies were a sin which he needed to repent of. He didn't see that any of it was wrong.

Instead, he was excusing, minimising and even justifying these sins. But do you see that if Ben was to continue with that attitude it would not be possible for him to repent of lying? It is a contradiction in terms to "repent" of a sin if you are at the same time excusing it, minimising it, justifying it, or even outright denying that it was a sin at all.

You can repent or you can justify yourself. But you can't do both at the same time. Anyway, I continued to press the point with Ben and said it was irrelevant how dishonest or unpleasant the insurer or electricity provider might be. I said they will be judged by God later and separately and that all God is concerned about at the moment is *what you have done, not what they did*.

In our second meeting, I made some progress and got Ben to the stage where he was willing to acknowledge, albeit only at the level of his mind, not his feelings, that what he did was wrong. He spoke as if it was a minor technical issue. But it went no deeper or wider than that.

It was just head knowledge, a purely mental acknowledgement of sin, and it was done very reluctantly, even on that limited basis. So, I challenged Ben further and said real repentance needs to be done by our whole person, by every part of us, not just our mind, as I discussed earlier in chapter 4.

Therefore, our repentance must also involve our *emotions*, with which we *feel* the wrong of what we did, plus our *will*, with which we *resolve* to stop sinning, plus our *body*, with which we *take steps* to put right the wrong we did. But in Ben's case his repentance at that stage was purely mental and he certainly displayed zero feeling of remorse or sorrow. Neither did I detect any resolve to change in future, i.e. in his will.

I actually had a series of preparatory meetings with Ben and when we met for the third time I raised this issue of dishonesty again because I had asked him to read and reflect on Zechariah 5:1-4. That passage describes what God does to those who lie and steal and how He actually sends a curse to pursue them, even into their homes.

But Ben obviously hadn't reflected on the passage since our previous meeting and was clearly irritated that I had raised the issue of honesty yet again. He said he felt frustrated because he was eager to get on and get delivered and yet I was still bringing up this same issue which he even described as "pedantic" and as "going off at a tangent". He was quite abrupt, even rude, in how he said this to me, in a snappy tone of voice.

Even as he said this my heart sank because I knew those were not the words, and certainly not the tone of voice, of a genuinely penitent man. I therefore stood my ground assertively and said "*I am not going off at a tangent. I am remaining exactly on the point, like a laser beam, because the crunch issue for you is whether you can come to a place where you truly repent of dishonesty or continue to excuse it and defend yourself.*"

Ben then expressed more frustration at why I was continuing to make an issue of this, especially as the companies he had lied to were large and wouldn't have been hurt by it. I replied that it doesn't matter whether the person or company he lied to is big or small, rich or poor, or whether it is harmed or unharmed by what he did. I insisted that the only point that matters is he told a lie and his doing so offended and grieved God Himself.

That is what really matters as He is the Person we have primarily sinned against. The effect our lie had on the other party, though very important, is of secondary importance and, in any case, our own guilt is not lessened by the fact that the other party is large or rich or "won't miss the money". Do you see the series of lies the demon was consistently telling Ben to get him to remain unrepentant about his own dishonesty? It told him:

a) what he did wasn't sinful because the companies he lied to were bad people themselves and had treated Ben badly

b) the lies didn't matter much because the companies were big and wouldn't be hurt by the lies

Now they told Ben a third lie, which was to put the thought into his mind that he had written out a list of other sins, many of which were "bigger" than the sin of lying and that in his opinion I should focus on those, not on the "smaller" sins. I told Ben it doesn't work like that and I felt all the more certain that I had put my finger on the vital issue because, otherwise, the demons would not be seeking so persistently to persuade him not to repent of this particular sin.

If we really were wasting our time looking at something irrelevant the demons would be happy for us to do so. But they plainly weren't happy and were trying every trick they could think of to prevent Ben repenting of lying. To me, that proved this sin of dishonesty did matter and was crucial to getting Ben set free and the demons knew that.

I said to Ben the demons wanted to keep an "open door" through which they could get back in again even if they were cast out. Therefore, even if he repented of all his other sins, if they could persuade him not to repent of this one sin of dishonesty, it would give them a way back in. That was how crucial it was.

That was why I kept pursuing the issue of dishonesty, despite annoying Ben, and it was equally why the demons kept on lying to him to get him to excuse the sin and thus to fail to repent of it properly. Both of us, the demons and I, knew this was the pivotal "crunch" issue.

But what the demon(s) also wanted was to confuse his mind about sin and repentance generally. So, if they could get him to believe lying wasn't much of a sin, or was excusable in certain situations, they

would soon be able to get him to believe those excuses and defences applied equally to many other sins too.

If so, then they would also succeed in preventing him from properly repenting of those sins, which would be a big bonus for them. So, the dishonesty issue did matter and I believe I was right to press it and to keep on pressing it even when he didn't want me to.

Happily, on our fourth meeting, when I again raised the issue of dishonesty, there was a totally different response from Ben. The 'penny had dropped' at last and he now saw the point about how wrong his lies had been. Indeed, I have rarely ever seen a person turn around and repent more wholeheartedly than he did, albeit that it took four meetings to get to that stage.

Ben had, very belatedly, realised in his mind that his sins of dishonesty did matter, and were wrong. Moreover, they now *felt wrong* to him because his emotions had also become involved and he was no longer addressing the sin solely at the level of his mind as an academic, philosophical issue.

What also happened was that the repentance Ben was now feeling in relation to his sins of dishonesty also spread to his other sins. So, he began to take them more seriously too. Therefore, when Ben went through his sins with me and repented of them, I was impressed by his earnestness and his resolve to turn away from all of them, including dishonesty, about which he had resisted me for so long.

It shows how this really is a battle over the person's future and freedom. Therefore, you sometimes need to be willing to persist, and to risk annoying people by insisting on doing things properly. If I had given way to Ben during our first three meetings and accepted his tepid, grudgingly given "repentance" for dishonesty it would have been a big mistake and would all have been in vain.

And it would have been he who would have lost out as a result of my backing down, not me. Being a coward and letting it drop would have saved me a lot of time and effort, but it wouldn't have helped Ben.

How do we overcome these lies?

There is no easy way to overcome lies as they are an extremely effective weapon in the demon's armoury and they are highly skilled and experienced in using that weapon. So, I am not suggesting this will be simple or quick to overcome, as it won't be. But you will do a lot better if you are aware of this, and are expecting lies to be told rather than blissfully unaware, like Pinocchio skipping along innocently to school.

Then you can at least get yourself ready and respond better to the lies when you come across them. You will also spot them earlier if you are anticipating them. Plus, you can prepare yourself by creating a draft response to each of these lies which is ready made and immediately available to use as soon as you identify that a lie is being told – either to the person you are helping or to you.

So, if you look at the case study for 'Frank' above you will see how I responded to him when I saw he was believing a lie, i.e. that his compulsion to drink was due solely to his own 'weakness', not to a demon. I was able to talk him through that and explain the inherent implausibility of that idea, especially as he didn't particularly consider himself to be blame in any other area of his life, for many of which he *was to blame*.

The inconsistency was immediately obvious to his wife and Frank could also see it to a very small extent, although the lie was so entrenched he still clung to it. But you have to do something and start somewhere, even if the truth isn't immediately accepted. If you persist you may achieve a breakthrough but you may need to be patient and to persist for longer than you expect in telling the person the truth so as to expose and overcome the lie.

Also, make sure you don't get angry with the person, or frustrated, or feel offended by the things they believe, some of which may be critical of you. They can't help it. They have been lied to so often and with such consistent ongoing repetition that the lie has become a fixture in their mind or a "stronghold" as I discuss and explain in Book 7.

Therefore, you aren't just removing a plastic "traffic cone" or a piece of litter or debris from the road. You will need to remove the equivalent of a concrete bollard or a fallen down tree that is blocking the road in their mind. Don't underestimate the power and effectiveness of the demons' policy of telling the same lie dozens and dozens of times. It sinks into the person's mind like marinating a piece of meat.

For example, even at a human level, consider the lies told over and over again about the so called "pandemic" of 2020. Everything about the covid hoax was a lie. The politicians were lying. The 'scientists' on the TV were lying. And the doctors in the hospitals were lying, although some of them probably believed the lie themselves and thought they were telling the truth.

Indeed, in the 1960s the KGB in the former Soviet Union carried out an experiment where they repeatedly told a group of people a lie for several weeks which was intended to instil fear in their minds. They learned that it was then virtually impossible to get the people to stop believing those lies and to stop being afraid. They carried on believing it forever. Obviously, they weren't Christians and weren't seeking God's help to be transformed in their minds. But, even so, it shows how powerful lies can be.

Josef Goebbels, who was responsible for propaganda in Nazi Germany, already knew that and he said that to get people to believe a lie just make it a big lie and *keep on telling it over and over again*. He knew what he was talking about when it came to deception and propaganda and we can rely on what he said, at least on that point, though on nothing else.

Note also the way we are being lied to all the time about so called "global warming". See how even the weather forecasts on TV now show even a mildly warm day as dark red on the TV screen to give the false impression that this is exceptionally hot weather and is a crisis. It's ludicrous and is obviously a lie, but it works and most of the public believe it without question.

Indeed, people believe what the BBC say about the weather, more than they believe the actual weather which they can see with their own eyes outside. The BBC know that well or they wouldn't do it. So do all the other networks. For example, May 2024 in the UK has been one of the coldest, wettest months of May I can remember. But the BBC are saying it is "the hottest on record". And somehow people believe it.

They say that blatant lie without blushing at all, even though we can all remember May 2024, as it only ended a few weeks ago and it obviously wasn't hot. But that doesn't trouble them. They know most of us will believe what the BBC says no matter what, rather than trust our own eyes and ears (and our umbrellas drying out in the hall).

Note also the constant lies being told about President Trump and the politically motivated show trials he is being subjected to at the time of writing by corrupt Democrat District Attorneys presided over by corrupt Democrat judges. The whole thing is a lie from start to finish. Everything they accuse him of is a lie and the way they present their ‘evidence’ and conduct the trials is also fraudulent.

And now that he has been falsely convicted by a fraudulently packed jury, the media is constantly referring to President Trump as a “*convicted felon*”. They want you to hear those words over and over again until your mind becomes ‘marinated’ in that lie. It grieves me to see the blatant falsehood of it all and the way so many naïve people believe it. Indeed, they are glad to believe the lies and they revel in it.

I was recently at a party and two university professors who were neighbours of ours spoke disparagingly of President Trump, whom I now regard as the greatest president ever. They referred to him as a “criminal”. I would have put them in their place but my wife had warned me this might happen and asked me not to cause a row at the party, because woke left wing people can’t cope with being contradicted. So, I restrained myself

Anyway, moving back to demons, the point is don’t get upset, don’t get exasperated and don’t take offence when you hear the absurd lies the person has believed. And don’t get frustrated when they don’t accept the truth when you tell it to them and when they persist in believing the lie, even though you can see it is obviously false.

They need *time* to come out of their ‘coma’ and to be ‘de-programmed’. This is perhaps the main reason why deliverance takes longer than most people think and longer than most books on deliverance suggest, because they rarely talk about getting the person ready to be delivered or to identify, reject and get rid of the lies they have believed.