



Kingdom Deliverance - Part 1: Freedom Is the Starting Point

by John Himmelberger

Intro

Too often, deliverance is taught as if the battle is still raging. But Scripture tells a different story: the enemy is disarmed, the prison doors are open, and we've been transferred into the Kingdom of the Son. This session reclaims the finished work of Christ as our foundation, not a theory, but a positional reality. We explore the difference between fighting darkness and walking away from it, learning to renew our minds and live like the enemy truly is underfoot.

My Intention and Assumptions

I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be 'salt' and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

About the Author

John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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The current emphasis on "kingdom deliverance" in some streams of Christianity, including Todd Bentley's ministry, often arises from their interpretation of the tension between the "**already**" and "**not yet**" aspects of the kingdom of God. Let's break this down in light of Colossians 1:13 and broader theological understanding:

1. The "Already" Aspect

Colossians 1:13 underscores that deliverance is **already accomplished**:

- Believers have been rescued, drawn, and transferred into the kingdom of Jesus.
- This emphasizes a positional truth—our spiritual reality in Christ is secure.

2. The "Not Yet" Aspect

- While the dominion of darkness no longer holds ultimate power over believers, its influence persists in the present world.
- Many streams emphasize that though deliverance is a completed work spiritually, the effects of darkness (sin, demonic oppression, strongholds) must still be dealt with in the believer's practical, earthly life.

3. Why Emphasize Deliverance?

- **Practical Sanctification:** Ministries like Todd Bentley's focus on "kingdom deliverance" as a means to align believers' lives with the spiritual reality of their freedom in Christ. They view deliverance as part of the ongoing process of sanctification.
- **Addressing Oppression:** Some argue that even though believers are positionally free, they can still be influenced or oppressed by spiritual forces if they allow footholds (e.g., unrepented sin, trauma, or generational issues).
- **Empowering Believers:** Emphasis is often placed on taking active authority over demonic forces and living out kingdom victory practically.

4. Potential Misalignment with Scripture

Critics of this focus often point out that such an emphasis can:

- Diminish the "it is finished" work of the cross, leading believers to think they are still bound or in need of repeated deliverance.
- Shift focus from the gospel's simplicity to spiritual theatrics or a transactional approach to God's power.
- Overlook the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:2) and faith-based identity as key tools for living in freedom.

5. Balancing Deliverance with Biblical Truth

A biblical perspective would hold that:

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- Deliverance ministries can have value when addressing real spiritual oppression, but they must be rooted in the understanding that the ultimate work is **already finished in Christ**.
- Believers should focus more on walking in their **identity in Christ**, renewing their minds, and maturing in faith, rather than being overly preoccupied with the need for further deliverance.

Would you like to explore how to approach this topic in teaching or balance it against Colossians 1:13?

40

You said:

The word says "the enemy is defeated", "The enemy is disarmed". So if an enemy was before me and in my analysis I recognize he has no feet or arms; my conclusion is that he poses no threat to me and I can just walk away. With that can't we accept what has been done on our behalf through Christ and renew our mind and adopt or create this new mindset that as a child of God the enemy can not touch me, I can literally walk away and put my focus and resources elsewhere?

ChatGPT said:

ChatGPT

Yes, that's a profoundly biblical and empowering perspective! Let's build on this with scriptural truth and practical application:

1. The Enemy is Defeated

Colossians 2:15 (AMP) declares:

"When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross."

- This verse confirms that the enemy's power has been **stripped away** through Christ's finished work.
- The imagery of "disarmed" and "public example" reinforces that Satan has been humiliated, rendered powerless, and put on display as defeated.

2. Living in the Reality of Victory

If the enemy is already defeated, your conclusion is spot on:

- **He poses no real threat** unless we empower him through fear, unbelief, or ignorance of our identity in Christ.
- Scripture affirms this mindset in passages like **1 John 4:4**:
"Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."

Kingdom Deliverance – Part 1: Freedom is the Starting Point

3. Mind Renewal is Key

Romans 12:2 (AMP):

"And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes]."

- Renewing your mind to accept what Christ has accomplished shifts your focus from fear and fighting to resting in His victory.
- This involves creating a **kingdom mindset** that says:
 - I am seated with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6).
 - The enemy can't touch me because I am in Christ (1 John 5:18).
 - My focus is on **advancing the kingdom** rather than engaging in unnecessary spiritual battles.

4. Walking Away and Redirecting Resources

Absolutely—when you understand the enemy's powerlessness:

- You don't need to waste time or energy on a defeated foe.
- Instead, you can focus your resources on **kingdom advancement**, renewing your mind, building relationships, and ministering to others.

Paul's approach in **Philippians 3:13-14** aligns with this:

"...forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

5. The Enemy's Only Strategy: Deception

The enemy's main tactic is to **deceive** believers into thinking he still has power:

- He wants us to forget the truth of Colossians 1:13 and 2:15.
- When we resist his lies with the truth of God's Word, he flees (James 4:7).

6. Your Identity and Focus in Christ

This is the ultimate shift:

- **You are a child of God** (1 John 3:1-2).
- The enemy has no authority over you unless you give it to him.
- Your focus can now be on **living in your inheritance**, enjoying the Father's presence, and fulfilling His purpose for your life.

By adopting this mindset, you reflect the truth that Jesus declared on the cross: **"It is finished"** (John 19:30). This frees you to live confidently and victoriously, with no need to engage in battles that Christ has already won.