



HOUSE of DELIVERANCE

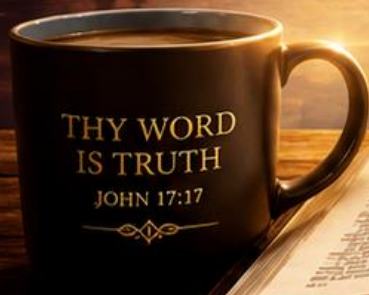
CHURCH

HODMINISTRY.ORG

SERMON NOTES

*"He that hath an ear, let him hear
what the Spirit saith unto the churches."*

Revelation 3:6



WORSHIP



THE WORD



COMMUNITY



OUTREACH

EXALTING JESUS. EQUIPPING BELIEVERS. EXPANDING THE KINGDOM.

FROM DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT

OVERCOMING FEAR THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

Senior Pastor Derrick Chambers
House of Deliverance International Pentecostal Holiness Church

KEY SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

John 14:6

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

THEME

Fear may shape your past, but it does not have the authority to determine your future. When you believe the Word of God, trust Jesus Christ, and walk through the doors He opens, He can bring you out of darkness, fear, and isolation—and into His marvelous light.

KEY THOUGHT

FEAR TELLS YOU WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.^[1] FAITH REMINDS YOU WHO IS WALKING WITH YOU.^[SEP]

INTRODUCTION — ALONE IN A CROWDED ROOM

Have you ever walked into a crowded room filled with people and still felt like you were all alone?

I have.

I grew up in a small town called Masury, Ohio. It was the kind of place where you knew everybody, and everybody knew you.

I came from a large family with a lot of cousins. We grew up together, played together, laughed together, and enjoyed life together.

But as I got older, something began to happen inside of me.

I remember trying out for midget football. I was overweight, and I couldn't make the weight limit. Some of my peers laughed at me and made fun of me.

They may have forgotten what they said.

BUT I DIDN'T.

Their words hurt me, and that hurt drove me into a dark place in my mind.

I began to withdraw.

I remember another time when we were swimming and racing. Because I was bigger and slower than some of the others, some girls didn't want me on their team.

I insisted on participating, and we lost.

Again, I felt humiliated.

And little by little, **I withdrew even further.**

I became:

- Afraid to talk.
- Afraid to express myself.
- Afraid to tell people what I was thinking.
- Afraid of being laughed at.
- Afraid of saying the wrong thing.
- Afraid of embarrassing myself.
- Afraid of failing.

FEAR HAD ME BOUND.

I learned how to hide my feelings and keep my thoughts locked inside my mind.

Eventually, I became so introverted that I could walk into a crowded room and feel completely alone.

There were people all around me.

BUT INSIDE, I FELT ISOLATED.

Years later, that darkness became so overwhelming that I even contemplated taking my own life.

1. WORDS HAVE POWER

Proverbs 18:21 teaches us that death and life are in the power of the tongue.

That's why we have to be careful about the words we speak over people.

Words can:

- Encourage somebody.
- Strengthen somebody.
- Inspire somebody.
- Give somebody hope.

But words can also:

- Wound somebody.
- Humiliate somebody.
- Discourage somebody.
- Remain in somebody's mind for years.

Sometimes people are carrying wounds from things that were said to them **10, 20, 30, or even 50 years ago.**

But I want somebody to understand today:

YOUR STORY DOES NOT HAVE TO END IN DARKNESS!

What somebody said about you does not have to become what you believe about yourself.

2. KNOWING THE WORD IS NOT THE SAME AS BELIEVING THE WORD

I grew up in church.

My mother took us to church every Sunday, and many times throughout the week.

I read my Bible.

I knew about God.

But there is a difference between:

READING THE WORD OF GOD

and

BELIEVING THE WORD OF GOD.

Everything began to change when I started **believing what I was reading.**

I read how David encouraged himself in the Lord.

And I began to realize:

SOMETIMES YOU'VE GOT TO ENCOURAGE YOURSELF!

When I was 20 years old, I moved to Los Angeles, California.

In many ways, I began reinventing myself.

But the greatest transformation didn't come from changing cities.

IT CAME FROM CHANGING WHAT I BELIEVED.

I began believing what **God said about me.**

3. REPLACE THE VOICE OF FEAR WITH THE WORD OF GOD

When fear said:

“YOU CAN'T.”

The Word said:

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

When fear told me:

“YOU ARE ALONE.”

God’s Word reminded me:

“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

When my past told me:

“YOU’RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH.”

God’s Word told me:

YOU ARE AN OVERCOMER!

When darkness told me:

“THERE IS NO WAY OUT.”

Jesus said:

John 14:6

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

I had spent years in a dark room in my mind.

But when I began believing the Word of God, it was as though I could see a little sliver of light coming through the darkness.

And the more I trusted Jesus:

THE BRIGHTER THAT LIGHT BECAME.

4. A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHANGES YOU

The Bible became alive to me.

And more importantly, I developed a **personal love relationship with Jesus Christ.**

That relationship began changing me.

The man who had been afraid to speak began **standing before people and preaching.**

The man who was afraid of being laughed at stopped allowing **other people's opinions to control his life.**

The man who once felt alone in a crowded room began **enjoying life.**

JESUS BROUGHT ME OUT OF THE DARKNESS AND INTO THE LIGHT!

And He can do the same thing for you.

5. THERE IS A BATTLE TAKING PLACE IN YOUR MIND

There is a battle taking place in the mind.

You have to decide:

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO FEED?

Are you going to feed the darkness?

OR ARE YOU GOING TO FEED THE LIGHT?

Are you going to continually replay what somebody said about you years ago?

OR ARE YOU GOING TO BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU?

God has a purpose and a plan for your life.

But fear will try to keep you from walking in that purpose.

Fear of:

- Failure.
- Rejection.
- Humiliation.
- What people might say.
- Not being good enough.
- Not belonging.

But Scripture declares:

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

FEAR DOES NOT COME FROM GOD!

6. WHEN GOD OPENS THE DOOR — WALK THROUGH IT

Jesus said:

Revelation 3:8

“Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.”

But when God opens the door:

YOU HAVE TO BE WILLING TO WALK THROUGH IT!

Will it always be comfortable?

NO.

Will there be challenges?

YES.

Will there be moments when you wonder whether you belong?

ABSOLUTELY.

But Jesus promised:

Hebrews 13:5

“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

So:

KEEP WALKING.

KEEP TRUSTING.

KEEP BELIEVING.

KEEP GOING THROUGH THE DOORS GOD OPENS FOR YOU.

7. STOP TRYING TO FIGURE EVERYTHING OUT YOURSELF

For years, I tried to plan everything myself.

I wanted to know exactly what I was going to do and exactly how everything was going to work out.

But when I stopped depending completely on my own understanding and began trusting Jesus:

THAT’S WHEN I BEGAN TO LIVE.

That’s when I began to grow.

That’s when I began overcoming fear.

That’s when I began overcoming doubt.

That’s when I started becoming the person God called me to be.

Proverbs 3:5–6

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

8. FEAR MAY BE TALKING — BUT GOD IS TALKING TOO

Somebody may be standing at an open door right now.

Fear is telling you:

DON'T GO THROUGH IT.

YOU'RE GOING TO FAIL.

PEOPLE ARE GOING TO LAUGH AT YOU.

YOU'RE NOT QUALIFIED.

YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

But God is saying:

TRUST ME.

David said:

Psalm 23:4

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me.”

Notice something about a shadow:

A SHADOW CANNOT HURT YOU.

Fear makes the shadow look bigger than it really is.

Fear tells you what might happen.

Faith reminds you who is walking with you.

9. WHOSE REPORT WILL YOU BELIEVE?

So the question becomes:

WHOSE REPORT ARE YOU GOING TO BELIEVE?

Are you going to believe the voice that says you are going to fail?

OR ARE YOU GOING TO BELIEVE JESUS?

Are you going to remain in the darkness because it's familiar?

OR ARE YOU GOING TO WALK TOWARD THE LIGHT?

Jesus loves you.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...”

Jesus Christ came so that we could have life.

You may have been:

- Rejected.
- Laughed at.
- Humiliated.
- Wounded.
- Afraid.
- Isolated.
- Silenced by the opinions of others.

You may even feel alone while surrounded by people.

BUT YOUR STORY ISN'T OVER!

Don't allow fear to keep you from becoming everything God created you to be.

Don't allow something somebody said years ago to determine your future.

**DON'T ALLOW YESTERDAY'S HUMILIATION TO ROB YOU OF
TOMORROW'S PURPOSE!**

10. WALK ANYWAY!

Walk through the door.

It may feel uncomfortable at first.

WALK ANYWAY!

You may still hear the voices of your past.

WALK ANYWAY!

You may wonder whether you're going to make it.

WALK ANYWAY!

You may be afraid of what people will think.

WALK ANYWAY!

Why?

BECAUSE JESUS IS WALKING WITH YOU!

CLOSING — JESUS BROUGHT ME OUT!

I thank God today because the same person who once walked into a crowded room and felt completely alone can now stand before people and proclaim:

JESUS BROUGHT ME OUT!

He brought me out of **fear**.

He brought me out of **isolation**.

He brought me out of **darkness**.

And He brought me into **His marvelous light**.

IF HE DID IT FOR ME, HE CAN DO IT FOR YOU!

Trust Him.

Believe His Word.

Walk through the open door.

Become everything God created you to be.

And when fear asks you to believe its report, make your declaration:

I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE THE REPORT OF THE LORD!

CLOSING DECLARATION

I WILL NOT ALLOW FEAR TO CONTROL MY FUTURE!

I WILL NOT ALLOW MY PAST TO DEFINE ME!

I WILL NOT ALLOW THE WORDS OF OTHERS TO OVERRIDE THE WORD OF GOD!

I WILL TRUST JESUS!

I WILL BELIEVE HIS WORD!

I WILL WALK THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR!

I WILL WALK TOWARD THE LIGHT!

AND I WILL BECOME EVERYTHING GOD CREATED ME TO BE!

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