

Some ministries have listed groupings of spirits and have emphasized discovering the “strongman” or the most powerful spirit that holds the rest together. Our approach is to have the person renounce all the spirits, lies, and bindings that can be identified and then take authority over all spirits that have been renounced. The person will generally know which one had the deepest hold on him.

Naming Your Enemy: The Importance of Precision

Humans have developed numerous words in order to communicate experience more precisely. For example, in Greek, there are four words for love, and in Arctic regions, there are many words describing the different qualities of snow. It is important to use the words that most precisely identify our experience. Knowing the identity of our enemy will help us to have ongoing victory. If we are vague about our enemies, we will have trouble standing in the truth and freedom Christ has given us. Satan will want to steal it. If we know clearly the identity of our enemy, we will be prepared to recognize any attempts to deceive us and regain access or to take back ground we have already taken. Spirits are identified by what they do. They are attached to a sin and/or deception that Jesus has taken to the cross. Once we have surrendered to Jesus and we repent, confess, and renounce the sin and deception we have been in agreement with, the spirit behind it no longer has a place to rest and must leave when commanded in the name of Jesus to go. Jesus is the one who broke Satan’s legal right to us when he died for our sins and forgave us for acting on the enemy’s deceptions.

Common Associations of Spirits

Becoming familiar with common associations of spirits will help you grow in understanding, but it will not replace the need to listen carefully to the person’s story and receive guidance from the Holy Spirit as you help the person name their enemies. Commanding spirits to go based on the list and without personal discernment is a mistake. The enemy may remain hidden regardless of how many spirits are renounced and cast out if we fail to create a safe atmosphere of love and acceptance as we listen to the person’s story. **The person must be helped to connect their experience to the identity of the spirit that is influencing or binding them.**

Becoming familiar with groupings as you pray with people is similar to being introduced to a new set of inter-relationships. When you first come into the group, it may not be so clear how the group functions. But over time, you get to know the individuals in the group; you see how they interrelate. You discover the real leader, find out who makes things happen and who gets things done, and you learn how the group operates. Growing in understanding of groupings of spirits will increase your God-given gift of discernment. But study is not the primary means to gain understanding. You can study about a person and read books about them and yet you will not really know them until you meet them. In order to grow in discernment, one needs to spend time helping people take hold of their freedom in Christ. Once you encounter a spirit binding a person and see how others are interrelated, you will then be much quicker to recognize the spirits and understand how they work in the future.

I have compiled a list that is intended as an introduction, not a manual. You can use it to reflect upon what the Lord is teaching you as you seek to set the prisoners free. The list is called “Samples of Related Spirits”. It can be found in Appendix B of the *Unbound Ministry Guidebook*, or on our website, www.heartofthefather.com.