
HALLMARKS OF DELIVERANCE

Isaiah 61:1-4

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“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations; and they will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.” ~Isaiah 61:1-4

Even though most deliverance in our lives will be processes—worked out over a period of time, rather than instantaneous events—there will be times when God’s miraculous intervention in our mental/emotional/spiritual condition brings complete freedom *in moments*. Instead of a *season* of deliverance, we experience a sudden rescue, much like the deliverance that came to us when we first opened our hearts to receive Jesus as our Savior.

Whether the freedom comes to us from the Lord *in a moment*, or over the course of several weeks, what hallmarks does true God-worked deliverance have? What are the unmistakable trademarks of genuine spiritual freedom? When I have been “*delivered from evil*,” I will experience many of the following:

- *A true sense of choice in my decision-making about what I do, say, or think*; seemingly for the first time, I will have well-clarified options for thought and behavior. My wrong thoughts no longer have the power they once did to carry me away. Instead of being “*driven*” to say, do, think, or have something, I will be faced with several small choices

about whether or not I want to get in the car, start the engine, put it in gear, and turn the wheel to go down the wrong road...

- *A sudden, almost surprising ability to move beyond former “stick points” or to find myself in a large opening, no longer pressed into a tight and confining preoccupation with a single focus; like the drone of a refrigerator that is most noticeable when it stops, the grip of what used to consume me just isn’t there, and I notice its absence more than I noticed its presence. I awaken from a bad dream or jerk alert late at night after realizing I have been in a quasi-slumber after not remember passing the previous three off-ramps.*
- *A hyper vigilance and awareness of right and wrong in many other areas of my life—not just ones connected with the wrong from which I have been delivered; rather than feeling cavalier about my own sin, I will be desirous, more than ever, of bringing every area of my life into submission to righteousness. Far more than just trying harder, I will have a deeper, more profound passion for getting things squared away in my life than I did prior to my deliverance.*
- *A sense that I have unexpectedly and undeservedly been given a “new lease on life.” I will feel strangely favored instead of condemned. I will feel what the Prodigal son felt when his father threw a party celebrating the return of his son. Though I should justly be stripped of all my birthright, I am instead, treated like a guest of honor. The sense of being covered and forgiven—when I should justly be punished—is so incredibly good, that it gives me added incentive to stay away from the old patterns of bondage in my life.*
- *A deep conviction that I have been answered by God; no longer do I feel alone, crying out for the Lord’s word. I know this is His answer in my time of need.*
- *A strengthened ability to resist temptation and the very patterns that either led me into bondage, or that resulted from it; I will feel supported by the Lord and kept from succumbing to temptation.*
- *A restoration of my true personhood and spiritual inheritance; patterns of life and thought that had been supplanted by the bondage—personality and character traits that are the true me—“come back” rapidly as though someone just removed a blanket that had been covering them. Spiritual authority and awareness return as though they were never gone.*
- *A pronounced season of revelation and repentance; since truth is so closely connected with real freedom, I will begin to see and understand things in the Kingdom I have not grasped before. These truths and understandings will lead me into more of what God*

wants to give to me. Not only do I receive back what was taken from me, but also I receive from the Lord new portions of my Promised Land.

- *An undeniable “calling out” from dark places; places of shadow, gray zones and other areas where I had not been living fully in the light are now definitely “off-limits” to me.*
- *A renewed sense of being led by the Lord; I will hear His voice more clearly, and I will receive large doses of confirmation about the course He wants me to take. Things seem to come together more, and I can sense what He wants for me.*
- *A complete “turn around” in my understanding or circumstances; that conversion brings me comfort and relief from my previous condition of fear, pain, sorrow or death.*
- *A tangible trophy of deliverance; some detail stands out to me as proof that my situation is nothing like it was before. Other people may or may not see it, but the trophy is my constant proof that God did what He promised.*
- *An increased desire to celebrate and praise God for what He has done; deep joy replaces deep sorrow or fear. I know it was entirely the Lord who accomplished deliverance for me.*
- *A desire and ability to minister freedom to other people out of the context of my own rescue; I have empathy for others’ captive condition, as well as faith for their deliverance.*