

SHADOWS AMONG US

Discovering the Path to Spiritual Liberation and Wholeness

ROBIN M. BERTRAM

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The Author



Robin Bertram is one of the most passionate teachers of our time in the field of personal transformation. Overcoming and victorious are two words that best describe Robin's life journey. With her infectious energy, empathetic spirit, and inspirational messages she offers a refreshing antidote to the self-help, talking head experts and "Oprah theology." For the past fifteen years, she has reached many throughout the south-east with her positive messages about God's love, His grace, and the freedom we have in Jesus Christ. She has been very instrumental in the field of praying for transformation of the whole person; body, soul, and spirit.

Many of us are in a search for meaning in our lives, and as a new author and a charismatic personality, Robin teaches individuals how to get on the path to spiritual and emotional wholeness and well-being and become who they are to be in Christ. Robin teaches people how to live victoriously, as she offers life-changing truths that bring about radical transformation thus enabling individuals strained by the pace of life to feel complete. Robin encourages individuals to carve out the space and time needed for private renewal and reflection. And she offers inspiration and guidance on how to create and draw on personal dedication, Bible study, and private prayer that will enhance spiritual growth and maturity. Robin's dedication to healing prayer ministry has been just as prolific as her gift of speaking and teaching. Robin knows that many people feel as though they're living a life scripted or prescribed by others. They long to break out of their self-imposed limitations and lead their own lives, but they lack the courage and confidence to do so. As a minister of renewal, she provides biblical solutions that bring rejuvenation, inner strength and boldness to individuals, retreats, and churches.

Acknowledgment: Shadows Among Us is loaded with truth, especially scripture. This is a deep work and well written. It is very well documented with scripture---a much needed practice in the deliverance ministry. Dr. Dale M. Sides, the founder and president of Liberating Ministries for Christ International (LMCI), is an in-depth Bible teacher and author with over 35 years of ministerial experience. He graduated from North Carolina State University, holds a Master's and Doctorate of Theology in Religious Education from Andersonville Baptist Seminary (now Andersonville Theological Seminary), and received an honorary doctorate from a consortium of ministers in South India for his work there in evangelism and church government. He is a member of the ICA (International coalition of Apostles), as well as the Founders Circle of the ISDM (International Society of Deliverance Ministers).

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Preface

This course of study is an in-depth look at the Ministry of Deliverance. It is intended to reach those who are in need of personal deliverance and those who feel called into prayer ministry. It may be effectively used as a training tool for pastors and leaders who are interested in the development of a deliverance team. It may also be used in conjunction with teaching tapes, other books and resources, or as a stand-alone resource. The subject matter contained herein is addressed in the context of deliverance ministry, and is not considered an exhaustive study of the subject. It does, however, attempt to highlight topics that are frequently dealt with during sessions of deliverance ministry. Our team of prayer ministers is available to visit your church to assist in the training of church leaders, staff, or lay pastors to better deal with the needs and concerns within the congregation as it relates to the Ministry of Deliverance. We hope you find the information within helpful in dispelling some of the concerns related to such an important topic, and in bringing light to an area of ministry that has been underutilized due to the lack of knowledge. Our desire is to see the any bound by oppression within the Body of Christ walk in the freedom our Lord and Savior provided through His death, burial, and resurrection. The real life cases reported within the text have been altered in such a way as to preserve the privacy of those involved, therefore the names and specific details have been changed. We pray that this information is a blessing to all who read it. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to each member of Covenant Renewal Ministries for their hard work and dedication and my dear friend Lucy Barlow who was there at the beginning of this journey. I would also like to thank my husband, Ken Bertram, for his editing work, Earl and Linda Gillis for their prayers and encouragement, and our children, Logan and Taylor, who so graciously supported us in this process. I would also like to acknowledge my dear precious father, Rev. Paul A. Maddy who went to be with the Lord one week before the submittal deadline for this book, and who was a living example of a life of faith.

Robin Bertram,
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Introduction

Deliverance ministry is the most ignored work of the Holy Spirit in our churches today. Yes, it is even resisted. It is seen as being on the edge, for radicals and zealots, for irrational, over-mystical people, often being dismissed as myth or rejected by the local church as though it were a legend from days of old. Teachings about deliverance are rarely found in mainstream denominations. Those who claim to embrace the fullness of the Gospel are also trailing behind in the area of “*seeing the captives set free*.” Churches are full of defeated Christians with a “*just help me get by, Lord*” mentality as the world looks on in wonderment as to what would possess them to waste time and effort with the senseless activity we call “*church*.” Unfortunately, many are under the guise of “*doing church*” instead of “*being Church*”—that is, the fighting, warring army Jesus Christ calls His Bride, which is ready to stand in victory and shout from the mountaintops, “*Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*.” What can all this mean? Where are the stories of reconciliation, restoration, and release that we read about in the Bible? Where are the stories of successful battles and the great warriors such as Joshua, Gideon, and David? Where are the stories of tremendous obstacles overcome, like that of Jacob, Esther and Ruth? Could it be that we, the church, have settled for the stories without desiring to experience the glorious truths attached to those stories? Could we have decided that what once worked for the great men of faith no longer applies in our beautifully decorated sanctuaries with all their rich adornments? Have our churches become just a forum for good entertainment and the respectable thing to do? These questions are not meant to put down the workings of the Body of Christ, and all the good that is being accomplished in, and through the local church. They are, however, meant to challenge the status quo. They are meant to inspire and encourage the introspection of every person, group, or church who believes that there is more ahead of them; more to know, more to do, more of the mysteries of God to embrace. The revelations contained throughout this book attempt to do just that. They aim to inspire individuals and churches to delve into an area of ministry that is not so readily accepted or understood. One cannot deny the evidence of scripture—the very desire of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, outpoured—that the Ministry of Deliverance go forth just as He sent His trainees into the world to preach, teach, and pray “The Good News” of the Gospel.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”. Lk 4:14–19

This is so much more than a historical account of the participation of our Savior doing church. It was a prophetic proclamation by Jesus to those in His hearing, as well as to those who will have “*ears to hear*” today. It was a statement of purpose. It was a man, destined with the very essence of His existence, clearly announcing His mission. These words resounded throughout the temple with great authority, divine authority, to the point that it astounded even the most scholarly of the day. The religious sat in amazement that this simple carpenter could have such an impact. Jesus kept it simple,

and so should we. The work of deliverance ministry is like every work of ministry. It is based on foundational principles contained within the Holy Bible. It encompasses biblical principles that we must understand to be effective in this work and, contrary to the mainstream mindset, it can be accessed. This book represents a concerted effort to bring these biblical foundations into practical application. Although there will be no distinct format offered, there will be an under-girding of the process, which will allow the student of deliverance to move with confidence into dealing with the oppressed, setting free those who are bound, and celebrating the goodness of God in the midst of the course of action taken. Method and methodology are not important. The beauty of deliverance ministry is the absolute dependency on the Holy Spirit as our guide. We could legitimately stop right here. The work of the Holy Spirit is just that; it is His Work! We are only willing participants, vessels to be used as our Father allows. God so graciously decides our role; we determine the amount of our participation in that work. Yes, we may desire a particular work, but if it is not assigned by the Lord, it is a work that is in vain. *Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain (Ps 127:1)* Make no mistake; we cannot call ourselves into ministry and expect the Lord's favor to rest upon it. Often, this becomes the issue within the setting of the church; the need is there, the responsibility must be filled, and we quickly assign those with whom we are most comfortable, and those willing to fit into our mold. In the Ministry of Deliverance, there are several prerequisites that should be met to ensure success. Are you a believer in the Lord, Jesus Christ of Nazareth? This is the first condition. Secondly, are you willing? That being said, not everyone is called to full-time deliverance ministry; however, every believer is called to cast out demons. Could it be that we chose for ourselves the duties we want to perform instead of those the Lord has given us to do?

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven".
Lk 10:17–20

One cannot deny the excitement and elation that are felt the first time he has the privilege to witness deliverance, or the first time he has an angelic encounter. Both will leave the viewer forever changed. Skeptics will scoff at such things—things that they have never been allowed to see. Could it be that the resistance in their heart has closed the doors of opportunity? God entrusts those who are childlike in faith to see the mysteries of heaven. Can we become those people of faith who will accept scripture as a living, active word for today? If the answer is yes, then open your heart to receive instruction that can radically change you, your family, your church, your community, and beyond. Elements of deliverance ministry are grounded on principles found in the Bible which must become firmly understood as one moves forth in such a ministry. These areas of understanding include: spiritual authority, the power in the Blood of Jesus, the Covenant, the seal of the Holy Spirit, the power of the spoken word, curses, principles of spiritual warfare, prayer, and the name of Jesus. Please take time to explore each area as you read through your Bible and begin to seek revelation from the Holy Spirit as He guides you into all truth. May the Lord bless your efforts as you begin the journey of wholeness. Names and situations have been altered in such a way that will protect the privacy of individuals who have been ministered to, and these special cases are used for the intent purpose of teaching the principles found within the specific chapters. Quotes are written to the best of the author's recollection and some small details have been changed to ensure complete anonymity.

Prologue

The call came one Saturday morning. Katherine's voice was shaken and distressed. "I need your help!" After returning the call, I agreed to meet with Katherine and her friend, Elaine, the next day. Elaine recounted her story. This bright-eyed, energetic college student had been paralyzed by fear. One night, while in her dorm room almost asleep, she felt an overwhelming sensation of another's presence in her room. Unable to move or speak, she felt a crushing weight on her back. Sweat poured onto the sheets as her body trembled with immense fear. She was not alone. Elaine knew it was her night to die. She felt a word being etched into her skin. Elaine did not sleep at all that night. The next morning she pulled her head from the covers terrified at what she might see, however, she was all alone. As Elaine told of the events that had taken place, I asked, "Are you ready to pray?" "Yes," she replied. Depression had so overtaken her, that she had been forced to drop out of college. Can you repent of your sins before we begin?" I asked. After what seemed to be a thorough confession, the Holy Spirit said, "Now ask her to do it from the heart." Something in Elaine broke. She fell to the ground, weeping and mourning over her sins in true confession and repentance. After it was over, she lifted her head. I gazed into her eyes, but it was not Elaine. After it was over, she lifted her head. I gazed into her eyes, but it was not Elaine looking back. Peering at me was the deepest, darkest evil I had ever experienced. Time for war! I explained to Elaine that I had never been trained. I did not have a degree of theology. I was not an ordained minister. I came only on the authority of the written Word of God. I clinched my Bible with all of my might. I began addressing the spirits one by one. My friend, Katherine, quoted scriptures as she stood behind Elaine. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." One by one they would manifest as the Holy Spirit gave discernment and leave, as they were cast out. At last, the Holy Spirit said, "Call out the spirit of destruction." "Spirit of Destruction, I command you out." There was a pause that seemed like an eternity. Then, suddenly, a deep, rough, voice replied, "We will not go. We will kill her!"
