

Unbound A Practical Guide to Deliverance by Neal Lozano

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I was lent this book, *Unbound A Practical Guide to Deliverance*, by a bishop who is severely critical of the book.

This book does what it says on the cover: in 250 pages it goes into great detail about how any Christian can be involved in the deliverance ministry. Part one consists of 130 pages describing how one may be free from Satan's hold in one's own life. Part two has 81 pages describing how one may help others to be free, i.e. delivered. There is an epilogue on Christian hope and two appendices. The first is a 'deliverance questionnaire'. The second appendix is 'ten steps to deliverance'. Notes and index complete the book.

Deliverance in this book has a very wide meaning. Much of the deliverance is about forgiveness and renunciation. Indeed, these are two of the steps that they insist people must go through. It offers five keys to open the abundant life promised by Christ and to close the entryways through which evil spirits gain access to your life (page 57). These keys are repentance and faith, forgiveness, renouncing the work of your enemies, standing in the authority you have in Christ, and, fifthly, receiving God's blessing of your identity and destiny.

Many are the famous names praising this book over the three initial pages; amongst them Francis MacNutt, Ralph Martin, Michael Scanlon, Thomas Herron and Carol Wimber. I could see this book being well received in evangelical circles and amidst followers of the Holy Trinity, Brompton style of Christianity.

We live in perilous times. The present COVID pandemic adds to it. When I was a child there was a fear of nuclear annihilation caused by conflict between the United States of America and Russia. These days a clear fear is that fighting in largely Muslim countries will spill over into catastrophe. Then I remember that the Muslim faith is 400 years younger than the Christian faith. And 400 years ago, Christians were slaughtering many in the Crusades. The point being that we are all works in process; all humans are incomplete and fallible.

I see this book as originating from a country where success is almost everything, progress is a requisite and judgement is by one's own criteria. It is easy to fall into the temptation to have a simple list of what to do to get where one wants.

In my experience, God rarely works that way. In the United Kingdom, we have a different tradition. It is, perhaps, well illustrated in the volume entitled *Five Gold Rings: Powerful Influences on Prominent People*. This anthology, put together by Anna Jeffery, includes chapters from two past presidents and two vice-presidents of the CFPSS. Here the tone is very different. Here we find an overwhelmingly gentle, diffident, hard won approach to God and faith in which God is a living mystery of infinite and universal love. Friendship, love and continuing in our daily struggles will lead us into greater knowledge of God and His ways.

May I suggest that this is a far safer, time-honoured mechanism for growth in Christ than stressing over a very fallen angel of His creation.

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