

August last year while on the Gold Coast when we were in Koorong Christian Bookstore I was drawn to a book on the Spirit of the Python book by Jentezen Franklin which I brought Then we got back to our resort turning on the TV a program was on all about python's explaining all about them

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PYTHON (in natural but has spiritual implications)

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they are well camouflaged & hidden 2 constrictor of its prey 3 they are cold blooded 4 they ambush their prey 5 they blend into their environment 6 they kill their prey by squeezing the life & breath of its prey It awaits patiently for its prey for the opportune moment to strike It sinks its sharp teeth deep into its victim, but its bite is not fatal (not poisonous) Python kills its prey by wrapping around it & constricting When the victim breathes it tightens more It is now understood that they stop the blood supply to the brain so the victim dies from lack of oxygen

Python is a bulky large beast with a triangle head, is very long, straight teeth, the male is longer up to 9meters, there are 41 species throughout world, they can be patterned or plain, they have 2 sets of lungs enabling them to swim, they are often found in house roofs in the winter, they have incredible strength in their tails to hold things They attack small children, wombats, pigs, monkeys They ambush their prey They are nonvenomous partially submerge prey in water, They try to grab prey with their teeth Pythons kill by constriction not crushing they suffocate by breaking the bones of their prey ie ribs so cant breath Smaller animals they can swallow whole they rest up until its consumed They lay eggs in layers, they are known to lay many eggs more than any other snake Mother coils around the eggs to keep them warm & incubated There lifespan is 35 years

DEMONIC DON'T DEAL WITH IT, IT'S EASIER

One ploys of enemy is Ignorance 'Leave us alone' was the cry of the unclean spirit Mark 1:23-25 Many leaders/Pastors echo this cry I don't go there You're a demon chaser Ephesians 6:12 You see its easier to avoid it, its dealt with at the Cross, where under grace, what don't see don't deal with, leave it for others, I'm not called for this Luke 4:18 The devil has lead us to believe these lies & many have fallen for it We can't ignore it Instead we must 1 Challenge 2 Confront 3 Expose our enemy

Deliverance Mark 9:21 how long has he been demon possessed? Luke 13:16 Satan has bound for 18 years These are not permanent when Jesus is involved If we are in Christ would we leave them as they are?

C S Lewis 'There are two equal & opposite errors into which our race can fall about devils One is to disbelieve in their existence The other is to believe & to feel an excessive & unhealthy interest in them' Two things the spiritual python infiltrates & attacks 1 Christians Spiritual life 2 Churches very core

1 CHRISTIAN - It comes to choke the life out of the believer so they become stagnant in their Christian walk The motive is to become unfruitful & unproductive Demonic attack on our lives are assigned to destroy your destiny in God

The result of this spirit is laziness, compliancy. negaitivity & slothfulness

Needed to break the agreement with demonic attacked operating over & through your life The goal of the python is to stop the flow of life eventually killing you spiritually Satan is a serpent Revelation 20:2 this is one of his demonic forms sent to destroy Gods people

Python is after one thing our breath It simply coils itself around its victim & begins to squeeze the life out, little by little as its grip gets tighter & tighter, it chokes & suffocates its prey until all the air is expunged from the prey's lungs When we align this to spiritual life it can be over a period of time where slowly it squeezes We could call it THE CHOKER because it chokes the life of Christ out of us

Breath, air & wind are symbols of the Holy Spirit John 20:22 In Genesis God breathed life into Adam Genesis 2:7 & Leviticus 17:11 life is in the blood (Jesus) The enemy's tactic is to extract the life of the spirit from us He will do anything He can to eliminate Gods anointing causing us to lose our passions for the Lord, prayer, Word & worship GOD Breathed Genesis 2:7 Hebrew Breath is 'neshamiah' which means air inhaled & exhaled We are not here by chance but because God breathed life into us Immediately we see the serpent slithered into twist the truth, spread deception & choke the life out of man though sin Word inhale Prayer exhale need both to live

2 CHURCH chokes the anointing (restricts Holy Spirit & gifts), worship (doesn't bring presence), word that's preached (mediocre), more about social gospel than true gospel, services to make the non-Christian comfortable (called seeker services) little or no prayer in Church Leaders don't seek God IF YOU ARE IN A CHURCH LIE THIS GET OUT FIND ONE THAT IS NOT UNDER A SPIRIT OF RELIGION This along with the Religious crushes & destroys the churches vision, dreams & hope of its people

Acts 16:16-18 She  
 followed Paul appeared on outward a lovely lady who was enjoying the ministry ,followed them for several days She declared these men are servants of the Most High God which shows the way to salvation Sounds & appears good, if don't discern it Even demons acknowledge Jesus But Paul discerned in his spirit something isn't right here – a different spirit He turned & said come out of her NOTICE what came out of her Spirit of Divination Greek – python - fortune tellers A demonic prophetic spirit Demons love realm of prophetic seeking to infiltrate it (control)

The story goes that there was a woman who lived in a cave named Delphi, that python supposedly lived there before he was killed by Apollos The Greeks believed that she spoke words that Apollos gave her She was known as the Oracle of Delphi She was very well known person Her words were considered the final say on any matter Anything she said was supposed to be true & no one was supposed to speak against her She was believed to be guiding the people in the divine will of the god Apollos

The Greek words for spirit of divination is pneuma 'puthona' which means a spirit of the python This is reference to the Greek God Apollos In Greek mythology, Apollos killed the god Pythian Because of this he was called Apollos Pythian Apollos was also known as the god of truth He was called high god of the Greeks He was the god of light & there was no darkness in him Do you see how the enemy has counterfeited the characteristics of the One True God

Divination provides knowledge through supernatural means about people, events & situations This is mostly future events which encompass fortunetelling, psychic readings, extrasensory predictions (ESP), predictions & horoscope's seemingly harmless many would say but 'Curiosity kills the cat' I have ministered in deliverance & have found Christians who read the odd horoscope need to renounce it We

don't realize that reading a horoscope, listening to heavy rock & horror movies in doing so we open the door to Satan to enter our lives

The girl in Acts 16 was being used in this way by the men who owned her The people in the area thought that she was speaking for Apollos So when the girl with the evil spirit made a statement about Paul her words were true, but they were also false Paul was indeed the spokesman for Almighty God But what she meant for the people to believe was that Paul a spokesman for the Greek god Apollos This spirit was being used to deceive the people Just see how subtle it was Paul knew exactly what the spirit was up to & eventually cast it out

We see it's a lying it's a deceiving spirit it's a distracting spirit it diverts attention onto itself This is a typical ploy of the enemy INTERRUPT & DISTRACT

Acts 16:18-22 slave girl was said to be 'possessed with a spirit of divination' in the Greek 'she had a python spirit' In Greek culture pythons were associated with the practice of divination or fortunetelling Today we'd call her a psychic She discerned the identity of Paul & Silas 'these men are the servants of the Most High God' she cried 'who proclaim to us the way of salvation' v17 What she said was true, yet her knowledge came from a demon When the demon was expelled, she lost the ability to tell fortunes & her masters lost their source of income Owners sought Paul & Silas out so that they'd be put in jail/prison Mates club – all in it together the city rulers, authorities, magistrates

No longer was she deceptive speaking a measure of truth the bait on Satans hook by which he seeks to capture & enslave his victims You see most want to know their future God can reveal this if He chooses but we are called 'to walk by faith not by sight' 2 Corinthians 5:7 This is why as Christians we need the gifts of WISDOM & DISCERNMENT more than ever See my message on Wisdom & teaching on Discernment

#### OTHER EXAMPLES IN THE WORD OF GOD

Python spirit seeks to penetrate prophetic Paul talks lot about gift prophecy 1 Corinthians 14:1-12,29 need gift discernment operate in the operation of prophecy Words of flattery positive confident building Prophetic divination – begins fine seems right but little by little begins to quench/suffocate

Acts 8:4-25 Phillip preaching in Samaria town was blessed seen & heard many miracles Then came man named Simon apparently a believer & baptized Philip got caught up in his credentials & missed his motive He wasn't free from demonic influences called a sorcerer Acts 8:11 means magic Simon was operating in sorcery & black magic until Peter & John arrived & saw the believers had only been baptized not filled with spirit So they prayed to be filled with the Holy Spirit Simon saw laying of hands & power of God that came upon the believers He offered to buy the ability to do this too Acts 8:18-23 Simon was filled with bitterness & had immoral character

Also Acts 13:8 Elymas in Cyprus

We know the enemy is defeated but it is up to us to function in the authority God has given us There is a god of this world Satan who is active at attacking humanity But we need to be aware & ignorant of the

devils devices One of these is what well focus on in this teaching We need to understand who we are fighting against, how it operates, its characteristics, its identity & how it affects us & His Church

#### HOW DOES THE PYTHON SPIRIT WORK

the case of Acts 16 to prevent/silence the gospel being declared by putting Paul & Silas in prison	In
Distraction from real truth ie woman followed & screamed out	Feeling
of being drained, dry & weary Physical fatigue 1 Kings 19:1-4	Christian
lfe is not what used to be, just going through the motions	Isolation
from other Christians	immobilizes you
Lack of joy enthusiasm for the things of God	Don't
read Word or pray like used too	
Busyness/distractions of other things	Don't
go to Church or if do its rare	Choosing worldly
things over Godly things	No longer have a
desire to be in the presence of God	Worship & Christian
music have been taken over by secular music	You don't seem to have
prayers answered or any breakthroughs anymore	Feel God has abandoned you
You lack the power of God	
You feel you being attacked but you can't see a way through	
You feel your circumstances are on top of you 'Circum' means to be circled 'Stance' to stand in middle	
Difficulties with finances, marriage, appliances breaking down , loss work, sick regularly	
Experiencing a slow disconnection with Godly people, cut off/avoid	
Overwhelmed by Hopelessness –no breakthroughs, feel like giving up, feel guttered & want walk away	
Proverbs 13:12	Old
habits & lifestyle resurface – our undealt with iniquities catch up Exodus 16:3 'Lets go back to Egypt'	
Reminds you of your past, negative thoughts	Distracts
you from what your called to do.	You lack the
faith you once had	Your caught up
doing & serving compensating for your intimacy with God	Your still a baby
(need milk) not matured (on meat) in the faith.	

#### UNDEALT WITH SIN OPENS THE DOOR FOR THE DEMONIC TO ENTER

enter through eyes, ears, speech Matthew 5:28; 6:23,24 Job 31:1 Genesis 6:5 Identify openings so close them Music can excite & ignite wrong thinking & behavior Indian 2 dogs good/bad within depends on one feed John 12:49 "For I have not spoken on My own authority but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command what I should say & what I should speak" Never speak words that allow the enemy to think he's winning. Mark 11:23 Zechariah 4:6,7 Mark 9:23 Matthew 9:29 release Faith to counteract doubt, unbelief What you confess you possess Speak to your circumstances, stronghold, sin declare Word of God	How
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Don't give devil foothold Ephesians 4:27 'Do not give the devil an opportunity'  
 IF SAW SNAKE OUTSIDE HOUSE YOU'D SHUT WINDOWS & LOCK THE DOORS SO HE COULDN'T ENTER YOU  
 CAN'T STOP A BIRD FROM FLYING OVER HEAD BUT DON'T HAVE TO HAVE IT LAND ON YOUR HAIR

HOW DO WE GET FREE FROM THE SPIRIT OF THE PYTHON THIS  
 IS NOT A SELF-DELIVERANCE COURSE GET OTHERS CHRISTIANS TO AGREE WITH YOU

1 Praise & worship Realizing the power in Praise & Worship as it did for Paul & Silas v25 'praying & singing hymns to God' Things happen in this case v26 there was an earthquake, the doors opened & there chains were loosed So as we Praise begins with declaring God is our deliverer & victory is in Him Psalm 22:3 'the Lord indwells in the praises of His people' The Holy Spirit comes (the breath of God) the Ruach He brings a renewal & restoration of life

2 Seal the gap Ask yourself if you haven't already how did the enemy enter God can't put a hedge of protection around you if you don't stop sinning, disobeying or forgiving Confess it & ask for forgiveness, repent from any known or unknown sin Job 1:10 Psalm 91 Determine to change your habits what you view, what you hear & what you speak

2 Pled the Blood of Jesus Revelation 12:11 says 'they overcame Satan by the blood of the Lamb & the word of the testimony' We declare at the Cross where Jesus sacrificed His life for us the chains that held us were broken Satan has no hold on us it was scattered Satan has no longer any power over us

3 Renounce in the Name of Jesus Christ any hold of this spirit Paul v18 commanded 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her' Now we need to discern whether this is an oppression where the spirit needs to be broken over the person or they need deliverance as was the case with the woman in Acts 16 In any case the person must renounce by name the spirit of the python & any associated spirits to left immediately Luke 10:19 CANCEL THE DEVILS ASSIGNMENT OVER YOUR LIFE

4 Resist the devil & He will flee Name it claim it Confession is Possession Key to walking in victory over fear, rejection, sickness, depression, divorce, poverty, lack & limitation Take a Stand & Declare I will not bow down I stand on the neck of my enemy & choose only to bow to the Kings of Kings Devil flee from my life & my families in the Name of Jesus Christ James 4:7

5 A fresh anointing of the breath & life of the Holy Spirit fall afresh on them That they get back into fellowship with other Christians & be accountable to someone for their prayer & Bible reading We doubt Satan Genesis 'Has God said' Jesus when tempted said 'It Is Written'

Lord Jesus forgive me for the sin, covenant or agreement I have committed that has opened the door to Satan According to your Word in Matthew 18:18 I take authority over you I bind & cast out the python spirit & every demonic strongholds associated with it Religious spirit, Jezebel spirit, death & hell, Leviathan spirit & all your children divination, witchcraft, weariness, fatigue, heaviness, frustration,

confusion, depression, oppression, beguiling spirit that seek to control, dominate & manipulate me I break their hold on & over my life in the Name of Jesus Christ & His blood shed for me I put over every door entry point in my life I break & renounce your hold over my life I acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord of my life & I breath in the of the Holy Spirit which is filling me now Thank you Lord for setting me free

WE ARE CALLED TO OVERCOME NOT BE OVERCOME