

In [Christianity](#), **deliverance ministry** refers to the activity of cleansing a person of [demons](#) and evil [spirits](#) in order to address problems manifesting in their life as a result of the presence of said entities and the root causes of their authority to oppress the person. Adherents to this theological concept attribute physical, psychological, spiritual and emotional problems that people suffer to the activities of the oppressing [spirits](#) following the example of Jesus Christ given in the [gospel](#). The practices and many of the underlying beliefs of these ministries are not accepted by all Christians.

## Methods

Deliverance ministries focus on casting out the spirit or spirits believed to cause an affliction. The method of casting out varies. Some adherents directly recite [Biblical](#) examples in [prayer](#) intended to command a demon to depart an afflicted person, and do not believe an [ordained](#) clergy is required to perform the deliverance.

Ministries also organize the removal from homes of items that are believed to harbor demons, including [fantasy](#) or [horror novels](#), and artworks / artifacts depicting [pagan gods](#).<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> Members are instructed to burn items that are related to idol worship, "demon drawing" symbols and music that summons demons.

Although Rev. Don Jeffrey, An exorcist in Arizona states that any and all of these objects should be exorcised of any evil spirits and blessed before burning them or sending them to the dump. An Ouija board is a perfect example of this. It acts like a gateway for the demonic and must be exorcised and blessed, the gate must be closed before it is destroyed.

For some Christians, deliverance ministries are activities carried out by specialist individuals like Bishop Larry Gaiters and Rev Vincent Bauhaus <sup>[1]</sup> or groups aimed at solving problems related to demons and spirits, especially possession of the body and soul, but not the spirit as ministries like Ellel Ministries International, Don Dickerman Ministries and Neil T. Anderson explicitly teach that a Christian can not have demons in their spirit because the Holy Spirit lives there, though they can have demons in their body or soul due to inner emotional wounds, sexual abuse, or Satanic ritual abuse.<sup>[2]</sup> This is usually known as partial possession or demonic infestation, as opposed to outside demonic oppression which does not reside in any of the 3 parts of a person: body, soul, spirit.

## How it is different from exorcism

Though many people confuse deliverance with exorcism, they are not the same. [Exorcisms](#) are carried out through the use of various rituals of exorcism, such as the [Roman Ritual](#), and often utilize attendant sacramentals such as holy water, while deliverance involves the ongoing counseling of the individual through various programs.

Deliverance ministries seek to remove any influences that allow the demon to take control over the individual. The individual must take responsibility and be involved in the process.<sup>[3]</sup>

Some Deliverance Ministers do use crucifixes, holy water and anointing oils as well as their Bible. Some Deliverance Ministers also use the term "Exorcist", wear the clerical collar (which was first used by the Presbyterians) and also incorporate a stole.

## Popularity

Though Christian deliverance has occurred from the time of Christ, the rise of deliverance ministries in the [United States](#) appears to have occurred almost immediately following the release of the film *The Exorcist* in 1973,<sup>[citation needed]</sup> and the film has been credited with creating interest in casting out demons,<sup>[citation needed]</sup> even though the practices of deliverance ministries differ widely from the highly ritualized exorcisms carried out by the [Catholic](#) and [Eastern Orthodox](#) churches.

[Frank Hammond](#) and his wife Ida Mae have been called "perhaps the most influential practitioners of deliverance ministry."<sup>[4]</sup> Their 1973 book *Pigs in the Parlor: A Practical Guide to Deliverance* is one of the most influential on the topic,<sup>[4]</sup> and has sold over a million copies.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Controversy

This relatively modern movement within Christianity has been marked by some controversy. Some Christians argue that all people, including believers, can be indwelt by demons, and others argue that only non-believers can be inhabited. Some have labelled deliverance ministry a departure from orthodoxy and a hurdle to spiritual growth, whilst others have seen it as supported by the Bible and an aid to Christian [Sanctification](#).