

We recommend that you watch Talk 8: The Devil prior to watching the prayer practicum

Renunciation Prayer Practicum

Speaker: Dan Gahagan

At the conclusion of the devil talk there is a screen that appears with a “Prayer of Renunciation.” Pause the DVD at this point. The prayer ministry for this session is split into two parts: 1) Renewal of Baptismal Promises, and 2) Renunciation Prayer.

Facilitating the Prayer Time

Sample Script

Dave mentioned that we would have an opportunity to go through a process of renunciation. We're here because we want to follow Jesus, to become his disciples. In Discovering Christ, we decided to place Jesus at the center of our lives. However, conversion is a process, which requires on-going surrender to Jesus. In a previous session of Following Christ, we addressed the area of forgiveness. We identified areas of unforgiveness in our lives and prayed for healing in those areas.

In the talk Dave mentioned another area that we must deal with - the area of renunciation. Accepting Jesus as Lord is just the beginning, it puts us on the right path. But there is more. We still have a lot of baggage that we've accumulated all of our life. Some of that baggage includes areas of influence where the devil has gained a foothold to oppress and pull us into sin, areas in which we are in rebellion with God. Often we say, "I can't help it. That's just me. It's habitual sin."

Renunciation means that you want no more to do with this influence in your life; it is over! You want no more lies, no more empty promises. Renunciation is an expression of repentance that many believers rarely use. As we renounce these areas we say, "It is over! I am done with it! I will not fellowship with you anymore."

This is how we'll go about it. First of all, we'll renew our Baptismal promises, rejecting Satan and all his works. If you haven't accepted Jesus as Lord, if you have never ratified the commitment that your parents and godparents made for you at Baptism, you can do it now. You can make a personal, adult commitment to Jesus as Lord. Do it as we renew our Baptismal promises! Second, I will mention various areas where we are vulnerable to the devil's influence, and then we will pray the on-screen prayer together for each area mentioned.

Part 1: Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Brothers and sisters, let us renew the promises we made at baptism when we rejected Satan and his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his Church.

Short Version

V. Do you reject Satan?

R. I do.

V. And all his works?
R. I do.
V. And all his empty promises?
R. I do.

Long Version

V. Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children?
R. I Do.
V. Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?
R. I do.
V. Do you reject Satan, the father of sin and prince of darkness?
R. I do.
V. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?
R. I do.
V. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?
R. I do.
V. Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?
R. I do.
V. God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever.
R. Amen.

Part 2: Renunciation Prayer

Now lead people through the specific areas of renunciation with the following formula.

Like the forgiveness prayer, invite people to pray the prayer along with you out loud, pausing at the blank in the prayer. Specific areas in need of renunciation should be said audibly, but in a quiet voice, under your breath. As the leader you should say each area aloud.

In the name of Jesus, I renounce a spirit of _____.

Specific areas:

Pride, anger, envy, fear, lust, doubt, self-righteousness, abandonment, depression, marital infidelity, slander, impurity, gossip, judgment, prejudice, control, self-sufficiency, disunity, occult practices, insecurity, hatred,

Can a lay person pray for deliverance? What is the difference between exorcism and deliverance?

Through baptism all Christians are given authority to overcome the work of the world, the flesh, and the devil. Exorcisms are rarely needed whereas deliverance is the ongoing work of growing in freedom as baptized Christians. Neal Lozano explains in his book Resisting the Devil: A Catholic Perspective on Deliverance:

"Exorcism is the liturgical rite of the Church, a sacramental provided for those cases where spiritual bondage has grown into possession. The person, no longer able to resist the enemy's control even with the prayer and support of others, needs a priest to step in and do battle against the enemy on his or her behalf. Exorcism is an unusual, extraordinary rite that should be used in only extreme cases of bondage."

Deliverance prayer, by contrast, should be a normal part of evangelization ... Deliverance is the effort through prayer, counsel, or spiritual direction- to help someone take hold of the authority he has been given in Christ, defeat the enemies lies, and break free of the oppression that afflicts him."

addiction – alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, etc.

Next, the leader should take authority and say:

In the name of Jesus, we break the power of every spirit we have renounced and command them to leave right now in Jesus' name.

The leader should end with a prayer of thanksgiving. Sample closing prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Your Son Jesus into the world to destroy the work of the devil. Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for opening our eyes to the ways the devil has been influencing our lives. Holy Spirit, we thank you for freeing us to live under the lordship of Jesus our Savior. We praise you Holy Trinity for your victory this day in our lives. We pray all of this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Remember - "Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). What we did is real. It has power.