

pigs in the parlor study guide

Pigs in the Parlor Study Guide is an essential resource for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of spiritual warfare, deliverance, and the various facets of demonic influence in the lives of believers. Written by Frank and Ida Mae Hammond, this groundbreaking work explores the intricate relationship between the human soul and spiritual entities, providing readers with practical insight into overcoming oppression and achieving spiritual freedom. This study guide will offer a comprehensive overview of the main themes, concepts, and practical applications of the book, as well as facilitate deeper engagement with its content.

Overview of Pigs in the Parlor

"Pigs in the Parlor" first published in 1973, delves into the biblical foundations of deliverance ministry and the nature of demonic spirits. The authors present a systematic approach to understanding how these spirits can infiltrate the lives of Christians, affecting their emotional, mental, and even physical well-being. The title refers to the biblical story in Mark 5, where Jesus casts demons out of a man and into a herd of pigs, illustrating the confrontational nature of Jesus' ministry against evil forces.

Key Themes

- 1. Demonic Influence:** The book asserts that Christians can be influenced by demonic spirits, leading to various issues such as anxiety, depression, and other emotional struggles. The authors emphasize that this influence does not mean a believer is possessed but rather oppressed.
- 2. Spiritual Warfare:** The Hammonds discuss the concept of spiritual warfare, encouraging believers to recognize the battle against unseen forces and to engage actively in the fight for their spiritual health and freedom.
- 3. Deliverance Ministry:** A significant portion of the book is dedicated to deliverance ministry, providing practical steps for individuals seeking to rid themselves of demonic oppression. The authors highlight the importance of prayer, confession, and repentance.
- 4. The Role of the Church:** The authors argue that the Church has a pivotal role in delivering people from demonic influences. They advocate for a community approach, where church leaders equip members to confront and overcome spiritual battles.
- 5. Healing and Restoration:** The Hammonds emphasize that deliverance is not just about removing demonic influences but also about healing and restoring

individuals to wholeness through Christ.

Understanding Demonic Influence

The Hammonds' work categorizes various types of demonic influences that can affect a person, including:

- **Oppression:** This is the most common form of demonic influence among Christians, where spirits exert pressure and torment without possessing the individual.
- **Possession:** The authors clarify that true possession involves a complete takeover of a person's will, which is generally seen as less common among believers.
- **Obsession:** In this state, individuals may find themselves preoccupied with certain thoughts or behaviors influenced by demonic spirits, leading to compulsive actions.

Common Signs of Demonic Influence

The Hammonds provide a list of symptoms or signs that may indicate demonic influence in a person's life. These include:

- Persistent feelings of fear or anxiety
- Sudden changes in behavior or personality
- Compulsive or addictive behaviors
- Unexplainable physical ailments
- Recurring nightmares or disturbing dreams
- Spiritual stagnation or lack of joy in faith

Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance

The authors outline a framework for engaging in spiritual warfare, which includes recognition, confrontation, and restoration. Here are some key components:

Recognition

- **Awareness:** Believers must first recognize that spiritual warfare exists and that they are engaged in a battle against demonic influences.
- **Identifying Strongholds:** It is crucial to identify personal strongholds or areas where demonic spirits may have gained a foothold.

Confrontation

- Prayer: The authors emphasize the power of prayer in confronting demonic spirits. Specific prayers for deliverance are recommended.
- Confession and Repentance: The act of confessing sins and repenting is vital as it breaks the legal grounds that demons may have over an individual.
- Fasting: The authors suggest fasting as a means to strengthen one's spirit and focus on God during the deliverance process.

Restoration

- Healing: After deliverance, healing is essential. The authors discuss the necessity of emotional and spiritual healing to fill the void left by the departure of demonic spirits.
- Filling with the Holy Spirit: They advocate for an infilling of the Holy Spirit to ensure that the individual remains strong and guarded against future attacks.

The Role of the Church in Deliverance

The Hammonds stress the importance of the Church in the deliverance process. They argue that:

- Community Support: Being part of a church community provides accountability and support for individuals undergoing deliverance.
- Training and Equipping: Church leaders should be adequately trained to handle deliverance ministry and assist those in need.
- Teaching on Spiritual Warfare: The Church should provide teaching on spiritual warfare and the authority Christians have in Christ over demonic forces.

Practical Steps for Churches

1. Establish a Deliverance Ministry: Churches should consider forming dedicated teams to focus on deliverance and spiritual warfare.
2. Provide Resources: Offer books, seminars, and teachings on deliverance to educate the congregation.
3. Encourage Prayer Groups: Create small groups focused on prayer and intercession for those struggling with demonic influences.

Final Thoughts on Pigs in the Parlor

"Pigs in the Parlor" serves as a foundational text for understanding the dynamics of spiritual warfare and the reality of demonic influence in the lives of believers. The Hammonds provide a clear, biblical approach to addressing these issues, emphasizing the importance of prayer, community, and reliance on the Holy Spirit for deliverance and healing.

As readers engage with this study guide and the book itself, they are encouraged to reflect on their own lives and the areas where they may need spiritual freedom. Additionally, the insights offered can empower individuals and churches to confront the reality of spiritual warfare with confidence and faith.

In conclusion, the principles outlined in "Pigs in the Parlor" are not just theoretical but are meant to be applied practically in the lives of believers. By understanding the nature of demonic influence and the process of deliverance, one can experience greater freedom and restoration in their walk with Christ.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of the 'Pigs in the Parlor' study guide?

The main theme revolves around the spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry, focusing on the influence of demons and the importance of inner healing.

Who are the authors of 'Pigs in the Parlor'?

The book is authored by Frank and Ida Mae Hammond, who are known for their work in the areas of deliverance and spiritual warfare.

What are some key concepts discussed in the 'Pigs in the Parlor' study guide?

Key concepts include understanding the nature of demons, the process of deliverance, the significance of confession and repentance, and the role of the Holy Spirit in healing.

How does the 'Pigs in the Parlor' study guide suggest dealing with spiritual strongholds?

The study guide suggests identifying and renouncing specific strongholds, engaging in prayer and fasting, and seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit to

achieve freedom.

What practical applications does the 'Pigs in the Parlor' study guide offer for individuals seeking deliverance?

It offers practical applications such as personal prayers, group ministry sessions, and exercises for self-examination and reflection to facilitate the deliverance process.

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