

How and Why Spirits Transfer Between People

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If there was ever a seldom taught topic, this is it! In fact, it's quite likely that you (the reader) have never heard teaching in this area. Nevertheless, the phenomena of "transference of spirits" is quite common; one you probably experience every day. Since this is so, let's consider the subject from a biblical point of view.

A FAMILIAR CONCEPT

Let's begin with a "transference" that is already familiar. We all know that certain sicknesses and diseases can be passed through air-borne germs. For instance, let's say someone at your job comes to work sneezing on everything. You see them sneeze on the copy machine right before you have to use it. You may find yourself thinking twice before you get around the copier, for fear of catching whatever it is that they have. Or you're waiting for an elevator and when the elevator door opens someone sneezes and coughs as they are coming out. You might think to yourself, "I think I'll take the next one, thank you." These are examples of situations where, if the conditions are right, and people are susceptible, sicknesses and diseases can transfer by an unseen element called germs.

Spirits, moods, and attitudes transfer between people in much the same way. For example, have you ever been in a room when somebody in a very lousy mood walked in? Did you notice that their state of mind instantly affected everyone there. Or, have you ever had your boss come to work angry and transfer his frustrated attitude to everyone else in the office? As you can see, the phenomena of transference of spirits is really more common than you might think. Let's see if we can find similar examples in the Bible: *Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. "Do you want me to release the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate, knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. "Crucify him!" they shouted. "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.* (Mark 15:6-15)

At first, the crowd of people cried out against Barabbas because of his guilt in a terrible crime. The last thing they wanted was a murderer let loose among them. Then the chief priests and religious leaders came among the mob, and through agitation and manipulation, got them to cry out for Jesus' execution instead. It took just a handful of priests to sway the entire crowd from one extreme to the other. Just a week before, the masses of Israel had hailed Jesus as their Messiah as He rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. Now, with just a little persuasion, the crowd shifted from shouting, "Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!" to shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

GOING ALONG WITH THE CROWD

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to go along with the crowd? Without even realizing it, you can find yourself doing things you wouldn't normally do, just because everyone else around you is doing it. This is often referred to as "mob psychology". Because people generally don't want to "stick out" or draw attention to themselves, the temptation to follow the crowd is great. If you had been present in Jerusalem that day, you probably would have been afraid to shout something different from the others. If you had, they might have begun shouting, "Crucify him" about you! Let's consider an everyday illustration of how "going along with the crowd" works. Let's say it's lunch time and you go to the office break room to buy a cold drink. As you enter, you notice a couple of co-workers sitting around a table talking. Without meaning to, you find yourself listening to their conversation. They're talking about your boss. And what they're saying isn't very nice. As you overhear the conversation, you're beginning to feel a bit grieved inside. Your conscience whispers, "Don't listen to this. It's gossip." But then you ask yourself, "Am I sure it's gossip? Let me listen a little more to make sure. Anyway, I probably need to know what they're saying, so I can be a more effective 'witness' to my boss." Before you even know what's happening, you're listening to every word. At that moment, whether you realize it or not, an unclean spirit of gossip and judgment has transferred over to you. After a while, you get up and head back to your office. On the way there, you pass by your boss. He says, be "Hi. How's it going?" You respond somewhat uneasily, "O.K." But you notice something is different. You found yourself momentarily rejecting him and you're not sure why. The reason is not hard to figure out. Something is now *on* you that wasn't *on* you just a few minutes before. You picked it up in the break room. Your innocent "listening in" opened you up to a transference of a spirit.

THIRD PARTY JUDGMENT

Have you ever found yourself listening to someone speak badly of another person? When you do, it's really difficult to not end up feeling the same way about that person because of what you've heard. This is called "third party judgment". This kind

of judgment occurs when somebody dumps on you about their feelings regarding another. Consider this example: “How are you doing today?” you ask your friend. “Terrible,” she responds. “Well,” you ask, “What’s the matter?” “Let me tell you,” she says. “Do you know George? You’re not going to believe what he did to me today!” Then, your friend proceeds to unload on you all her frustrations about George.

Now, you really don’t know George very well. In fact, you’ve just met him once and liked him right away. But now, after hearing what’s happened, you’ll change your opinion of him. Again, without even realizing it, an unclean spirit of judgment just landed on your head. Pity poor George the next time you see him. He’ll feel a wall where there wasn’t one before. These types of scenarios are very common. They happen just about every day. In fact, you can find very similar things in the Bible. Let’s consider a few scriptural examples:

THE SPREADING EVIL REPORT

One of the best Biblical pictures of a spreading evil report is found in Numbers 13. Moses sent out a band of twelve men to search the Promised Land and to return with a report of what they saw. When they came back they said, “*We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.*” (Num 13:27) They returned carrying, among other things, a large cluster of grapes on two poles. Then they said, “*But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.*” (vs 28) This statement undoubtedly cast a feeling of doubt over the assembly. The spies continued and said, “*The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.*” (vs. 29)

What they were saying was, “Everywhere we looked there were ENEMIES! Enemies in the mountains, enemies in the desert, and enemies by the sea!” The children of Israel were quite excited and anxious to enter the Promised Land before the spies returned. Each day, they would scan the horizon for those twelve men. Then, one day somebody saw them coming and said, “I see them coming! They’re back from their journey! And look at that incredible bunch of grapes they’re carrying!” But when the twelve spies arrived back at the camp, ten of them were full of fear for what they saw. And, as a result, that fear and unbelief came tumbling out of their mouths. It spread over the Israelites the same way germs spread when someone has a bad cold. That day the Jews caught the “germs” of fear and unbelief from the returning spies. However, one of the spies, Caleb, sensed this and immediately jumped up to stop what was happening. He said, “*We should go up at once and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.*” (vs 30) But then the other spies said, “*We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.*” (vs 31) And since Caleb was greatly outnumbered, the people believed them instead. So we’re told that, “*They spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, ‘The land we explored devours those living in it. The people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there. We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.’*” (vs 32-33)

Have you ever noticed that when people tell a story, the more they talk, the worse it gets? The spies in this story started out sounding just a little discouraged. Before long, however, they were looking at themselves as grasshoppers in a land filled with giants. At that point, the whole congregation cried out in anguish. We’re told, “*That night all the people raised their voices and wept aloud.*” (4:1) Those fearful spies infected the whole nation of Israel with unbelief. The spirit of unbelief and fear transferred to thousands of people. As a result, the whole multitude murmured against Moses and Aaron and said, “*If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert!*” (4:2)

Certain moods, attitudes, and dispositions tend to spread like wildfire among people. Once they start, it’s hard to stop them. Caleb tried to stop the fear and unbelief spread by the spies, but he failed. Gossip and tale-bearing have their own power and momentum, too. What was true then is true today: bad news travels faster and farther than good news.

PRINCIPLES ABOUT TRANSFERENCE OF SPIRITS

Let’s look at another example of how the transference of spirits occurs. In the book of Esther, we find a character named Haman, who was obsessed with an evil desire to destroy all of the Jews in the realm. Through subtlety and deceit, he persuaded the king to issue an edict to accomplish this act. And so we read: *The posts went out, being hastened by the king’s commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.* (Esth 3:15) The king aligned himself with Haman’s designs, not really knowing what he was doing. The result of this alliance was that, “the city of Shushan was perplexed.” The entire capital city of the realm was negatively affected when the king sat and consorted with this evil man. We find in this an important principle regarding spiritual transference: the spiritual condition of one in authority easily transfers to those under his authority.

Consider Adolf **Hitler**. The man was able to hypnotize the nation of Germany with the fever of nationalism, resulting in the horrors of World War II. It is said that when **Hitler** spoke, it was as if he were operating under a “spiritual **anointing**” that was definitely not from God. Rather, it was a demonic **anointing**. When he would speak, he would mesmerize thousands with his passion and fervor. Hundreds of thousands of people fell utterly under his spell. **Hitler** is clearly an example of one who transferred evil spirits upon those under his authority.

Jim Jones, the cult leader of Guyana, is another example of one operating in mesmerizing, hypnotic power that brought people under his “spell”. When one in authority operates under the influence of demonic spirits, those under that authority are

quite susceptible to the same. Any parent instinctively knows this is true. In spite of their best attempts, their bad attitudes, tempers, moods and dispositions invariably show up in their children. When this happens, they usually find themselves feeling quite guilty. As a result, they're often too lenient with needed correction, given that they recognize their own "bad spirits" in the child's behavior. The good side of this is that it's at this point that parents begin to get serious with the Lord about their spiritual walk. They're willing to do whatever it takes to keep their child from the things they've struggled with all their life. Spiritual transference also occurs with those that have spiritual authority over others (i.e. a pastor and his church). A pastor can come into his church and be feeling a certain way or be entertaining a bad spirit, and his people will pick it up. They may not even know what they are feeling, but they'll discern it just the same. In fact, you can determine the true character of a pastor by simply relating to his people over time. A pastor's true spiritual state is mirrored by those under his charge. The same thing is true with a family. You can tell a lot about dad and mom by just looking at the kids!

POSITIVE TRANSFERENCE

Transference of spirits doesn't always have to carry negative connotations. When an authority figure walks in righteousness and truth, then their godly passion and attitudes will transfer as well and be mirrored to those under their authority. Looking toward the end of the Book of Esther, we find that things have changed for the better. Mordecai, the godly character in the story, became the king's intimate companion and Haman, the Jew's enemy, was hung on the gallows.

Mordecai left the king's presence wearing royal garments of blue and white, a large crown of gold and a purple robe of fine linen. And the city of Shushan held a joyous celebration. (Esth 8:15)

The city that was once so perplexed when the king confided in Haman was now exploding with joy when the king consorted with a godly man. In this case, the one in authority transferred spiritually positive and godly things to those under his charge.

A similar thing occurred in the United States during the decade of the eighties. The country came into that decade still heavily affected by the "Vietnam Blues". Patriotism was not in vogue. There was a general sense of apathy and pessimism about America and its place in the world. However, with the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980, things quickly changed. Reagan's open displays of patriotism and nationalism transferred positive feelings to a majority of the American population. The resulting waves of optimism pulled the country out of the "Vietnam Blues" once and for all. The evidence of this was everywhere. Even commercial advertisements on radio and television conveyed a revived sense of love for one's nation. Regardless of what one may think of Ronald Reagan as president, his spirit of patriotism pulled the nation out of the post-Vietnam era depression. It was a wonderful example of how a good spirit can transfer to a whole country. I've seen this on a local level as well. In Houston, Texas, (where I live) there was a tremendous fear of crime prevalent in the city during the administration of Mayor Kathy Whitmire. Near the end of her time in office, the murder rate skyrocketed. The populace was scared. When Whitmire was replaced by Mayor Bob Lanier, something significant changed in the city. The crime rate quickly dropped and reached all time lows. Beside the fact that he had a tougher law and order mandate from the people, the shift in the city's mood was spiritual in many ways. Bob Lanier's administration transferred a sense of hope and courage to a city in the grip of despair.

THE TRANSFERENCE OF ANGER

"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared." (Prov 22:24-25)

Few things transfer as easily between people as anger. Have you ever been around an angry person for a while and before you knew it, you found yourself becoming angry as well? This particularly happens if that person is angry at you! Anger always detrimentally affects anyone it touches. For instance, an angry father will have a wife who wrestles with fear and depression and children who are discouraged and rebellious. Paul tells us, *"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."* (Col 3:21) Discouraged and emotionally battered children invariably grow up feeling insignificant and worthless. As a result, they forever struggle to find peace in their relationships and will continue the pattern of abuse and anger with their own offspring. This illustrates another important principle about the transference of spirits: spirits more readily transfer when two people are "soul-tied" together. A "soul-tie" is a term referring to a soulish bonding between two people. The soul tie can be either healthy or unhealthy. A healthy bonding in regard to marriage, for instance, is described in the verse that says, *"What God has joined together, let no man put asunder."* Other healthy bondings include church members and their pastor; between siblings; or between parents and their children.

It goes without saying that there are also such things as unhealthy bondings or bad soul-ties. The dangerous thing about such unions is that demonic spirits can "ride" across the soul-tie to effect both parties. For example, if you have a deep or intimate relationship with someone, you may find yourself, without even realizing it, picking up whatever mood they happen to be in at the time. Such unhealthy soul-ties are invariably the root behind all kinds of relational problems. The good news is that it's possible to have intimate relationships *without* having to be affected by each other's anger and bad spirits. Consider what Jesus had to say about this.

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man’s enemies will be those of his own household. Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” (Matt 10:34-38)

PLACING THE SWORD OF TRUTH IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

The only way to prevent transference of spirits in intimate relationships is with the “sword of truth!” The enemy cannot effectively operate when you choose to place God’s two-edged sword of truth between yourself and those you love. At the same time, few things give ground to Satan in relationships as compromise in this area. Whenever you fail to stand up for what you know to be true in order to “keep the peace”, you’re actually endangering the peace in the long run. Relationships built on anything other than truth will become roosting places for the demonic. Jesus refused to allow anything but truth reside in even His closest relationships. When His family came to “lay hold” on Him in Mark 3 for all the strange things He was doing, He drove the sword deep when He said, *“Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? Those who do the will of my Father are my brother, sister and mother!”* (Mark 3:33-35)

He deliberately cut the familial tie with His kin when He sensed the enemy coming in to control Him through that soul tie. In Matthew 16, He called Peter, one of His dearest friends, Satan! Why? Because Peter acted presumptuously and sought to hinder Jesus from His mission and purpose. So, Jesus’ response was to quickly pull out the sword of truth. You see, when Jesus walked into a room, He was the boss! He refused to be intimidated or controlled by anyone. Because of this, great power streamed forth from Him. In fact, at times, demons would scream out in His presence when they saw Him. He maintained an uninterrupted solidarity with the Father because of His diligence to stay free from any unhealthy tie with those around Him. He knew that the only way to “find” a healthy relationship was in His willingness to “lose” it. When you are willing to lose a relationship over an issue of truth, God then looses an **anointing** upon you that will break every ungodly soul tie in your life. Then the relationship can be all that the Lord intended for it to be. However, when one is unwilling to release his hold out of insecurity or fear, then he’ll invariably experience degrees of control and intimidation in that relationship and may end up losing it in the end.

WATCHING THE COMPANY YOU KEEP

Solomon tells us in the Proverbs that, *“He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.”* (Prov 13:20) This brings us to another principle about the transference of spirits: we tend to be like those with whom we associate, good or bad. If you associate with meek and sensitive people, you’ll tend to be meek and sensitive. If you associate with bold and out-going people, you’ll display similar characteristics. If you spend time with wise and discerning people, you’ll invariably move in greater wisdom. The opposite is true as well. When you associate with bitter and resentful people, you’ll become bitter and resentful. If you maintain intimate relationships with fearful and anxious people, you’ll struggle with the same. As we saw before, *“Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.”* (Prov 22:24-25)

Now someone might say, “But I’m married to an anxious woman! How am I suppose to not make friends with one I’m married to?” That’s a good question, and there is an answer. First, Solomon is speaking of one who walks in anger and hot-temper with no desire to *repent*. Everyone struggles at time with anger or frustration, but when someone “gives themselves over” to such attitudes, that’s when they become spiritually dangerous. It’s not that we’re to have nothing to do with someone who struggles with anger, hates it, and is trying to get free from it. The problem lies with those who refuse to acknowledge and deal with their problem. So, what do you do if you’re married to someone like that? You need to disassociate yourself spiritually from your partner when they justify and defend their ungodly attitudes. This involves being willing to stand up for the truth in a relationship and to resolve not to get under intimidation.

This is often easier said than done, particularly when there are emotional soul ties involved. However, in Christ, you have the power to break the unhealthy bonds of intimidation and control. The secret to such power is the willingness to bring truth into the relationship, even at the risk of losing it. Whenever you hang on to something at the expense of truth, it will have power over you. But when you’re willing to lose it for truth’s sake, you’re then free from any bondage to it. This is what Jesus meant when He said, *“Whoever will save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it.”* (Matthew 16:25) God wants your life in Christ to affect those around you, instead of being constantly affected by the ungodliness in others. He wants you to be a thermostat and not a thermometer. Whereas a thermometer reflects the climate around it, a thermostat controls the climate. Take an honest look at yourself. Are you a thermometer or a thermostat? Is your spiritual temperature determined by those around you? Or, are you the one setting the temperature in their lives?

HOW THINGS ON OTHERS TRANSFER TO YOU

“Then we will no longer be little children, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” (Eph 4:14-15)

One of the main reasons people are susceptible to spirit transference from others is because of spiritual immaturity. In this verse, Paul encourages believers to leave the unstable ways of childhood and to grow up, to become grown men and women - spiritual adults. In other words, to sink your roots down like a tree and quit being a tumbleweed! Have you ever seen a tumbleweed? When I first moved to Texas, I thought I'd see them rolling down the roads. After twenty years, I've yet to see one. I have, however, seen a lot of tumbleweed Christians who get blown about with all kinds of fears, deceptions and unhealthy relationships. A tumbleweed is like happiness. Happiness is often a fleeting emotion that's the result of things going well. Joy, on the other hand, is a fruit of the Spirit. If your goal in life is to find happiness, you're going to be greatly disappointed. If your goal in life is to walk in joy, regardless of what happens, then you will, in truth, experience a happiness beyond all your expectations. A tumbleweed believer is usually characterized by mood swings. They have a roller-coaster walk with God, governed by their emotions. When someone comes along with a bad spirit, they're the first to pick it up. Why is that? Because until you're delivered of something, you'll be subject to the same thing transferring to you from others.

For instance, if you have fear and unbelief inside of you, and somebody comes along full of fear and unbelief, you'll be affected. If there are areas of lust inside, particularly areas where there's no deep repentance, and someone walks up to you who is full of lust, a spirit transference can occur without you even realizing it. Only when you've been delivered in an area can you be assured of protection from that same thing passing to you from another. God wants to remove the "welcome mats" at the door of your life that attract unclean and unhealthy spirits. He wants to replace those mats with a shield of truth, righteousness, and holiness.

HOW THINGS ON YOU TRANSFER TO OTHERS

"Be diligent to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. Be diligent that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many." (Heb 12:14-15)

We're told here that a root of bitterness in one person can affect many people. In fact, few things spread as easily as bitterness, which is usually the driving force behind gossip. Interestingly enough, we are told to be "diligent" in dealing with such roots. The Greek word for "be diligent" is "episcopio", which means "to oversee". Paul is addressing the elders or "overseers" of the Hebrew church. In effect, he's saying, "Be diligent, you elders, lest a root of bitterness springs up and defiles everybody." One of the most important duties of a pastor, an elder, or a spiritual leader, is to spot and deal with bitterness between people before it has a chance to take root in a fellowship. Without a doubt, few things will transfer bad spirits from you to others like bitterness and unforgiveness. Whenever you fail to fully forgive another for their sin or failure, you open yourself up to demonic influence. The longer you hold resentment, the worse it gets. Eventually, you'll find yourself justifying your judgments, usually coating them over with a religious facade. But, God's not fooled. When you sow to the flesh in such ways, you shall of the flesh reap corruption. In fact, you'll become spiritually dangerous to others because of what's hidden in your heart. Why? Because from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. When such things are in your heart you will invariably spout judgmental and critical things towards others. What's the solution? Make the choice to forgive others, regardless of their offense. When you are diligent to keep your heart pure from resentments and judgments, the only thing you'll be transferring to others is mercy and grace.

TOTAL FREEDOM FROM TRANSFERENCE: A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Let's close by considering the Apostle Paul, a man totally free from spirit transference. In fact, the only transference in his life was that of the Holy Spirit to everyone around. In Acts 27, we find Paul and his shipmates on a boat headed to Rome. At this point in the narrative, they encounter a terrible storm at sea.

Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. We took such a violent battering from the storm, that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. (Acts 27:14-20)

What a predicament! The storm raged on and on with no sign of letting up. In spite of tossing just about everything they had overboard, despair set in. Then, we see Paul standing forth in the midst.

After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to be of good cheer, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he said. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island." (Acts 27:21-26) What an incredible scene! There they were in complete despair in the middle of a ferocious storm with this man standing in their midst, saying, "Be of good cheer, an angel appeared unto me, and

told me that the ship will be destroyed, but no one will be hurt.” That took guts! Imagine the courage it took to transfer such a positive spirit in the midst of such hopelessness. Yet, Paul could do it because of his intimacy with the Lord. Let’s read on:

In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.” So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away. (Acts 27:30-32)

When some of the crew tried to escape on the lifeboats, Paul immediately stopped them with a warning that they’d drown. What’s truly amazing is that they all believed him and chose to cut off their last means of escape. Imagine the spiritual power on Paul at this point. It was enough to convince hundreds of men to defy common sense and trust in something they couldn’t see, feel or touch.

Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. “For the last fourteen days,” he said, “you have been in constant suspense and have not eaten anything. Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head.” After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. Altogether there were 276 of us on board. (Acts 27:33-37)

This is one of the most beautiful pictures in the Bible of a believer walking in overcoming power and authority. Paul didn’t allow the fear, despair and hopelessness of those around to affect him in any way. Instead, he allowed what was on him - faith, trust and confidence - to transfer to them! This is the place to which the Lord calls every believer! A place where you can be free from the evil influences of those around, and where out of your belly will flow rivers of living water, bringing life and health to everyone you meet!

STEPS TO OVERCOME SPIRIT TRANSFERENCE

* Pursue spiritual maturity with all of your heart. Open your life to the godly influence and correction of others to enable you to grow beyond the “tumbleweed” stage.

* Pursue deliverance from those things within that attract transference from others. Ask God to remove the “welcome mat” from all those areas where you’re spiritually susceptible and vulnerable.

* Allow the Spirit to reveal any and all hidden roots of bitterness and resentment. Always keep short accounts in the forgiveness area in your relationships. Make it the passion of your life to come to the place where you can genuinely love your enemy, bless those that curse you, and pray for those that abuse you and spitefully use you. This way, you’ll avoid any possibility of transferring bad spirits from yourself and affecting others.

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Galatians 6:1)