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Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond

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Understanding a Landmark Work on Deliverance Ministry

Few books in the realm of Christian spiritual warfare have generated as much discussion, controversy, and practical application as **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond**. For decades, this concise yet powerful manual has served as an entry point for believers seeking to understand the reality of demonic influence and the practical steps for ministering deliverance. Its straightforward language, biblical grounding, and accessible analogies have made it a staple in churches and homes around the world. Whether you are a seasoned minister or a curious seeker, exploring the teachings of this book offers profound insights into a dimension of faith that many find both compelling and challenging.

The title itself is deliberately provocative, drawing on a vivid analogy that Hammond uses to explain how demonic spirits can invade a Christian's life. This article delves deeply into the core concepts, historical context, practical instructions, and lasting legacy of **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond**, providing a comprehensive overview for anyone interested in deliverance ministry and spiritual freedom.

The Origins and Background of the Book

Who Was Frank Hammond?

Frank Hammond was a Baptist minister and a graduate of Baylor University who, along with his wife Ida Mae, became deeply involved in deliverance ministry in the 1970s. Initially skeptical, Hammond's perspective shifted dramatically after witnessing what he believed to be genuine cases of demonic oppression manifesting in believers. His pastoral heart and methodical approach led him to seek biblical answers, compile his findings, and eventually produce what would become a foundational text in modern deliverance theology. **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond**emerged not from academic speculation but from years of hands-on ministry and careful scriptural study.

The Genesis of a Ministry Manual

The book was first published in 1973, during a period of significant charismatic renewal. Christians across denominational lines were beginning to openly discuss spiritual gifts, the reality of spiritual warfare, and the need for practical teaching on deliverance. Hammond recognized a gap: there was little accessible material that explained how to help someone who was demonically oppressed in a systematic, compassionate, and biblical way. He wrote the book as a practical guide for pastors, counselors, and lay believers who wanted to help others but felt ill-equipped. The enduring popularity of **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond** speaks to how effectively it filled that void.

Core Concepts and the Central Analogy

The Parlor and the Pigs

The central metaphor of the book is simple yet powerful. Hammond asks readers to imagine a beautiful, clean parlor in a home. This parlor represents the life of a Christian who has been saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, and is living in fellowship with God. However, into this clean parlor, pigs (representing demons) have been invited in. The pigs do not belong there; they are dirty, destructive, and defiling. They may have entered through open doors such as sin, trauma, curses, or ungodly soul ties. The key point Hammond makes is that these pigs can coexist in the parlor with the homeowner, but the homeowner has authority to evict them. This metaphor makes the abstract concept of demonic oppression tangible and easy to understand.

Distinguishing Between Oppression and Possession

A critical distinction that **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond** makes is between demon possession (a term Hammond avoids for Christians) and demon oppression or influence. Hammond argues that a born-again believer cannot be possessed by a demon because their spirit is sealed with the Holy Spirit. However, they can be oppressed, influenced, harassed, or even controlled in certain areas of their life. He uses the analogy of a house: a Christian's spirit is the "living room" where the Holy Spirit dwells, but the "closets" or "basement" of their soul (mind, will, emotions) and body can still harbor demonic strongholds. This teaching provides hope and clarity for Christians struggling with persistent sin, mental torment, or physical issues that have not responded to prayer or counseling.

- Possession: Total ownership and control, requiring a person to be given over to a spirit. Hammond asserts this is not possible for a true believer whose spirit is regenerated.
- Oppression: External pressure or influence, like being weighed down or attacked from outside.
- Influence/Obsession: Internal harassment of the mind and emotions, creating strongholds of thought patterns.
- Infestation: Multiple spirits operating in different areas of a person's life, like a "nest" of demons.

Open Doors: How Demons Enter

One of the most instructive sections of **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond** deals with the "open doors" through which demonic spirits gain legal access to a believer's life. Hammond emphasizes that demons cannot simply barge in; they need an invitation or a legal right based on sin, curse, or violation. Common entry points include:

1. Willful Sin: Habitual, unrepentant sin gives ground to the enemy.
2. Trauma and Abuse: Emotional wounds create vulnerabilities.
3. Rejection and Bitterness: Unforgiveness is a particularly strong foothold.
4. Occult Involvement: Any form of divination, sorcery, or false religion opens doors.
5. Soul Ties: Ungodly relationships, especially sexual ones outside marriage.
6. Curses: Generational curses or spoken curses from others.
7. False Teachings: Doctrines that deny Christ's power or authority.

Practical Steps for Deliverance Ministry

Preparation and Authority

Hammond dedicates significant attention to the practical process of casting out demons. He insists that deliverance is not a formula but a relationship-based ministry flowing from the authority of Jesus Christ. The minister must be a believer walking in faith, holiness, and love. Before initiating deliverance, the minister should pray, fast if led, and ensure their own heart is clean. **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond** stresses that authority is not in loud voices or elaborate rituals but in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Interview Process

A unique and valuable contribution of Hammond's work is the detailed interview process. He advises ministers to talk with the person seeking deliverance to identify open doors. This involves asking targeted questions about family history, past traumas, specific behaviors, and recurring thoughts. The goal is to map out the

territory that needs to be reclaimed. Typical questions might include:

- Have you ever been involved in the occult or false religions?
- Do you struggle with specific fears, anger, lust, or addictions?
- Have you been sexually abused or severely rejected?
- Is there anyone you have not forgiven?
- Do you experience suicidal thoughts, hearing voices, or strange nightmares?

Commanding the Spirits to Leave

Once the open doors are identified and closed through repentance and renunciation, the minister directly addresses the spirits. **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond** provides sample prayers and commands, but emphasizes that these are not magic incantations. The minister commands the spirits to leave in the name of Jesus Christ, often addressing them by their specific names (e.g., spirit of fear, spirit of lust, spirit of rejection). Hammond advises commanding spirits to go to the feet of Jesus and not to return. He also teaches that some spirits are more stubborn and require persistence, fasting, or breaking of strongholds before they depart.

Aftercare and Filling the Void

A crucial and often overlooked aspect of deliverance that Hammond emphasizes is aftercare. When a demon leaves, it leaves a vacuum. If that vacuum is not filled with the Holy Spirit, the demon may return with seven more wicked spirits (Matthew 12:43-45). Aftercare involves:

- Prayer and Bible reading: Daily filling the mind with God's Word.
- Praise and worship: Creating an atmosphere where demons cannot dwell.
- Accountability: Staying connected to a supportive church community.
- Walking in obedience: Avoiding the old sins that opened the doors.
- Renewing the mind: Replacing lies with biblical truth.

Controversies and Criticisms

While **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond** has been immensely influential, it has also attracted criticism from various theological perspectives. Some cessationist theologians argue that deliverance ministry ceased with the apostles. Others express concern that the book over-emphasizes demonic activity, leading believers to attribute every problem to a demon rather than to human sin, mental illness, or natural causes. Hammond himself warned against this imbalance, but critics argue his methodology can inadvertently encourage such thinking.

Additionally, some mental health professionals caution that deliverance ministry without proper psychological care can be harmful, especially for individuals suffering from trauma or dissociative disorders. They argue that spiritualizing psychological conditions can delay appropriate treatment. Hammond's defenders, however, point out that he never denied the reality of mental illness but advocated for a holistic approach that addresses both spiritual and psychological roots.

The Enduring Legacy

Despite criticisms, the legacy of **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond** is undeniable. The book has been translated into numerous languages and continues to be used in training courses for deliverance ministers worldwide. It helped break down the stigma around discussing demonic influence in Christian circles and gave practical tools to those who felt helpless in the face of persistent spiritual battles. Many contemporary deliverance ministries, both within charismatic and mainstream evangelical contexts, still use Hammond's framework as a starting point.

Furthermore, the book's emphasis on personal responsibility and authority has empowered countless believers

to take an active role in their own spiritual freedom. Instead of viewing themselves as passive victims,
Pigs In The **Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond** learn that they have authority in Christ to resist the devil and see him flee. This message of hope and victory resonates deeply with those who have struggled for years without breakthrough.

Key Takeaways for Modern Readers

- Demons target believers: The New Testament consistently warns Christians about spiritual warfare. Ignoring it does not make it go away.
- Authority is key: deliverance is not about fighting demons with human strength but exercising the authority Jesus has given to every believer.
- Repentance precedes release: Closing open doors through confession, repentance, and forgiveness is essential before deliverance can be effective.
- Deliverance is a process: For many, freedom comes in stages. Persistent, patient ministry is often required.
- Love is the foundation: Hammond consistently emphasized that deliverance ministry must be conducted with compassion, gentleness, and respect for the individual.
- Integration with professional help: Wise ministers recognize when to refer someone for medical or psychological care alongside spiritual ministry.

Conclusion

Pigs In The Parlor By Frank Hammond remains a seminal work in the field of Christian deliverance ministry. Its enduring appeal lies in its practicality, biblical foundation, and compassionate approach to a topic that is often misunderstood or avoided. While not every reader will agree with every point Hammond makes, the book succeeds in its primary goal: equipping ordinary believers to minister freedom to others in the name of Jesus. For anyone seeking to understand how spiritual warfare operates in daily life and how to walk in greater victory, this book provides a clear, accessible, and transformative roadmap. It challenges believers to take seriously the reality of the enemy while anchoring them firmly in the greater reality of Christ's victory on the cross.

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