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Pigs In The Parlorfrank Hammond

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Understanding "Pigs in the Parlor" by Frank Hammond: A Guide to Deliverance Ministry

For decades, the field of Christian deliverance ministry has been both deeply revered and widely debated. Among the most influential texts in this realm is a small but potent book titled *Pigs in the Parlor*, co-authored by Frank Hammond. First published in the 1970s, this book has become a cornerstone for those seeking to understand spiritual warfare, demonic oppression, and the practical steps for setting individuals free. The title itself is a vivid metaphor that has resonated with countless believers, pastors, and counselors. But what exactly does the phrase "pigs in the parlor" mean, and why has Frank Hammond's work remained so relevant across generations? This article dives deep into the core teachings of the book, its biblical foundations, practical applications, and the legacy of Frank Hammond in the modern deliverance movement.

Who Is Frank Hammond? A Brief Background

Frank Hammond (1923–2015) was an American pastor, teacher, and co-founder of the Pigs in the Parlor Ministries. Along with his wife Ida Mae Hammond, he traveled extensively, conducting seminars on deliverance and spiritual warfare. Unlike some flamboyant figures in the charismatic movement, Hammond was known for a balanced and pastorally sensitive approach. His background in psychology and counseling allowed him to blend biblical truth with a compassionate understanding of human trauma. *Pigs in the Parlor* (often cited with the keyword phrase **Pigs In The Parlor Frank Hammond**) grew out of his real-life experiences in ministering to people struggling with addictions, mental illness, and spiritual bondage. The book's longevity is a testament to its practicality and the urgent need many feel for a clear, scriptural method of deliverance.

The Core Metaphor: What Does "Pigs in the Parlor" Mean?

The central analogy of the book is simple yet profound. Imagine a beautiful, clean parlor—a living room meant for entertaining and comfort. Then imagine someone allows pigs to roam freely inside that parlor. The pigs defecate, root up the carpet, and cause destruction. The parable, drawn from Matthew 7:6 ("Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs"), is used by Hammond to illustrate how demonic spirits can take up residence in a believer's life. The "parlor" represents the human soul—the mind, will, and emotions. The "pigs" represent demons that are allowed in through sin, trauma, generational curses, or unconfessed wrongs. Just as no sane person would tolerate pigs ruining their parlor, no Christian should passively allow demonic oppression to ruin their spiritual life.

Frank Hammond emphasized that while believers cannot be "possessed" by demons in the same way an unbeliever can (because the Holy Spirit dwells in a Christian), they can certainly be **oppressed** or influenced from without. The book provides a detailed distinction between possession and oppression, a crucial nuance in deliverance theology.

Biblical Foundations of the Deliverance Model

The teachings in *Pigs in the Parlor* are rooted in several key Scripture passages. Frank Hammond frequently referenced:

- Mark 16:17 – “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons…”
- Luke 10:19 – “I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy…”
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – The concept of tearing down strongholds and taking every thought captive.
- Ephesians 6:12 – The reality of spiritual warfare against rulers, authorities, and powers of darkness.

Hammond argued that Jesus modeled deliverance as a core part of His ministry, and that the early church continued the practice (Acts 8, Acts 16). He believed that ignoring deliverance was to ignore a vital tool in the Christian’s spiritual arsenal. The book systematically walks through how to identify if a person has “pigs in the parlor,” using a checklist of symptoms such as persistent depression, uncontrollable anger, addictive behaviors, and hearing voices. However, Hammond was careful to encourage readers to seek medical and psychological evaluation first—a wise caveat that adds credibility to his approach.

Practical Steps for Deliverance According to Frank Hammond

One of the reasons **Pigs In The Parlor Frank Hammond** remains a go-to manual is because it offers a step-by-step process for conducting deliverance. The method is not meant to be a magical formula but a prayerful, authority-based engagement. Key elements include:

1. Preparation: The minister must be in right relationship with God, confessed of sin, and filled with the Holy Spirit. They should also pray and fast if possible.
2. Interview and Diagnosis: The person seeking deliverance is asked about their background, family history (generational sin), traumatic events, and current struggles. Hammond emphasized that demons often enter through specific doors—rejection, sexual abuse, occult involvement, or unforgiveness.
3. Taking Authority: The minister commands the demon(s) to leave in the name of Jesus Christ. This is done audibly and with faith, not as a formula but as an act of spiritual authority.
4. Naming and Expelling: Hammond taught that demons often have specific names (e.g., spirit of fear, spirit of addiction, spirit of lust). While not necessary, naming can help target the oppression. The person may manifest—coughing, crying, or even speaking in a different voice—which Hammond normalized as part of the process.
5. Prayer and Renunciation: The individual renounces the spirits and any agreements they made with them. They confess and repent of sins that opened the door.
6. Sealing and Aftercare: Once deliverance occurs, the person is prayed over to be filled with the Holy Spirit. They are taught to guard their heart, avoid former sins, and maintain a robust prayer and Bible reading life. Hammond stressed that an empty house invites seven worse spirits (Matthew 12:43-45), so aftercare is not optional.

Common Criticisms and Controversies

No book on deliverance escapes criticism, and *Pigs in the Parlor* is no exception. Some theologians argue that Hammond’s views border on an over-emphasis on demonology, potentially neglecting personal responsibility and God’s sovereignty. Others caution that the deliverance model can lead to psychological misdiagnosis, where treatable mental health conditions are falsely attributed to demons. Frank Hammond himself addressed this concern, repeatedly stating that deliverance should complement, not replace, medical and psychological care. However, in practice, some overzealous ministers have ignored that balance.

Additionally, the concept of “generational curses” is debated. While Scripture speaks of the sins of the fathers visiting the children (Exodus 20:5), many conservative Christians interpret that as consequences of sin rather than literal demonic inheritance. Hammond’s view leaned toward the latter, which has caused division. Nonetheless, his approach has helped countless individuals find freedom where traditional counseling failed,

and his emphasis on love and patience sets a standard for ethical deliverance ministry.

The Impact and Legacy of Frank Hammond's Ministry

Despite controversies, the legacy of **Pigs In The Parlor Frank Hammond** is undeniable. The book has sold millions of copies worldwide and has been translated into dozens of languages. It has empowered ordinary Christians to pray for others with confidence. Many churches have started deliverance teams based on the principles in this book. Frank and Ida Mae Hammond's teachings have influenced a new generation of deliverance ministers like Derek Prince (who wrote a commendation for the book), John Eckhardt, and others.

The book also helped demystify spiritual warfare for laypeople. Rather than viewing deliverance as something only for exotic missionaries, Hammond brought it into the living room—the parlor. He taught that every believer has authority in Christ and that freedom is available for those who pursue it. His practical checklists and diagnostic tools gave common sense to a controversial subject.

Relevance for Today's Reader

In an age of rising anxiety, addiction, and mental health crises, many Christians are seeking answers beyond medication and therapy alone. *Pigs in the Parlor* offers a spiritual dimension that resonates with those who feel oppressed by unseen forces. While it is not a substitute for professional help, it provides a framework for understanding the enemy's tactics and how to resist them. Frank Hammond's gentle, pastoral tone makes it accessible even to those new to the concept of deliverance.

For pastors and counselors, the book serves as a resource that can complement existing care ministries. It encourages discernment—not seeing a demon behind every bush—but not ignoring the reality of spiritual warfare either. The metaphor of pigs in the parlor remains one of the most powerful illustrations of how sin and demonic influence can ruin a life that was meant to be a dwelling place for God.

Conclusion

Frank Hammond's *Pigs in the Parlor* has stood the test of time because it addresses a deep human need: the desire for complete freedom. By blending Scripture, practical steps, and a compassionate heart, Hammond offered a path for those who felt stuck in cycles of sin, fear, and oppression. The book is not without its critics, but its impact on the global church is undeniable. Whether you are a seasoned minister or a curious seeker, returning to the foundational teachings of **Pigs In The Parlor Frank Hammond** can renew your understanding of spiritual authority and the victory found in Christ. After all, the parlor belongs to the King—not to pigs.

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