



Acts 16:16 | SCRIPTURE
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The Python's Ploy | SERMON

Defeating a Spirit That Wants to Squeeze Your Breath

Margin is the space between your load and your limit.

Without margin:

- stress increases
- relational intimacy decreases

Spiritual forces can be behind persistent stress.

- Samson lost his strength at the lap of Delilah. (Judges 16:19)
- Saul was tormented by a distressing spirit. (1 Samuel 16:14)
- Mental hell is one of the signs of demonization. (Mark 5:2-5)
- Fear can be a crippling spirit. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Heaviness can be spiritual. (Isaiah 61:3)
- The enemy shoots fiery darts. (Ephesians 6:16)

"Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling." **Acts 16:16**

In Greek, the word "divination" is *python*.

1. **Pythons can swallow the prey as a whole.**

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

Suicide is the 11th cause of death in the USA (Year 2021), and is the 2nd among 10-34; 5th among 35-54 (Center for Disease and Control)

The Bible mentions 6 specific people who committed suicide: Abimelech (Judges 9:54), Saul (1 Samuel 31:4), Saul's armor-bearer (1 Samuel 31:4-6), Ahithophel (2 Samuel 17:23), Zimri (1 Kings 16:18) and Judas (Matthew 27:5).

When you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, don't partner with a spirit of death.

1. **Python squeezes the breath of its victims.** Python doesn't kill with venom; instead, it encircles its intended prey and tightens its grip until the last bit of air is expelled.

7 Signs that Python is Squeezing: (Jentezen Franklin)

1. Loss of hunger for God
2. Physically always tired
3. Attack of lack
4. Struggling prayer life
5. Super overwhelmed
6. Old habits making their way back



7. Pulling away from the Christian community

The word "breath" in the Bible represents the Holy Spirit and life (Genesis 2:7; John 20:22)

Breathe in the word of God daily.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16 (ESV)

Breathe out through prayer and praise.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD." Psalm 150:6

1. **Pythons lay eggs and incubate them until they hatch.**

Don't let the devil build a nest in your head.

Doubt can become a sin if it leads you from God.

Doubt vs Unbelief:

- Doubt is questioning what you believe. Unbelief is a determined refusal to believe.
- Doubt is a struggle faced by the believer. Unbelief is a condition of the unbeliever.
- Doubt says, "I can't believe, I need more proof." Unbelief says, "I wouldn't believe despite the evidence."
- Doubt is honest. Unbelief is stubborn.
- Doubt is looking for the light. Unbelief is content with darkness.
- Doubt is born out of a troubled mind and a broken heart. Unbelief is an act of will.
- Jesus helps doubters, but He cannot tolerate unbelief.

Kill Snake Eggs by

1. Being in a small group.
2. Focus on what God has done.
3. Remember how much Jesus loves you.
4. Call on Jesus in your doubt.
5. Speak God's Word against the devil.