

EXERCISING OUR AUTHORITY OVER THE ENEMY

Introduction

Every believer has been called into spiritual warfare in one form or another. Whether we realize it or not, satan and his demonic powers have declared war on all of humanity and more so upon everyone who has put their trust in Christ. Sadly, there are millions upon millions of wounded and battered Christians who don't even know how to respond to the battle. God's word says, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). There is a desperate need for God's people to know that they have been given the keys to the Kingdom and how to use the authority God has given us.

I. AUTHORITY TO PULL DOWN STRONGHOLDS

Strongholds were fortified structures for defensive purposes to protect a people, city from impending enemies who would seek to overcome them. A stronghold was walls that could be as high as 50 feet and as thick as 10 feet. They would fortify a city or were a fortress to repel invading enemies. Spiritual strongholds act the same way natural strongholds do.. Positive strongholds are rooted in truths of God's word while negative strongholds are developed by believing the lies of the enemy.

- A. Paul teaches us how the believer can take authority against the lies and strongholds the demonic powers seek to establish against the life of the believer.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

- B. A key to walking in our authority is to understand that we must not try to fight a spiritual battle with our carnal, fleshly abilities or strength. Our physical abilities are nothing in comparison to the abilities of demonic powers. Paul is clear that our abilities come in the person of Christ. Our union with God is the authority the enemy fears.

Jeremiah 9:23 "Thus says the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches"

1 Corinthians 1:30 "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption"

Ephesians 3:16 "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man"

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Colossians 2:2-4 "that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words."

- C. Growing in our Identity and in the knowledge of God's word is what establishes our heart in faith. Faith in God and in His word is what satan seeks to keep the believer from coming into. He fears faith filled believers.

John 8:32-34 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free?'" Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

- D. Understanding the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is of utmost importance if we are to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the fullness of Jesus victory over the flesh and over demonic powers. Satan seeks to exploit us through lies and fear but the Spirit filled believer knows how to resist the enemy and allow the anointing of God's Spirit to strengthen and minister through us.

Matthew 12:28-30 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. ³⁰ He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad."

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

II. BREAK STRONGHOLDS BY BREAKING OUR AGREEMENT WITH DARKNESS

- A. Close the doors of the flesh and inspect your life to make sure there are no opened doors to the enemy that would give him legal access to attack, harass and damage our spiritual walk with the Lord. Satan knows our weak areas and therefore seeks to exploit us in those areas.

John 14:30 "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me."

Ephesians 4:27 "nor give place to the devil."

- B. In times of weakness or temptation, understand that satan uses words, lies, negative emotions that contradicts the truth of God's word. It is then that we must resist these "fiery darts, arrows" that are sent to cause us to doubt the goodness of God and the validity of His word."

Ephesians 6:16 "above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one."

Jeremiah 9:8 "Their tongue is an arrow shot out; It speaks deceit; One speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, But in his heart he lies in wait."

- C. Legal entry to the enemy is granted when we choose to yield to the lies of the enemy in tempting our minds, emotions, and our flesh.

James 1:14-15 "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death."

We must therefore not agree with the lies of temptation and agree with the word of God.

III. AGREE WITH GOD'S WORD AND WHO HE SAYS YOU ARE

- A. Jesus completed the work for your salvation, healing, deliverance and fullness for enjoying this life in Him. Believe it, confess it and walk it out BY FAITH.

- Eph 1:3-7, 2:1-10, 3:16-20, 4:12-15, 17-32, 5:8-18, 22-28, 6:1-2, 5-9, 10-18

- B. Know your benefits, rights, inheritance you have in Christ and what has happened to you in the faith.

- Rom 6:3-5, 6-8, 9-14, 16-18

- C. Be filled with the life of the Holy Spirit. The believer who knows the Holy Spirit is the believer who can recognize His voice. God's Spirit leads us, guides us, and instructs us to know God's ways and how to overcome the plans satan has for our lives.

- Mat 10:19-20, 12:28, LK 24:49, Jn 14:16-18, 26, 16:5-15