

## THE BATTLE OVER YOUR SOUL- KEYS TO WALKING IN THE FREEDOM OF CHRIST

Satan's hatred of God has resulted in his hatred for humanity. The moment that God judged Satan and dethroned him from his place of honor, he turned against humanity and sought to establish his own kingdom. His kingdom is in total contrast to the kingdom of God. Satan's kingdom seeks to bring darkness, bring people into bondage, fill people's lives with depression, hopelessness, despair, guilt, shame, condemnation, hatred, division, etc, the list goes on and on. But this is the very reason why Christ came. He came for the purpose of bringing freedom and deliverance to the captives. Jesus' Kingdom is a Kingdom of freedom.

***John 8:31-34*** "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> 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."

### I. JESUS CAME TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE

Every believer has the right to not only encounter the freedom of God, but to also walk in it and abide in it. It is clear from Jesus' own words that faith in God, faith in Christ and faith in His word ASSURES the believer not only of salvation but also FREEDOM. The question for most people is: "How do I get free and also stay free?" But once we have answered that question we also need to be aware of the ways of our enemy and how he seeks to bind all of humanity.

- A. What did Jesus come to do? He came to bring salvation, healing, and deliverance. This is the Gospel of the Kingdom. Many stop at the benefit of salvation and never realize that freedom from oppression and bondage are also part of the salvation package.
1. Spirit- ***Romans 8:1-2*** "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."
  2. Soul- ***1 Peter 2:11*** "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lust which war against your soul."
  3. Body- ***Luke 13:15-16*** "The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? <sup>16</sup> So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

We can see clearly God's salvation package is a complete one. His plan includes wholeness for your spirit, soul and body.

***1 Thessalonians 5:23*** "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- B. Satan's package is one of darkness, misery, and pain. He will use anything and anyone to destroy our lives. His hatred for God is manifested in his hatred towards God's creation, therefore he seeks to destroy our lives.

***Matthew 8:16-17*** "When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, <sup>17</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: " He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

***Matthew 15:22*** "And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

***Matthew 17:15-16*** "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. <sup>16</sup> So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

***Matthew 18:34-35*** "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

- C. Jesus- God's perfect deliverer

***Mark 1:32-34*** "At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup> Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him."

***Mark 1:40-41*** "Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."

***Mark 2:10-11*** "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup> "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

***Mark 5:15*** "Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid."

***Mark 5:41-42*** "Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." <sup>42</sup> Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement."

## II. DISCERNING OPENED DOORS TO DARKNESS

Satan seeks for the right to afflict the people of God. The unbeliever is already a subject to darkness but the believer has to give the enemy permission to be attacked. Our obedience closes doors and our disobedience opens doors to the enemy.

What are we to be on the lookout for?

- A. Lies in our minds – John 13:2,27, Eph 2:1-3
- B. Spirit of deception –Mat 24:24, Acts 16:16-18, 2 Cor 11:1-4, Gal 3:1-7, 1 Tim 4:1-3
- C. Counterfeit religious ministries –Mat 7:16,22-23, 2 Tim 2:14-18, 3 John 5-12
- D. Occultic doors –Dt 18:10-12, Isa 8:19-20, 1 Cor 10:6-11

## III. KEY TO LIVING “DEMON FREE”

- A. Repentance- The moment one becomes a child of God the miracle of regeneration took place. God took us from the grip of darkness and brought us into His Kingdom.

***Acts 26:18*** "to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

- B. Close the door to sin- "SAY NO"

Prior to becoming a child of God, we were all slaves to sin. But the power to overcome sin's hold on our lives was broken when we chose to "SAY" yes to Jesus. –Romans 6:1-14, Eph 4:25-31, 1 Peter 5:8-9

- C. Be secure in who you are in Christ- 1 John 3:1-3

***Ephesians 2:10*** "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

***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"

- D. Use your weapon- The word of God

***Ephesians 6:11-13*** "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

***Hebrews 4:12*** "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

- E. Be clothed with Jesus' humility-James 4:6-7

***Philippians 2:5-7 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."***

- F. Know the power of the Blood

1. The Blood of Jesus is "freshly applied" when we acknowledge our sin and confess it.

***1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***

***Ephesians 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"***

2. The Blood of Jesus is like a blanket, a barrier against the powers of evil. By choosing to walk in the fear of the Lord and in obedience, the Blood of Christ continually cleanses us from the power and effects of sin.

***1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. "***

3. The Blood washes us from a guilty conscience thereby giving us boldness and confidence before God.

***Hebrews 10:19 "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus"***