

*Engaging in Spiritual Warfare and  
Exercising Spiritual Authority  
Skills for Spiritual Warfare and Spiritual Authority  
ETS for October 2018*

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Title: Engaging in Spiritual Warfare and Exercising Spiritual Authority

Teacher: Jeff McGee

Dates: October 17, 2018 - December 12, 2018 (8 mtgs, skipping 11'21'18)

Revised:

### **Class Description**

As Apostle Mosy Madugba told us, this is a season of war. The Lord is calling us to prepare for spiritual warfare, to be strong, and to fight with the Lord. According to the promises of the Lord, we have a great opportunity for total recovery in this season. Will we contend for our destiny? Let's get equipped and trained! *"Praise be to the Lord, my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me" (Psalm 144:1-2).*

This season is also a time to contend for our children, youth, and young adults to have their own experiences with the Lord and the Spirit of God "Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace" (Psalm 144:12). May we contend for our sons and daughters, and may we contend for our kingdom destiny.

Jesus said that he was giving us the same work to do that he had been doing. The work of Christ includes advancing the kingdom of God and defeating darkness, disease, and the devil (Matthew 16:18; 1 John 3:8; Luke 4:18-19). God is raising up an army to advance the kingdom of God, empowering and authorizing disciples to defeat demonic enemies, to heal people of diseases, to overcome darkness with light, love, forgiveness, and other weapons of the kingdom of God. Therefore, we must conclude that spiritual warfare is a reality for Jesus and his followers (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Since spiritual warfare is a part of our reality, we need to learn how to fight. We want to develop skills for engaging in spiritual warfare and exercising spiritual authority to conquer darkness, disease, and the devil.

## **Spiritual Warfare Is the Context for the Joshua Generation**

### **Revelation about this season of war** (journal entry from 10'6'18)

Dear Lord:

I just realized something this week. I need to change my mental model about this season in which we are engaged.

We are a part of the Joshua Generation. That means that we must fight to possess our promised land.

We fought in May and June. You gave us breakthrough against the strategies of the enemy as we talked about Isaiah 43 and passing through the waters and fire of transition

We fought in July - August with the Seven Days of Worship, Prayer, and Warfare. You gave us victory over witchcraft which has come against us.

We fought in August when Apostle Gloria Madugba came on August 19. You released favor and anointing and inspiration to fight and to achieve breakthrough as Gloria ministered.

We fought at the Ministry Leaders Weekend when Doug was here, September 29 - 30. Pull down the strongholds. Raise a new standard. You did both of those things according to Doug's dream on April 23. It was another time of breakthrough in the midst of serious warfare.

These past two weeks we have been in intense warfare. (See the list previously.)

So, here is what I am present to.

I see warfare as a one-off situation. We fight briefly, then, we go back to what we were doing.

As I was sharing about our situation and season at Pastors Prayer Group on Thursday, Oct. 4, it dawned on me. We are going to be in a season of battle until we possess our possession. That was true for the Joshua Generation, so it is true for us.

Yes, I prefer fighting one time and that takes care of it. However, our calling and reality are different than that. This season is a season of war. You are giving us instructions on how to fight each battle to possess our possession. It is not a one and done deal; nope, it is an ongoing season of war to do what you have called us to do.

Lord, please help me to change my mindset.

Please give me your guiding principle for this season.

Please help me to lead.

We have committed to fighting on Thursday morning IP meetings for the duration. That is one step of action. Please show us what else you want us to do.

Lord, thank you for speaking to me through the transformation conversation on Thursday at Pastors Prayer. I am so grateful for how you are speaking, moving, and leading.

### Revelation about this season and a new mindset

1. **We are in a new season.** This is a season of warfare.
  - a. We focus on the vision set before us or on the joy set before us.
    - i. *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates--all the Hittite country--to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Joshua 1:1-5).*
      - (1) The Lord has given us his plans, purposes, promises, and prophetic words.
      - (2) Fighting and overcoming the enemy are not our focus; doing what the Lord is showing us to do and possessing our promised land is our focus.
  - b. We are learning to fight and to rule and reign with the Lord now, because we are children of the King, members of the household of God, sons and daughters of God Most High, and partners with the Lord forever and ever.
2. **As a part of the Joshua Generation, we must fight to take ground and to possess our inheritance. This is not a one-off season. We will fight until we possess our inheritance.**
  - a. In the past, warfare has been infrequent for us.
  - b. In this season of warfare, fighting becomes the norm.
  - c. And, the enemy will come against us.
    - i. Trying to deceive us (Gibeonites)
    - ii. Counter attack (kings banded together to attack Joshua and his troops)
    - iii. Etc.
    - iv. Questions: What are some of the examples in the book of Joshua and the book of Nehemiah about warfare and battles? What were some of the strategies of the enemy to hinder the advance of the people of God?

3. **Change of mindset: ongoing warfare and battles are a part of possessing the land.** This is not a short season. Don't be surprised, discouraged, confused, and resistant.
4. **If we fail to understand the season, or if we have the wrong mindset, we will respond incorrectly to the attacks and battles.**
  - a. Wrong responses to a season of warfare:
    - i. What are we doing wrong?
    - ii. Are we under a curse?
    - iii. Have we missed God?
  - b. **Right response: In a season of warfare, being a part of the Joshua Generation, we expect that we will have to fight.**
    - i. Our Champion is leading us into battle. He has given us our possession. Now, we go with him in partnership to possess our possession. So, don't be surprised by ongoing warfare. No enemy will be able to stand against us.
      - (1) *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them-to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates-all the Hittite country-to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you (Joshua 1:1-5).*
    - ii. Fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12). Fight and keep on fighting.
      - (1) *Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses (1 Timothy 6:12).*
    - iii. Stay at your post; don't abandon your place or assignments (2 Timothy 2:4). Stay faithful.
      - (1) *You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs-he wants to please his commanding officer (2 Timothy 2:1-4).*

- iv. Keep on showing up in the grace and power of the Lord, and don't quit. Don't grow weary in well doing (Galatians 6:7-9).
- (1) *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians 6:7-9).*
- v. Find fresh strength and encouragement in the Lord. Don't give in to fear, fatigue, discouragement, frustration, deception, disappointment, or confusion (Joshua 1:9).
- (1) *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).*
- (2) *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:28-31).*

## Spiritual Warfare: It Is a Reality of Scripture

In teaching his disciples how to pray, the Lord Jesus acknowledged the reality of the enemy and warfare: *lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (Matthew 6:13)*. Spiritual warfare was a part of the world view of Jesus.

Before we go on further into the issues of spiritual warfare and spiritual authority, let's look at the Lord's Prayer as a model for the way we are to pray and be in this world.

But, behind the Lord's Prayer, is the assumption of pursuing intimacy with God. So, we will look briefly at the key of intimacy with God. Authority flows from intimacy. Then, we will look at some principles of prayer that we find as we consider what Jesus taught through the Lord's Prayer.

## The Key of Intimacy with God

1. **Christianity is about relationship with the Living God.**
  - a. *God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful (1 Corinthians 1:9).*
  - b. *Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent (John 17:3).*
  - c. You were created to be the temple in which the Lord dwells by his Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). God wants to be at home in you.
2. **What is the Spirit of God saying today?** Return to your first love (Revelation 2:1-7). God is stressing that Christianity is an issue of relationship, not religion. Moreover, God is doing a wonderful thing in our day. He is boiling down the definition of Christianity to its simple essence: the essence of Christianity is pure and simple devotion to Jesus (Matthew 6:33, 22:37-39; John 17:26; 2 Corinthians 11:3).
3. **Practicing spiritual disciplines relationally is a way to fuel a life-giving relationship with the Lord.**
  - a. Spiritual disciplines remove the illusion that God is absent.
  - b. *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians 6:7-9).*
4. **Everything we do must flow from the place of intimacy with God.**
  - a. Listen to the words of Jesus in John 15:5. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

- b. *The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and by what we do for him (Romans 12:3, TMSG).*
- c. Apart from Jesus, you and I can do nothing (John 15:5).
5. The reality is that Christians throughout history have gotten so busy doing ministry that they have forgotten and neglected the Lord. **We are prone to leaving our first love** (Revelation 2:1-7).
- a. Listen to the description of these believers.
- i. They worked hard for the Lord.
  - ii. They refused to quit (perseverance).
  - iii. They stood for truth and believed sound doctrine.
  - iv. They were persistent, courageous for Christ, and never wore out.
- b. They sound like a great group of believers: hard workers, perseverant, Bible-based, overcomers.
- c. However, they had walked away from their first love. They had fallen a great distance from the heart of Christ.
- d. It is possible to be so busy about the work of ministry that we neglect the Lord of the work. That is what happened to the people at the church in Ephesus.
6. **But God desires an intimate relationship with us first, above all else we do in ministry.**
- a. You and I were created for fellowship with God (1 Corinthians 1:9).
- b. **The desire of God is to dwell with us.**
- i. It started that way in the Garden, with deep fellowship (Genesis 2:8 - 3:8). God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden.
  - ii. And, it will end that way according to Revelation.
    - (1) *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God (Revelation 21:3).*
    - (2) It is our destiny for eternity (Revelation 21:3-4).
- c. **You and I were created to be a living tabernacle for God, a place where God dwells and makes his home in us** (John 14:20, 15:5; Ephesians 2:21-22)
- i. *On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you (John 14:20).*
  - ii. Remember that the word "abide" in John 15:5 is an experiential word.
    - (1) It is more than simply doing a Quiet Time or having devotionals.

- (2) We are called to abide in Christ and to experience the presence of the Living God in our lives.
- iii. *“I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. 2 He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. 3 You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken. 4 Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me. 5 “I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing” (John 15:5, TMSG).*
- d. **The foundation for everything we do is intimacy with the Lord (Matthew 22:37-39), just as it was for Jesus (Luke 5:16-17).**
- i. Remember: the Great Commandment is Matthew 22:37-39, not Matthew 28:18-20.
- ii. You and I were called to get next to and to follow *a person* (Matthew 4:19). *“Come follow me,”* Jesus said.
- iii. Jesus prayed for our intimacy with him and his father (John 17:20-21).
- (1) *... Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me (John 17:21).*
- e. **We must be intentional about maintaining our intimacy with the Lord, or we will burn out, drop out, give up, or become overwhelmed.** Remember: throughout history God’s people tend toward leaving their first love (Revelation 2:1-11).
- f. We must be intentional about becoming conformed the image of Christ and letting him live through us (Romans 8:28-29). We let Christ express his nature through us.
- g. Jesus is the living water which people need, and he wants to flow through you. (See John 7:37-39.) **So nurture your relationship with him to keep those springs flowing.**
- h. **Love never fails** (1 Corinthians 13:8).
- i. Duty, discipline, and devotion will fail, but not love.

## The Discipline of Prayer

1. **We must be intentional about prayer. How do we expect to have the spirituality of Jesus without practicing his disciplines?**
  - a. *Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed (Luke 5:16).*
  - b. After watching the life of Jesus, the disciples understood that intimacy with God through prayer was the cornerstone value of the life of Jesus. So, the one thing that they asked of Jesus was that he would teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1).
  - c. Jesus ever lives to intercede (Hebrews 7:25). Jesus is still intentional about prayer.
  
2. **Intercession is an invitation to partner with God.**
  - a. **Why intercede?**
    - i. Because God hears our prayers and answers us with awesome deeds (read Psalm 65).
  - b. **God has chosen to work through the prayers of his people.**
    - i. Steve Meeks: “God has willed the working of his Spirit to follow the prayers of his people.” Think about that!
    - ii. Without intercession, judgment comes.
      - (1) Read Ezekiel 22:30-31.
      - (2) *Isaiah 64:4-7 Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.... 7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins.*
  - c. Prayer is not primarily about changing God’s mind or getting him to do something for us. Prayer is about connecting with God, cooperating with God, and giving God room to change us (2 Corinthians 3:18).
  - d. In it’s simplest definition, prayer is taking with and listening to God.

## Some Principles of Prayer

1. **Here is an analogy that is helpful for understanding prayer: *The Divine Dance***
  - a. **The Process:**
    - i. ***The Divine Initiative:*** God issues an invitation. He takes the initiative. (See Matthew 4:19 or Isaiah 55:1-3.)
    - ii. ***Human Response:*** God looks for a proper and faithful response to his initiative toward us (John 1:12; 2 Chronicles 16:9).
    - iii. ***Divine Response to Human Response:*** We have a living hope that God has called us into relationship with himself, that he wants interaction with us, and that God responds and comes to the aid of those who seek him (Isaiah 57:15).
  - b. **Illustration: Matthew 11:28-30**
    - i. Initiative / Invitation: *Come to me, all who are weary.*
    - ii. Response: We come to Jesus.
    - iii. Divine Response to Human Response: *I will give you rest... you will find rest [in me].*
  - c. **Invitation:** Let's respond to the what the Lord is saying today.
    - i. Divine Initiative / Invitation: The Lord invites us to pray and teaches us to prayer.
    - ii. Human response: Our part is to pray.
    - iii. Divine response to human response: God meets with us, changes us, and answers prayer.
2. **Some General Principles of Prayer**
  - a. From Matthew 6:5-8 (*Your Kingdom Come*, p. 11-12)
    - i. *"Acceptable prayer depends on the motivations of our heart in God's sight, in contrast with the outward form of prayer in the sight of others."*
    - ii. *"Acceptable prayer is simple and straightforward, not complicated or unattainable."*
    - iii. *"Acceptable prayer does not inform God of anything, but instead forms us spiritually. Prayer produces enormous changes, especially in us."*
  - b. **Sometimes, it is helpful to remind yourself and the Lord about his promises.** In those times when my prayer life is dry and dull, I turn to the Scriptures, especially to Hebrews 11:6 and 2 Corinthians 3:18. Those verses remind me that meeting with the Lord is not in vain. God rewards those who seek him. And, even weak, frail efforts can result in transformation in my life.
    - i. *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:6).*
    - ii. *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).*

- c. **Sometimes, it is helpful to use a pattern for prayer.** Sometimes we need a track to run on, to help us connect with the Lord and to pray according to his will.
    - i. Use the Lord's Prayer as a model for prayer.
    - ii. Pray the Psalms.
    - iii. Use a devotional prayer guide or book.
  - d. **Sometimes, we need help with our prayer vocabulary.** We don't pray because we don't know how to pray or what to say. That is why we want the Lord and to his prayer life to teach us to pray. Praying through the Scriptures or Apostolic Prayers is another way to grow in your prayer language.
3. **Models of Prayer**
- a. There are different models of prayer: Intercession, Petition, ACTS (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication), The Lord's Prayer, Prophetic Prayer, Contemplative Prayer, Praying the Scriptures, Identificational Prayer, etc.
  - b. The point is simply this: **Pray**.
  - c. **Keep it simple:** Just come to God as you are and pour out your heart to God. Just draw near to God. Just pray. You don't have to be good at prayer, because the Holy Spirit interprets our prayers and the Father understands his children. Just pray.
  - d. Jesus said, "*When you pray...*" (*Matthew 6:5*). It is assumed that this discipline of prayer is one of the foundational spiritual practices for followers of Jesus.
4. **Use all kind of prayers and just pray**
- a. *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone (1 Timothy 2:1).*
  - b. *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints (Ephesians 6:18).*
5. By the way, **you learn to pray by praying.** Yes, we need to be taught and equipped. But, all the best teaching on prayer is useless unless you actually open your mouth and pray.
6. **Important Aspects (principles) of Prayer (lessons I have learned)**
- a. **Focus:** What is the focus of your prayers?
    - i. Worship helps focus your prayer on a person, the Living God.
    - ii. Focus requires that we learn how to take captive our thoughts. If your mind is running wild, it is hard to focus and pray.
    - iii. Find a place and time that helps you to focus.
  - b. **Personal / Relational:** in prayer we meet with the living God ("our Father").

- i. Prayer is about talking with and meeting with God (Psalm 27:4, 8).
  - ii. Prayer is relational; God is not just a vending machine.
  - iii. We seek his face, not just his hand.
- c. **Faith:** (Hebrews 11:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
- i. We must believe that God answers prayer, that he rewards those who seek him.
  - ii. Prayer changes us, informs us, and recalibrates us.
  - iii. Prayer plays an important part in unleashing the purposes of God on the earth (Revelation 8:1fl) and in your spheres of influence. So, prayer is important.
- d. **Listening:** have a heart that is attentive, attuned, and available (responsive).
- i. Prayer involves talking, listening and responding.
  - ii. We need to cultivate an attentive, available spirit. So, pay attention. **Throughout the day, turn your heart to the Lord in love and surrender.**
  - iii. We listen and pay attention in order to respond to what the Lord is saying and doing (Mark 4:24 “consider carefully what you hear”; Luke 8:18 “consider carefully how you listen [hear]”).
  - iv. We listen in order to discern and to determine what the will of God is in any given circumstance or situation (*thy kingdom come...*).
  - v. It takes intentional effort and practice to be a good listener.
  - vi. Carry a listening heart with you throughout the day. Attune your heart to the Lord.
    - (1) Learn to listen to the Lord in the secret place; learn to attend to the Lord in your prayer closet.
    - (2) Then, you will carry that same capacity into the marketplace.
    - (3) Open your spirit to the Lord.
    - (4) Practical matter: Keep a piece of paper or a voice recorder with you, to record what the Lord is saying to you or showing you.
- e. **Interdisciplinary:** other spiritual disciplines help our prayer life.
- i. For example, spending time in the word helps us to pray according to God’s will, according to his promises and purposes.
  - ii. Spending time in silence and solitude helps us to focus and learn what the voice of God sounds like.
  - iii. Worship helps focus our hearts and heads.
- f. **Team Work:**
- i. In addition to your own personal prayer life, try praying with others.
  - ii. Praying with others will stimulate, encourage, and equip your prayer life.
  - iii. **Motivation and mutual support: Sometimes, I don’t feel like praying. But, being on a team or in a partnership of prayer helps hold me accountable and motivates me to stay faithful.**

- iv. Think about joining a corporate time of intercession, getting with a prayer partner, or praying with a family member.
  - g. **Variety:** Scripture teaches that there are all kinds of ways to pray.
    - i. Different prayers fit different seasons of life and different circumstances (praying as you drive, for instance; prayerwalking).
    - ii. There are short prayer times, long prayer times, and even longer prayer times (like a retreat or something), etc.
    - iii. Use different prayer guides, books, or the Scripture to help give your prayer life vitality and vocabulary (like the *Seek God for the City* booklets which we use during the Easter Season).
    - iv. Express prayer in different ways: silently, out loud, as you work, etc.
    - v. Find a place to pray. This is very helpful.
    - vi. Use different postures for prayer: walk, sit, stand, sing your prayers.
    - vii. Pray the word of God, especially the Psalms and the Apostolic Prayers of the New Testament.
    - viii. Pray about the things God lays on your heart.
  - h. **Transition:** In this teaching, we will look at one model of prayer. Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The **Model Prayer** (Lord's Prayer) is a way to pray according to the will of God. You don't always have to pray through every part of the Lord's Prayer. Sometimes, you will simply pray the Model Prayer itself. Sometimes, you will use each part of the Model Prayer as a launching pad for prayer. Sometimes, you will focus on one part or another.
  - i. **Promise: Using the model prayer will inform, inspire, and impact your prayer life.**
7. **How to Pray** (Matthew 6:9-13 KJV / NIV)
- a. **Worship:** *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
    - i. *Our Father:* Think about who you are addressing. Our God is near, immanent, present. Our identity is in God.
    - ii. *In heaven:* Our God is transcendent, all powerful, and beyond us.
      - (1) **Perspective:** The center of the universe is where our Father rules and from where he does his will.
      - (2) We get to come near to our Father, above every power and force in heaven and on earth.
      - (3) When we come near to God, we come to our Father.
      - (4) In his presence, we worship and respond to his beauty, majesty, and greatness.
      - (5) Coming to the throne of God causes everything else to fall into its proper place and gives us proper perspective (Matthew 6:33).
    - iii. *Hallowed be your name:*
      - (1) We exalt you as holy and respond humbly to you.
      - (2) We seek to spread the fame of your name in the earth. We declare who God is and what he has done.

- (a) Isaiah 66:19 "I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations... and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations."
- b. **Welcome / Intercession:** *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*
- i. *Your kingdom come:* We welcome the Lord to rule and to reign on earth as in heaven. We invite him to rule and reign in every place: our home place, neighborhood place, work place, and other places.
  - ii. *Kingdom:* What it is like when God rules and reigns.
  - iii. *Will:* God has a will; he has desires. God has redemptive purposes and designs for every business, every school, every city, every nation, etc. Learn to pray into the plans, purposes, and promises of the Lord.
  - iv. Intercession is standing in the gap between the way things are and the way God wants them to be (Ezekiel 22:30).
  - v. It involves blessing and cooperating with what God is doing and wants to do.
- c. **Petition:** *Give us today our daily bread.*
- i. It is important to ask on a daily basis for what we need.
  - ii. God has the bread which we need (Luke 11:5-8).
  - iii. God knows how to parent us, how to give his kids good gifts (Matthew 7:9-11)
  - iv. We admit that we have need. **Acknowledging our dependence upon God honors the Lord and humbles us.**
  - v. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (Philippians 4:6).*
- d. **Confession of sin:** *Forgive us our debts,*
- i. We have all sinned and come short of the mark, God's glory.
  - ii. We can all experience and walk in forgiveness, in freedom from debt and slavery to sin.
  - iii. Read 1 John 1:9.
- e. **Forgiveness of others:** *As we forgive our debtors.*
- i. *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Matthew 5:7).*
  - ii. Hardness of heart toward God or others keeps the love of God out and poisons our soul.
  - iii. Unless we forgive others, God will not forgive us (Matthew 6:14-15). Learning to forgive ourselves and others is a part of being conformed to the image of Christ.
  - iv. Forgiveness is a power spiritual weapon that disarms the enemy (Colossians 2:13-15).
- f. **Guidance:** *Lead us not into temptation*

- i. Lead us! We pray for God's guidance (Psalm 25:12).
  - ii. May we learn directly from God and not from exposure to tempting situations.
  - iii. Some people say that you have to learn the hard way. Some people say that they only learn when the pressure is on.
    - (1) There are other ways to learn rather than running into brick walls and falling into ditches.
    - (2) We can learn by seeking, listening to, and following wise, godly counsel.
- g. **Warfare:** *But deliver us from the evil one.*
- i. There is a war and an adversary.
  - ii. God wants to show himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are inclined toward him.
  - iii. Ephesians teaches us to believe right, live right, and fight right.
  - iv. Principles of warfare
    - (1) Wield the weapons of our warfare like the Word of God, forgiveness, love, righteousness, holy actions (see Isaiah 68).
    - (2) Stand in repentance: "we have sinned."
    - (3) Pray out of your authority in Christ (Luke 10:17-20).
    - (4) Appeal directly to God for his intervention, righteousness, mercy, etc.
    - (5) Boldly ask God to execute vengeance and judgment against his enemies.
    - (6) Proclaim the truth about Christ and his kingdom.
    - (7) Declare the reality that all powers and principalities are subject to Christ and will bow before Jesus (Psalm 29:1-2; Psalm 86:8-10; Psalm 97:7; Colossians 1:13-18; Philippians 2:10-11; Hebrews 1:6).
    - (8) Use the principle of replacement, praying for the opposite of the work of the enemy and brokenness which you see.
- h. **Bold declaration:** *For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen (KJV).*
- i. This is a bold prophetic declaration.
  - ii. It gives us perspective as we close our prayer and live in this broken world.
  - iii. It empowers our souls as we hear it and proclaim it.
8. **Application**
- a. **Prayer requires availability and intentionality.**
    - i. Make for times of prayer.
    - ii. Learn to refocus on God and to listen to him throughout the day.
  - b. **Let's respond to the what the Lord is saying today.**
    - i. Divine Initiative / Invitation: The Lord invites us to pray and teaches us to pray.
    - ii. Human response: Our part is to pray.

- iii. Divine response to human response: God meets with us, changes us, and answers prayer.

9. **Reflection**

- a. What gets stirred up in you as you think deeply about prayer?
- b. What is the Lord asking you to get in action around?

## Spiritual Warfare: It Is a Part of the Works of Jesus

Jesus tells his disciples that the works he had been doing, we would do. Let's read John 14:12-14 in the Message. Keep this reality in mind as we talk about spiritual warfare today.

*The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, **am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing**. You can count on it. 13 From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. 14 Whatever you request in this way, I'll do (John 14:12-14 MSG).*

Jesus said that he was giving us the same work to do that he had been doing. The work of Christ includes advancing the kingdom of God and defeating darkness, disease, and the devil.

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me **to proclaim freedom for the prisoners** and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19).*

*The reason the Son of God appeared was **to destroy the devil's work** (1 John 3:8).*

God is raising up an army to advance the kingdom of God, empowering and authorizing disciples to defeat demonic enemies, to heal people of diseases, to overcome darkness with light, love, forgiveness, and to wield other weapons of the kingdom of God. Therefore, we must conclude that spiritual warfare is a reality for Jesus and his followers (Ephesians 6:10f).

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints (Ephesians 6:10-18).*

Since spiritual warfare is a part of our reality, we need to learn how to fight. We need to get equipped to do warfare, which means that we need to get trained in the principles and weapons of spiritual warfare.

It might be helpful to consider a brief survey of Matthew, looking specifically at the confrontation between the kingdoms of light and darkness. In a quick overview of Matthew, we can learn many principles about spiritual warfare.

## Overview of Spiritual Warfare from the Gospel of Matthew

1. **The birth of Jesus takes place in a historical context**, showing that everything before Jesus is fulfilled and completed in Jesus, and everything after Jesus finds meaning, fulfillment, and completion in Jesus.
  - a. *Eugene Peterson, Introduction to Matthew.* The story of Jesus doesn't begin with Jesus. God had been at work for a long time. Salvation, which is the main business of Jesus, is an old business. Jesus is the coming together in final form of themes and energies and movements that had been set in motion before the foundation of the world. Matthew opens the New Testament by setting the local story of Jesus in its world historical context. He makes sure that as we read his account of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we see the connections with everything that has gone before. "Fulfilled" is one of Matthew's characteristic verbs: such and such happened "that it might be fulfilled." Jesus is unique, but he is not odd. Better yet, Matthew tells the story in such a way that not only is everything previous to us completed in Jesus; we are completed in Jesus. Every day we wake up in the middle of something that is already going on, that has been going on for a long time: genealogy and geology, history and culture, the cosmos—God. We are neither accidental nor incidental to the story. We get orientation, briefing, background, reassurance. Matthew provides the comprehensive context by which we see all God's creation and salvation completed in Jesus, and all the parts of our lives—work, family, friends, memories, dreams—also completed in Jesus. Lacking such a context, we are in danger of seeing Jesus as a mere diversion from the concerns announced in the newspapers. Nothing could be further from the truth.
  
2. **The world view of Scripture shows the intersection and interaction of the spiritual and material world.**
  - a. See Matthew 1:18-15 for example, where God speaks to Joseph in a dream to keep in relationship with Mary.
  
  - b. In the early part of the Gospel of Matthew, look at the number of dreams and angelic visitations. God is very active in this world.
  
  - c. In Western thought, the material and spiritual worlds are separate and never meet.
  
  - d. But, the Biblical world view is different.
  
3. **We are all born on a battle field** (Revelation 12:1-17).
  - a. Satan tried to destroy the Son of God at the time of his birth through public and government policies (Matthew 2:18).
  
  - b. At the time of commissioning to ministry, Jesus fought a spiritual battle with the enemy (The Wilderness Temptation, Matthew 4:1-11).
  
  - c. Point: If Jesus had to fight, so must we as his followers.

- i. *A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master (Matthew 10:24-25).*
  - ii. *Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 12:17).*
  
- 4. **God uses warfare to teach us how to rule, reign, and overcome.** (See Matthew 10.)
  - a. In commissioning and sending out the disciples, Jesus made them aware of conflict ahead with authorities, religious groups, and even their own families (Matthew 10:17-26). He sent them out as sheep among wolves (Matthew 10:16).
  - b. Warfare is a part of life in the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:13).
  - c. Warfare is a tool which God uses to shape our lives into the image of Christ, that we might rule, reign, and overcome with him.
  - d. **Why doesn't God simply wipe out all our enemies?** God knew that if he had wiped out all of Joshua's enemies before they got to the promised land, the land would have been over-run by weeds and wild animals (Exodus 23:29).
  - e. God's people had to learn how to defeat their enemies, possess the land, and occupy their territory one step at a time (Deuteronomy 7:22).
  - f. Part of growing up strong in Christ is learning how to overcome the evil one (1 John 2:13).
  
- 5. **There is an enemy who seeks to destroy us** (John 10:10).
  - a. In the Lord's Prayer, **Jesus assumes the reality of warfare as he teaches us how to pray.**
    - i. *But deliver us from the evil one (Matthew 10:13).*
    - ii. We have a real enemy of our souls, and we are involved in a real war.
    - iii. We have an enemy who sets traps, tempts us to sin, and seeks to kick us when we are down (especially after we fall into temptation).
  - b. **But, God wants to deliver us and to teach us how to overcome.**
    - i. God wants to show himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are inclined toward him.
    - ii. God wants to teach us how to believe right, live right, and fight right. (See the book of Ephesians.)
  
- 6. **The enemy looks for opportune times to attack.**
  - a. **Vulnerable moments**
    - i. Attacked Jesus at the end of a 40 day fast (Matthew 4:1-11)

- ii. Attacked Peter at a low point, in the midst of confusion and despair (Matthew 26:69-75)
  - b. **Pre-emptive first strikes**
    - i. A territorial spirit caused a storm targeting Jesus and the disciples prior to the victory over Legion in region of Gadarene (Matthew 8:23-34).
  - c. **Mountain tops**
    - i. Peter's confession was followed by the rebuke of Peter by Jesus (Matthew 16:13-23).
  - d. **Counter attacks**
    - i. *When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. 44 Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. 45 Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation" (Matthew 12:43-45).*
  - e. **Be aware and alert, but don't be afraid** (Matthew 10:26-33).
    - i. Don't let the enemy outwit you. We are not ignorant of the schemes of Satan (2 Corinthians 2:11).
- 7. **We use kingdom weapons to wage war against darkness (sin), disease (sickness), and demons (satanic opposition)** (Matthew 4:19-24).
  - a. **What do we wage war against?**
    - i. **Against darkness:** proclaim truth, invite people to repentance from sin and to experience change, preach hope, loving our enemies, etc., demonstrate righteousness and good works before others, live as salt and light in the world
    - ii. **Against disease:** heal sick people by using spiritual power, treating people with medicines and medical help, discovering treatments and cures for disease
    - iii. **Against demons:** set captives free (Matthew 4:23-25, 8:16, 32-34), help the harassed and helpless (Matthew 9:35-38), defeat principalities and demonically inspired disasters (Matthew 8:23-34)
  - b. **Jesus fought the enemy with weapons of the Kingdom of God. So must we.**
  - c. **What are some of the weapons of the kingdom which we use in warfare?**
    - i. Anointing and power (the Holy Spirit came upon Christ and empowered him for his conflict with the enemy like in Matthew 4:1-11)
    - ii. Word of God (Matthew 4:1-11)

- iii. Proclamation and demonstration, including healing and deliverance (Matthew 4:23fl)
- iv. Spiritual disciplines like prayer (Matthew 6:10fl)
- v. Spirit of God (Matthew 12:22-28 “drive out demons by the Spirit of God”)
- vi. Bind the strongman (Matthew 12:29)
- vii. Revelation of God (Matthew 16:13-20)
- viii. Keys of authority (Matthew 16:19)
- ix. Faith (Matthew 17:14-20)
- x. Prayers of Jesus (Matthew 26:26fl): like in the Garden of Gethsemane; for Peter (Luke 22:31-32)
- xi. Authority in Christ (Matthew 28:18-20)
- xii. Abiding presence of the Lord (Matthew 28:18-20)
- xiii. The name of Jesus: Jesus gives the right to use his name to those who are in relationship with him
- xiv. The blood of Jesus (Revelation 12:11)
- xv. The word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11)
- xvi. Willingness to die for Christ (Revelation 12:11)
- xvii. Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- xviii. Fasting (Mark 9:29)
- xix. Worship
- xx. Other:

8. **The kingdom of darkness uses weapons, too.**

- a. Abortion and culture of death (Matthew 2:1fl)
- b. Temptations and shortcuts to meet legitimate needs and to achieve legitimate purposes (Matthew 4:1-11)
- c. Judgment (Matthew 7:1)
- d. Slander and defamation (Matthew 10:25): calls Jesus and the members of his household “the devil” (Beelzebub)
- e. Murder (Matthew 10:28)
- f. Fear and intimidation (Matthew 10:31)
- g. Hatred and division (Matthew 10:34-36... turns family members against one another)
- h. Possession (filling empty places) (Matthew 12:43-45)
- i. Stealing the seed of God’s word and work from people (Matthew 13:19)
- j. Sowing weeds among the wheat (Matthew 13:24-30)
- k. Attacking at moments of victory through open doors (like pride) (Matthew 16:21-23)
  - i. Satan attacked at a great moment of victory, to try and steal the celebration.
  - ii. Satan used the words of a close friend to distract from the things of God.
- l. Vows (Matthew 26:33, 35): the enemy has the right to test vows, like when Peter vowed, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will..... Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”

9. **Jesus raised up appointed and anointed laborers to do the works he had been doing in defeating darkness, disease, and demons (Matthew 10:1-8).**

## Application

1. We need to ask God to help wake up his people to the reality of the current war with the kingdom of darkness.
2. We need to ask God to help us rise up as overcomers.
3. We need to ask God to set us free from every hook of the enemy.
4. We need to ask God to equip us to fight the good of faith using the weapons of his warfare.
5. It is time to rise up and fight.
  - a. The enemy has targeted some of us in order to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).
    - i. To steal
      - (1) our passion
      - (2) our hope
      - (3) our resources
      - (4) our energy
      - (5) our promises
      - (6) our finances
    - ii. To kill
      - (1) to crush our faith in God
      - (2) to get us out of God's protection in order to take us out
      - (3) to use wounds and vows to kill our ability to love and forgive
      - (4) to abort God's purposes in us
      - (5) to shut us down
    - iii. To destroy
      - (1) our families
      - (2) our testimony
      - (3) our usefulness
      - (4) our church and ministries
  - b. The enemy is the dragon, who wants to be a drag on your faith, to wear you down (Francis Frangipane).
    - i. To give in to enemy schemes
    - ii. To give up and get run over by the enemy
  - c. It's time to rise up.
    - i. God wants to show himself strong on our behalf.
    - ii. God wants to cause us to overcome by the power of his strength and grace.
    - iii. God wants us to fight the good fight of faith and to overcome our enemies, to take back territory, and to enter into our inheritances in Christ.

## **Spiritual Warfare: It Includes Bold Declaration, Overcoming Power, and Authority to Bind and Loose**

**A part of warfare is fulfilled in worship and in speaking out** the written judgments of God through bold declaration and command (Psalm 149). We have the privilege to declare the promises, purposes, plans, destiny, desires, and decrees of the Lord.

*Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints. 2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. 3 Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp. 4 For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. 5 **Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.***

*6 May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, 7 to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, 8 to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, 9 **to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the glory of all his saints.** Praise the LORD (Psalm 149:1-9).*

1. **We start at the place of focusing on the Lord.**
  - a. We praise the Lord, worship the Lord, sing to the Lord, and embody expressive worship to the Lord.
  - b. We acknowledge and declare that God is our creator and king.
  - c. We rejoice in the Lord.
  - d. We declare that the Lord delights in his children. He is not angry or against us; rather, God is for us.
  - e. We declare that the Lord rewards the humble with rescue, deliverance, redemption, and saving grace.
  - f. We rejoice in the honor of knowing our God and making him know from the place of intimacy.
  
2. **Warfare takes place in the context of and from the foundation of intimate worship and knowledge of the Lord our maker, king, and savior.**
  - a. Worship both honors God and strikes a blow to the enemy; the enemy is displaced by our worship of the Living God. As we worship and make bold declaration, the Lord strikes blows against the enemy.
  - b. It is our honor, joy, and glory to declare and carry out the written declarations and judgments of our God.

In Luke 9 - 10, we see that **Jesus gives to his disciples authority and power** over all the power of the enemy.

*And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. 2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing (Luke 9:1-2).*

*Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. 2 And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. 3 Go..." (Luke 10:1-3).*

*The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

*21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. 22 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." 23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it" (Luke 10:17-24).*

1. **Jesus gives his followers power and authority to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel of the Kingdom of God** (Luke 9:1-2).
  - a. Power: dunamis; ability to act or produce an effect; ability
  - b. Authority: right; authorization; backed up by governmental structure
  - c. Proclaim what it is like when God rules and reigns. Jesus is king and there is a coming kingdom.
  - d. Demonstrate what it is like when God rules and reigns. Manifested in healing, deliverance, and other activities of the kingdom of God (Luke 4:18-19, et.al.).
  
2. **Jesus calls us and authorizes us to use his power and authority in his Father's harvest fields** (Luke 10:1-3).
  - a. Our authority is delegated for the plans and purposes of God.
  - b. We are an answer to the prayers of Jesus and saints throughout history.
  - c. We are transformed so that we can join Jesus on his mission in this world.

3. There will be impact when we move in the power and authority of Jesus in our assignments and spheres of influence. “Even the demons submit to us in Jesus’ name.”
4. **Jesus gives us overcoming authority and power over demonic realms.** Our obedient service for Jesus displaces the enemy from lives, areas, regions, and territories as the kingdom of God advances. “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample... and to overcome all the power of the enemy.”
5. **Jesus reminds us to recalibrate our focus upon intimacy with God, rather than getting intoxicated by demonstrations of power and authority.** Never lose focus on Jesus.

**Believers have the right to loose on earth what God has loosed in heaven and to bind on earth what God has bound in heaven.**

*When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

*16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the **keys** [representing authority] of the kingdom of heaven; **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven**” (Matthew 16:13-19).*

1. Again, binding and loosing are accomplished through bold proclamation and declaration, especially through the spoken word and songs of intercession. We know what to bind and loose because of our intimacy with the Living God.
2. We carry out the written judgments (declarations) of the Lord (Psalm 149:9) in the context of worship, adoration, and recognizing that the Lord takes delight in us. It is an honor that the Lord delights in us and that we get to partner with him to carry out his declarations and judgments through our priestly ministry of worship and intercession.
3. Rebuking, breaking, or cutting off the supply line of oppression or demonic influence is also permitted. For example, Jesus did that with the woman who is afflicted for 18 years by a demon (Luke 13:10-13).
4. So, we must learn how to command and declare as a part of our ministry, which Jesus modeled for us in numerous places (Luke 4:41, 10:17; Matthew 4:1-11).

## Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare

Additional teaching and equipping for Ministry Team Training

1.19.09

### Intro

In the light of our culture becoming more spiritual and more involved in witchcraft, it is important to equip believers, especially the next generation, in how to deal with the enemy and how to set the captives free. The world is getting darker and darker, faster and faster (Isaiah 60:1-3). It is in this context that the church must arise with the light of the world and the glory of the Lord. We are involved in deliverance because setting the captives free is a part of the ministry of Jesus (Luke 4:18-19), because Jesus appoints and anoints his disciples to heal the sick and cast out demons (Matthew 10:1-8), and because people are harassed and helpless (Matthew 9:35-38).

Many TV shows, Children's cartoons, and popular books actually instruct children and young adults in how to cast spells and how to invoke spiritual powers.

It is no longer unusual to see a child on the playground "casting a spell" on another student. Whether or not they think it is innocent play, Scripture teaches us to stay away from witchcraft and false sources of power (Deuteronomy 18:9-15; Galatians 5:16-23). Christians do live by a new power source, for we are commanded to walk in the strength of the Lord and the power of his might (2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 6:10-18). **Christians must not deny spiritual reality; rather, they must point to Christ in us, the hope of glory.**

### Conflict of Kingdoms

There is real spiritual power. Spiritual realities do exist. But, men love darkness rather than the light, because their deeds and hearts are evil. **In this contest of competing world views, the church has been a "no show."** It is time to shine our lights into the darkness, bringing forth the truth and introducing people to the true way to live. We were meant to live in spirit and truth. **For too long, the church has ignored the spirit and the realities of the spiritual realm and experience.** But, God means for us to live as integrated beings, who love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength ... not just with our mind and rational faculties. **God means to make his home in and through us into this physical world, transforming our lives, our land, our communities by the power of his presence (see Acts 19 for an illustration).**

**The Western World now believes there is more to life than that which is merely rational, empirically verified, or intellectually explainable.** This is a rejection of the view and values of modernity and its emphasis on rationality. There are TV shows that promote talking to the dead, consulting psychics, searching for ghosts, and practicing voodoo and curses. Where is the church? **Shouldn't we show people how to connect with the Invisible God, how to walk in the Spirit, how to hear the voice of Jesus, how to move in spiritual gifts, how to wield weapons of spiritual power, and how to live by every word of God?**

Business people in other cultures, like Taiwan, actually make sacrifices to idols to appease their gods, to seek success for their efforts, and to ward off danger. These practices are making inroads into Western Culture as the West embraces the spiritism of the East. How many of our athletes practice superstition? How many people in the West live in fear and dread? **Since the voice of the church has been silent about the mysticism and spiritual reality of our world and faith, we have abdicated our right to speak truth into the darkness. Genuine**

seekers are looking in the wrong places, and the church has failed to point them to the real spiritual realities and right ways found in Christ.

Many major world religions and cults are actually haunts for demons at the highest levels. Research indicates that many of the same practices— sacrifices, curses, vows, invocations, secrecy, etc.— are practiced in these cults and religions.

Why are things the way they are? At some point in the past, people appealed to demons or idols. They raised an altar to powers in hopes of securing peace and blessing, or victory over their adversaries. The land and the people became defiled. Covenants with darkness are renewed annually through festivals, holidays, and celebrations. People have executed legal contracts with forces of darkness which affected individual lives, whole family lines, and entire communities.

### Spiritual Warfare and Weapons

In the Old Testament, God called his people to **repent**, to change their minds and way of living. He called on his people to **renounce** the contracts and covenants made at unholy altars, to destroy altars raised up in false worship. To **raze** something is to completely and utterly destroy it. The Lord calls us to **reclaim and restore** people and the land for the purposes of the Living God and for the presence of God. We ask the Lord to break the power of evil and to set us free from evil influence. Then, we **raise up** new altars of devotion to Christ, places of memorial, where we commit again to following the Lord and his ways for our lives, our families, and our communities. (See Judges 6:25-26.)

- Repent
- Renounce
- Raze: tear down; destroy
- Reclaim and restore; sanctify and cleanse
- Raise up and erect godly altars

An army of believers must get equipped and trained to do war and to fight (Psalm 144). We must understand how to reclaim lives and land, homes and property, present and future generations. Through our lives, Christ still comes to set the captives free. He breaks the power of curses spoken over people and possessions and property. The blood of Jesus speaks a better word than occult sacrifices and witchcraft practices, so we plead the blood on those activities of darkness.

Christians have the right and power to demolish strongholds, to take back territory for Christ, and to cast out demons. They have the assignment to break unholy ties and covenants which were entered into by people practicing darkness. We are to be on the offensive, because the gates of hell shall not prevail against the advancing church.

Christians realize that their power is not self-produced. The enemy fears Christ in us, the hope of glory. Jesus embodies his spirit in and through us, doing the same works as before (Luke 4:18-19, 9:1-2, 10:1ff; Acts 10:38).

The light of Christ forces demons out of hiding. That is good news. When they remain in the dark, they carry out all manner of torment and bondage. The arrogance of the enemy

causes him to expose himself and to play his cards. That is good news. Christ always leads us in triumph over our enemies. He snares the enemy in his own plans.

Today, Christ is shaking everything that can be shaken, exposing faulty foundations, and seeking to bring people, places, and communities into genuine freedom and new beginnings. We are agents and ambassadors of this good news and expanding kingdom.

### **It's Time to Wake Up and Fight**

The battle is real. The stakes are high, for the enemy seeks to destroy the souls of men and God seeks to save that which is lost. Satan comes to kill, steal, and destroy; Christ comes that we might experience real, abundant life. What a contrast— it is like the difference between light and darkness!

It is time to wake up and sober up. It's time to train our hands for war. Do you personally know how to set the captives free? Do you personally know how to reclaim and restore that which was lost and once devoted to darkness? Do you know how to move in the power of the Holy Spirit? Do you know how to hear and carry out the orders of Heaven? Do you know how to exercise spiritual authority?

May every believer join the advancing army which Christ is mobilizing in this hour, an army of lovers who know that their God is removing everything that hinders love. Remember that all of our authority, anointing, empowerment, and fruitfulness flow from our relationship with the Lord. Our first priority is relationship with our living God (Matthew 6:33; Matthew 22:37-39; Revelation 2). Out of that relationship flow the specific assignments, callings, and demonstrations of kingdom effort and effect.

## **Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare**

Additional Teaching and Equipping for MTT  
February 2009

### **Arenas of Spiritual Warfare**

1. **Strategic level** (heavenlies, territorial spirits, etc.)
  - a. The strategical arena has to do with our ultimate objective: to defeat the enemy and to destroy his works. This is God's overall plan to crush Satan's rebellion, redeem lost humanity, and to restore wholeness to that which was broken (Revelation 20:10, 21:3-4, 22:3; Romans 8:21). This portion of the battle is waged through intercession (Matthew 6:9-10) and worship (Revelation 5:8-14).
  - b. It involves worship, welcome, and warfare. This is often described as dealing with territorial spirits.
  - c. **Caveat:** It is not reasonable to assume that everyone is called, commissioned, anointed, or gifted to deal directly with territorial spirits. We have a pastoral concern. Some people do have unique calling and gifting to deal with territorial spirits. All believers can deal with the enemy at any level, insofar as they are given that assignment by the Lord. But in general, we fight at the strategic level through worship and welcome. Warfare is the by product, what God does when he shows up.
2. **Ground Level** (tactical, hand-to-hand)
  - a. The tactical arena has to do with specific battles necessary to achieve victory. This portion of the war is fought in hand to hand combat with attack and counter attack. It is the battle for freedom from sin, deliverance from demons, healing the sick, renewing our minds, proclaiming the gospel, winning the lost, etc. (See Matthew 9:35 - 10:10; Luke 10:1-12, 17-24.)
  - b. This part of the conflict is waged through prayer, spiritual disciplines, exercising spiritual authority, cultivating the fruit of the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, and obeying the Word of God (Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 12:1-2).
3. **Support level** (logistical issues, resources)
  - a. The logistical arena has to do with supplying the needs of the army which is fighting the battle. This part of the conflict is seen in the need for laborers in the harvest, financial needs, physical necessities, and organizational health.
  - b. This portion of the war is waged through prayer, sacrificial giving, faithful service, Spirit-directed planning and organizing, and godly leadership (Matthew 6:19-24, 9:37-38; Romans 12:6-8).

## Key Issues in Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare

### 1. **Principle of displacement:** crowd out (fill up) and casting out

#### a. **Deliverance in the ministry team setting**

##### i. **Crowding out** (2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 4:25-27):

- (1) Once the presence of a demon has been determined, tell the victim you suspect you are dealing with a spirit. Then ask their permission to explore this possibility. Begin by bringing the person current in repentance, confession, and cleansing from sin. Ask the person if they are aware of any areas of access that the enemy may have into their life. Close those doors through repentance and confession. Have the victim pray to God for purity, holiness, and deliverance.
- (2) Note on closing doors: a demon is seldom the principle issue-- sin, relationships, and behavior patterns are the real issues. These are complicated by demonic attachment. Casting out a demon merely removes an obstacle so that change can take place. Beware of the idea: "If I go through deliverance, then I won't have to deal with this issue anymore."

##### ii. **Casting out** (Matthew 8:16; 9:32-33; Acts 16:16-18)

The basic steps in the deliverance encounter:

#### (1) **Manifestation**

- (a) After a demon has manifested, either mildly or fully blown, we proceed to cast it out.
- (b) Common phrases: "I command you to leave this person in the name of Jesus." "Unclean spirit, I command you to come to the surface and come out in the name of Jesus."

#### (2) **Silence**

- (a) Once demons are engaged, they may want to converse. This should be viewed as a delay tactic. Get down to business. Command them to be silent.
- (b) Common phrases: "I command you to be silent in the name of Jesus." "I forbid you to speak in Jesus' name."

#### (3) **Expulsion**

- (a) Command the demons to leave.
- (b) Common phrases: "I command you to get out in the name of Jesus!" "You cannot have this person any longer; now go, in the name of Jesus!"

2. **Focus on Jesus, not on the enemy.**
  - a. Worship (Matthew 6:9)
  - b. Welcome (Matthew 6:10)
  - c. Warfare (Matthew 6:13)
3. **Discernment is necessary** (lost tool of discernment).
  - a. This is an important spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 12:10).
  - b. Help for discernment and diagnosis:
    - i. Practice
    - ii. Sit in on deliverance sessions
    - iii. And ask the Holy Spirit to grant you the gift of discerning of spirits.
4. **Pray for the opposite of what you see.**
  - a. In the place of a spirit of fear, pray for the release of faith of Jesus Christ.
  - b. Look at the Apostolic prayers of the New Testament.
5. **Use a functional approach:** Put an end to or stop what the enemy is doing (Luke 9:42-43).
6. **Believers have the right to loose on earth what God has loosed in heaven and to bind on earth what God has bound in heaven** (Matthew 16:13-19).
  - a. Again, **binding and loosing are accomplished through bold proclamation and declaration**, especially through the spoken word and songs of intercession. We know what to bind and loose because of our intimacy with the Living God.
  - b. We carry out the written judgments (declarations) of the Lord (Psalm 149:9) in the context of worship, adoration, and recognizing that the Lord takes delight in us. It is an honor that the Lord delights in us and that we get to partner with him to carry out his declarations and judgments through our priestly ministry of worship and intercession.
  - c. Rebuking, breaking, or cutting off the supply line of oppression or demonic influence is also permitted. For example, Jesus did that with the woman who is afflicted for 18 years by a demon (Luke 13:10-13).
  - d. So, we must learn how to command and declare as a part of our ministry, which Jesus modeled for us in numerous places (Luke 4:41, 10:17; Matthew 4:1-11).

## The Priorities of Spiritual Living

### What are our assignments in extending the kingdom of God in the earth?

1. **Worship:** seek to bring pleasure to God; proclaim his excellencies; ascribe to him the glory and honor due his name...
  - a. **We are here to find out what the Lord is doing, and bless that.**
    - i. *Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on the earth as it is in heaven.*
    - ii. Ill: At our first Watch of the Lord, we caught the Wind of the Spirit blowing on the issues of the Youth and Unity. We watched. God moved. We worshiped and agreed!
  - b. **We are to set our thoughts and affections on things above,** not on the earth (Col 3:1-2).
  - c. **We are to look at things from God's perspective, not ours.**
    - i. That which is unseen (2 Corinthians 4:18).
  - d. **We need to realize that worship is warfare.** It enthrones God in the heavenlies and displaces the enemy. (See Joshua 5 at Jericho; 2 Chron. 20:20-22.)
2. **Welcome:** invite the King of Glory to take his rightful place (Psalm 24:7-10).
  - a. We welcome the Lord first into our lives.
  - b. We welcome the Lord into our families.
  - c. We welcome the Lord into our neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.
  - d. We welcome the Lord into our city.
3. **Warfare:**
  - a. Here are three principles that will help you fight the good fight of faith:
    - i. Repentance, replacement, and righteousness

## Some Principles of Spiritual warfare

1. **Key issue:** We need to know what our priority assignment is. **We are here to find out what the Lord is doing and to bless what he is doing, based upon a loving relationship with our God.**
  - a. If the Lord gives us insight into the enemy's schemes, then good. **But our focus is not to be on the enemy, but on the Lord.**
    - i. *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded (James 4:7).*
  - b. **We should spend most of time focusing on the Lord.** We deal with the enemy as necessary or as directed by the Lord.
2. When God tells us to engage in warfare, how do we do it? **Here are some principles of spiritual warfare.**
  - a. **Through Repentance**
    - i. We stand in the gap and repent for the evil we discern, that we see.
  - b. **Through Replacement**
    - i. Pray the opposite of what you see or discern or experience of the enemy or his work.
  - c. **Through Righteousness**
    - i. Right living opens the door for the kingdom of God to invade the earth. Good overcomes evil (Romans 12:21).
3. **Other activities involved in warfare through intercession:**
  - a. Pray within your authority (Luke 10:17-20).
  - b. Appeal directly to God for his intervention, righteousness, mercy, etc. Don't address the enemy **unless the Lord directs you to do so.**
  - c. Boldly ask God to execute vengeance and judgment against his enemies.
  - d. Proclaim the truth about Christ and his kingdom
  - e. Declare the reality that all powers and principalities are subject to Christ and will bow before Jesus (Psalm 29:1-2; Psalm 86:8-10; Psalm 97:7; Colossians 1:13-18; Philippians 2:10-11; Hebrews 1:6).
4. **Summary statements:**
  - a. Focus on the Lord and what he is doing, not on the enemy (Hebrews 12:2-3; Colossians 3:1-4). God should be our preoccupation, not the enemy.
  - b. Spend your time rejoicing in the Lord, not rebuking the enemy (Luke 10:18-20; Philippians 4:6-8).
  - c. Run to God rather than duking it out with the enemy (James 4:6-8).

- d. Remember that right living according to the character of Christ is our armor (Ephesians 6:10f).

### Strategies for Victory in Spiritual Warfare

1. **Submit to God** (draw near in intimacy; James 4:6-10)
2. **Resist the devil** (James 4:7-8; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Psalm 91:9-13)
3. **Renew your mind** (Romans 12:2, 8:5-6; Colossians 3:2; Ephesians 4:21-24 )
4. **Know the word** (Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:17; Psalm 19:7-11, 119:133)
5. **Pursue purity** (Romans 16:19-20; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Ephesians 5:3-10)
6. **Exercise spiritual authority** (Luke 10:17-19; Matthew 28:18-20)
  - a. Intercession
  - b. Pull down strongholds
  - c. Pray over people in the spirit
  - d. Rely upon revelation and power encounters; even expect power encounters
  - e. Sing over people (it can help in ministry)
  - f. Etc.
7. **Praise** (teachings by Jim Maloney, breaks the yoke, etc.)
  - a. Get alone and sing
  - b. Get alone and shout
8. **Live in community**
  - a. Where we are:
    - i. Prayed for
    - ii. Held accountable
    - iii. Known, held to account, and covered (someone watching your backside)
  - b. Watch out for the enemy's scheme to divide you from the herd and destroy you.
9. **Walk in faith, hope, and love** (Ephesians 3:7-14; Romans 15:13; Acts 4:23-31)
  - a. Faith vs unbelief
  - b. Hope and boldness vs. restriction and limitation
  - c. Love vs anger, wrath, judgment
10. **Conclusion:** Spiritual warfare is a daily battle. The Scripture often reminds us to be alert, ready for action, and constantly vigilant (Ephesians 6:18). Our victory is in our Victor, Jesus Christ. As we walk with Jesus, we have nothing to fear from the enemy.

**Other Issues to Address:**

1. **We have authority and anointing** to deal with whatever the Lord asks us to address (Matthew 10:1-9; Luke 9:1-2).
2. **Corollary:** Our authority and anointing are ambassadorial in nature (2 Corinthians 5:20).
  - a. All authority belongs to God (Matthew 28:18-20).
  - b. The assignment comes from God (1 Corinthians 3:5-9).
  - c. We carry out his will on the earth as he has decreed in heaven: no more, no less (Matthew 6:10; 16:19).
3. **Our power and authority depend upon relationship with the King** (John 15:5).
  - a. We do what the Father tells us to do (John 5:19-20). We say what the Father tells us to say (John 8:28-29).
  - b. We don't take on deliverance ministry like it is the only thing there is in the world.
  - c. We need an understanding of how to grow in authority (from The Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:9ff).
    - i. Matthew 6:10 is a prayer for us to submit to the authority of God.
    - ii. It involves surrendering and submitting ourselves to the will and ways of God. We are called to reverence God in how we live, act, and think.
    - iii. These kingdom blessings flow out of our submission to the authority of God. When we are not surrendered to and submitted to the kingdom will of God, then we have no right to ask for these blessings.
    - iv. Without bowing down to God's authority in the first part of this prayer, we have no authority to pray for the blessings in the second part of the prayer.
4. **Our focus is on the Lord, not on safety and protection** (Hebrews 12:2-3).
  - a. Yes, at times, like in Luke 10, Jesus will promise and provide for our protection as we do his will.
  - b. At other times, he sends us out as sheep among wolves.
  - c. Stephen died doing exactly what the Lord told him to do (Acts 6-7).
  - d. Our first priority is to walk with Jesus and walk out what he asks us to do. Safety and protection aren't the most important things in our lives.
5. **"Plead the blood of Jesus":** What does this mean and what scriptures support this?
  - a. They overcame by the blood of the lamb (Revelation 12:11).

- b. There is power in the blood of Jesus.
  - i. To cancel the power of sin (Revelation 1:5)
  - ii. To cleanse (1 John 1:7)
  - iii. To redeem (Revelation 5:9-10)
  - iv. To sanctify (1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 7:14)
  - v. To make a better sacrifice than any other offering (religious offerings or demonic sacrifices... see Hebrews 9:6-28)
  
- c. While this phrase, *plead the blood*, is not in the Bible, it seems to fit an application through prayer to acknowledge the power and efficacy of the blood of Jesus to cleanse from all unrighteousness, to overcome, and to sanctify.
  
- d. **Prayer:** Dear Father: The blood of Jesus speaks a better word than that of any man, animal, or sacrifice. Right now, I ask you to apply the power of the blood of Jesus to cleanse, to redeem, to sanctify, and to overcome all the works of darkness. Amen.
  
- 6. **Dealing with altars and sacrifices according to the Biblical model**
  - a. Repent
  
  - b. Renounce
  
  - c. Raze
    - i. Tear down
    - ii. Destroy
  
  - d. Reclaim and Restore
    - i. Sanctify and cleanse
  
  - e. Raise up and erect godly altars
  
- 7. **Dealing with soul ties:** what are they and why do you deal with them
  - a. Two become one flesh (1 Corinthians 6:15-17)
  
  - b. Unequally yoked (1 Corinthians 6:14-20 KJV)
  
  - c. **Breaking the Power of Soul Ties** (From Cleansing Stream Retreat Materials, pps. 2-1 - 2-4).
    - i. **Revelation**
      - (1) Allow God's word and the Holy Spirit to identify areas of bondage and/or sin.
      - (2) James 4:8
      - (3) John 8:32
  
    - ii. **Repent**
      - (1) We respond to what God says or show us.
      - (2) 1 John 1:9
      - (3) 2 Corinthians 7:10

- iii. **Renounce / Break**
  - (1) We turn from the bondage back to the Rulership of Christ in this area.
  - (2) *Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*
- iv. **Restoration**
  - (1) Receive God's cleansing and healing.
  - (2) James 4:10
  - (3) 1 John 1:9
  - (4) Replace hurts, wounds, sins, and demonic bondage with the blessings of God, the opposite of what you are experiencing.
    - (a) Ill: rejection - acceptance and love of God and others
    - (b) Ill: anger - peace, self-control
    - (c) Ill: offence - forbearance, forgiveness, overlooking an offense

## 8. Dealing with blessing, curses, spells, and witchcraft

### a. Blessings

- i. Blessing affirms what God wants to do and releases good things of the kingdom.
- ii. Blessing is the opposite of cursing (Luke 6:27-28; Romans 12:14).
- iii. There is power in our words (Proverbs 18:21).
- iv. We need to know how to break the power of curses and how to release blessings.
- v. We have the privilege to bless the Lord (Psalm 72; 103).
- vi. We have the power to bless and release blessings on people, generations, cities, etc. (Jeremiah 29:4-7).
- vii. We are to execute and declare the written judgments (must become familiar with the Lord, his words and his ways) (Psalm 149:9; Daniel 9:11).
  - (1) Judgments are on behalf of God's people.
  - (2) Judgments declare God's purposes in the earth.
  - (3) Judgments declare how God feels about the enemy and what the devil is doing to the people of God. (See especially the imprecatory Psalms.)

### b. Curses

- i. Power of words that limit
- ii. Self-fulfilling prophecies and declarations
- iii. Negative confessions
- iv. Critical judgments

### c. Spells and witchcraft

- i. A spell is invoking the power of the occult.
- ii. Witchcraft is seeking to use any spiritual power other than the Holy Spirit to affect things and people.

d. **Exercising spiritual authority over these influences**

Jesus alone is the solution, salvation, and liberator that we seek. It is not our techniques or methods, but a living relationship with the living King. In reality, Jesus wars, not according to our flesh, but with a power that is divinely powerful to destroy all of the enemies fortresses (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Jesus and his anointed servants destroy speculations, pretensions, and thoughts which keep people from truly knowing and experiencing God.

- i. Receiving words of knowledge and other wisdom and revelation from God.
- ii. Exposing wrong thoughts and taking authority over or pulling down strongholds.
- iii. Choosing restoration and reconciliation with others: blessing those who curse you, serving others instead of taking revenge upon them, repenting instead of lamenting or crying out.
- iv. Breaking yokes or bonds off people by exercising authority. Ministry team members can actually “see” things broken off people (i.e. “the need to know”).
- v. Taking back territory from the enemy as the Spirit directs by exposing the enemy (his works and lies) and fighting with the word of God. Remember this: Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and to extend the rule and reign of the Kingdom of God.
- vi. Breaking unholy ties and bonds with others: extending forgiveness to those who have wronged them and ceasing to reach out in hate, anger, bitterness, or unforgiveness toward someone breaks unholy ties.
- vii. Meditating on God’s word and rehearsing scriptural truths (Philippians 4:8; Psalm 1:2).

9. **Dealing with covenants of darkness**

- a. Repent
- b. Renounce
- c. Reclaim

10. **Dedicating** a life, a home, a business, or a land to the Lord **with prophetic acts** involving prayer, oil, salt, etc., as the Lord leads

11. **Dealing with other key issues**
- a. **Foundations** (Matthew 7:24-27) and **roots** (Deuteronomy 29:16-18)
    - i. Good foundations: based on words of the Lord
      - (1) Faulty foundations: based on lies
    - ii. *The root of righteousness is a solid, good foundation (Psalm 12:3 NASB)*
      - (1) A root of bitterness defiles many (Hebrews 12:5).
  - b. **Our authority and anointing**
    - i. We have the right and the power to deal with all powers of the enemy (Luke 9:1-2).
    - ii. We have power over the enemy when Jesus gives us that power and we do what he says to do. There are times when nothing of the enemy can hurt us when we are on mission for Christ (Luke 10). There are other times when we will die for our faith or suffer persecution and pain for following the Lord (see Acts 6-7).
  - c. **Stress praying the opposite**
    - i. Of what the enemy is doing
    - ii. Of what is broken
    - iii. Of what is cursed
    - iv. Of what is oppressed
  - d. **Concerning the relationship between sickness and demonic activity**
    - i. We want to state clearly that not all sickness is caused by demons or that demons influence every form of pain.
    - ii. But, where we do sense that the enemy is involved, we need to get equipped and learn how to use the power and authority of the kingdom of God to do something about it.

## Guard Your Hearts

*Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; For out of it are the issues of life (ASV).*

Guarding our hearts is a key issue in spiritual warfare. Part of the armor (breastplate of righteousness) is designed to guard our inner man. We need the protection and the benefit which comes from all of the armor of the Lord.

It is not unusual for the enemy to go after your heart, your inner man, through direct attack or by circling like a buzzard over a damaged heart. He is drawn to open wounds. He is the Lord of the flies. (See *Healing America's Wounds*, John Dawson, pps. 102 - 109.)

So, we need to allow God to heal our hearts and our wounds. We need the Lord to protect our hearts and to watch over our hearts. God wants to do this ministry on our behalf. And, we need to learn how to minister healing and grace to others, that they might experience healing.

Healing of the heart describes the process by which God brings wholeness to our inner man: our emotions, thoughts and beliefs, memories, and will. We need to have our hearts healed because our hearts can be damaged.

### Ways in Which Our Hearts Are Damaged or Hurt

1. **As a Result of the Personal Sin We Commit**
  - a. We have all sinned, thereby opening the door to the hurt and infection of sin in our hearts (Romans 3:23; see also Psalm 51).
  - b. Repentance and confession are God's prescription for dealing with sin (1 John 1:7-9).
2. **As a Result of the Sins Others Commit Against us**
  - a. Whether or not it is their intention, people can sin against us and wound us. Because we cannot control what others do or say to us, we must focus on our response to these kinds of wounds. The Lord Jesus wants to heal these wounds before they become infected with bitterness, anger, resentment, or other poisons. By his grace, Jesus shows us that we do not have to sin in response to the hurts inflicted upon us by others (Colossians 3:12-13).
  - b. Extending forgiveness and seeking reconciliation are the ways God desires for us to relate to those who hurt us (Matthew 5:22-24, 18:15-22).
3. **As a Result of Living in a Sick, Fallen World**
  - a. Sometimes we are hurt through no direct fault or choice of our own making. This world is broken and in need of repair. Unfortunately, many people become infected by unbelief and false belief.
  - b. Living in child-like dependence upon God, receiving the truth of God, and growing in faith in him are some of the antidotes for unbelief and falsehood (Isaiah 55:6-9; John 1:12; Matthew 11:25-27; Hebrews 11:6).

4. **As a Result of Demonic Opposition**

- a. Satan and his hosts of demons are our adversaries. They are out to kill, steal, and destroy (John 10:10). The enemy works against us in notorious ways:
  - i. Temptations to sin (1 Thessalonians 3:5)
  - ii. Attacks of discouragement, distraction, and deception (Ephesians 6:11-12; 1 Peter 5:8)
  - iii. Accusations of unworthiness, guilt, and condemnation (Revelation 12:10)
  
- b. Calling upon the Lord, fixing our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), setting our affections and devotions toward him (Colossians 3:2), standing in the strength of the Lord (Ephesians 6:10-18), and putting on the armor of the Lord through obedience are some of the ways that we respond to the enemy.
  - i. Jesus is our righteousness in the face of the temptation (Romans 6:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
  - ii. Jesus is our deliverer from the attacks of Satan (2 Timothy 4:18; Psalm 6:10; Isaiah 60:16; Titus 2:13-14).
  - iii. Finally, Jesus is our advocate, our defense attorney before the throne of God in the face of demonic accusation (1 John 2:1).

## Spiritual Strategy and Tactics

### Daily Spiritual Warfare: Satan's Schemes

1. Satan's schemes have much greater influence on our lives than we imagine. What we think of as "just life" is really spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:11-12). Satan attacks us in many ways:
  - a. Subtle attacks--temptation (v.11)
  - b. Surprise attacks--sporadic trials (v.16)
  - c. Siege--prolonged attacks (v.13)
2. Yielding to Satan's attacks is sin. It is no sin to be tempted, tried, or tested; it is a sin to yield. When yielding to his attacks becomes a pattern, we begin to open up the door to the enemy. Practicing sin is like building a roadway into your life for demonic influence (and guess who's handing you the bricks!).

### Hand to Hand Combat

We were born on a battlefield. We were born again to have victory! Only by being good soldiers of Christ Jesus can we win that victory (2 Timothy 2:3-4). **Here are some of the tactical battles we should always be on the alert to fight. These are examples of attack and counter attack warfare we face on a daily basis.**

1. Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4).
  - a. We are to proclaim the gospel of light (Acts 26:22-23; Matthew 28:18-20).
2. Satan deceives people and is the father of lies (John 8:44; Revelation 12:9; 1 Timothy 4:1).
  - a. We are to proclaim and discern the truth (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 5:14)
3. Satan brings divisiveness through anger and unforgiveness (2 Corinthians 2:5-11; Ephesians 4:26-27).
  - a. We are to forgive one another and be patient (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13)
4. Satan provokes hatred and violence (Luke 9:54-56; John 8:44)
  - a. We are to love even our enemies and do good (Matthew 5:43-45; Romans 12:17-21).
5. Satan instills envy, jealousy, and selfish ambition (James 3:13-18; 1 Samuel 19:9-10).
  - a. We are to be pure, peaceable, and humble servants (1 Peter 5:5; Mark 9:33-35).
6. Satan is an accuser and slanderer of others (Revelation 12:10; Zechariah 3:1; Colossians 3:8-9).
  - a. We are to speak only wholesome words which build up one another in love (Ephesians 4:29).

7. Satan tempts us to all kinds of sins and immoralities (Proverbs 5:3-9; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5).
  - a. We are to live pure and holy lifestyles (2 Corinthians 6:17-18; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Ephesians 6:10-13).
8. Satan tries to lead us into idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:20).
  - a. We are to put to death all idols (Colossians 3:5; 1 John 5:21).
9. Satan tries to defile us with occult practices (Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:9-13; Acts 16:16-18).
  - a. We are to seek the living God and set aside evil (1 Corinthians 2:4-5; Acts 19:18-20).
10. Satan tempts us to live for self (1 John 2:15-16, 5:19; Ephesians 2:1-3).
  - a. We are to love and serve others (Philippians 2:1-4; Galatians 5:13-14).
11. Satan attempts to invalidate God's Word (Genesis 3:1).
  - a. We are to trust in God's Word (2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:17-19).
12. Satan seeks to divert us from God's purposes (1 Chronicles 21:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:18).
  - a. We are to always press toward the calling of God (Philippians 3:14; 1 Corinthians 16:8-9).
13. Satan seeks to rob us of God's word for us (Mark 4:15).
  - a. We are to receive and obey God's word for us (James 1:21-22).
14. Dealing with the weapons of darkness: curses, divination, oppression, tormentors, prognostications, etc.
  - a. Can come from Satan
  - b. Can come through the enemy spoken by others against us
15. Dealing with discouragement, etc.
  - a. Must learn to be overcomers
  - b. Must let Jesus overcome through us
16. The enemy can defile your dreams or contaminate true dreams from the Lord.
  - a. Therefore, don't throw out the whole dream just because there is a bizarre part or a piece that fails to fit.

## **The Ministry of Deliverance in Ministry Teams**

The following information on the ministry of deliverance is not an attempt to share a comprehensive theology of demons. Nor is it an effort to compare modern psychological models of counseling with the biblical model of deliverance. This material is solely intended to give ministry team members a working knowledge and practical model for dealing with demons as they are encountered in the ministry team setting.

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). His ministry was that of invading Satan's kingdom of darkness to save those lost to Satan's blindness, to deliver those held captive by Satan's strongholds, to heal those broken by Satan's afflictions, and to bind up those wounded by Satan's schemes (Luke 4:18; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Luke 13:10-16; 2 Corinthians 2:11).

The whole ministry of Jesus is establishing and revealing the victory of the Kingdom of God over Satan (Hebrews 2:14-15; Acts 10:38). That victory was won at the cross (Colossians 2:14-15). We are now engaged in the clean-up operation. We are routing out the pockets of resistance. This warfare will go on until the King comes to establish his Kingdom in its fullness. We are on the front lines. Our assignment is to enforce and reveal God's dynamic rule just as Jesus did (John 20:21; Matthew 6:10).

The ministry of deliverance is a common occurrence in the life of Jesus and his followers. Much can be learned by studying their encounters. (See Luke 4:40-41, 8:1-2, 10:17; Matthew 8:16; Mark 6:12-13; Acts 5:16, 8:7). We also find the presence of demons to be a fairly common occurrence in ministry.

### **Ground Rules for Spiritual Warfare**

1. **We are not to fear Satan** (James 4:7; 2 Timothy 1:7)
  - a. Nowhere do the Scriptures ever indicate that Jesus or his followers were afraid of the devil or his demons. We need not fear the darkness for we are children of light. As we walk in the light, our firm confidence is "greater is he that is in you, than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).
  - b. Our focus should never be on Satan or demons. Our eyes should always be fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). He has given us authority over the enemy and promised that nothing shall hurt us (Luke 10:19).
2. **We are not to be fascinated with Satan** (Revelation 2:24; Acts 19:19)
  - a. We are not to build libraries or seek knowledge concerning the things of Satan. We are to expose and defeat evil, not become fascinated with its reality. Focusing on evil's power or mysteries can lead a person into deception and ultimately destruction.
  - b. Demonic manifestations during deliverance may include what we would call the supernatural. We must recognize these things as theatrics, attempts to side-track, or efforts to produce fear. They must never be our focus or fascination. We should command them to stop such manifestations and stay

on the single focus of commanding the demon to leave and never return (Mark 9:20, 25).

3. **We are not to make fun of Satan** (2 Peter 2:10-11)
  - a. While we are not to fear Satan, we should have a healthy respect of his power (I Peter 5:8). If we have a flippant attitude toward him or an ignorance of his schemes, he will take advantage of us (Ephesians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 2:11).
  - b. While we do have authority over our enemy, we must never take him lightly. The battle is real. Ground may be lost or gained, lives may be harmed or healed; but our victory is assured as we walk under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

### **Basic Information on Demons**

1. **What are they like?**
  - a. They are intelligent and can communicate (Mark 1:23-25)
  - b. They have wills (Mark 5:32)
  - c. They have emotions and feelings (Mark 5:7)
  - d. They seek dwelling places (Matthew 12:43-44)
  - e. They cooperate with other demons (Matthew 12:26)
  - f. They have varying degrees of wickedness (Matthew 12:45)
  - g. They can be violent (Matthew 8:28)
  - h. They can be very strong (Acts 19:16)
  - i. They are spirit-beings (Mark 9:25)
  - j. They have different abilities:
    - i. Spirits of divination (Acts 16:16)
    - ii. Spirits of infirmity (Luke 13:11,16)
    - iii. Spirits of harlotry (Hosea 4:12)
    - iv. Spirits of deception (1 Timothy 4:1)
    - v. Spirits of anti-Christ (1 John 4:3)

2. **Whom can they affect?**

- a. Men (Mark 1:23)
- b. Women (Luke 8:2)
- c. Boys (Mark 9:17)
- d. Girls (Mark 7:25)

3. **What can they do?**

- a. They can tempt God's people to sin (Acts 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; 1 Timothy 3:7)
- b. They can cause physical afflictions (Luke 13:11; Matthew 12:22, 9:32; Acts 10:38)
- c. They can cause mental torment (1 Samuel 16:14-16)
- d. They can indwell humans and animals (Matthew 8:31-32)
- e. They can steal the power of God's word from a person's heart (Matthew 13:19)
- f. They can spiritually blind the lost (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

4. **How do they affect people?**

- a. None of the following items necessarily mean demonic activity. They may result from our own fleshly desires, the influence of the fallen world, or the influence of others. Demonic activity may work through the above mentioned types of influence, using them as tools. So, while the following list may indicate some level of demonic activity, it does not necessarily require it.
- b. Demonic activity may effect a person's physical body. This may include disease, physical impairments, deformity, etc....
- c. Demons may influence a person's mind, resulting in mental disturbances. This may include doubt, fear, confusion, insanity, etc....
- d. Demons may attack a person's heart, resulting in emotional disturbances. This may include depression, despair, weariness, worthlessness, rage, etc....
- e. Demons may influence a person's will, resulting in sinful temptations, activities, and bondage.
- f. The New Testament concept of demonic activity is somewhat different than our current thinking. The New Testament does not use the word

“possession.” Rather it uses the Greek word “daimonizomai,” which should really be translated “demonized.” Thus, it is more accurate to think in terms of being INFLUENCED by demons than in being possessed by demons. This functional approach (focusing on what demons do) helps us to remain focused on ending demonic activity, closing their access points, and thus bring the victim into complete deliverance. The ministry of deliverance should not be viewed as merely getting rid of unwanted “passengers,” but as bringing a person into the truth of Christ, which alone can set them free.

5. **What are the “entry points” for demons?**

a. **The Sin Process**

- i. When a person makes a sinful choice, the possibility exists that it may become a sinful habit. A sinful habit may lead to demonic bondage and entry.
- ii. Sinful patterns, particularly when they are willfully embraced, are like building a roadway into your life for the devil. And, guess who is handing him the bricks?

b. **Occult Involvement**

- i. A person who traffics in the occult and new age phenomenons opens himself to demonic influence and entry. Satanism, witchcraft, seances, cult groups, etc., are an open invitation to dealings with demons.
- ii. Not as blatant, but just as dangerous, are involvement with psychic experience, astral projection, and other new age experiences (like channeling, spirit guides, and fantasizing).

c. **Victimization**

- i. Abuse (physical, sexual, emotional) may lead to an anger/bitterness response which opens the door to demonization.
- ii. Demons may be passed on through family generational ties by inherited inclinations which are submitted to in each succeeding generation (i.e. alcoholism, spouse abuse, physical maladies, depression, etc.)
- iii. Curses may put a person under demonic influence which could possibly lead to entry. (See Proverbs 26:2.)

d. **Traumas, Trials, Tragedies, or Lies**

- i. Trauma may open the door to demonic influence when it involves great fear or pain.

- ii. It is our response to the pain or trauma that is the problem. Instead of calling upon the Lord, we self-protect.
  - iii. We often make vows as a way to self-protect. These vows or strongholds actually give the enemy right to traffic our lives and hinder the work of God in our lives (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).
- e. **Darkness**
- i. According to Jude 1:6, Satan and his hosts are relegated to living in darkness. (See *The Three Battlegrounds*, Frangipane, pp. 4-5). Satan has a legal access, given to him by God, to dwell in the domain of darkness. *We must grasp this point: The devil can traffic in any area of darkness, even the darkness that still exists in a Christian's heart" (The Three Battlegrounds, Frangipane, p. 4).*
  - ii. According to David Parker, it is a matter of legal access.
    - (1) The enemy traffics in these areas legally:
      - (a) Fear
      - (b) Anger
      - (c) Falsehood
    - (2) On the other hand, the Holy Spirit has legal access to areas of:
      - (a) Faith
      - (b) Love
      - (c) Truth
      - (d) Plus: We have a secret weapon in this warfare: intercession.
- f. Note: None of the above necessarily mean that a person who has had such an experience is demonized. They are only possible entry points.

## Dealing with Demons

### 1. Diagnosis in the Ministry Team Setting

- a. Diagnosing demonization is basically learned by practice. It is very helpful to sit in on deliverance sessions with those already skilled in this area in order to be best equipped. The gift of “distinguishing of spirits” is also helpful in diagnosis (1 Corinthians 12:10).
- b. Demons normally try to remain hidden, but in the team setting, under the power of the Holy Spirit, they may become manifest. Common manifestations include: bodily contortions, falling to the floor, pupils rolling up and out of sight, a change in voice, abusive language, coughing, trembling, etc.... These manifestations may be mild or pronounced.
- c. If you suspect you are dealing with a demon, but are not sure, pray for the Holy Spirit to come and reveal anything not of God’s kingdom, with which he wants to deal. After praying that prayer, wait on the Holy Spirit and watch for visible signs of demonic presence. If you are still undecided, ask the person to pray for freedom from any influence the enemy may have on their life. Then, once again, ask the Holy Spirit to come and reveal anything not of God.
  - i. If there is no outward response or word of knowledge given, ask the person if the Holy Spirit is speaking to them. Perhaps they keep having a recurring mental picture or a memory of some trauma in their life. This may be the Spirit indicating the area in which he desires to minister.
- d. Sometimes diagnosis may come through the spiritual gift of discerning of spirits. Treat such revelation as you would any other “word of knowledge.” Explore the revelation by asking questions, not by making declarations. Never tell someone, “You have a demon.”
- e. If there is no manifestation, do not proceed in deliverance type ministry (manifestation, silence, expulsion).
  - i. We have no record of Jesus trying to cast out demons that did not manifest. Find the Holy Spirit’s agenda for ministering to the person’s needs.
  - ii. **However, if you believe that a demon is contributing to the pain, affliction, torment, depression, oppression, etc., you can pray and exercise power and authority as the Lord leads. You can cut off the supply lines of the tormenting activity. You can pray for the opposite of what is going on in the person’s life. You can ask for victory and overcoming grace from the Lord. You can crowd out the enemy by leading the person through personal repentance and closing doors (healing of the heart). You can break the assignment of the enemy, binding and loosing as the Lord leads.**

2. **Deliverance in the Ministry Team Setting**

- a. Once the presence of a demon has been determined, tell the victim you suspect you are dealing with a spirit. Then ask their permission to explore this possibility.
  - i. Begin by bringing the person current in repentance, confession, and cleansing from sin. Ask the person if they are aware of any areas of access that the enemy may have into their life. Close those doors through repentance and confession. Have the victim pray to God for purity, holiness, and deliverance.
  - ii. Another word for this process is crowding out (2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 4:25-27).
  - iii. Note on closing doors: a demon is seldom the principle issue-- sin, relationships, and behavior patterns are often the real issues. These are complicated by demonic attachment or influence. Casting out a demon merely removes an obstacle so that change can take place. Beware of the idea: "If I go through deliverance, then I won't have to deal with this issue anymore."
- b. Ask the person to look you in the eyes. Remind them that you are not speaking to them, but to any spirit that may be present. Command any unclean spirit effecting the person to leave in the name of Jesus. When manifestations are mild, command it to come to the surface and come out. Maintain continual eye contact. Be firm, but do not shout. (Demons are not hard of hearing!)
  - i. Do not shout.
  - ii. Always treat the victim with dignity.
  - iii. Always minister in love.
- c. At this point you may encounter any of several hiding tactics that demons use: a desire to flee, sudden sleepiness, fear may come upon the victim, or your authority may be challenged. On the other hand, you may encounter a full blown demonic manifestation.
- d. **The basic steps in the deliverance encounter are: manifestation...silence...expulsion.**
  - i. **Manifestation**
    - (1) After a demon has manifest, either mildly or fully blown, we proceed to cast it out.

- (2) Common phrases: "I command you to leave this person in the name of Jesus." "Unclean spirit, I command you to come to the surface and come out in the name of Jesus."

ii. **Silence**

- (1) Once demons are engaged they may want to converse. This should be viewed as a delay tactic. Get down to business. Command them to be silent.
- (2) Common phrases: "I command you to be silent in the name of Jesus." "I forbid you to speak in Jesus' name."

iii. **Expulsion**

- (1) Command the demons to leave.
- (2) Common phrases: "I command you to get out in the name of Jesus!" "You cannot have this person any longer; now go, in the name of Jesus!"

e. Some demons will leave quickly and easily, others will be resistant and belligerent. They may speak to you in the victim's own voice or another voice through them. Some demons may not speak to you at all but will be obvious by their facial expressions. They may be frightened or even try to frighten you, intimidate you, threaten you, or confuse you. Remember they are liars and bullies. They fight with fear and intimidation. Do not let them bluff you. Silence them and command them to leave.

i. Some people wonder why the demons don't instantly obey if we have authority over them. We could ask why don't our children always instantly obey? We have authority over them, also. Children have their own wills and may resist authority. They are sometimes rebellious. Some children are more rebellious than others. The same is true with evil spirits. We do have authority over them in Jesus' name and they will bow to the will of God. However, it will be against their will and they may not yield without a struggle.

ii. The issue of command authority: do we have command of the authority Jesus has given us? This is a key issue. It is not enough to have authority; you must know how to use it!

f. **Tips for handling resistant demons:**

i. You may have to command them not to hurt the victim. Command them to stop any violent manifestations. Tell them to sit still, be quiet, and come out.

- ii. You may have to discover what access or legal right they have to the victim. This is done by leading the victim in repentance and confession of sin, taking back any ground given to the enemy, submitting their life to the Lord, breaking genetic ties, etc. (See Luke 11:21-22).
- iii. Get the victim to call out to God for their own deliverance. Build their faith in God with scriptures. Counter lies and deception which they are believing with the truth of God. Help them not to be afraid.
- iv. You may need to ask the demon its name or what it does (Mark 5:9).
- v. You may need to enter into a season of fasting and prayer (Mark 9:29; Matthew 17:21 KJV).
- vi. You need to be aware of timing and assignment. We deal with demons when God says to do so (Acts 16:16-18).

**g. How do you know when demons are gone?**

- i. Typically there will be some sort of manifestation when they leave (i.e. coughing, burping, gagging, yawning, expelling of air, screaming, the cessation of bodily movements, etc.).
- ii. Demons may fake leaving. **DO NOT PLACE YOUR FAITH IN A MANIFESTATION.** Place your faith in discernment given by the Holy Spirit. If you are unconvinced that the demon has left, challenge it again. Usually, everyone on the team and the victim will bear witness when it has left.
- iii. Demons may leave immediately (Mark 1:25-26). Deliverance may be a process (Mark 5:8 NASB). It is also possible that the team may be ineffective and unable to dislodge the demon (Matthew 17:16, 19-20).
- iv. Remember, you may be dealing with multiple demons in one person (Mark 5:9; Luke 8:2).

**h. Helpful hints for the deliverance ministry:**

- i. Because of the deceitfulness of demons, work with teams.
- ii. Don't become demon conscious. God is not looking for demon-seekers. Remember, Ghost-Busters was a movie!
- iii. Counsel in private, if possible.
- iv. Avoid counseling in the victim's home.

- v. Avoid counseling in the presence of the victim's family members.
  - vi. Limit conversations with demons. As a rule: identify, silence, expulse.
  - vii. Maintain eye contact with the victim.
  - viii. Be firm, not necessarily loud.
  - ix. Close doors of access to the victim.
  - x. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and ask for his anointing.
  - xi. Have compassion for the victim and remember they are not the enemy.
  - xii. Never confront a demon with physical force. Sometimes it may be necessary to hold a victim to keep them from hurting themselves.
  - xiii. Provide periods of rest during prolonged sessions (providing kleenex, drinks of water, etc.). During breaks, reinforce God's love, mercy, and acceptance.
  - xiv. Be willing to schedule another session if you are not making any progress.
  - xv. Reading of "victory verses" and worshipping may be helpful (1 Samuel 16:23).
  - xvi. Help keep the victim's focus on our mighty God.
  - xvii. Continue the session until deliverance is complete and there are no further manifestations, or until the Holy Spirit indicates it is time to stop.
- i. **Provide appropriate follow-up for the victim.**
- i. Always affirm, encourage, and bestow love and acceptance upon the victim.
  - ii. Remind them of their responsibility to seek the Lord (James 4:6-8).
  - iii. Encourage them in prayer, Bible meditation, and Christian fellowship as means of continued victory.
  - iv. Warn them of counter-attacks. After deliverance, demons will often seek to return (Matthew 12:43-45). There may be feelings of freedom and elation followed by the enemies' counter-attack which may consist of feelings of depression, emptiness, fear of sleeping, fear of the supernatural, fatigue, emotional drain, confusion, feelings of defilement, and guilt. Remind them that these are

normal counter-attacks of the enemy. Encourage them not to be alarmed when they come. Tell them not to fear that they have lost the ground gained or that the enemy has entered them again. Exhort them to put their faith in God and to be confident of his delivering power. The greater their confidence in God, the sooner they will experience complete victory (1 John 5:4).

- v. Have the victim go home and destroy any occult objects, books, or materials (Acts 19:18-20).
- vi. Encourage them to walk in the light with others. Give them someone to call when counter-attacks occur so they can have a prayer partner.
- vii. Encourage them not to share the details of their deliverance. Simply telling people that “God set me free” is sufficient. The team needs to be reminded of its responsibility of confidentiality.
  - (1) However, in the case of child or teen, if a parent asks for the details, then the parent needs to hear the details of the ministry and deliverance.
  - (2) Parents have the right to know what their children go through, so it is permissible for the child or team to tell the parents. It is not our preference to share the details of a deliverance session in general, but we do answer questions from parents.
- viii. The victim may need to write down the lies the enemy has consistently used against them. Then, they should find verses of scripture which are God’s answers to those lies. Have them meditate on those scriptures, memorize them, and use them against the enemy.
- ix. Always feel free to contact a pastor concerning any question or circumstance which you feel may need their attention. Do not hesitate to ask for help when you need it.
- j. **Here is another way to view of deliverance ministry:**
  - i. Pre-op: repentance, cleansing, crowding out
  - ii. Surgery: the deliverance or ministry session
  - iii. Post-op: recovery

**Exercising spiritual authority is critical**, for Jesus has given us authority and has revealed to us that the kingdom of God is at hand. (This section comes from *Exercising Spiritual Authority* Conference by Jeff McGee.)

1. **Key concepts and thoughts:**

- a. What does Scripture say that we have authority to do?
- b. Remember that all authority is relational in the kingdom of God. Authority is never meant to be exercised out an on going, intimate relationship with Christ. Otherwise, it degrades into legalism, control, and / or manipulation.
- c. Christians tend toward imbalance, falling into the ditch of passivity or presumption. However, God wants us to learn to move as sons and daughters of the Most High God, for the sake of the Son and the world. (See Romans 8:1-27.)

2. **The Believer Comes under Authority**

- a. In our culture, authority and power are institutional or structural in nature. One's authority relates to one's position in an organization; it is the right to control, dominate, influence, or direct others. The power at one's hand is the power or ability to dominate or control others. In our dog-eat-dog society, everybody seeks to be over others.
- b. In the kingdom of God, however, authority flows from humble submission to Christ, his church, and his Word. Having authority is not a function of one's position or status in the economy of God. One who submits to Christ is given rights and ability to carry out God-given tasks and assignments. Power (dunamis in the Greek) is the might or strength to accomplish something (Romans 1:16). The legal right and power to be and do something is the meaning of authority (exousia) (John 1:12). God has given us the right to use his power in order to achieve his desired purposes; his grace and power are released to enable us to accomplish whatever he desires (2 Corinthians 9:8). Authority, therefore, is personal and relational in the kingdom of God as one submits to Christ, his Word, and his church.

3. **The Believer Learns to Exercise Spiritual Authority**

- a. Many Christians have an orthodox theology, but it is inadequate in scope and practice. They believe that God, who is sovereign, can interact in their dimension. The problem is that their world-view presumes that he will choose to intersect their reality only infrequently, if at all. Western Christianity has a tendency to leave out room for God to do the miraculous today, much less to accomplish his powerful, miraculous will through them in their sphere of experience.
- b. The truth needs to be shouted from the highest places: God is at work in this world! We need to begin to see his work and to participate with him by allowing the Lord to accomplish his desires through us. Such availability is a learned ability which is cultivated most effectively in an atmosphere that rewards taking risks and permits failure.

- c. The biblical reality is that God can and does extend his kingdom into our experience. **"We have been given the keys to the kingdom [that is, we have been commissioned to represent and to extend the kingdom] and the authority and power over the enemy, but if we do not exercise that power, it is of no use."** (John Wimber, *Power Evangelism*, p. 9.) In other words, we must be witnesses, ambassadors, and servants of the King. Like Jesus, we have come to do the will of the Father.

#### 4. **Over What Do We Exercise Authority?**

- a. **First, Jesus said that we must not use our authority to "lord it over" others as is practiced in our culture** (Matthew 20:20-28). Ours is not a positional or structural authority; rather, spiritual authority is relational. **"True spiritual authority is a relationship of service, not a structure of dominance."** (Brent Rue, "Power and Authority," lecture notes presented by John Wimber at the Power Healing Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, September 21, 1988, p. 21.) So, we do not exercise spiritual authority over others in an attempt to gain control over or to dominate them.
- b. **Second, we must understand the dangers associated with exercising spiritual authority.**
- i. **One danger is spiritual pride.** When a person begins to believe that he possesses or controls authority and power, he will begin to use it outside of the will of God. The Bible cautions us against pride (1 Corinthians 10:12). God opposes the proud, for pride seeks to elevate self above God (James 4:6). Instead of pride, we are to have a sound estimation of ourselves (Romans 12:3).
  - ii. **Another danger that corresponds to pride is self-sufficiency.** When a man walks by the flesh, he will reap the consequences of the flesh. Rather than relying upon himself, man is called to walk by the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:13-19). A person who is surrendered to God can then experience the fruit and sufficiency of God (2 Corinthians 9:8). We are to execute God's orders, not to uplift ourselves.
  - iii. Some people, once they have tasted the fruit of spiritual authority, **begin seeking the experience rather than the person of God.** Such a person is selfish and has lost sight of his true purpose and passion. When we seek God with all of our heart, he will release in and through us the authority and power which is appropriate for advancing his kingdom (Matthew 6:33).
  - iv. **A final danger is to believe that our authority resides in certain words or phrases (for example, "in Jesus' name" or "come Holy Spirit..."). Exercising authority is misunderstood to be the recanting of key words or phrases. The issue of authority is relational and personal.** We must be connected to Christ in an intimate relationship. Jesus said, "I AM the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Authority is not an impersonal thing to be grasped or manipulated. Instead, authority and power must be

understood in relational terms. As I live in submission to the King, I am connected to him. As his conduit, he exercises power through me for and by the moment in order to extend the rule of his kingdom. God is the source; I am the channel. The key to the connection is love, for loving God keeps me connected to him (Matthew 22:37-40). James 4:3 reminds us that the wrong motives prevent us from receiving from God. The issue, therefore, is not the “right” words, but to ask God to speak and guide your prayers that he might accomplish his pleasure.

- v. **When man is rightly related to God through Jesus Christ, he becomes a delegate of the authority which the King vests in him. We have been commissioned, therefore, to go in Jesus’ authority (Matthew 10:1,8, 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-2).** As his ambassadors, we are servants commissioned within certain parameters: a servant does as he is told and carries out the directives of his master. Remember, our model for exercising spiritual authority is Jesus. He only did that which he was told; he only spoke what the Father told him to say (John 14:10).

5. **Jesus actively passed on his authority to others.** He saw all that needed to be done in God’s harvest and called men unto himself for that purpose (Matthew 9:35-10:1; Luke 10:1-2; Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:16).

- a. Remember, our authority comes from Christ who has given us a new IDENTITY (1 John 3:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17) and a new POSITION (Ephesians 2:4-6).

- i. **The Lord Jesus Christ has given us his AUTHORITY:**

- (1) Over the enemy (Luke 10:19; Mark 6:7)
- (2) Over sickness (Luke 9:1-2)
- (3) To pray for the sick and they will recover (James 5:13-16)
- (4) To bind and loose (Matthew 16:19)
- (5) To forgive sin (John 20:21-23)
- (6) To disciple nations (Matthew 28:19)
- (7) To baptize disciples (Matthew 28:19)
- (8) To equip disciples to do what Jesus says and does (Matthew 28:19)
- (9) To expect the presence of Jesus will go with you (Matthew 28:20)
- (10) To proclaim and demonstrate that the Kingdom is at hand (Matthew 10:7ff; Acts 10:38)

- (11) To pull down strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)
- (12) To impart and to give away freely to others what we receive from God (Matthew 10:8)
- (13) To be fruitful, to increase in number, to fill the earth, and to subdue it; to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground (Genesis 1:28).
- (14) To bless others (Luke 6:28; Numbers 6:24)
- (15) To minister to God as a priest (1 Peter 2:4-9; 2 Chronicles 29:11)
- (16) To make intercession (standing in the gap and building up the wall, Ezekiel 22:30)
- (17) To come near to God for yourself and for others on behalf of others (Hebrews 4:14-16; Luke 11:1-13)
- (18) To do the works of Jesus and even greater works (John 14:12)
- (19) To bear fruit to the glory of the Father and expect it to remain (John 15:8, 16)
- (20) To serve others and to lay down your life for them (not lording it over others) (John 15:13; Matthew 20:25-28; John 10:17-18)
- (21) To know and receive revelation from the Lord (John 10:25-30, 15:14-15)
- (22) To build up vs tearing down (2 Corinthians 10:8)
- (23) To endure (authorized to endure and stand (Ephesians 6:10f; 1 Peter 2:20-25; Hebrews 12:3-7)
- (24) To sow peace wherever you go (Matthew 10:11-13;
- (25) To overcome (1 John 5:4-5; Revelation 12:11)
- (26) To bring out the God-colors and God-flavors around you as salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16)

6. **The church must learn to exercise the authority of Christ in this world. “Unless the church learns to exercise its authority, it will only practice a cosmetic Christianity. We must come to understand our assignment is to be ambassadors of the Kingdom of God just as Jesus was. We are to be witnesses, in the power of the Holy Spirit, testifying to what God has done, is doing, and will do. We are here to enforce the**

rule and reign of the Father. When Jesus taught us to pray, he said pray like this: 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy WILL be done on EARTH, as it is in heaven.' We have been thrust into a battle for the souls of men. The church must be more than an alternative philosophy. The church must be an invading army sent to storm the gates of hell (Matthew 16:18). Our mission is to rescue those who have been taken captive as a result of Adam's fall. Such a war cannot be waged with mere information, education, and indoctrination. It can only be waged with power from on high (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Power to save, to heal, and to deliver is the Kingdom's power (Luke 4:18). Our role is that of an AMBASSADOR, sent with delegated authority, to carry out the King's orders." (Steve Meeks, *Calvary Healing Conference*, lecture notes presented during the fall of 1988.)

## **The Reality of Spiritual Warfare**

### **There is a war going on. Does your world view have room for it (Wimber)?**

*The difficulty in the Western church is that most of us do not seem to realize there is a war going on. We do not see the relationship that the Bible sees between God and Satan. Due to our secularized, empirical perception of Christian experience, we are unaware that we are living in a world affected by the two kingdoms.*

*Often we are insensitive to God's kingdom because we are at best only minimally converted to it. We may have repented of our sin and trusted in Christ, but we seem unaware that we are now members of a new kingdom that is opposed to virtually everything the world around us says is important.*

*This "world view gap" has led to the erroneous assumption that the spirit world is somehow less real than the tangible, materialistic one in which we live. The spirit world is relegated to myth and superstition.*

*By accepting the supernatural as a normal part of kingdom living, we consciously encounter Satan's kingdom daily. It is here that we must take on Christ's authority, as given in the Great Commission, to heal diseases and cast out demons, to demonstrate God's reign. How we fight the battle is the topic of the next chapter (Power Points, John Wimber and Kevin Springer, p. 178).*

### **You are drafted into a battle. There is purpose for this thing called warfare (Sullivant).**

*Humanity is engaged in a war with evil over which we have had no choice—we have been drafted into this battle! Behind all the impersonal evil in this world is a very personal evil. Satan is a real and invisible fallen archangel who is God's ancient adversary and our mortal enemy. He has significant power that should not be underestimated. Neither should it be overestimated.*

*The devil has been functioning as the god of this sinful age for a long time, and he is skilled at what he does. Left to ourselves, we are no match for him or his evil minions. However, the powers of heaven are available and accessible to us so that we can wage an effective war against him. God's power is unlimited, and Satan is ultimately no match for Him. God has allowed us to be engaged in this spiritual warfare in order to test, train and equip us for our destiny in the age to come—to rule and reign with Christ as the bride at His side for all eternity (Your Kingdom Come, Michael Sullivant, p. 181).*

## Basic Information on Demons

### Who are demons and the devil and where did they come from?

1. **Function of Angels** Some time in eternity past, God created beings known as angels.
  - i. These angels were created to carry out definite functions:
    - (1) Warring angels (2 Kings 19:35, 36; Daniel 10:12, 13)
    - (2) Worshiping angels (Hebrews 1:5, 6)
    - (3) Ministering angels (Heb. 1:14; Lk. 1:18, 19; Lk. 22:43, 44; Psalm 34:7)
    - (4) Guardian angels (Matt. 18:10, 11)
    - (5) Attending angels, etc. (Psalm 91:11, 12)
    - (6) Messengers (Acts 10:3, 4)
    - (7) Prophetic angels (Matt. 1:20, 21)
    - (8) Comforting angels (Matt. 28:5, 6)
    - (9) Destroying angels (2 Samuel 24:15, 16; Matt. 28:1, 2; Acts 12:22, 23)
  - ii. It will be angels that will cast lost humanity into the lake of fire at the judgement (Matt. 13:41, 42).
  
2. **Nature of angels** Angels are vastly numerous. The Hebrew language had no word for “million” and ten thousand times ten thousand (a hundred million). Hebrews 12:22, 23 and Psalms 68:16, 17 speak of myriads of angels. In Revelation 5:11, it speaks of ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands.
  - a. Angels occupy an important place in the Word of God. There are over 300 references to them in Scripture. An understanding of them will help us understand demonic spirits. Here are a few descriptive statements concerning angels:
    - (1) Angels are special creations of God (Col. 1:15, 16)
    - (2) Angels are always referred to as masculine (Rev. 14:6, 7)
    - (3) Angels do not marry or reproduce (Matt. 22: 29, 30)
    - (4) Angels are ageless and never die (Luke 20: 35, 36)
    - (5) Angels are clothed in pure, fine, white linen (Matt. 28:3, 4)
    - (6) Angels are subject to Jesus (1 Peter 3:21, 22)
    - (7) Angels (God’s angels) are sinless by choice (Mark 8:37, 38)
    - (8) Angels are curious beings (1 Peter 1:12, 13)
  
3. **The structure of angels** There are degrees of authority among angels. Angels differ in class, calling, and rank. There are seraphim, cherubim, archangel, princes, etc. Some spirits are simply more powerful than others. Some have higher rank than others. Some have more important tasks than others. This is as true in the evil spirit world as in the divine spirit world.
  - a. Three angels mentioned in the Bible are specially empowered and positioned. They are often called archangels:

- i. Gabriel (God is mighty)
- ii. Michael (Who is like God) The only angel identified in Scripture as an archangel (Jude 9).
- iii. Lucifer (Shining One)

#### 4. **Fall of Lucifer**

- a. His creation, sin, and judgement are mentioned in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:12-19. From the Ezekiel passage, we receive the impression that Lucifer was something special. He was “a model of perfection.” He was “anointed as a guardian cherub.” He was “full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.” He is not a grotesque monster with horns and a pitchfork. He made his home on “the holy mount of God.” (Ezekiel 28:14) Sadly, in verse 15 we read “wickedness” was found in him. His sin is spelled out in Isaiah 14.
- b. Lucifer’s “I wills”
  - i. Lucifer, the angel created to serve and carry out the purposes of Jesus (the Son), took a five point stand against God. He dared challenge the authority and right of God, to be God. Isaiah 14:12-17 says he declared:
    - (1) “I will” ascend into heaven
    - (2) “I will” exalt my throne above the stars (angels)
    - (3) “I will” sit on the mount of the congregation
    - (4) “I will” ascend above the heights of the clouds
    - (5) “I will” be like the Most High

#### 5. **War in heaven**

- a. In Revelation 12 we read there was a great war in heaven. Michael, along with God’s other clean angels, came against those rebellious angels. Satan’s name changed from Lucifer (Shining One) to: Prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
  - (1) Ruler of the kingdom of the air (Eph. 2:2)
  - (2) Father of lies (John 8:42-44)
  - (3) God of this world (2 Cor. 4:3, 4; I John 5:19)
  - (4) Belial (2 Cor. 6:15)
  - (5) Satan (Lk. 10:18; 1 Tim. 5:15)
  - (6) Beelzebub (Lord of the Flies) (Matt. 12:24)
  - (7) The Devil (Matt. 4:1)
  - (8) The Accuser of God and his people (Job 1:7,8)
  - (9) The Adversary of God and of Good (1 Peter 5:8)
  - (10) Serpent (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 12:9)
  - (11) Wolf (John 10:12)
  - (12) Fowler (Psalm 91:3)
- ii. Satan convinced unnumbered millions of angels to revolt and to follow him. (About one third of the heavenly host, according to Revelation 12:4, followed him.) They were all cast to the earth (Verse 9). Satan has deceived the world into believing he is in hell. Even professing Christians, blind to the Word of God, believe Satan to already be in hell.

**6. Hell: Satan's home?**

- a. Satan is not in hell. He will ultimately be cast into hell (Rev. 20:10). According to Matthew 25:41, hell was created for the Devil and his angels. Hell was never meant for men (even evil men). People who align themselves with God by receiving Jesus will spend eternity with Him in heaven. However, those who align themselves with Satan and his unclean angels (demons), by cooperating with them and failing to receive Christ, will ultimately be with them in hell. There are only two choices in the spirit world. There are two destinies for mankind: heaven or hell. Failure to cooperate with God by receiving Divine Life through His Son is cooperation with Satan.

**What are demons like?**

1. They are intelligent and can communicate (Mark 1:23-25)
2. They have wills (Mark 5:32)
3. They have emotions and feelings (Mark 5:7)
4. They seek dwelling places (Matthew 12:43-44)
5. They cooperate with other demons (Matthew 12:26)
6. They have varying degrees of wickedness (Matthew 12:45)
7. They can be violent (Matthew 8:28)
8. They can be very strong (Acts 19:16)
9. They are spirit-beings (Mark 9:25)
10. They have different abilities or descriptions:
  - a. Spirits of divination (Acts 16:16)
  - b. Spirits of infirmity (Luke 13:11,16)
  - c. Spirits of harlotry (Hosea 4:12)
  - d. Spirits of deception (1 Timothy 4:1)
  - e. Spirits of anti-Christ (1 John 4:3)
  - f. Foul or unclean spirits (Revelation 18:2; Matthew 10:1)
  - g. Deaf and dumb spirits (Mark 9:17,25)
  - h. Seducing spirits (1 Timothy 4:1)
  - i. Evil spirits (Acts 19:12,15,16)

**Whom can demons affect?**

1. Men (Mark 1:23)
2. Women (Luke 8:2)
3. Boys (Mark 9:17)
4. Girls (Mark 7:25)

**What can demons do?**

1. They can tempt God's people to sin (Acts 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; 1 Timothy 3:7).
2. They can cause physical afflictions (Luke 13:11; Matthew 12:22, 9:32; Acts 10:38).
3. They can cause mental torment (1 Samuel 16:14-16).
4. They can indwell humans and animals (Matthew 8:31-32).
5. They can steal the power of God's word from a person's heart (Matthew 13:19).
6. They can spiritually blind the lost (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

## **In Warfare**

Since this is the Lamb's war, we are to utilize his strategies, put on his armor, and fight with the weapons of his warfare (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

1. Stand in the strength of the Lord, not in your own resources, power, or ability (Ephesians 6:10-11).
2. Know your enemy (Ephesians 6:12).
3. Put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:13ff).
4. Learn to use the weapons of his warfare; get equipped and trained (Ephesians 4:11-12). His weapons include overcoming evil with good (Romans 12:21); prayer (Luke 22:31-32); the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12); the blood of Jesus, the word of our testimony, and the sacrifice of our life (Revelation 12:11); the infilling of the Spirit (Acts 1:8); the name of Jesus (Mark 16:17-18); etc.
5. Take authority over the enemy in the name of Jesus, standing with God that his kingdom might reclaim that which was stolen by Satan (Matthew 12:26-29). Remember, Jesus has already defeated the enemy at the cross. We stand with God to release men and women from the hands of the defeated foe (Colossians 1:13-14).