

Affecting Change in The Spirit

I. LEARNING TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT

- A. Last week we talked about using the gift of tongues (our prayer language) to pray and wage war in the battles of life. There are things God wants to accomplish through our lives, but we have to apply the supernatural tools that God has given us to make that happen.
- B. We live in a world of spiritual realities. Before we become Christians, we are totally blinded to this. Once we surrender our lives to Christ, we are suddenly made aware that God and angels are real and so are demonic forces around us. God has placed great weapons at our disposal to cause us to wage war on a spiritual dimension.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:3-4).

II. CALLED TO POSSESS THE LAND

- A. If you are running with this company, you better learn how to apply the “tools of the trade” because we plan to take possession of the land. May it be said of us, *“There walked a company of believers who understood their place in history, and accomplished what I put before them!”*

“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for me?...Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty [inaccessible] things, which you do not know” (Jer. 32:27, 33:3).

“But the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits” (Dan. 11:32)

- B. People like us who are instigators for God and move in the worship and prayer movement have a greater bullseye on them. The reason is, you make a powerful impact in world affairs for God. You affect the lives of people, cities, and nations for God.
- C. That means you can expect greater challenges to confront you, but you can also expect greater breakthroughs to come. Nothing worth fighting for ever comes easy! Plainly said, *“We are a crazy bunch of people!”*
- D. Winston Churchill coined this phrase during the war in speaking about the Royal Air Force pilots who fought brave battles in the air that helped win the war, ***“Never in the field of human conflict, has so much been owed by so many to so few!”***

III. THE DANIEL COMPANY

- A. I like to refer this group of people as The Daniel Company. Daniel 10 gives us insight into what happens in the spirit realm when we pray, drawing back the veil and showing what happens as we offer our weak prayers made powerful by the blood of Jesus.

- B. It reveals the conflict in the spirit between high-ranking angels and demons as manifested in earthly spheres. There are angelic and demonic authority structures over each city and nation; we wrestle against these demonic principalities and rulers of darkness in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12).
¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts...in the heavenly places. (Eph. 6:12)
- C. Political leaders and governmental infrastructure are affected by the activity of angels and demons; the result of their conflict affects the events, decisions, and cultures of the cities of the earth.
- D. Demonic spirits target leaders with governmental authority to harass, oppress, and oppose them. For example, demonic powers can incite negative feelings in a king (heads of state). Prayer releases greater Holy Spirit activity (including angelic activity) to hinder demonic activity so that a king might “feel” differently—thus, leading his cabinet meeting with a whole different tone or posture.
¹The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, like rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. (Pr. 21:1)
- E. Paul said to pray for those in authority because it will affect our lifestyle, families, economy, etc. There is a relationship between prayer and an increase of the Spirit’s activity to influence a president, governor, mayor, pastor-leader etc.
¹I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life... (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

IV. DANIEL LIVED A LIFE DEDICATED TO GOD

- A. Daniel was dedicated to God as shown through his prayer life. The effectiveness of his life was undergirded by a lifetime of prayer (6:10) and setting his heart to walk in wholeheartedness (1:8)
¹⁰Daniel...knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. (Dan. 6:10)
⁸But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank... (Dan. 1:8)
- B. Like Daniel, part of our ministry assignment is to be prepared body, soul and spirit to wage war in the spiritual dimension. We have to take the spirit weapons that God has given us, and learn the art of spiritual warfare and overcoming.
- C. One of the great prayer theologians (Paul Billheimer) of our time said, “Prayer is on-the-job training.”

V. PARTNERSHIP: GOD GAVE THE DOMINION OF THE EARTH TO HUMANS.

- A. God gave the dominion of the earth to humans forever. He releases His power in the earthly realm in response to redeemed humans calling on Him to do so through intercession and worship. The Spirit moves in response to what God’s people say and do. He ordained us to rule the earth forever through partnership with Jesus as a bride filled with adoring obedience.

“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...over all the earth...28God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over...every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:26-28)

“What is man that You are mindful of him...5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet” (Ps. 8:4-6)

- B. Adam committed high treason and gave his authority over the earth to Satan (Lk. 4:5-6). At the cross, Jesus as a Man defeated Satan and all demonic powers and made a public spectacle of them before all in heaven and hell. He has won the victory, but it must be enforced in this age.

“This authority...has been delivered to me [Satan], and I give it to whomever I wish.” (Lk. 4:6)
“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it [His death and resurrection].” (Col. 2:15)

- C. Authority is delegated power. An example that is commonly used is that of a police officer who stops a car by the authority of the government, not his own physical power. We use our spiritual authority against Satan who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy God’s blessing in our life (by fear, addictions, emotional oppression, division, sickness, financial oppression, etc.).

“The thief [Satan] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy”. (Jn. 10:10)

- D. Believers must exercise their authority in Christ to release on earth the victory that Jesus secured on the cross. God’s Word is our weapon. We resist Satan by speaking the Word, and retain the ground we take from him by standing firm when demons return to attack us (Mt. 12:43-45).

“We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers...in the heavenly places. 13Take up the whole armor of God...having done all, to stand...16taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one ...17Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:12-17)

- E. Our problems are often the result of several factors working together including psychological issues (our mindset, belief systems, and life choices), physiological issues (diet, alcohol, chemicals, etc.), sociological issues (what others do to us), and spiritual (demonic attack).

- F. By using our authority, we can remove the added pressure that demons bring to our problems. This makes it much easier to solve physiological, psychological, and sociological problems. Exercising authority against Satan's attack does not automatically cancel all the consequences of our wrong choices or all the effects of what others do to us. Demons can oppress a Christian's body and soul without possessing their spirit. There are varying degrees of demonic oppression. Heightened strife or negative emotions often involve Satan's flaming missiles striking us.

VI. II. OUR SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IS BASED ON JESUS' VICTORY

- A. Our spiritual authority is based on our union with Jesus. The power and benefits that Jesus received as an "exalted Man" are given to His people. God gave Jesus to the Church (v. 22) as our head (v. 22) and made us His body, through which He expresses His power on earth (v. 23).

"The Father of glory, may give to you...revelation in the knowledge of Him... 18that you may know... 19 The exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe... 20which He [the Father] worked in Christ when He raised Him...and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places... 22 He put all things under His [Jesus'] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23which is His body, the fullness of Him" (Eph. 1:17-23)

- B. Having been raised to sit with Jesus in heavenly places, we are given access to God's throne. When we pray according to God's will, our prayers reach His throne and find approval, resulting in the release of power. We must know who we are in Christ and the authority we possess in Jesus. We must take our place of authority in Christ as those seated in heavenly places with Jesus (Eph. 1:3, 20-22; 2:6).

"Raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ... (Eph. 2:6)

- C. We are called to enforce Jesus' authority on earth as His body. Satan's attack against us will continue if we accept it, instead of refusing it or challenging it with our authority in Christ.

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (Jas. 4:7)

- D. Fear, rejection, and addictive urges are a form of demonic oppression that must be rebuked. If they are allowed to gain dominance in our thinking, they will dominate our life with despair. We must take authority over the spirit of fear. It must not be accepted or allowed to grow.

"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (2 Tim. 1:7)

- E. The command of faith doesn't always bring results instantly. ***"Do not become sluggish, but...through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Heb. 6:12)***

- F. Our authority is based on what Jesus accomplished, not on our mood, feelings, fervor, or emotional feeling of victory. ***"Not by [human] might nor by power, but by My Spirit," Says the LORD of hosts. (Zech. 4:6)***