



School Of Ministry

Lesson 36

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

(1) We are at WAR! Know WHO our ENEMY is....

Rev 12:7-9; Ezek 28:11-17; Isa 14:12-14

The redeemed children of God are more than an audience on a Sunday morning; they are an army advancing the Kingdom of God under the authority and banner of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 6:12 plainly states that we are in a “Struggle” The Greek word “pallo” suggests a wrestling match taking place. As we seek to advance the Kingdom of God and fulfill His mandate on the earth, Satan will not sit on the sidelines with his arms folded. He will attack and attempt to stop the forward march of the Church (Matthew 16:18). Unfortunately, in the contemporary church environment, Christians often fight more with one another than with their true enemy, the devil (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

(a) For every believer and minister moving forward in destiny there is a carefully crafted strategy of Satan to derail and make believers a casualty (Lk 22:31-34; I Pet 5:8).

Satan is jealous of God and His glory, and instead of guarding, protecting, and promoting God’s glory, desired to possess it all for himself (Matt 4:8-10; 2 Thes 2:4). In reality, Satan is nothing but a failure! His rebellion in heaven failed; his temptation of Jesus failed; his ability to keep believers and ministers in his evil kingdom failed; and every time we glorify God, he fails!

(b) Realizing the futility of a direct attack against God, Satan assaults believers in an attempt to indirectly harm God. Like a spoiled brat, if he can not possess the glory which belongs only to God, he will attempt to rob believers of their ability to bestow glory upon their heavenly Father. The bible contains various names and descriptions for Satan and his demons. Although these names are used interchangeably, they refer to the same phenomenon or person. He is called **Satan** (which means “slanderer”; Mk 4:15), **Devil** (which means “accuser”...see appendix on ‘Accuser of the brethren’). He is also called the **Tempter, Adversary, Enemy, Belial, Hinderer, Deceiver, Serpent, Dragon** etc (Gen 3:1; I Thes 2:18; I Thes 3:3-5; Rev 12:3, 4, 9; I Pet 5:8; Matt 13:39; Jn 12:31).

(2) Know How the Enemy Operates.....

Mk 5:1ff; Gen 4:3-13; Jas 1:13-15; Matt 4:1-11; Lk 22:3-6...

The levels of satanic occupation in any life, family, ministry, church, geographical region etc are usually: **(1) OPPRESSION; (2) OBSESSION; and (3) POSSESSION**. The enemy usually begins his activities by sowing evil, negative, ungodly, demonic thoughts (2 Cor 10:5; Eph 6:16). If satanic thoughts are not resisted and overcome, they become oppressive. Oppressive attacks of the enemy that are not properly addressed and dealt with usually open the doors to obsession, a situation in which (a) demonic spirit(s) take(s) over the mind of a person or groups of persons. Obsession eventually leads to demonic possession, a situation in which demonic spirits take over the entire life of a person, or the operations of a community (Acts 5:1-11). It is imperative that ministers (and believers) who will win over the enemy in spiritual warfare become acquainted with how he operates without becoming unduly consumed by them. Satan gains entry (Eph 4:27) into people or places through **“DOORS”**. These doors can be the ‘gates’ into the body (**eyes-gate, mouth-gate, ears-gate, touch-gate, nose-gate or desires**). Doors can also be thoughts, strife, personal or corporate sin, carnality, or ancestral lineage. Positionally as believers, we are free and have been seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph 1:20-22; 2:6). However, when doors become open into our lives that give Satan access, he comes in at will and occupies creating oppression, obsession, and eventually possession (I Sam 15:22-30; I Sam 16:14-23; Matt 12:25-29, 43-45).

(3) Know how to DEFEAT the enemy and MAINTAIN Freedom....

It is unnecessary to pray for what we already have. There is no need to ask for the equipment and authority needed to defeat our enemy because God has already given it to us. Colossians 1:15-20, Colossians 2:12-15 and many other new testament scriptures show us the fundamental understanding that is needed in order to always defeat the enemy. Through the work of redemption that Jesus did on the Cross, our freedom from every form of satanic intrusion and assault was sealed. **Satan is a defeated foe and a “toothless bull dog!”** Yes he makes a lot of noise, and deceives as many as have not found their place in Christ, but for as many believers and ministers as have discovered the revelation of **what the redemptive work of Christ provides**, it is our assignment not only to stay free, but also to enforce freedom in the lives of others who may be bound, but are seeking a way out. **The Keys of Authority that Jesus received** (Rev 1:18; Matt 28:18) have been given to every believer to help us reign over Satan.

- (a) Whenever a non-believer or Christian is compromised and find themselves as victims of satanic oppression, the following **steps must be observed to restore and deliver them** from the grips of the enemy: 1. Find the point of entry and shut it (a non-believer must accept Christ as Lord and Savior and a believer must renounce sin); 2. Confess sin; 3. Renounce Satan; 4. Put ‘Armor’ on and claim

truth about God-given position and benefits of the cross; 5. Bind the devil, cast out demons, and dislodge every form of affliction; 6. Plead the blood of Jesus; and 7. Thank God.

- (b) There are 2 (two) main methods for loosening Satan's grip in a person's life or a place: **1. The POWER encounter** (Jn 8:36; Isa 10:27) where delegated authority is enforced in breaking yokes of the devil and destroying demonic influence (Matt 10:1-15; Lk 9:1-6; Mk 6:7-13; Mk 15:16ff); and **2. The TRUTH encounter** (Jn 8:32; Matt 12:43-45; Eph 1:17, 18) where the truth of God's Word is employed in exposing Satan's deception in the lives of people so that they can in turn be released to enjoy the freedom and other benefits Jesus died to give them. Both methods must be engaged using the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to enforce deliverance from satanic intrusion.
- (c) If believers **take advantage of the spiritual armor provided** for them, the enemy cannot defeat them. However, it is imperative that we are continually arrayed in this armor (Eph 6:10-17). The different parts of this armor symbolize spiritual truths that belong to us, and wearing this armor keeps us protected and unhampered in our ministry of Authority. *Find out what the different parts of this armor symbolize.....*