

## **Spiritual Warfare pt 7**

### **Our Authority in the Spiritual War.**

So far in this series has taken on a trip into the spiritual realm, where we've seen the order God has established, then we looked at the beginning of the war, and the efforts Satan has used to stop the Messiah from coming to end his reign.

Satan then shifted his attention to from stopping Jesus to the destruction of The Church of Jesus Christ. So we must accept the fact that Satan is against us, and his part in this Spiritual war is as scripture tells us, **John 10:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...**

This morning I want to begin to look at this spiritual war, by looking at its affects on us, and the part we are to play in this cosmic confrontation with eternal implications.

Look at our scripture again, looking at the second half of the scripture.

**John 10:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

The word abundantly in this scripture has several meanings from: superior, and excessive, but it also means "an advantage".

So look back at our scripture: **John 10:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have AN ADVANTAGE.**

How can we have an advantage if Jesus only reason for coming was to blaze a trail to Heaven, and show us the way?

Jesus also came to empower believers so that they can not only defend themselves, but also so they can be effective in the Spiritual war fighting for God.

Let's look at this scripture:

**Mark 1:21-27 (KJV)**

<sup>21</sup> **And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.**

<sup>22</sup> **And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.**

<sup>23</sup> **And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,**

<sup>24</sup> **Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.**

<sup>25</sup> **And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.**

<sup>26</sup> **And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.**

<sup>27</sup> **And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.**

In the beginning of Jesus ministry, while he was still rounding up disciples, he went into the synagogue, and began to teach. After he was done, as the people marveled at what he had said, a man possessed with a demonic spirit addressed Jesus.

There are 5 facts in this passage of scripture that I want you to see this morning.

1. There was a demon in church that morning, and no- one knew it. <sup>23</sup> **And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit;**
2. When God's word is proclaimed with Authority, there will be resistance. (vs 22 **for he taught them as one that had authority**).
3. Demons know exactly who Jesus is. <sup>24</sup> **I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.**
4. Demons know bible prophecy and that there is an appointed time of judgment coming. <sup>24</sup> **Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us?**
5. Jesus has authority over all, even fallen angels (demons)  
<sup>27</sup> **And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.**

So Jesus has established His authority over the demonic realm here on earth, and through His death and resurrection He established an inheritance for all who come to God through Jesus.

That inheritance is of the Power and Authority that Jesus has over the demonic realm here on earth. Think about this in regards to what we've learned about the Spiritual realm. With all Satan's plans and his organized Demonic activity in the world and in our lives, Jesus has given us Authority to defeat those in the Demonic realm.

**This is the blow that Satan didn't see coming.** Jesus' time on the cross, and the three days after the cross, established His dominion over the demonic realm forever, and His resurrection established that you and I as believers will live and reign with Him forever.

So now that we know that **THROUGH JESUS** we have power and authority. As believers in Jesus, He established in us 4 important things.

1. Eternal Salvation - We are The New Creature

2. We've changed sides in this spiritual war, from lost to Adopted sons and daughters.
3. We've inherited the right to use the name of Jesus, which carries His power and Authority over the demonic realm in this spiritual war.
4. We are offered God's protection - through...
  - A. Knowledge
  - B. Angelic intervention
  - C. Armor for protection.

Paul explained to us through his letter to the church at Ephesus, who were going through some intense demonic activity, what the demonic (spiritual ) war would look like.

**Ephesians 6:10-12 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> **Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**

<sup>11</sup> **Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

<sup>12</sup> **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

Notice the 4 levels of demonic activity we will war against.

1. Principalities
2. Powers
3. Rulers of the darkness
4. Spiritual wickedness in high places.

But first look at Paul's proclamation about what we don't war against.

<sup>12</sup> **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...**

Friends our battles are not physical, they are not against other people. Though many are used by the demonic realm to hinder and even harm us, our battle is not to destroy the lost.

Our fight is spiritual, and **Matthew 16:19 (KJV)**

<sup>19</sup> **And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

We are expected to battle against demonic forces using the Authority of Jesus name. Remember who lives in us, the Spirit of God lives in you. That is why we are able to use the Authority of Jesus name, because that Name lives in us.

**1 John 4:3-4 (KJV)**

<sup>3</sup> **And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God:**

**and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.**

**<sup>4</sup> Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**

So we are not to war against flesh and blood, but we are going to be at war with demonic activity at these levels.

1. Principalities: Satan is called the Prince of the power of the air. There are principalities that certain demons, such as Arch Angels on the dark side are assigned areas under their supervision. They control information and attacks in their sector, or principality.
2. Powers: These are general areas of demonic influence and attack. Areas such as Sickness, Deception, Physical manipulation, and areas pertaining to Satan's mandate to Steal Kill and Destroy.
3. Rulers of the Darkness: This is an intelligence division of Satan's dark army. They rule activities that are only carried out covertly, in the darkness. Things that are developed in darkness so they are unseen.

Hidden from the sight of the enemy where deals are made and plans are set in motion without the knowledge of the general public.

4. Spiritual wickedness in high places: This group are very active in our world right now. This is the demonic activity working in the leaders of not only this country but around the world.

Much of the activity by this demonic force is in the influence of our government leaders, most of which don't even know they are being manipulated into doing Satan's work.

This is why God tells us to "**pray for our enemies and those who spitefully use us**". Our prayer for them brings them under the authority of Jesus, and allows us to do battle with the unseen forces that are influencing them. It is not the people in government that are our enemy, but it is those who are deceiving them into doing their dirty work.

Make no mistake friends the power and authority given to us through Jesus name is **STRONG**, but it doesn't mean you won't have to **FIGHT**.

I know many of you think you've done your duty through your life and now it's the younger generations time. I hate to say this, but as long as you are drawing breath, you are in this war, and you are expected to fight.

Jesus salvation and subsequent transformation into **THE NEW CREATURE**, don't have time limits, and it doesn't matter if you are tired, or retired. God expects you to fight, and make a difference in this world.

We - through Jesus are powerful and our light is especially bright that we can go into darkness, and carry out the battle plan of the Holy Spirit. Not our own plan, but the plan of God.

You've heard throughout your spiritual life, that God has a plan for you, well He does, and it's not just to prosper you, but also to establish the spiritual war activity you are suppose to be involved in.

Once you accept Jesus offer of Salvation and Eternal Life you are no longer living on the playground, you are now on the Battleground.

The war is going to come to you, you can chose to fight or you can live a life that is in defeat all the time. One struggle after another, one lousy outcome after another.

Or you can stop fighting God and give in to the fact that this world is locked into a **SPIRITUAL WAR** that has been going on for thousands of years, and now Satan has realigned his forces to come after **THE CHURCH**, which if you've forgotten, is **YOU**.

So if we are going to fight, then we need to know how God intends to protect us while we are engaged in battling the demonic forces at work in our lives.

Next week we will begin to study how God intends to protect us.