

# **Lesson 8: Spiritual Warfare**

#### Introduction:

**Ephesians 6:12** "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."

Every believer is in a war, but not every believer is aware of it, and not every believer fights in that war from a position of victory - expecting victory.

- 1. Who is our enemy? A study on the kingdom of darkness.
- 2. We are the temple: Which temples of the Lord are mentioned in scripture?
- 3. We are the gatekeepers: What is our duty?
- 4. We are compared to houses: As housekeepers, we have responsibilities.
- 5. We are compared to soldiers: As soldiers, we fight.

Goals: Today, we review God's successful war strategy that leads us in triumph.

### 1 WHO IS OUR ENEMY? A STUDY ON THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS.

God has enemies: Satan and the kingdom of darkness. He is also our enemy. What do we know about him?

# His origin:

**Ezekiel 28:14-17** 

<sup>14</sup> You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you.

You were on the holy mount of God;

you walked among the fiery stones.

- 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.
- <sup>16</sup> Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned.

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub,

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from among the fiery stones. (fiery stones=Angels)

17 Your heart became proud
on account of your beauty,
and you corrupted your wisdom
because of your splendor.

So I threw you to the earth;
I made a spectacle of you before kings.

#### His names and character.

Lucifer's name means "bearer of light" or "morning star," and was changed to: Satan, which means "adversary" or "opponent" in Hebrew (Job 1:6). The Greek word "diabolos," often translated as "devil" (1 Peter 5:8), means "slanderer" and is used to describe Satan

Satan is also called:

Dragon Revelation 12:9 and 20:2, Ancient serpent or serpent of old Revelation 12:9 Beelzebub means Lord of the flies Matthew 12:27 Belial stands for worthlessness or wickedness 2 Corinthians 6:15 Tempter Matthew 4:3

# A murderer and a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44)

He (the devil) was a **murderer** from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Accuser of our brothers Rev 12:10
The enemy Matthew 13:39.
The evil one Matthew 13:38, 1 John 5:18
The thief John 10:10
The prince of this world John 12:31
The ruler of this world John 14:30
God of this world/age 2 Corinthians 4:4
The prince of the power of the air Ephesians 2:2
The ruler of the demons Matthew 12:24

# He appears disguised:

**2 Corinthians 11:14** No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

### Where is Satan now?

**Luke 10:18** And He (Jesus) said to them, "I saw Satan **fall like lightning from heaven.** Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over.

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# Satan's kingdom is of this world

**John 18:36** Jesus said: My kingdom is not of this world.

**1. John 5:19** The whole world is under the control of the evil one.

**Revelation 2:13** The "throne of Satan" is identified as being in the city of **Pergamum**, located in modern-day **Western Turkey**, near the city of Bergama.

# Who belongs to Satan?

# Powers of darkness (spirits) belong to Satan.

**Ephesians 6:12** 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 heavenly places.

**Matthew 25:41** mentions "the Devil and his angels", who will be thrown into hell. **Matthew 12:26** If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

# Unbelievers belong to Satan.

John 8 (Jesus was talking to the Jews who believed in him): <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. <sup>44</sup> You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup> Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! <sup>46</sup> Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? <sup>47</sup> Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

**Revelation 3:9** Behold, I will cause those of **the synagogue/congregation of Satan**, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and make them know that I have loved you.

Acts 26:18 shows that Gentiles/Unbelievers are under his power.

#### Matthew 13:37-39 Evil men are sons of the devil

<sup>37</sup> He (Jesus) answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

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# False gods belong to Satan and are enemies of Jesus.

Below, I list a few of the many false gods mentioned in the Old Testament:

**Asherah** (A goddess associated with fertility and motherhood)

and Baal (A Canaanite and Phoenician god of fertility and rain):

**2 Kings 23:4-7:** In summary, this tells the story of King Josiah, who ordered the burning of everything made for Asherah and Baal.

**Ashtoreth** (goddess of fertility and war) **and Molek** (The chief deity of Ammon demands child sacrifice):

**1 Kings 11:5** He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites.

Leviticus 18:21 Do not allow any of your offspring to be offered up to Molech

#### **Anammelech and Adrammelek**

**2 Kings 17:31:** ...the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to Adrammelek and Anammelek, the gods of Sepharvaim.

# False gods play a role in our holidays.

Most of our holidays (from May Day Parade to Christmas and Easter) are to worship pagan gods. They are designed to honor Greek gods, the sun god, the goddess of fertility, death, etc.

The kings of ancient Judah were at times good, but the bible would say they failed to tear down the high places. **High places are places of idol worship.** Well, it seems that these pagan holidays are the high places of our time.

**Experiment:** Let us enter into Google "pagan Christmas" and look at all the pagan symbols that we are using in the name of Christ. Jesus was neither born on December 25 nor in the wintertime. He was born at the beginning of Nisan (first month of the Hebrew calendar), which translates into March/April. I recommend watching the teaching of Jonathan Cahn on this topic on YouTube: When Was Jesus REALLY born??

As disciples of Jesus, we should stop honoring demons (that is what these gods are) and worship our living God by giving our life as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing unto God. Nowhere in scripture do you find the early church celebrating any of these pagan days. The bible commands us not to learn the way of the unbelievers (Jeremiah 10:2).

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Christmas For an ancient Roman, December 25th was the time to celebrate *Sol Invictus*, the Unconquered Sun. The Sun God was venerated under different names all over the enormous territory of the Roman Empire and became the most important god during the 3rd century AD. The emperor Aurelianus built a big temple for the Sun God in Rome and inaugurated it right on December 25th, 274 AD. It is no wonder that the biggest celebration of the Sun God fell on this date at the beginning of winter time: on December 21st in fact, with the winter solstice, the sun "wins" his battle against the darkness, and the daylight hours slowly increase. That's why such a peculiar date, marked by the victory of the light, was busy with the birthdays of many gods: Dionysos, Hercules, Adonis, Mithras, and even Tammuz, the ancient Mesopotamian god of fertility.

But December 25th was only the last day of more than a week of celebrations in Rome, known as <u>Saturnalia</u>, leading up to the Dies Natalis Solis Invicti, the birthday of the Sun. Starting on December 17th, the Saturnalia involved a lot of banquets and all sorts of parties with family and friends. During this time, all social rules were reversed, just like in the Carnival, but the most significant aspect of the Saturnalia was the traditional exchange of gifts (just like we do nowadays). The most popular gifts for this occasion were little figurines of gods made out of clay, that used to be put on display on an altar at home: this might be at the origin of the Italian tradition of the Nativity. (Source througheternity.com)

#### **Easter**

The name "Easter" and some associated traditions like eggs and bunnies have roots in the **pagan spring festivals**, particularly the Anglo-Saxon **goddess Eostre**. The goddess of fertility. For detailed info, see as example: https://paganeo.com/the-pagan-origins-of-easter-a-historical-look-at-pagan-influence-on-easter-celebrations/

# Are there any God ordained festivals?

Yes, they are part of the Ceremonial Law given to Moses for Israel and pointed to Jesus. Jesus observed them as he was born a Jew and eventually fulfilled them. He introduced a new law, the law of the spirit of life (Romans 8:2).

As the old covenant is outdated (Hebrews 8:13) so are its many festivals such as the **Sabbath** (celebrated every 7<sup>th</sup> day, the last day of the Jewish week), the **Passover** (to remember that the blood of a lamb saved the lives of the Israelits), the festival of **Unleavened Bread** (foreshadowing Jesus, the sinless bred that came from heaven). Please visit the Rejoice Corpus Christi Youtube channel for videos on these Festivals. **We are currently looking forward to the wedding festival of Jesus and his bride!** 

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Please note that the God given Hebrew calendar is not the same as the Gregorian calendar we are using today.

# Satan's purpose.

John 8:44 ...(Jesus speaking) He was a murderer from the beginning,...

**John 10:10** (Jesus speaking) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, **seeking whom he may devour.** 

#### Satan's work:

**In short:** Everything evil. He causes illness, accidents, murders, pains, poverty, racial injustice, hatred, and wars. He promotes false religion, Idol worship, false prophets, magic arts, witchcraft, the mark of the beast, and lawlessness.

# He is the Source of sickness and demonical possession:

**Luke 13:16** He bound a woman for 18 years

Luke 4:39 He causes fever Luke 5:13 He causes leprosy

**Luke 13:11–16** He causes people to be crippled

**Matthew 12:22** Then they brought him (Jesus) a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.

**Luke 11:14** Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed.

# He deceives and blinds people and holds them captive:

2 Timothy 2:26 says He holds the people of this world captive to do his will.

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-10** <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one (ML: the Antichrist) will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through **signs and wonders that serve the lie,** <sup>10</sup> and all the ways that wickedness **deceives** those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

**2 Corinthians 4:4:** in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

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# He enters and empowers people in Rebellion against God:

**Luke 22:3–6** describes that Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus because "Satan entered" him.

**Acts 5:3** ...Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

**In Revelation 13:2,** we see that Satan empowers the Antichrist and supports the false prophet.

# He fights believers:

**1 Peter 5:8** As a roaring lion, he seeks to devour believers.

**1 Thes. 2:9** He is responsible for people falling away from the faith.

**Matthew 13 in the parable of the Sower** he steals the Word, makes it unfruitful, and distracts believers through the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, worries and pleasures of this world.

1 Chron. 21:1 He enticed David to sin.

Job 1:7-2:10 He was behind Job's misery.

**Zech. 3:1-9** He was the Adversary of Joshua the high priest.

1 Chron 21:1 He rose up against Israel.

1 Cor. 12:7 He caused Paul's "thorn in the flesh".

1 Thess. 2:18 He hindered Paul's missionary plans.

#### He has the power to perform miracles and signs:

Exodus 7:11-12 Then Pharaoh also called for the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same with their secret arts. For each one threw down his staff, and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staff.

**Matthew 24:24** For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show **great signs** and wonders, to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Revelation 13:13-14: He (the false prophet) performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

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Revelation 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

#### Jesus defeated Satan on the cross.

**1 John 3:8** For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil!

**Hebrews 2:14** Since the children have flesh and blood, He (ML: Jesus) too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil.

#### Colossians 2:13-15

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 **And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.** 

When the devil thought he had finally killed Jesus, Jesus defeated him: Through his death, Jesus gained power over sin, death, and hell.

#### The devil's end.

**Matthew 25:41** Eternal fire is prepared for him.

**Rev 20:2** He (an angel) seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:7-10 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number, they are like the sand on the seashore. <sup>9</sup> They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

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#### 2. WE ARE THE TEMPLE.

Let us look at temples yesterday, today, and forever:

1<sup>st</sup> temple built by King Solomon: splendid, was destroyed approx. 400 years later by King Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon.

2<sup>nd</sup> temple was rebuilt under the Jewish Governor Zerubbabel, encouraged by prophets Zechariah and Haggai.

3<sup>rd</sup> temple was King Herod's expansion of the modest temple Zerubbabel built. This is the temple that Jesus visited. It was destroyed in 70 AD under Titus and Roman forces.

4th temple is us. John 2:19 Jesus says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up". ....But he spoke of the temple of his body.

Acts 17:24-28 He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples.

5<sup>th</sup> temple: Ezekiel's vision of a temple described in Ezekiel chapters 40–48. The Antichrist will set himself up to be worshipped. Daniel 11:31 "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation. See also Matthew 24:15-16.

The 6th temple is Jesus: Rev 21:22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. (After the Great White Throne Judgement, there will be a new heaven and a new earth with Jesus being the temple. He is everywhere, and everything is holy.)

Isaiah 65:17 For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered nor come into mind.

# What is and what was and what will be the law of the temple?

Ezekiel 43:12 This is the law of the temple: All the surrounding area on top of the mountain will be most holy. Such is the law of the temple.

Be holy, for I am holy.

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# 3 WE ARE THE GATEKEEPERS!

# What were the gatekeepers for?

- 2 Chronicles 23:19, the Bible states that Jehoiada, the high priest, stationed gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the LORD, so that no one who was in any way unclean could enter.
  - → We must watch what enters our hearts! Our gates are our eyes and ears. Matthew 15:11 It is not what goes into a man's mouth that defiles him; but it is what comes out of his mouth- that defiles a man. **Luke 6:45** For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

# 4. WE ARE COMPARED TO HOUSES: AS HOUSEKEEPERS, WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES.

1 Peter 2:5 You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

#### Ephesians 2:19-20

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

→ The household of God is holy!

# What are our responsibilities as Housekeepers?

# To judge.

- 1. Corinthians 5:12-13 Paul said: For what have I to do with judging those outside? Do you not judge those inside? God will judge those who are outside. Remove that wicked man from among you.
- 1 Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. <sup>16</sup> For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?

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# To watch and be ready.

#### Matthew 24:42-44

- <sup>42</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.
- → We must make sure that nothing steals from us everything we put above the Word of God steals from us!
- → As we watch prophecy being fulfilled, we know the time.

# To fill ourselves with the Word and the Spirit of God.

#### Matthew 12:43-44

<sup>43</sup> "When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. <sup>44</sup> 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. <sup>45</sup> 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 person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

→ We must be filled with the Word and Spirit of God; if not, we will be overtaken.

The man who walks in the Word of God is resistant against the enemy.

### To obey God and resist the devil.

**James 4:7** Submit to God and resist the devil, and he will flee.

→ Jesus in the wilderness was filled with the Word and able to resist the devil (Matthew 4:1-11).

#### To be soberminded, watchful, resisting evil, strong in faith.

- **1 Peter 5:8-9** Be sober-minded, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:3** But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

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# To demolish everything that sets itself up against the Word of God.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** For though we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the flesh. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **We demolish arguments and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God;** and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

# 5. WE ARE COMPARED TO SOLDIERS: AS SOLDIERS, WE FIGHT.

**2 Timothy 2:4** No one serving as a **soldier gets** entangled in the concerns of **civilian** life; he seeks to please the commanding officer.

# What do we fight for?

To enlarge our territory: ultimately to plunder hell and populate heaven

**Isaiah 54:2** Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

# How do we fight?

#### **Emersed in the Word of God.**

**Ephesians 6:10-18: The Armor of God** 

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> 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 Lord's people.

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# From Victory to Victory.

A believer fights from victory because we have been given all authority (refer to chapter 6 "The Believer's Authority"). We expect victory whenever we engage in active warfare. The Lord doesn't send us to be defeated; he sends us out in victory, to conquer in victory, and to come home in victory.

**1 Corinthians 15:57-58** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Romans 8:37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

# In obedience to the Word/the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual warfare is a battle in the unseen realm. It involves forces of good (the Holy Spirit, angels, and believers) and evil (Satan and demons).

# The holy spirit trains our hand for battle and directs us in warfare:

**Psalm 144:1** Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.

# The Word of God has the power to destroy everything that the enemy has.

**1 John 4:4** You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

### Through fasting and praying.

In the story of Esther, the Queen and her people, facing a decree for their annihilation, responded with a three-day corporate fast and prayer, which led to the salvation of the Jewish nation (Esther 4:6).

# Through praying in the Holy Ghost and commanding.

### Mark 11:22-23 Declaring/Commanding

Have faith in God," Jesus answered. <sup>23</sup> "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

**Example:** Lord, I lift Pakistan before your throne. Pray in the holy ghost. Start declaring what the Holy Spirit gives you. E.g. I cover Pakistan in the blood of Jesus. I say, come into the light in the name of Jesus. I declare healing over Pakistan in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. I command the enemy to leave that nation in the name of Jesus.

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# Through binding and loosing.

**Matthew 16:19** I will give you the **keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you **bind on earth shall be bound in heaven**, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**Example:** Lord, I lift the city of Corpus Christi before your throne. I bind the spirits of adultery, hatred, witchcraft, rebellion, homosexuality, and murder. I release hunger and thirst after righteousness, the peace of God, the spirit of repentance. I release the love of God and the spirit of unity over this city in the name of Jesus Christ.

# Through intercession.

**Jesus** offered his body as the sacrifice for the sin of humanity, making intercession between the Father and his creation.

**Moses** stood in the gap between God and the Israelites, pleading for mercy on their behalf. In **Exodus 32:11-14**, after the incident of the golden calf, Moses asked the Lord to relent from His anger and spare the people.

**Example:** Lord, I lift my brother Tom before your throne. Lord, I ask you to forgive his sins and hardness of heart and to encounter him. I ask you, Lord, to send him your word or visions and dreams to lead him to repentance. I ask you, Lord, to show him your mercy and lead him to salvation. In Jesus' name I pray, and I thank you.

# In unity.

As we hold hands and pray, we launch bombs into the spirit realm. This also works as we are united in the Holy Spirit praying in the holy spirit over Zoom or any other platform.

**Deuteronomy 32:30, Joshua 23:10** One puts to flight a thousand, two, ten thousand.

## With outstretched arms as directed by the Holy Spirit.

What does it do? The Lord spoke to me in Burundi and said: If you stretch out your arm, it empowers your words.

**Example: Exodus 17:11-13** <sup>11</sup> As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. <sup>12</sup> When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. <sup>13</sup> So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

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→ Joshua used the Word (Sword), and the Word was empowered by the outstretched arm.

# With laying on of hands as directed by the Holy Spirit – or following any command given by the Holy Spirit.

Mark 16:17-18 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

# ...or following any command given by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:1-10 describes Peter and John, while going to the temple to pray, encountering a man who was lame from birth. Peter, with boldness, said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" and the man was immediately healed, leaping up and walking.

# Through the preaching of the gospel.

Mark 1:14-15 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

# Through teaching, preaching, and healing.

Matthew 4:23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Luke 10:9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

### Through casting out demons.

Matthew 12:28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

#### We must stand on the Word of God until we see the victory.

While ministering in Burundi, the Lord said to me, "Stand firm; it will take a while to deliver this person." He told me that faith is visible in the spirit realm. After having my arm stretched out for a while and declaring what the Lord gave me to declare, the person was healed and delivered.

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**Conclusion** The Lord has given us everything we need to be successful. It is on us to obey him, guard our house, walk in the Word, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and engage in attacking the powers of darkness as the Holy Spirit leads us. We are colaborers with Christ. He chose to work with us and through us. What an honor!

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