

ADVANCED BIBLICAL COURSE



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Spiritual Warfare

I THE ENEMY

◆ The origin of the enemy

- Ezekiel 28:11 & 16 – Lucifer, a very special creation of God: -
 - had the seal of perfection.
 - full of wisdom and beauty.
 - was “the Anointed Cherub who covers” (possibly in a position of responsibility over others).
 - on the Holy Mountain of God (possibly God’s throne room or centre of control).
 - eventually turned against God.
 - cast from the mountain of God.
- Isaiah 14:13-15 – Lucifer rebelled: -
 - expressed by his five “I wills” in this passage.
 - here, too, we have a hint of Satan’s headquarters – Sheol.
- Revelation 12:1-9 – Lucifer, also called the “*dragon*” and “*the serpent of old*” – sweeps a third of the stars to earth, possibly angels – who are referred to in verse 9 (his angels also referred to in Matthew 25:41). Some of these angels are in prison – Jude 6 & 2 Peter 2:4.

◆ The enemy’s hierarchy

- Ephesians 6:12, these are: -
 - rulers
 - powers
 - world forces
 - spiritual forces in heavens
- Matthew 25:41 – Satan is regarded as being in charge of “*His*” Angels.
- John 12:31 – Satan had also become the “*ruler of this world*” (John 14:30 & 16:11) by means of Adam and Eve’s submission to him in the garden.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 – he is called the “*god of this world.*”

- Ephesians 2:2 – he is called the “*prince of the power of the air.*”
- ◆ How the enemy operates
 - John 10:10 – his overall aim for us is: -
 - to steal
 - to destroy
 - to kill
 - to devour – 1 Peter 5:8
- ◆ The enemy achieves this by means of
 - 2 Corinthians 2:11 – “*gaining advantage*” over those who will not forgive.
 - Ephesians 6:16 – firing “*flaming missiles*” at us – including verbal and mental attacks, of doubt, criticism, condemnation, fear, temptation, etc. (2 Corinthians 11:3 Leading minds astray)
 - Acts 10:38 – oppressing people. Here “*healing*” was the means of setting people free from this oppression. It must be remembered that “healing” in the Bible includes healing of the entire man – mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually – and oppression can affect all these areas.
 - Colossians 1:13 – enslaving and dominating people
 - Luke 11:24 – “*demonisation,*” (Ephesians 2:2 – working in the sons of the disobedience).
 - Job 1:13 – 15 & 17 – motivating and influencing people against believers. (Revelation 16:13-16)
 - Job 1:16 & 19 – using natural physical forces and things against believers. (Acts 13:6-11 & 16:16-24)
 - I Samuel 16:14-23 and cf Isaiah 61:3 – by means of creating spiritual atmospheres around us and affecting our emotions (there can also be a direct affect on our emotions).
 - Deuteronomy 5:7-10 and 18:9 & 14 – enslavement, oppression, demonisation through involvement in the occult (idolatry).
 - Deuteronomy 28:15-25 – negative affects on lives, property and circumstances by means of curses.
- ◆ What the enemy does to the individual
 - Luke 13:11-16 – sickness, infirmity, pain.
 - Mark 5:1 & 19 – insanity, abnormal behaviour, isolation, psychological upheaval.
 - Isaiah 19:14 – confusion.
 - Romans 11:8 – “*stupor.*”
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4 – spiritual blindness.

- Isaiah 61:3 – depression (which can also be classed as “oppression”).
- Luke 4:31-35 – immorality and perversion.
- Hosea 4:12 & 5:4 – harlotry.
- 1 Corinthians 12:3 – blasphemy.
- 1 Timothy 4:1 – heresy and false religion.
- Leviticus 20:6 – estrangement from God.
- 1 John 4:3 – anti-Christian and anti-Christ attitudes and activity.
- Luke 23:3-4 & Matthew 27:3 & 5 – anti-Christ and suicide.
- John 10:10 – death.

II OUR AUTHORITY

- ◆ Our authority – Luke 10:19
 - Over all the power of the enemy.
- ◆ Our authority in the “keys” – Matthew 16:14-19
 - Binding.
 - Loosing.
- ◆ Our authority in Jesus’ name – Mark 16:17
 - To cast out demons.
 - From people, animals, children.
 - From buildings, places, areas.

(See notes on ‘Spiritual Authority and Submission’ in the next session.)

III OUR PROTECTION

REVELATION 12:11

- ◆ The Blood of Jesus ensures our standing with God.
We are His sons and daughters, and thus have certain rights (not a mystical shroud!)
- ◆ The Word of our testimony.
The power of our confession of faith in our Lord – what He has done, and promises to do.
- ◆ Not loving our lives – even unto death.
Satan has no handles on such people.

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

The armour of God – a lifestyle

- ◆ Meditate on truth, practice it and confess it!
- ◆ Live in righteousness, honesty and integrity.
- ◆ Always be prepared to share the gospel of peace.
- ◆ Exercise faith continually as a shield.
- ◆ Live in the consciousness of your salvation as a helmet guarding your mind and heart.
- ◆ Be in continuous touch with headquarters by means of praying in the Spirit.

PSALM 91

Dwelling in the secret place, shelter and shadow of the Most High.

- ◆ Making the Lord our refuge, and dwelling place verse 9.
- ◆ He delivers verses 3 & 14.
- ◆ He covers verse 4.
- ◆ He gives angels charge over us – with relation to: to guard, and bear up.

JOB 1:9-10

Job's hedge

- ◆ Our families, "*his house*"
- ◆ Our possessions, "*on every side*"

IV BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- ◆ John 1:12 – must be born of the Spirit of God or one cannot be part of His Kingdom.
- ◆ Romans 6:1-7 – must be baptised by faith.
- ◆ Acts 1:8 – must be baptised in the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ James 4:7 – must be in submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Ephesians 5:21 – must be in submission to elders, state, parents. (Hebrews 13:17; Romans 13 & Ephesians 6:1)
- ◆ Ephesians 4:16 – must be committed to and involved in a local body as far as possible.
- ◆ 1 Peter 5:8 – must be constantly sober, serious and alert. Reckon continually with the existence of the enemy. (Ephesians 6:12)
- ◆ Deuteronomy 20:1-8 – must be prepared, unafraid and trained for battle.
- ◆ We must know and believe in the results of our salvation.

- Our enemy has been defeated.
- Our authority has been restored.
- We are free from the kingdom of darkness. (Colossians 1:13)
- We are forgiven and accepted in Jesus. (Colossians 1:14 & Revelation 12:11)
- We are destined to victory. (1 John 5:4)
- We are dead to sin and Satan's power. (Romans 6:10-11)
- We need to make sure that we ourselves are free from demonic oppression, curses and demonisation.

V OUR WEAPONS

◆ Spiritual warfare is to be exercised for two main reasons: -

- For the expanding of God's Kingdom.
- For our protection and safety.

◆ 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Our weapons are: -

- "*spiritual*" – i.e. not physical or material.
- "*divinely powerful*" – with God's omnipotence behind them.

We must remember that we must use spiritual weapons, and conduct our warfare in the "4th Dimension," being careful not to fall into the trap of attempting to defeat spiritual forces with carnal or physical means.

◆ The weapon of authority in Jesus' name

James 4:7, authority must be exercised.

- God has done His part – we are to do ours.
- There is a time to address Satan and his powers verbally and directly. (Luke 4 – Jesus spoke to Satan, behind Peter)
- Never do it carelessly or lightly.
- Always do it quoting the Name of Jesus as our Authority.
- Both from experience and the Bible's teaching, it is necessary to confront the powers of darkness.
 - We are to "*rebuke*" and command Satan and demon spirits.
 - Matthew 4:10 "*be gone Satan.*"
 - Matthew 16:23 "*get behind me Satan.*"
 - Mark 16:17 "*casting out*" of demons by command in Jesus' Name.
 - We are to bind and loose with the "*keys of the Kingdom.*"

- Matthew 16:14-19, the context here is one of the warfare and invasion of satanic headquarters by the church.
- The “keys” are the keys of spiritual authority. (cf Matthew 18:18)
- “Rebuking”, “commanding”, “binding” and “loosing” are to be used in our warfare against the kingdom of darkness with the following restrictions: -
 - Never apart from the will of God, and principles of the Word of God. For example, never purely for our benefit only, or as an expression of self, the flesh, and rebellion in our hearts!
 - In the context of the Kingdom of God, the establishing and maintaining of it, we have full right to exercise this warfare.
 - Never overriding the will of man, as God Himself respects it.
- ◆ The weapon of the Word of God

Ephesians 6:17, described as a “*spiritual sword*.” We need to point out that the Word is the sword of the Spirit of God. Merely quoting it as a “magic formula” will never accomplish anything!

 - We are to use it in the strength and empowering of the Spirit of God.
 - This implies: -
 - We must be familiar with it – have it in our hearts and minds.
 - Be “walking with the Spirit who is able to bring the relevant verses to mind and make them alive.”
 - We are to have faith in the Word – use it by faith with boldness.
- ◆ The weapon of “prayer and intercession”

While we consider this aspect of spiritual warfare we need to bear in mind that “prayer and intercession” is a vast subject in itself, far beyond the scope of this seminar – and we have to take for granted that we already have a basic, understanding of the subject, and are aware of such matters as being led by the Spirit and revelation regarding God’s strategy, the power of agreement, of corporate intercession, fasting, aggressiveness, faith, etc. Although this subject is headed “prayer and intercession”, we must bear in mind that it includes times during such prayer and intercession, when direct command, rebuke, binding and loosing is made to the kingdom of darkness. There are four ways in which prayer and intercession can be used in spiritual warfare: -

 - For our own protection as individuals and families.
 - For deliverance of men and women from powers of darkness.
 - In aggressive war upon the works of darkness generally.
 - Against the hierarchy of satanic powers opposed to our Lord and His Church.

◆ The weapon of praise

It will be sufficient at this point to note the following: -

- Praise must be an integral part of Christian life and warfare.
- Praise opens up ways for God's power to go to work.
- Praise is an expression of faith and helps us to exercise it.
- Praise uplifts and exalts the Lordship and Authority of Jesus; intensifies our confidence and faith in Him as Lord.
- Praise causes the powers of darkness to tremble in fear of the authority and power of our God and causes them to flee.

◆ We use our weapons in the following types of warfare

- **For our protection, welfare and success as individuals and families**

Matthew 6:13, "*deliver us from evil.*"

- This is to be a daily prayer – cf. verse 11.
- It implies a context of continual danger.
- We are to pray for: -
 - protection from unnecessary attack.
 - to be led in a path that will avoid unnecessary temptation.
 - for sensitivity to discern and recognise Satan's schemes.

During temptation and attack of the enemy. Luke 4:1-13, the example of Jesus.

Ephesians 6:16, as part of the shield of faith during attacks on the mind. To launch attack on forces and strategies that stand in our way to fulfil God's Will in our lives.

- **For deliverance of men and women**

2 Corinthians 10:4, releasing those held in the "*strongholds*" of Satan.

- The oppressed.
- The demonised cf Mark 9:29.
 - To mobilise the armies of heaven, control demons, mobilise God's agents.
 - This type of warfare can be fought for extended periods of time.

We need to remind ourselves that such warfare be conducted: -

- under the direction of the Spirit.
- by those who have some understanding of the enemy and his ways.
- by committed and submissive people.

- **In war upon the works of darkness generally**

(Especially in the context of our nation and leaders – 1 Timothy 2:1-3)

- In order to frustrate and confuse the power of darkness.
- In order to break the strongholds of the enemy.

- In order to help all those in authority and security to do their work properly.
- In order to release the armies of Heaven to fight.
- It is important to consider for a moment the subject of angelic warfare: -
 - Revelation 12:7, wars take place between the two kingdoms.
 - 2 Kings 6:16-18, the angelic hosts protecting Elisha.
 - Daniel 10:7-14, an example of a 21-day struggle before the message could get back to Daniel.
 - Matthew 26:53, Jesus referred to a “*legion of angels*” He could have summoned to deliver Him.
 - Hebrews 1:13-14, they are “*ministering spirits*” for the sake of God’s people and Kingdom.
- During the past year, Satanists in various parts of the world have fasted and prayed to their god to mobilise demon spirits to destroy marriages, with a measure of success.
- We employ the same tools but have a far more successful technique. When our prayers are mingled with the commands of God, myriads of angelic hosts are mobilised to fight for God’s Kingdom and His people.
- **Against the hierarchy of satanic powers opposed to our Lord and His church**
 - Of all the battles that are waged by the kingdom of darkness, that launched upon the Church is the most intense.
 - Many churches in history have foundered and disintegrated because believers have not understood the nature of what is happening, and failed to engage in spiritual warfare.
 - The results have been divisions, splits, discouragement, financial struggles, the fall of leaders, apathy, complacency and impotence.
 - The Church must do spiritual war on behalf of its people and leaders for: -
 - Protection from unnecessary attack.
 - Avoidance of unnecessary temptation.
 - Discernment to recognise Satan’s schemes.
 - Unity, commitment and spiritual growth.
 - Release from satanic bondage.
 - The confusion, frustration, and paralysing of the enemy forces opposing the progress of the Church in establishing the Kingdom of God.
 - The release of property, equipment, and finances for the use of the Kingdom.

- The degree of unity and the type of relationships in a local body will determine the effectiveness of their corporate authority.
- **In the field of evangelism and church planting to establish the Kingdom of God**
 - To open up areas to evangelism by dethroning the principalities.
 - To paralyse the satanic resistance.
 - To liberate property and equipment for the Kingdom.

V DELIVERANCE

◆ Deliverance is not a special ministry for the chosen few

But a general ministry of the Church. Deliverance was an integral part of the ministry of the Gospel.

- When Jesus sent out the twelve.
- Matthew 10:5-8; Mark 3:14-15 & 6:7 & Luke 9:1-12.
- When Jesus sent out the seventy.
- Luke 10:1 & 17.
- When the “*signs*” following believers were given.
- Mark 16:17.
- During Jesus’ entire earthly ministry, in fact, it is estimated that up to two-thirds of His work was deliverance. (Luke 4:18 and the Gospels generally, especially Mark)

◆ Believers can be severely affected by the demonic

Matthew 16:23, 18:34 & 35; Acts 5:3 and 2 Corinthians 11

- ‘Demonisation’ is a better word than demon possession (the Greek word is ‘*diamonidsomai*’)

◆ Be careful how the matter is approached

- Be wise as serpents, harmless as doves.
- Use the right terms.
- Pray for revelation for the bound person.
- Intercede for an opportunity.

◆ Be repentant before deliverance

- The main problem is often the heart, not the demon!
- The authority of the will is in control.
- Test for repentance.
- The problem of ‘church hoppers.’

◆ The deliverance session

- Preferably get others to pray with you – not alone.
- Worship Jesus' lordship declared.
- Bind all demons from interference with the individual or causing violence.
- Establish that there is repentance, and agreement Matthew 18:18-19.
- Go through the 4 'c's. Lead the individual to: -
 - clear out all articles linked with the demonic.
 - confess all involvement in ungodly activities.
 - cancel all rights given: -
 - by the individual
 - by the ancestors } with respect to
the problem
 - command all evil spirits to leave and take hands off: -
 - the person.
 - his\her circumstances.
 - his\her possessions.
 - his\her future.

Follow this up by confirming their words by your authority – Matthew 16:19. Say “Satan, in Jesus’ Name I now loose this individual from your hold, and bind you and your demons with respect to this person.”

- If manifestations take place, quietly command the demons to leave. At times one has to repeat the command several times quietly and firmly, as demons are inclined to be stubborn.
- Don't panic – stay in the authority of Jesus.
- Follow-up with worship.
- Command the evil spirit to “*release*” the individuals if it is unsuccessful.
- Continue in discussion to establish what rights the demons may still have.
- Pray for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit if successful, and especially to possess the areas vacated, also for faith and courage.
- Have a towel/tissue box available.
- Get the individual to surrender these areas to Jesus.
- Pray for protection.
- Explain the need for discipleship to change lifestyles, habits, values, in order to prevent a relapse. We are transformed by the renewing of our minds, not by deliverance alone. (Romans 12:2)
- Teach, or arrange for the individual to be taught about spiritual warfare. Deliverance is a declaration of war on the enemy – one must be able to hold your ground in the strength God gives.