

Understanding Spirit Warfare from God's Perspective

Lesson 12 – “Casting Out Demons New Testament Style”

Anytime the Kingdom of God manifests and shows up – you can rest assured the kingdom of darkness will manifest. It's like turning the lights on in a dark room – all the bugs that came out in the dark are manifest in the light.

The message from the Lord Jesus of Matt. 10:7-8 tells the church, “As you GO, [not stay or hide or run for cover], preach saying: The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

Post Pentecost, when Peter and John were empowered with the Holy Spirit, they demonstrated the same power they witnessed Jesus manifesting:

Acts 3:1-8: “Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. He asked alms of everyone, Peter and John fixed their gaze on him and said, Look at us and he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth – WALK! Taking the man by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God...”

The important question to us as believer and followers of Christ is:

Do you know what you have to give to others in need?

Peter and John were able to destroy the works of the devil over the man who had been crippled his whole life.

This was the beginning of a Normal Christian life for Peter and John.

- You and I can do the same because Jesus' authority and the full power of the Holy Spirit resides in us. John 14:12: “Truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.” His going to the Father would result in Him sending the Holy Spirit to empower us to do these greater works.
- We do these works by the authority of the power of attorney from Jesus to execute His order to destroy the works of the devil on a regular basis.

As the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven – sons and daughters of God, we are authorized to **cast** [not bind] demons [satan’s foot men], **out** of the people who are possessed by them **on the earth**.

The Lord did not give us the authority to bind principalities, powers, the rulers of darkness of this age, or spiritual hosts of wickedness **in the heavenly places** [in the second heavenly realm].

The way we block or stop the assaults of the evil forces in the heavenly places over our lives, businesses, cities, states, and nations is for us to live:

- A repented life
- Asking the Lord to bring justice, righteousness and revival to the wicked leaders and situations over cities, regions, and the nation.

Then the Lord can dispatch His mighty warrior angels to fight against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places on behalf of His children’s petitions as he did for Daniel.

Daniel 10:12-13, 19-20: “He said to me, do not be afraid Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.”
“He said, O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous! Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me. Then he said, Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come.”

The devil has no patience, so it is vital we learn to wait on the Lord in times of warfare/battle.

Our patience in itself will frustrate the demonic realm because they are set to make quick and easy gains in the lives of people.

We need to practice the fruit of the Spirit of patience and move only in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Everything the enemy throws at us will only make us stronger if we wait on the Lord and allow the Spirit to work within us. Don’t take the bait of the enemy and fall into his tactic.

One of the deadliest and cunning attacks of the devil launched against Believers is **religious spirits** which have been operative since the fall of man.

- Religious spirits demand that we attempt to work hard to achieve God's favor, gifts, freedom, deliverance, healing and abundant life on earth and towards heaven.
- God's blessings of salvation, healing, deliverance, gifts, divine health, provisions, anointing's, fruit of the Spirit are all FREELY given to His children.
- God's gifts are received by our faith in Jesus Christ and repenting of our sins, and dependence on anything except the grace of God.

Eph. 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Spirit of religion – the Pharisees:

- They operated by an ethic of avoidance – "How can I avoid bringing disgrace to God?"
- This degenerated into a concern not with God, but with self-image, reputation, procedure, tradition, ritual and religious laws.
- They did not ask, "How can I make others clean?" They were asking: "How can I keep myself from getting dirty?"
- They didn't seek to rescue others, but avoid the sinners by obeying the man-made laws and traditions which were led by religious spirits.

Spirit of God – Jesus Christ and Kingdom citizens:

- Jesus and His followers operate from – How can I glorify God?
- Jesus became [still does] involved with sinners – those in need of a physician.
- Sought ways to help, heal, deliver.
- He and we should run towards those in bondage.
- When they approached evil, it fled.

Luke 8:27-33 - town folk were afraid of demon possessed man and he was living alone. Jesus came, the legions of demons became afraid, begging Him not to torment them before their time by commanding them to go into the Abyss.

Jesus came to seek and to save, not to condemn and destroy.

We are to display the same spirit as Jesus to our community today!

The enemy is to fear us, not us fear them.

Darkness always flees when light shines!

[Going forward from last week's lesson on Keys of the Kingdom]

2. The Keys of Hades and Death-

1 Peter 4:5, & 2 Tim. 4:1 states about the Resurrected Jesus:

“...Who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom.”

- The final proof that Jesus Christ will be the judge of the living and the dead is because He has the keys of **Hades** and **Death** – Rev. 1:18: “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen. **And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**”
- **Jesus alone has the right keys to judge those who die without repenting of their sins and accepting Him as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**
- Jesus has the authority and power as well as right keys to cast them into Hades and Death/Sheol where those who die without Christ will go.

Jesus has given the **Keys of the Kingdom of God** to His followers so we can lead as many souls as possible into the Kingdom with the right keys.

Many spiritual warfare teachings have wrongly taught we have authority to bind satan and demons and cast them into Hades or the Abyss or Hell or the Lake of Fire.

- But we have seen from the scriptures that we have the Keys of the Kingdom, not the Key of Hades and Death/Sheol.
- So we are only authorized to help people into the Kingdom of Heaven, not authorized to bind satan or demons to Hades or Death/Sheol.

3. The Key to the Bottomless Pit-

Repeat of Rev. 20:1-3,10 - are the only time the Bible mentions binding satan and demons and describes God's appointed time for him to be bound and cast into the bottomless pit and the lake of fire.

“Then I saw **an angel** coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil and satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while... the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. **And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever!**”

- God will send a nameless angel who has the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand to bind the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and satan.
- This angel, not us, has the authority and right to bind satan and cast him into the bottomless pit, but the sons and daughters of God do not operate with those keys.
- This is why we, as believers, cannot and do not bind satan, we don't have that key to Hades or Death/Sheol. It is the angels job.

Until that time, no angel, people of God or even Jesus binds satan and casts him into the bottomless pit and eventually into the lake of fire.

So, what is our role as the people of God in this current time:

Matt 24:14 - just as we don't have the keys of Hades/Sheol, the angels don't have the Keys of the Kingdom.

We have the responsibility and privilege to partner with the Lord to Proclaim, Preach, Declare the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and our testimony of Gods' salvation and goodness will lead people into the Kingdom.

“And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations – every people group, and then the end will come.”

If we truly want to usher and expedite Jesus' coming; we should be doing our best and all we can to declare and proclaim the gospel of the Kingdom to all nations – people groups; so they have their opportunity to receive the Kingdom.

How?

1. Being a witness ourselves; every opportunity we can in our community.
2. Sending and supporting ministries and missionaries to go to countries to preach, declare and teach and make disciples.
3. Supporting media ministries that reach into Unreached People Groups where no human can go to declare Jesus is Lord.

Then the words of Rev. 7:9-10 will be fulfilled

“After all these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying – **Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**”