

Spiritual Warfare

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2006

Dear Friends:

“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

I wonder if we really believe both these statements of Jesus to be true?

Ask yourself, “Is there really a war going on? And if so, have I, my family, and all of God’s creation really been targeted for death and destruction by Satan? Really Jesus? It sounds so over-the-top, it’s almost surreal.”

The short answers are an emphatic “Yes!” and “Yes!” Scripture makes it clear throughout that our Father intends abundant life for us in Jesus, but right now that life is fiercely and violently opposed by our Enemy, who gives no quarter. We are at war!

The Father has been making us much more aware of the reality of this battle over the past few years, while at the same time, equipping us to fight for victory in Jesus, both for ourselves and others. Here’s an example.

Two weeks ago after the conclusion of our evening men’s meeting, one of our brothers asked if any of us could stay late to pray over him for a pressing need. Everyone stayed.

He then shared that due to the medication he was taking for circumstantial depression over the past six months, he was battling with suicidal thoughts, which had peaked the night before to a truly dangerous level.

All of us men then gathered around him, and after anointing him with oil and laying our hands on him, we prayed the Father’s love, freedom, healing, blessing, and glory into him, while at the same time binding off various demonic influences in the Name of Jesus (Mt 16:17; 18:18; Mk 16:17-18; Jas 5:13-18). We concluded with worship and gave hugs all around.

Next day, while he and I shared a canoe paddle for a few hours on a tributary to the Columbia River, he excitedly told me at great length how touched and loved he felt by the Father and each of us because of our ministry to him the night before. What's more, he had enjoyed his first good night of sleep in six long months. But there's more to the story.

Last night after our next men's meeting, he revealed to me that the Father had just spoken to him in the wee hours of the morning about three burdens he had been carrying and stressing out over for years that he was to release to Him. He immediately confessed his anxiety and gave the burdens over to the Lord. The newfound joy and peace written all over his face told me all I needed to know. He was free!

Obviously, not every problem has a demonic aspect, but our brother's did. And what an incredible revelation and blessing it was to see him actually experience that these *"weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the pulling down of strongholds"* (2 Cor. 10:4)

Intercessory Prayer, Laying on of Hands, and Anointing with Oil for Healing and Deliverance is but one of a number of The Weapons of our Warfare the Father has been equipping us to use. Here are a few others.

*** Our Position and Authority in Christ.** Because of Christ's finished work on the cross, He has the authority and victory over all the powers of darkness, and has passed His authority on to us (Mt 18:18-20; 28:18-19; Lk 10:19; Acts 10:38; Eph 2:6; 3:10; Col 2:15; 1 Jn 3:8).

*** Walking in the Spirit / Submission & Intimacy with Jesus.** Dying to the flesh, submitting to Jesus, hearing His voice and obeying is how we maintain our intimacy with the Father and receive His daily guidance for our lives (Jn 5:19; 10:27; 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13-14; Ro 6:3-11; Gal 2:20; 5:25).

*** Confession & Repentance of Sin.** As we confess and repent of our sins, the Father grants us forgiveness, which is fundamental to removing any stronghold and avenue for demonic influence (Acts 2:38; 2 Cor 7:1; Eph 4:26-27; Jas 5:16; 1 Jn 1:8-9).

*** Daily doing Spiritual Warfare and Putting on the Armor of God.** God's special armor allows us to defensively stand against the Enemy's attacks, while offensively repelling satanic assaults using the Word of God and Prayer (Eph 6:10-18; Jas 4:7; 1 Pt 5:6-11).

* **Prayer & Fasting.** Used for increasing our desire and intimacy with God and giving us victory over particularly difficult demonic strongholds (Mt 6:17-18; 18:21).

* **Receiving the Lord's Supper.** In partaking of our Lord's body and blood, we are spiritually strengthened and united with Jesus in His victory over sin, death, and the Devil (1 Cor 10:14-22; 11:23-34).

* **Intimate Fellowship with other Believers.** Doing all the New Testament "one another's" in a close Christian community (Acts 2:42-47; 4:31-35; Heb 10:24-25).

* **Keeping the Sabbath Day.** Remembering, resting, and recreating helps us live holy and balanced lives, protecting us from temptation (Ex 20:8-11; Dt 5:12-15).

Our continuing prayer is that the Father will equip each of us to use these weapons through the Spirit's leading, so that we will more fully live the abundant life He promises us.