

Prayer workshop 3

Prayer as Spiritual warfare

Introduction:

The bible is not about the power of Satan and his agents. It is about the absolute final victory over all spiritual powers, including sin and death, which has been won by Jesus by his blood shed on the cross. And the complete and absolute authority over all spiritual forces given to Jesus through His resurrection from the dead. This is a story of complete victory

So why, you may ask, if the victory is so complete, do I find myself and see others in spiritual battles.

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.”

Struggle – Greek – Pale – To wrestle or struggle against

- Because Satan has not accepted his defeat yet and still resists
- He tries to deceive everyone – perhaps that he isn't real
- Including deceiving Christians that he has power over them
- We wrestle against deception – this is a battle for truth

All spiritual warfare is a battle of truth against deception

- Possession and oppression are based on deception
- Spiritual strongholds are based on deception
- Historic issues are based on deception
- Cursing and occult are based on deception

We are deceived

- Deceived into thinking two nearly equal forces are opposing each other
- No – one, Jesus, is all powerful and the other is defeated already
- We have no power or authority in ourselves
- If we think we have – we are deceived
- But Jesus has all authority

But the truth is:

John 8:32

“Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free”

2 Cor 10:4

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretention that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”

1 John 4: 1 – 6

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 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. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”

So this is a battle against deception -

Remember we are the winners in Jesus - our role is to advance

So how do we do that?

Matthew 6: 9 -13

- Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name
- Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
- Give us today our daily bread and forgive our sins as we forgive others
- Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one

Let's give Glory to God

So three things are the key in spiritual warfare

1. Complete victory in Jesus

- **We announce Jesus complete victory**

There is a deception – Jesus victory is not enough

You still sin

The world is still bad

Bad things still happen to you

There are forces of darkness that can still do what they like

This is a lie

Colossians 2: 13 - 15

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, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross

Heb 1: 3 - 5

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;

Today I have become your Father"?

- **So we announce Jesus complete victory**
- Announce – Jesus victory
- Renounce any deception
- Pronounce victory in Jesus name

Let's declare the complete victory of Jesus

- Over our sin
- Over the situations which worry or frighten us
- Over Satan and the forces of darkness

2. Complete safety in the truth

- **We renounce any deception**

Some spiritual conflict is inner spiritual conflict

Romans 7; 14

“We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.”

We need to see our inner conflict as a spiritual battle – one for supremacy

Hebrews 10: 13

“Since that time He waits for his enemies to make His footstool because by one sacrifice **He has made perfect for ever those who are being made holy**”

1John 1: 9

If we confess our sins he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness

We do not need to be afraid of our sin – it is the truth but so is our salvation

Some conflict is from supernatural forces

Luke 22: 31 & 32

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back strengthen your brothers.”

Acts 5: 3

“Then Peter said “Ananias how is that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit”

So although defeated the devil will if given opportunity attack – and we have a hand in this – the inner and the outer conflicts are linked

1 Peter 5: 8

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy, the devil, prowls like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

Eph 4: 26

“Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry and do not give the devil a foothold”

John 17:15 - 17

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of this world even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world I have sent them into the world.

The solution is the truth – Scripture

This was Jesus weapon of choice
See Luke 4

We are not deceived because we believe God’s word – That is faith

The word and the spirit bring faith

Romans 10: 17 - Scripture

“Consequently faith comes through hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ (God)”

2 Tim: 3: 16 – Spirit (Ruach – breath or wind)

“All scripture is God breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”

Eph 6: 16 - Faith

“In addition to this take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”

Faith in what – that there is complete safety in the truth

Eph 4: 14 – 16

Then we will no longer be infants tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead speaking the truth in love we will in all things grow up into Him who is the head, that is Christ.

1 Cor 13: 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth

- So we renounce any deception – including any power above Jesus
- We admit our sin and our failings – we renounce its’ hold on us
- We announce Jesus victory – and declare “Jesus is Lord”

Let’s declare the sovereignty of God’s word

Our sinfulness

And Jesus complete salvation

3. Complete authority of Jesus Name

Pronounce – with authority Jesus name

Matthew 28:18

“Then Jesus came to them and said ‘All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me’”

Phil 2: 9 -11

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow in Heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father

The authority to speak out in Jesus name is given to us

Matthew 16: 19

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”

John 20: 23

And with that He breathed on them and said “receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins they are forgiven and if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

1 John 5: 3 - 5

And His commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

- So we can renounce - spiritual influences - historic sins – we can bind influences
- We can also release blessing – loose bondage including historic
- And bind spiritual forces

But only in Jesus name

- But we need to get used to doing this
 - It is not victory if we won’t move forward
1. Announce complete victory in Jesus
 2. Renounce deception through God’s word
 3. Pronounce with authority in Jesus name

We move forward – we don’t retreat – Jesus is our victory!

Let’s declare – confess, forgive, repent, bind, proclaim as the Holy Spirit leads