

WASP: Beginning Deliverance

Satan's Power over the world

Scripture explains the power Satan has over the world. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, he is referred to as “the god of this world” (KJV) and 1 John 5:19 says, “the world lies in the power of the evil one” (ESV). If “...there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God”, then did God actually give Satan authority over the world¹?

To answer this, we must first define “the world” and our understanding of it. Scripture uses “the world” to reference the present, fallen, and sinful state of our existence on earth². “The world” is the evil system that stands against God and His Kingdom. Satan does not control the function of our planet, but he does lead the rebellion and sinful opposition to God and people.

Jesus went to the cross to free God's children from Satanic control and “...through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil”³. When Jesus died on the cross, He took away our sins by the shedding of His blood⁴. He made atonement for sins and thus fulfilled God's law⁵. Through His resurrection, He triumphed over Satan and death. Satan was disarmed of the power he holds—the power of death, because sin leads to death⁶. Jesus' death and resurrection disarmed Satan's power, freeing believers from his dominion over this fallen world. Believers are no longer a part of Satan's kingdom, “[God] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son”⁷.

In our understanding of spiritual warfare, one scripture we must examine closely is Ephesians 6:12, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” Since Satan is the author of evil, to be a Christian does not mean we can overcome it by our church programs or gatherings. We can battle it, but not overcome it. How will we overcome? Revelation 12:11 tells us we will, “conquered him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of [our] testimony...”. We overcome the ruler of this world with the freedom we have in Christ and the testimony of the authority we have in Him.

Jesus and Spiritual Warfare

Modern western culture struggles to truly believe in the spiritual realm. Even many in the church pay lip service to spiritual beings, choosing to focus on angels, while not addressing Satan and his forces. Or if they believe in word, they do not believe in practice; casually referring to angels and the devil as

¹ Romans 13:1

² John 16:33; Romans 12:1; Titus 2:11-12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15, 3:1

³ Hebrews 2:14

⁴ 1 Peter 2:24

⁵ Romans 3:25-26

⁶ Colossians 2:13-15

⁷ Colossians 1:13, ESV

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mythical or cartoon figures. This can be largely contributed to the desensitization of our culture through entertainment. In all actuality, many believers and non-believers question whether angels and demons exist because they cannot see or prove their existence. One of the most successful on-going attacks of the enemy is convincing the world he does not exist. But if we hold to the truth of God's Word, Christians are without excuse. Jesus taught about two kingdoms: the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan⁸.

To fight against Satan's forces, Jesus knew He had to be endued with the Power of Holy Spirit. Jesus did not begin His own ministry until He received power from Holy Spirit⁹. And when He did, He immediately encountered the devil in the wilderness¹⁰. Upon leaving the wilderness, Jesus went to the synagogue and immediately encountered a man with a spirit.

Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

Luke 4:33-37

It is important to notice where Jesus was when He encountered the demon, the synagogue¹¹. Today, the synagogue can be compared to the local church. Are we saying there are evil spirits in churches today? Yes, and they are at every service and event unless you use your authority to expel them.

Jesus loves us so much He showed us where spirits were lingering and at work, including in our church buildings and with those who believe in God. One of the major spirits that embodies the body of Christ today is the *spirit of religion*. This spirit has crippled the church from doing the works Jesus did¹². Throughout the Gospels, we see Jesus encountering and standing in opposition to the practices of the rulers of the church, Pharisees, scribes, and teachers of the law. They did not understand God and His purpose of bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth nor the freedom it brings. In many instances, they helped to promote Satan's agenda¹³. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil¹⁴, which is to steal, kill, and destroy. But Jesus came that believers may have life, and that they may have it abundantly¹⁵.

⁸ Matthew 12:26-28

⁹ Matthew 3:15

¹⁰ Matthew 4:1

¹¹ Luke 4:33

¹² John 14:12

¹³ Matthew 23:1-26

*Scripture references are from the *New King James Version*, unless noted otherwise.

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Jesus is our example

Many Christians wonder what God's "will" is for their life? The Word says we should be more like Jesus daily¹⁶. Simply put, Christians should do the same things Jesus did¹⁷. That means we can heal the sick, deliver people from evil, and proclaim the Kingdom of God. This is what we have been commanded to do and should want to do every single day¹⁸. Delivering people from evil spirits should be just as common as praying with someone to receive Jesus Christ as their savior.

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

Jesus gave us a model prayer, commonly referred to as The Lord's Prayer. It is one of the most memorized scriptures by believers, however many fail to see the wealth of insight to spiritual warfare that it contains. This prayer is our example of what we should do as Christians: pray, depend on God, forgive, be led daily, be delivered, and receive power.

Encountering the demonic

Let's discuss, "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."¹⁹ Having the power of Holy Spirit is an integral part of deliverance ministry. God desires people who are willing to follow the example of Jesus by healing and delivering all who are oppressed by evil.

Jesus empowered His disciples to teach and do the work of the Gospel²⁰. Along the way, they encountered spirits that were tougher than others²¹. We must remember Satan has an established army that follows a chain-of-command. To be an effective deliverance and inner-healing minister, you must keep yourself full of the Spirit and submitted to God.

Jesus understood the correlation between physical healing and the spirit realm. Matthew writes, "When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits

¹⁴ 1 John 3:8

¹⁵ John 10:10

¹⁶ Romans 8:29

¹⁷ John 14:12.

¹⁸ Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18

¹⁹ Acts 10:38

²⁰ Matthew 28:18-20

²¹ Mark 9:17-18

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with a word and healed all who were sick"²². In most cases, Jesus always ministered to the spirits first before dealing with the physical. Once evil spirits are removed, the flesh falls in-line with the Word of God.

Examples of Jesus casting out Spirits:

Let's look at several scriptures where Jesus cast out spirits. In Mark 1:21-28 Jesus encounters the man in the synagogue tormented by an unclean spirit. In Matthew 12:22-29 He heals the blind and mute demoniac and in Matthew 8: 28-34 He confronts and delivers the Gerasene demoniac. In Mark 7:24-30 He speaks to the Syrophenician woman and heals her daughter by sending forth the word. He heals the epileptic boy in Mark 9:14-29 and He encounters and heals the woman with a spirit of infirmity in Luke 13:10-17. Matthew 9:32-34 tells the healing of the mute demoniac. In some of these cases, people were described as falling to the ground, rolling around, having convulsions, making noises, screams, or shrieks, and spirits speaking through them. These mirror some of the same phenomena we witness today when dealing with individuals who have demonic spirits.

Though you may encounter these in deliverance, remember NEVER have conversations with demons. There is no reason to entertain a demonic spirit or prolong the deliverance process. Neither is it appropriate to allow a spirit to act out through an individual in a manner that would cause a spectacle or embarrass the person. Remember, as a Spirit-filled follower of Jesus Christ, you have authority. The demonic spirit must obey when you speak the *Word, Authority, Spirit, and Power* of Yeshua Ha'mashiach v'Adonai (Jesus, the Messiah and Lord).

How do we apply this to our personal lives?

Satan has a plan to destroy you, your family, community, church, and nation. We have been given weapons to fight him and need to exercise our authority²³, but first, you must become free. To help set others free, you must be free yourself. If hurt people, hurt people; then free people, free people. Remember the battle is on our flesh and soul, which includes our mind, will and emotions. Satan will speak to our mind to influence our will and emotions. He does this, so we will operate in the flesh and not in the Spirit. God says, His sheep know His voice and soon you will be able to distinguish between the voice of God, flesh, and Satan²⁴.

²² Matthew 8:16

²³ 2 Corinthians 10:4

²⁴ John 10:27

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How to obtain freedom?

We must ask God to reveal areas of our life where we have allowed Satan entrance through sin and ungodly beliefs (lies). God does not dwell on our sins or failures to condemn us²⁵. But He will help us recognize where demons have taken advantage of situations and circumstances in our life. Once those areas have been exposed and repented of, the demonic can be driven out and the open doors that allowed them access can be closed. Speak to them in the authority of the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth and when the demons know you are renouncing their control in your life, they will flee²⁶. You must speak in faith, believing they have no control. Freedom will be yours!

Once you become free, you can start to ensure Satan does not have control in your family. You can begin to speak with your family about having deliverance for the entire family. What if someone in the family does not believe in deliverance? You should enter spiritual warfare for that person, praying Satan will not continue to blind them from the truth. Spiritual warfare is speaking the truth of God's Word and believing it is done before you see the results²⁷. That is faith. It is not necessary to ask God to do something He has already done. He has given you power and authority over Satan. Do not expect God to remove the devil from your home when you have been given the ability to defeat him. You have been given the Word, Authority, Spirit and Power to defeat Satan on his territory.

²⁵ Romans 8:1

²⁶ James 4:7

²⁷ Romans 4:17