

Spiritual Warfare: Destroying Demonic Influence on Individuals **(December 9, 2018, by Rev. Anthony Menzel)**

Today is probably our last installment in our series on spiritual warfare.

During the series, we have learned a lot...

- [1) Our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ must be real.
- 2) Fasting
- 3) Praise & Worship
- 4) Obedience
- 5) Repentance
- 6) Covering ourselves with the blood of Jesus Christ
- 7) We must respect supernatural powers, especially the large ones.
- 8) We should also know something about what our enemy, the devil is like.]

In fact, I think that we have learned so much that I may develop a curriculum for our intercessors based on this series...

My goal is that anyone who is part of the intercessory team in the future will have to read the sermon notes that form this series, and for each set of notes, they will have to write a paragraph summary of the sermon...

Because spiritual warfare is such a sensitive topic, I think this approach is good one to ensure that no one gets unnecessarily attacked by the devil...

The Lord Jesus will allow the devil to attack us so that we can become stronger...

However, we want to go through the minimum suffering for the God's maximum glory...

We do not want to go through unnecessary suffering...

Scripture 1: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Scripture 2: Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Because you have rejected knowledge,
I also will reject you from being priest for Me;
Because you have forgotten the law of your God,
I also will forget your children.

The last thing I feel led to teach in this series on spiritual warfare is on casting out demons from individuals who are oppressed or even possessed by demons...

Scripture 3: Luke 13:10-13

¹⁰ Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way ^[d]raise *herself* up. ¹² But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to *Him* and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." ¹³ And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

This woman was not demon-possessed in the sense that she was frothing at the mouth and used by the devil to hurt, scare, or lie to people...

However, there was a demon oppressing...

That demon limited her ability to function substantially...

It impaired her ability to carry out Christ's purpose for her life...

Then there are people who are totally demon-possessed...

They are totally controlled by the devil, and they are often violent...

They will hurt, scare, and lie to people...

Scripture 4: Luke 8:26-39

²⁶ Then they sailed to the country of the ^[k]Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons ^[l]for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" ²⁹ For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with

chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

³⁰ Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?”

And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

³² Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. ³³ Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

³⁴ When those who fed *them* saw what had happened, they fled and told *it* in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ They also who had seen *it* told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was ^[m]healed. ³⁷ Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the ^[n]Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

³⁸ Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ “Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

So how do we help people who are demon-oppressed and demon-possessed?

Even believers can be demon-oppressed, and many of us are attacked by spirits of infirmity...

I believe that there is a spiritual component to every disease...

1. Make sure that all those who are directly praying for the person affected by the demon are people who are qualified for such intercession:

To be qualified for such intercession, you must
have a real relationship with the Lord Jesus,
have repented of your sins to the best of your ability,
obey the Lord Jesus to the best of your ability,
know some of the basics about the devil's nature,
and respect the supernatural.

2. Any other people who are present during such intercession should be covered with the blood of Jesus Christ so that they are protected in their spirits, souls, and bodies.

Sometimes demons will seek to attack people who are around the intercession when the intercession is occurring. Covering everyone with the blood of Jesus Christ will protect everyone from demonic attacks.

When dealing with demonic possession, it is also wise

1. to make sure that someone on the intercessory team has their eyes open at all times.

It is important that someone is monitoring, for example, if a demon-possessed person is starting to become violent in order to protect the rest of the team and any other people who are present from physical harm.

2. to remove any youth that are not focused on the intercession, especially minors under the age of 13...

The blood of Jesus Christ should protect all bystanders from harm...

However, there have been cases where children who witness deliverance from demonic possessions get scared to go to church...

As much as possible, we want our children to love coming to church...

3. to get experience with deliverance as part of a member of a team that includes other Christians who have had success with deliverance in the past...

In our church, for example, Rev. Juana, Rev. Luís, Rev. Mary, Leandro, and I have all been part of more than one deliverance prayer session during which the demonic has manifested and been defeated...

There may be other leaders who have experienced this as well, but I know that the four of us have experienced more than one such experience...

4. always perform deliverance in a team of at least 3 people, especially when there are not a lot of people around or you are in a private home...

There have been incidents when my mother and I have cast out the demonic alone, but that is not the ideal situation...

If you are properly prepared for deliverance, you should never be afraid to face demons...

Scripture 5: 2 Timothy 1:7

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Scripture 6: 1 John 4:1-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess ^[a] that Jesus ^[b] Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Just like with any other prayer, we should cast out demons in the name of Jesus Christ...

Without the name of Jesus Christ, our prayers are ineffective...

Scripture 7: John 15:5-8

⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you^[b] will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Scripture 8: John 14:6

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Scripture 9: John 16:23-24

²³ "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

It can be good to send the demon(s) into the abyss, where they can no longer attack anyone else, unless the Holy Spirit indicates otherwise... If we look at *Luke 8*, the Lord Jesus did not send the legion of demons into the abyss, so we cannot assume that we will always send them to the abyss...

The last thing that is especially important about casting out demons is spiritual after-care following the deliverance...

People who get delivered have to understand that they have to do their best to stop sinning and obey the Lord...

They have to do their best to fill themselves up with the good things...

Otherwise the devil will come back, even stronger than before...

If we look at the man who was delivered in *Luke 8*, he became an evangelist...

Scripture 10: Matthew 12:43-45

⁴³ “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. ⁴⁴ Then he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds *it* empty, swept, and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”