

Spiritual Warfare Part 3

“7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7 KJV)

In the beginning God created Heaven and earth and all the things that we see in the universe. He created man on His own image, ***“27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:27 KJV)*** ***“28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” (Genesis 1:28 KJV)*** God placed the man in the garden east of Eden, and He placed under his authority the garden to tend it and care for it. But the serpent, Satan, entered the scene and man was tempted with his own evil motive and desire and disobeyed God. As man disobeyed God, he lost his dominion over the earth. But God in spite of man’s sin He worked out salvation for mankind when He sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to redeem mankind from sin and death. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give eternal life to everyone who believe in Him and follow His steps in life. By the death of Jesus on cross and His resurrection on the third day He got the victory over sin and death and He brought back the victory and the dominion that God had given to mankind. By His death on the cross Jesus took legal ownership and gave us the task of possessing the land.

In this message we will study the strategy and the principles of warfare and how we can be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

1. We need to go and step out into the land in order to possess it: *Joshua 1:2-3* speaks about such thing, ***“2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.”*** We have then to claim the land physically. We have to go and preach the gospel, we have to go out and make disciples. We have to move out from our comfort zone and reach new people by all the possible ways. Not to be sitting in office work, but to do the outdoor work.

2. Taking possession is conditional: As we read in *Exodus 23:20-27*, ***“20 Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. 21 Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. 22 But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. 23 For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off. 24 Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images. 25 And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. 26 There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil. 27 I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. 28 And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the***

Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.” We need to obey God in order to overcome and be able to possess the land. God instructed the people that He would send an angel ahead of them to guard them and bring them to the place He had prepared, but it was necessary for them to listen to him and obey him. They were not to worship the gods of the land they were entering or follow the practices of the people. If they obeyed they would receive God’s blessing. ***We are called to obey God’s Word, and not to follow the idol worship nor the religious and the worldly practices, and in such we shall receive the blessings of God. If there is no obedience to God’s commands and instructions there will be no deliverance and no victories from the Lord.***

3. Possession is not instant but gradual: *Exodus 23:29-30* says, ***“29 I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. 30 By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.”*** So we have to be patient and waiting upon God and on His timing to go before us and accomplish the task for us. Going into the land and making disciples is not an easy process; it takes time and needs much energy, patience and endurance. Therefore we don’t need to be in a hurry so that we shall not miss the way.

4. Possession must be complete: In *Numbers 21:2-3* says the Israelites completely destroyed the Canaanite with king Arad, ***“1 And when king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners. 2 And Israel vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities. 3 And the LORD hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah.”*** But in the book of *Judges 1*, as the children of Israel began to take possession of the land, they didn’t drive out the Canaanites, but made them slaves. As a result these Canaanites became thorns on their sides and their gods became a snare to them. They began to worship them therefore God had to give them over to their enemies. ***This is an example for us and thing we have to be aware off. If we allow enemies like inner hurts, bitterness, unforgiveness, hatred, fear, insecurity, self-pity, laziness, lust, immorality, greed, impurity, etc, remain in our lives and among us, they will also become snare to us and ultimately would start to trouble us. If we allow worldly, traditional and religious practices in our lives then such will become also snare for us and open way for demons to come and attack us and destroy our lives.***

The Word of God tells us the following: ***“27 Neither give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:27 KJV)*** Therefore holiness and cleansing from sin is very important. ***“3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;” (Ephesians 5:3 KJV)*** ***Sin in your life is a foothold for devil to enter your life and destroy it. “31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:” (Ephesians 4:31 KJV)*** ***These are all footholds for devil and it will bring detrimental effects into our lives and our service to the Lord.***

“3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” (2 Timothy 2:3-4 KJV) ***We need to live away from all the worldliness so that we can serve God, please our Lord Jesus Christ and resist the devil.***

The devil is against man and wants man to disobey God, so we need to be careful how to obey God, submit to His will and resist Satan and so he will flee far from us. **God is with us, and will stand beside us to help us to resist Satan's work and to deliver us. For this reason God sent His son the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death.** Jesus died on the cross for our sins; He was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give us eternal life. **"8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."** (1 John 3:8 KJV) So we need to be good soldiers of Christ. Jesus came to help us in our fight and struggle against the devil, so we ought to cooperate with God and walk faithfully with Him and carry the responsibilities that He entrusted to us to go and spread His Word and care for His church.

5. We need to bind the Strongman: Luke 11:21-22 teaches us that, **"21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: 22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils."** As Joshua brought victory to Israel, so Jesus brings victory to the church. We need to bind the strongman; Matthew 16:19 tells us that: **"19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."** **"29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house."** (Matthew 12:29 KJV) In the name of Jesus we can bind the strongman. When insecurity, fear, unbelief, rejection, inferiority, discouragement, etc. are bound, they need to be replaced by the new: security, faith, acceptance, peace, comfort, etc. Luke 11:24-26 says, **"24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. 25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. 26 Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first."** When old enemies come against us we need to bind them and push through to establish the positive opposite of those. When the old enemies come back, we must stand against them, resist and not allow them to enter our lives.

6. We need to go through! And not give up: Isaiah 57:14 tells us that, **"14 And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people."** In Acts 20:24 Paul said the following: **"24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."** Paul's life encourages us to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given us the task of testifying the gospel of God's grace. If a soldier gives up he dies. We have to continue to fight tiredness, diseases, fear, and all other things that hinder us in our walk with Christ. Make a commitment to God that you neither discourage nor give up.

7. There is a cost involved: A soldier has to leave home, family, comfort and security. He faces loneliness, discomfort, fear and death. As disciples of Jesus we are told in **Luke 9:23-24**, **"23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."** To press through in warfare means sacrifice in time, effort, attitudes, material things, desires, fasting and prayer. But don't forget there is also a reward for your work and labor for the Lord. Jesus promised us the

following: **"29 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, 30 Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting."** (Luke 18:29-30 KJV)

8. Walk in victory: Jesus has already won the victory. Hebrews 2:14 says, **"14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;"** Through Jesus we have the victory over Satan. 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, **"57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."** Jesus gives us the victory and the authority over the enemy. 1 John 4:4 says, **"4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."** To continue walk in victory we have responsibilities to keep and requirements to achieve and as the following:-

A. To confess our sins, and not to let unconfessed sin make us unable to fight: 1 John 1:10 says, **"10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."** Ephesians 4:27 reminds us to, **"27 Neither give place to the devil."**

B. Keep our faith in God: 1 John 5:4-5 says, **"4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"** It is our faith that overcomes the world.

C. Submit to God and resist the Devil: James 4:7 says, **"7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."** When the enemy comes against us, we need to submit ourselves fully to God, then we can be able to resist the devil and sure he will go away from us.

My dear and beloved: **"20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."** (2 Timothy 2:20-21) There is a big task ahead of you and God wants to use you for His great work. Therefore you need to prepare yourself for that. Take the opportunity today to heed God's call and allow the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to cleanse you from all impurities, **"10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."** (Ephesians 2:10 KJV)

Though we are in a battle, we can be encouraged because the victory is already ours through Christ Jesus and He has given us all that we need to stand and to defeat the enemy. We have the privilege of being a part in possessing the land for our commander in chief, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let us now review and commit ourselves to the principles of the spiritual warfare that we studied in this message:

- 1. We need to go and step out into the land in order to possess it.**
- 2. Taking possession is conditional.**
- 3. Possession is not instant but gradual.**

4. Possession must be complete.
5. We need to bind the Strongman.
6. We need to go through! And not give up.
7. There is a cost involved.
8. Walk in victory: To continue walk in victory we have responsibilities to keep and requirements to achieve and as the following:-

- A. To confess our sins, and not to let unconfessed sin make us unable to fight.
- B. Keep our faith in God.
- C. Submit to God and resist the Devil.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for opening my mind through the teaching and all the Scripture that we had read and discussed in the message. Lord thank you for all the material and the spiritual blessings that we received from you and that enable us to go on in our lives victoriously. Lord thank you for increasing our faith and our trust in you. Lord thank you for all the teachings, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce all your idols, greed for money and other material things. Repent of envy and jealousy. Repent of your lies, cheating, stealing, fraud, lust, adultery, immoralities and the rest of the works of the flesh. Repent and renounce your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent and renounce all your fears, doubts, anxieties, negative thoughts, insecurity and self pity, Repent of doing your own will and plan. Repent of your pride, laziness, unforgiveness to people, anger, revenge and fights. Renounce your yoke with non believers, friends and wasting your time on the Media, games and News. Repent of your lack of prayer and reading God's Word. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord I repent, forgive me, I renounce the following sins

Lord cleanse me and sanctify me to be a noble vessel in your service. Lord I commit myself to live a life as soldier for Christ Jesus my Lord. Help me Lord and equip me with patience, endurance and self-control to go on and serve you and not to give up. Lord I commit myself to go and preach your Word and make disciples of all nations, and I am willing to obey all your commands and your teaching we received in this message. Lord I surrender my life into your hand and I am willing to obey your Word and commands. Lord fight my enemies and subdue them. Lord, don't allow them to invade my territory and restore to me what the enemy had taken from me in the past. This is all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, threw their idols and cleansed their hearts and minds, and committed their lives and ways to walk in the truth of your Word. I bind all the works of Satan and demons in their lives and cast them all out of their lives in the name of Jesus. Lord protect them, fight for them and deal with their enemies. Lord restore to them all what the enemy had taken away from them. Lord give them courage, boldness, love and sound mind to go on and serve you. Lord sustain them and provide for them to continue to serve you and be good example to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church, fight the battles for us, deliver us from our troubles, and deal with all our enemies. Lord restore back to us all what the devil had taken away from us. We come against all the works of the devil and we cast it out from the life of the church in the name of Jesus. Lord lead us to help people in bondages to deliver them from all the power of darkness. Lord we are willing to go out and step into the land that you gave to us and possess it according to what we learned in this message. Lord refill us once again with your Holy Spirit, and lead us to evangelize and reach new people and serve them, to make new disciples and train new workers, planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God', Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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