

## Understanding Spiritual Warfare from God's Perspective:

### **"How do we as New Covenant Believers to do spiritual warfare?"**

A secondary question would be: How did Jesus and the 1<sup>st</sup> Century believers handle spiritual warfare?

- Most Christian teachers today have taught believers to directly engage in confrontation against satan, principalities, and powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places in the name of Jesus Christ.
- But there are consequences of engaging in unauthorized spiritual warfare against satan and his wicked powers of darkness.

If there was ever anyone who had the power to bind satan, it was the Lord Jesus Christ.

- But we will see that Jesus didn't bind him but simply rebuked him by saying: "It is written."
- Jesus knew very well that an angel will bind satan and cast him into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years – Rev. 20:1-3 and eventually into the lake of fire – Rev. 20:10.

**This means that Father God has an appointed time and date for satan and his fallen angels to be bound and cast into the lake of fire according to HIS perfect will.**

Jesus operated by the will of God, and knew that there was an appointed time for satan to be dealt with.

Jesus had to defeat satan by going to the cross, dying for the sins of man in order to set us free from the power of death and hell.

Matt. 8:28-29: "When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met Him. There came two out of the tombs and were so violent that no one could go through that area. They began screaming at Him, Why are you interfering with us, Son of God? Have You come to torture us before God's appointed time?"

- On many occasions, the demons would try to reason with Jesus not to torture them before their appointed time.
- So, they know there is an appointed time for them to be cast into the lake of fire.
- Until then, they have a legal right to remain on earth according to God's will.
- They were not bound and cast into the bottomless pit, but were cast out and allowed to enter into other vessels for possession.

Matt. 8:32: “the demons entered into a herd of swine.”

Once they were cast out of the men, they would be freed to roam around in the region to find another targeted victim to possess until their appointed time of Rev. 20:1-3.

John 5:19 is Jesus’ declaration that He can only do what He sees His Father doing, and cannot do anything He wishes.

John 15:5 - Jesus in declaring that He is the Vine and we are His branches; can bear much fruit if we abide in Him, for without Him we can do nothing.”

- As believers, followers of Jesus Christ, we have a delegated authority and are permitted to act according to His purposes as delegated authority found in the Bible.
- Yet many warfare teachers are teaching the body of Christ that we have the power to bind satan over our lives, churches, family, finances, marriages, cities and regions and nations.
- If we did, why is he still so active in so many lives, cities, nations today?

Question: Do we really have the authority to bind and cast satan into the bottomless pit or lake of fire against the appointed time of God’s will?

The greatest power we have to war against the enemy is when we lift up the name of Jesus Christ in praise and worship. The enemy cannot stand or stay in an atmosphere of worship and praise to the Lord Jesus.

The battle does belong to the Lord and we are no match for the enemy’s powers on our own or incorrectly doing spiritual warfare!

### **How Jesus Christ defeated satan’s temptations:**

Luke 4:1-3: “Jesus full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He become hungry. And the devil said to Him, if You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Matt. 4:3.

Matt 4:4: “But Jesus answered him saying, It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

- Satan was tempting Jesus to misuse His power for the sake of meeting His personal need.
- Jesus will never do anything directed by the devil, nor will He demonstrate His power to meet the desires of the flesh.

Two other times the enemy tempted Jesus and Jesus responded: “It is written...”

During the course of Jesus’ first direct encounter with the enemy; He never bound him or cast him into the bottomless pit even though HE had the power to do so.

- Jesus knew well that His Father God had appointed a perfect time to send an angel to bind satan and cast him into the bottomless pit in Rev. 20:1-3, throw him into the lake of fire of Rev. 20:10.
- So, Jesus’s knowing the Father’s will, said to the enemy: “It is written, away with you, satan!”

If that was how Jesus did Kingdom work in the scriptures, then how much more should we follow His example for dealing with satan’s attacks and temptations in our lives?

When satan approaches you while you’re sick declaring to you that you are going to die; you must not listen to his lies and attempts to cause you to fear.

- Your words need to be: “Away with you satan, it is written, by the stripes of Jesus, I was and am healed.”
- No need to directly engage in binding satan or begin to fight against him with unauthorized authority of using the name of Jesus.
- If we rebuke satan the same way Jesus did, then he will have to flee from you because Jesus will arise within you to defeat him with His authority and power – satan is no match to the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Casting out demons, New Covenant style:**

Luke 8:26-35: “They sailed to the county of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. When He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with aloud voice said: What have I do to with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me. 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 demons into the wilderness. Jesus

asked him, saying – What is your name? and he said, Legion, because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go into the abyss. 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. 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... then they went out to see what had happened, and come 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.”

From these scriptures, we can learn how Jesus dealt with many demons:

1. When Jesus command with authority the unclean spirit to come out of the man, the demon recognized who He was and called Him Jesus, Son of the Most High God.
2. The unclean spirit begged Jesus not to torment him.
3. There were many demons in him but it was probably the strongest one that answered Jesus’ question and identified their name as Legion.
4. They begged Jesus not to command them to go out into the abyss. They recognized Him as God who had the power to cast them into the abyss.
5. When they begged Jesus to permit them to enter into the herd of swine, He permitted them. We can see that Jesus had absolute authority over the Legion of demons and they had to obey His command.

When Jesus give us His authority to cast demons out of people, we can also do as He did utilizing His name and authority.

The demons have to obey our command in His name.

We get to participate in destroying the works of the devil in the name of Jesus – 1 John 3:8b “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

**Jesus rebukes unclean spirits and heals:**

Luke 9:37-42: “It happened on the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, that a great multitude met Him. Suddenly a man from the multitude cried out, saying, Teacher, I implore You, look on my son, for he is my only child. And a spirit

seizes him, and he suddenly cries out; it convulses him so that he foams at the mouth; and it departs from him with great difficulty, bruising him. So I implored Your disciples to cast it out, but they could not. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here. And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed him. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father.”

### **How did Jesus heal the boy and teaches us to heal those afflicted by demons?**

1. We don't know the age of the boy, but it indicates that even children can be tormented/afflicted by demonic activity. We must pray over our children and exercise authority of demon's influence so they will never be possessed or afflicted.
2. The disciples could not cast the spirit out of the boy. Without having total faith in Christ, not everyone can cast demons out of a person in bondage.
3. The demons put up a resistance when encountered with the presence of Jesus. They will resist and fight, but they have to leave in the authority of Jesus' name.
4. Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit with authority and healed him by commanding the spirit to leave. John 14:20 – when He is in us, we have authority to exercise the delegated authority of Christ to cast devils out.

Luke 10:17-20: “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

Matt. 9:32-33, 12:22-23: “When the demon was cast out...”

- The mute and demon possessed man.

**When an unclean spirit goes out of a person...** Matt 12:43-45: “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 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. 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.”

- These verses are proof that we can cast demons out of people; but they will not be thrown into the abyss immediately after they have been cast out.

- They will roam through the dry places of the earth looking for other victims to possess.
- Or they attempt to return to the one from which they were cast out of.
- If they find that person's temple empty, then he can bring seven others spirits more wicked than himself to possess him/her to possess them.
- The consequences are: "The state of the person will be worse than the first."

**Important Lesson:**

After a demon is cast out of a person, we must lead them to salvation in the Lord Jesus or they will have no protection from the demons returning.

It's usually best to confirm with a person that they are willing to receive Jesus as Savior before they get delivered or they will be worse off than before.

Then, they need to be filled with the Holy Spirit so there is no room in their temple for the enemy to find a home.

They will be filled with the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit and Life of Christ.