

# "LOVE AND WAR"

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**As I posted on Facebook this morning, the Lord has been speaking to me from the early hours of today about "Love and War."**

## **LOVE**

**If you think about it, Christianity and the Church can be simply reduced to "Love and War." We are born again by the Spirit of God and the *zoe* life—eternal life—of God is deposited within our spirits as Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3. As a result of the new birth, we are supposed to love others, especially our fellow Christians (brothers, the Greek word is ἀδελφός). But most of the Church today does not love like the early Church, even those within our own church congregation. The Lord told us this about 15 years ago when He sent us to minister to a man in Portland, Oregon, who the doctors had given 5 days to live. He was an elder in the largest church in Portland. The Lord actually had us teach on love to the 50-100 intercessors of that church who came to the house of the ill man where we were staying to pray for him each night.**

**You see, my brothers and sisters, this is quite obvious in the local church by our own actions. When the pastor gets up and announces that sister Jones has terminal cancer and "Let's be praying for her" how come she always dies? Or normally she always dies.**

**As I said to the brothers and sisters in Oregon, including one of their senior pastors and his wife who were there, "When this happens why**

**don't the men of the church rise up and say, 'No, we're not going to let sister Jones die' and so they go to her house and lie flat in the floor and pray by the Spirit for sister Jones *until* that spirit of cancer leaves?" I can guarantee you that they won't have to pray very long for her. But we don't do that, do we? And the reason is because while we feel sorry for sister Jones, we're glad it's her problem and not ours; we may pray briefly for her or even for a few weeks but we're not really dedicated to praying for her because, frankly, we don't love her the way we are supposed to.**

**Now I know what I'm talking about in this. I could give you hundreds of testimonies because the Lord has taught me a lot about our spiritual authority and our authority over all demons. Back in the '80s when we were on the radio with a program titled, *Kingdom Living*, I had a man on from our church, Lakewood Church, who had been diagnosed with terminal stomach cancer; he had a wife and five children.**

**Now I didn't know that when I met him; he just told me about it. He shared that when they drove to church he would have to pull over several times, get out of his car and vomit up blood—he was in bad shape physically. When he said that the Spirit of the Lord came upon me and I said, "I'm not going to let you die" and I didn't. That very night I prayed all night for him and the Lord healed him completely. He came on our radio program and gave his testimony. Praise the Lord! But the reason that happened is because of love—Jesus' love for us and our love for one another. Jesus expects us and He even commands us to "love one another as I have loved you."**

**"You shall love your neighbor as yourself"**

**† Matthew 22:39**

**In 1997 when the Lord began speaking to me about writing the book, *Hebrews, the Book of Better Things*, the Holy Spirit spoke to me one morning early and said, "The world is waiting for a true demonstration of the gospel" And one of the ways they need a demonstration is in the area of love; they've heard the gospel preached for many years but they haven't seen the gospel—they are waiting for you to show them the gospel like Jesus did during his ministry.**

**Jesus made a powerful statement in Matthew 24:12, “And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.”**

**My brothers and sisters, Jesus was speaking about the End Time in which we are now living. We are seeing a huge increase of lawlessness not only world-wide but also in America because even our own government has become lawless. So, yes, we are in the time Jesus was speaking about—the Age of Lawlessness—and this is in preparation for the Man of Lawlessness prophesied by the Apostle Paul.**

**Listen closely! God wants to use His people through love to counter this rise of lawlessness. Let your life be a demonstration of the gospel; show the love of God to people you meet this week. You will change people’s lives and win many to the Kingdom of God.**

## **WAR**

**I’ve written and preached for 25+ years that the main calling for our ministry, Christ Church International, (CCI) is in the area of spiritual warfare and deliverance ministry. I’ve never preached the same message twice in 40 years of ministry but very often it is a theme, teaching or revelation about warfare.**

**As I’ve written before, it’s instructive to notice in the Scriptures that the very first thing Jesus did in His ministry after He had completed the desert experience and temptations of Satan, was to go into the synagogue to teach and during this time He confronted a demonic spirit in a woman of the covenant who was in church that day. When I first noticed that many years ago it became so obvious to me—you can talk about the Kingdom of God all you want and how great it is and yet, as Jesus said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation”; it’s not going to just “happen!” We have been given Jesus’ authority over all the earth and it’s our responsibility to work with Him and the Spirit to bring these things to pass. That’s why Jesus proclaimed in what is commonly called The Lord’s Prayer but is in**

**reality a model prayer: “Thy kingdom come; they will be done; on earth as it is in Heaven.”**

**Listen, Satan has controlled your town, your state and your country for hundreds of years and he’s not going to give up control without a fight! And he’s laughed for centuries at a Church that either didn’t know how to fight or just didn’t want to fight. But now in this time we must realize that without entering the battle there can be no realization of victory. We are in the time that the Lord spoke to me about in 1980 when He said that “In the last days the power of Satan will become so strong ...”**

**For decades we have gone to churches and preached the need for them to enter into warfare in their community but they refused; some who did for a brief time have been destroyed from within. It’s easy to become distracted. The Lord told Eve when we first moved to Montana back in the ‘90s and encountered very severe attacks against our finances, family, marriage and ministry: “Don’t allow the devil to cause you to lose your focus.”**

**The Holy Spirit is still looking today for those who will rise up against the forces of darkness and drive out the enemy. Remember, Jesus Himself said:**

**“Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and Scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and Nothing shall hurt you.”**

**† Luke 10:19**

**MARANATHA**