

Praying With Authority

Ephesians 6:10-18 | 2 Corinthians 10:4-5
Matthew 17:20 | Matthew 18:18-20 | Luke 10:17-20

I get nervous around people that are too aggressive. I mean the people who are always on a rampage about something. They become Christians and suddenly they are in a perpetual state of war. Their thoughts, demeanor, actions, and attitudes are war like. They are crusaders hell bent on smashing something. These well-meaning Christians have become spiritual warmongers. They see the enemy in every shadow, behind every tree, and operative in every negative thing that happens.

When we speak of "spiritual warfare" we are not talking about a perpetual rampage. Spiritual war is a reality. We are in a fight. The enemy is real. Demons are real. Attacks of the enemy are real. But we must be careful not to give the devil too much credit. He is not in charge - God is!

Satan is not god-like

He cannot read our minds. He is not omnipresent. He is not all powerful. He is not sovereign. He does not own the universe, or the earth for that matter. He is a created being, a fallen angel, whose end is certain, and his defeat final at the cross. (Hebrews 2:14)

Extremes

We grant that there are extremes in the realm of today's teachings regarding the authority of the believer. But the doctrine and teaching is not a present day phenomenon. Throughout the history of the church God has demonstrated His power and truth that Jesus Christ is able to do "*exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according His power that works in us.*"

But because there are extremes does not mean that there is no truth to the authority of the believer. On the contrary, because there are counterfeit \$20 bills does not preclude that there are no real \$20 bills. God's word teaches us to "*despise not prophecies, prove all things, hold fast to that which is good.*" It is the spiritually immature who would rather not discern between true from the counterfeit but prefer to throw out all evidence of miraculous power. We acknowledge the existence of many extremes in Charismatic and Pentecostal churches. These errors do not mean that all teaching of the authority of the believer are wrong. Paul exhorts the church "*despise not prophecies. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*" (I Thes. 5:20-21)

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“Those who refuse to fight win no battles!”

Paul declares this to be “our” struggle with principalities and power. Eph 6:10-18 He further declares it to be “our” weapons against the enemy’s strongholds. 2 Cor 10:4-5

Believe Your Authority (Authority of Definition) “Position” "seated with Christ in heavenly realms"

1. Authority of Proclamation - Eph. 1:18-21, Christ is seated far above P&P
2. Authority of Position - 2:6-7, 3:11-12, 5:11, 6:10-18 You are seated with Christ in heavenly places, far above all principalities and powers
3. Authority by Permission - I give you authority to tread on enemy

Recognize Strongholds (Authority of Denunciation) "Speak to the mountain"

1. Expose the Mountain – Ephesians 5:11 expose Satan’s schemes
2. Speak to the Mountain – Matthew 17:20 the hindering spirits
3. Agree about Mountain – Matthew 18:18-20 two agree

Apply Your Authority (Authority of Declaration) "to agree together in prayer"

1. Authority of Intercession - Mt 18:18-20 where any two of you agree
2. Authority of the Name - John 14 Anything in my name
3. Authority of the Blood - Rev 12:10-11 Overcome him by blood
4. Authority of the Word - Mt 4:1-6 Thus says the Lord!
5. Authority of Praise - Psalms 22:3 Inhabits praises Celebrate victor and victory

A Stronghold

A stronghold is anywhere that the enemy has a foothold, resting place, or nesting place in your life, your body, your home and family, your job and your possessions. These are arenas where Satan has been allowed to gain access, control, or be present to lie, steal, kill, and destroy. That is what he does. Not every bad thing is an attack of the enemy. Look for his fingerprints.

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IDENTIFY THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLDS

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You cannot fight the enemy that you do not see. (Paul said, “*So fight I, not as one that beats the air.*”) Identify his activities and target your praying specifically. There may be strongholds that are not listed here. Ask the Lord to reveal to you the enemy’s strongholds by bringing these things to mind. Identify suspicious symptoms of the enemy’s by his fingerprints on your life, your family, and your church. Remember the Lord says, “*We are not ignorant of his devices.*”

(Obstacles, hindrances, sicknesses, oppression, fears, torments, etc.)

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| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
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| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

TRIALS Besieged by Enemy	TORMENTS Battered of the Enemy	TRAGEDIES Bondage to the Enemy
<p><u>People</u> - persecutors, blasphemers, interferers, antagonists, hinderers</p> <p><u>Finances</u> - devouring worm, waster, losses, leaky bag, persistent joblessness, persistent poverty</p> <p><u>Family</u> - disintegration of home, runaway children, wayward children, prolonged anger,</p> <p><u>Marriage</u> - disintegrating marriage, separation, divorce, arguments, jealousy, unfaithful spouse,</p> <p><u>Problems</u> - flood of misfortune, bad events, accidents, injuries, natural disasters,</p> <p><u>Physical</u> - health attacks "buffeting," nagging sicknesses, headaches, undiagnosed symptoms,</p>	<p><u>Depression</u> - prolonged emotional attacks, hopelessness, gloominess</p> <p><u>Physical</u> - spirit of infirmity, hypochondria, psychosomatic illnesses</p> <p><u>Fears</u> - unfounded fears, anxieties, panics, timidity, insecurity, inadequacy</p> <p><u>Anger</u> - hatred, bitterness, temper, rage, violence</p> <p><u>Moral</u> - repeated failures, obsessive temptations, lusts, obsessive thoughts</p> <p><u>Backsliders</u> - apostate deliberate willful turning away, prodigal sons and daughters</p>	<p><u>Drugs</u> - under the power of substances, alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription pills, cigarettes, etc.</p> <p><u>Sexual deviations</u> - addictions, porno, homosexuality, immorality behavior, etc.</p> <p><u>Abusive behavior</u> - destructive, assaults, language, self-mutilation, suicidal thoughts and attempts, physical abuse</p> <p><u>Insanity</u> - uncontrollable mind, psychosis, voices, visions, nightmares, etc.</p> <p><u>Occult involvement</u> - consulting psychics, palm readers, horoscopes, etc</p> <p><u>Cult involvement</u> - blinded to the truth, choose to believe a lie, doctrinal error concerning Christ</p>

Before we can pull down stronghold (footholds or nesting places of the enemy) we must identify those hidden things of darkness, and expose them. It is like shining a light into a dark place, the cockroaches will scatter at the presence of light.