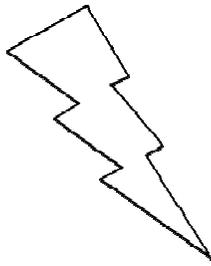


Spiritual Warfare

Combating the
Powers of Darkness



H. D. Shively

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This book is
lovingly dedicated to
the Lord Jesus Christ,
who died to remove our sins,
give us eternal life
and authority
over all the powers of darkness
in His mighty name.

Footprints in the Snow

My husband and I were camping in Maryland. It snowed in the night and the next morning the bare ground had been covered in white. We noticed a footprint in the snow directly behind our trailer as if something had emerged from beneath it. It was shaped like an ordinary human foot except for the toes. There were two of them, both very thick with a large gap between them. One was longer than the other. Then we noticed another footprint directly ahead of the first about four feet away, then another and another for about twenty feet. Then whatever it was stopped and the snow was trampled in one spot – then nothing. The prints ended at that point in the snow.

If only I'd had a camera...

Introduction

A pastor I know was studying spiritual warfare, so he decided to read some secular war training manuals. One of the books he read was by a Japanese Samurai warrior written around 1400 AD. His name was Miyamoto Musashi. He was so adept at his job he was killing off all the Emperor's best men, so they forbade him to engage in any more practice combat events and made him a teacher instead.

He instructed his pupils to never let their sword be more than eight inches from their side. When they go to bed at night, it is to be by the bed. When they are not doing their regular business they were to resume the stance of the Samurai. The goal was to "Become the Sword."

A Samurai's job was to defend the Emperor. When the enemy was approaching, the samurais would run from the palace out onto the drawbridge with their swords drawn and the gates were locked behind them. It was their finest hour.

When Jesus returns there is a sword coming from His mouth, the sword of His word. It emanates from His being because He is the sword, the living word of God. As we learn to take up our swords in the battle against spiritual darkness, we too must learn to become the sword. It must never leave our sides for an instant. We must always be in the stance of a spiritual samurai willing to defend the lambs that have been

entrusted to our charge as pastors and ministers of the Gospel.

The purpose of this work is to help you learn spiritual strategies that will enable you to better defend your churches, homes and communities from the curses and assignments of the wicked.

One day in the heat of a spiritual battle I heard the Still Small Voice of the Lord whisper this, "I am pleased that you are taking up the sword because too many of My people are willing to abide with evil."

Are you willing to take up the sword of the word of God and aim it at an unseen enemy? Are you willing to become the sword? Lives are at stake...maybe even your own.

1

First Encounters

He awoke after midnight in a room that was smothered in darkness. He heard something heavy land on the roof above his bed. A few moments later he felt a strange pressure on his chest and he discovered to his horror that he was completely paralyzed. The pressure began to move upward and he felt it encircle his neck. As the pressure began to increase, he realized that he was being strangled. He couldn't speak, he couldn't cry out to awaken his sleeping wife beside him. He could only shout the name "Jesus!" in his mind and the demonic strangle hold was instantly broken. That's how my husband learned that demons flee at the mighty name of Jesus.

Even though we had been Christians for many years, none of the churches we attended gave us a clue about how to deal with demonic attacks. As a result we were extremely vulnerable when we moved into a highly occult area. Basically I don't think we wanted to acknowledge that demons existed. After my husband's attack the event was filed somewhere in the basement of our thoughts in a place where we hoped we would never have to look for it again.

Several years later we were participating in an event in California. There were art exhibits and I had been given the opportunity to bring in some Gospel singers for the occasion.

The event had been going on for about a month and things were not going well. One of the artist's wives almost died, sales were off and there was a general atmosphere of grumbling and complaining.

The day we arrived I had a vision of a large, dark figure standing outside the doorway of the event. It had a thick, muscular body cloaked in black. I couldn't discern any facial features. That night I awoke out of a sound sleep in incredible pain. My husband prayed and it went away. I fell asleep again. This time I saw the figure in a dream. As I was looking at it I heard the Lord say, "You can't cast it out. Praise Me." I didn't understand what was going on. But I was going to do what I had been told.

I located some singers from a church in the area who volunteered to come and minister. When they were finished singing, the lead singer came over to me and said, "There is a large dark figure standing by the door."

I was amazed. The Lord had let her see this thing! I had not said a word to her about my vision or the dream. We prayed together, she rebuked it in the name of Jesus and she said it disappeared in a flash of light.

There had been so many bad things happening at this event, was it because of that demonic presence? After years of on the job training I can answer an unequivocal yes!

2

The Damage They Can Do

Most of what my husband and I have been taught about spiritual warfare has come to us in the heat of battle, through personal experience and comparing notes with others. Because the details of everything we need to know are not always found in the Bible, the Holy Spirit will lead us to the information we need and we gain another insight. For example, several years after my husband's experience of being strangled by invisible hands, we read a testimony by an African missionary who had the same experience. She rebuked the demon that had been strangling her and she watched it leave in a display of little lights. After that we read another testimony of someone who had witnessed a witchcraft ceremony in Africa, and it was noted that lights were hovering above the devil worshippers. So when we encountered a pastor's wife in a much oppressed neighborhood tell us that she was seeing angels that appeared to her in little lights, we can assume that she really wasn't seeing angels, but was actually being stalked by demonic entities.

Sometimes when we try to share what we have learned it is not received. Jesus commanded His disciples (us) to engage in spiritual warfare (Matthew 10:8). It is not an option, it is a

direct command from our Lord and when we disobey this, whether willfully or through complacency, we open the door to demonic assault on our churches, our families and ourselves. And sometimes the Lord will allow us to be afflicted for the purpose of instructing us. I read a testimony from a missionary who had become horribly ill for an entire year. The Holy Spirit finally revealed that the man had been cursed, the curse was broken and the missionary was healed. He asked the Lord why He had let it happen. The Lord said to him, "So that you'll know the damage they can do."

I believe on those occasions when my husband and I were attacked it was for our training and education in this area.

As Christians we have protection in the blood of Jesus, but God sometimes has to break through our complacency so He can teach us so we can help others who do not have our protection in Christ.

One of the best examples I can give you illustrating the damage that witchcraft can inflict was told to me by a close friend who worked as a nurse and an administrator at a large nursing home in South Carolina. As my friend and I sat together drinking tea, she unfolded this account.

One of the nursing home residents was a little old woman named Amelia. She practiced a strange conglomeration of Christianity - and Voodoo. She had her little bag of charms that she kept around her waist, she was never without it. Most of the staff was afraid of her. She began to get a fixation on one of the male nurses. She accused him of making himself small and coming into her room at night to molest her. Despite his protests to the contrary, she finally threatened him. She cursed him and vowed to take off his head. While some might disregard Amelia's threat as the ranting of a senile old woman, what happened to the hapless nurse may prove otherwise.

Shortly afterward he was involved in a bizarre car accident with a fork lift. He was brought into my friend's office by a police officer who said that the man was almost decapitated by the machinery. There was a large gash on his neck where the forklift had passed by him. Although he barely missed losing his head, from that point on the nurse's life went from bad to worse until he was almost completely ruined.

Amelia didn't have any legs and had to be lifted on and off the toilet. One day a nurse left her on the pot and did not respond to Amelia's cries. The nurse stuck her head into the room and told her to wait she'd get to her later. This made Amelia very angry. Shortly after that the nurse walked onto a railroad track and sat down in front of an oncoming train. The conductor could not stop the train in time. He said he would never forget the expression on that girl's face as she calmly looked up at him as the train approached.

Some of the ladies in the home, including Amelia were discussing what they should have for dessert at an upcoming dinner. Amelia wanted sweet potato pie. Lottie, one of the other women in the group had the audacity to override Amelia's vote and wanted rice pudding instead. The others agreed with Lottie. Amelia could not have sweet potato pie. Shortly after that Lottie became very ill and died suddenly.

They had another meeting to discuss the dinner. At the meeting Amelia suggested that they put something nice on Lottie's grave and told them sweet potato pie was a better choice for dessert.

In the meantime, another patient was admitted to the nursing home. His name was Jake, and he was, by my friend's description, the wickedest, nastiest little old man she had ever encountered. He admitted that he was a Satan worshipper. I sat in awe as I listened to my friend describe his eyes; how they flashed with tiny multi-colored lights, almost eyes within eyes, as if something else was peering out to see through the

old man's gaze.

Jake was constantly causing trouble and was increasingly hard to manage. During this time a gospel singing group came to the nursing home to minister to the patients. To my friend's dismay, Jake heard about it and decided to attend one of the services.

One of the singers would make and distribute little ceramic figurines to the patients. My friend was afraid that if the singer gave one to Jake he might throw it at her. My friend warned her about him, and was confidently told that everything would be all right, and to my friend's amazement, it was.

The singer came over to Jake, gave him a big hug and handed him his present, a glimmering little statue of an old fashioned couple. Instead of throwing it at her, Jake took it gingerly in his hands. Staring at it he said earnestly, "That is the most beautiful thing I have ever seen."

He took it to his room and placed it next to his bed. He would stare at it for hours. Then the gospel group stopped coming. When one of the nurses called to see if they would come and sing at a special event, she was told that the lead singer was sick, they'd lost their transportation and were struggling with poverty.

Jake continued staring at the figurine the singer had given him, until one of the nurses found it shattered on the floor. Jake didn't seem to mind that his precious possession was destroyed. The gospel singing group never returned to the nursing home.

Jake eventually began to decline in health, becoming more and feeble. One day he entered the temperamental Amelia's room and urinated on her prized stuffed animal collection. The staff thought Amelia would explode with rage, but to everyone's surprise she accepted it calmly.

Shortly afterward Jake died, Amelia started to get stronger.

She began casting spells and operating in increased occult power.

As my friend described this, I could almost see the transaction; the demon spirit so alive in Jake, knowing the old man, its “host” was about to die, entered Amelia’s room and symbolically claimed a new territory. The lesser spirit in the old woman submitted and received her new guest resulting in a resurgence of demonic power.

Many of the workers there became ill, including my friend who was greatly relieved when she found a job in another nursing home.

The demons that were in Jake and Amelia could not be cast out because their hosts obviously wanted them. But the results of their curses could have been broken and the people delivered from sickness and death if someone had been around who knew how to break them.

There are many people like Jake and Amelia out there somewhere, people who have opened themselves up to demonic possession. Someday one of them may decide to become a member of your church.

The following chapters outline things that we have learned that will help you deal with the Jakes and Amelias that may cross your path someday. The things that we have learned work, and it is important that we don’t neglect them. As one pastor said to me, “Sometimes what we don’t know can hurt us.” In other words, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6 KJV).

Some Christians think that just because they are Christians they are immune from demonic attacks.

A pastor and his wife began a church plant in an area of Massachusetts that is saturated with witchcraft and homosexuality. They were having a measure of success in reaching some of the homosexuals for Jesus - until the wife became a lesbian and the pastor committed suicide. “My

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

Jesus said...

“Cast out devils” Matthew 10:8

*Then He called His twelve disciples together, and gave them power
and authority over all devils...Luke 9:1*

You shall tread upon the lion and adder:

The young lion and the dragon you shall trample under feet. –

Psalm 91:13

*We are more than conquerors – Romans 8:37 because
greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. –I John 4:4*

We win because Jesus won.

3

Authority, Attitude, Obedience and Discipline

Authority

This is vitally important- nothing can be accomplished unless the believer has a firm and complete understanding of the authority and power he possesses in the name of Jesus. Luke 10:17 - *“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the devils are subject to us through Your name,’”*

And He said to them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give to you power to tread on serpents and scorpions (demons) and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Verse 20)...the spirits are subject to you.

In Win Worley’s book “Battling Witchcraft” he relates an incident when his group was casting out a demon from someone. On the way out the demon sneered through the lips of his victim, “You fools! You have no idea of the power you have!”

We have been given tremendous power, but most Christians don’t know it and some who do are afraid to use it. So a demon can sneer and mock a church that has been negligent of her gifting.

A pastor’s wife we met told us about an incident concerning her grown son who had turned his back on the Lord and was

practicing witchcraft. One day he told her, "Christianity is for wimps!" He then proceeded to levitate a coffee table. As it rose above the floor he described the demon that was lifting it. She just stood there. If she had said right then, "In the name of Jesus, demon I command you to leave now!" The demon would have had to flee, the table would have come crashing to the ground, and her son would have had an excellent illustration of who had the real power.

One of the pastors I know told me of a time when he was casting a demon out of someone. One of the onlookers was allowed to see what was going on in the spirit. She told him she could see the demons in the room surrounding him and she reported, "They are afraid of you."

Demons are afraid of those who know their authority in Jesus - but be sure you know Jesus through His Cross before taking on a demon. Acts 19:13-16 tells us what happened to those who didn't. - *And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so they fled out of that house naked and wounded.*

Attitude

When the giant Goliath challenged the Israelites, David approached his enemy with an attitude of righteous indignation, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the Living God?" (I Samuel 17:26). I believe that this is the attitude we must possess if we are to be successful in overcoming the opposition. The devil will try many different tactics, fear, intimidation, etc. We must demonstrate a holy boldness when confronting the enemy. This is not arrogance. When we minister in pride and arrogance we can open ourselves to demonic attack. Stay humble and God and His power dwells with you (Isaiah 57:15). The arrogant function in the devil's territory and they are trapped.

are trapped. Humility in leadership can protect from church splits that are instigated by witchcraft.

Obedience

Don't try casting out a demon if you are harboring any unrepented sin in your life. Maintain obedience and walk in repentance. Pursue holiness. In other words, remove the handles in your life that the devil can use against you. Always pray for protection and never take anything for granted in this war.

Stay separate from the pollutions of this world, because Satan will use whatever he can to derail you. It is important to protect your ports of entry; eye gates and ear gates.

A friend of mine in California was watching a made for television movie when she felt something slam on her chest. Several days later she received a call from someone who operates in the prophetic saying that there was a movie that was promoting a spirit of murder and not to watch it. That was the movie she was watching when she felt that thing hit her chest.

Shortly after that she and her husband were watching a National Geographic special. It was about to show a Voodoo ceremony. She heard the Still Small Voice whisper, "Turn it off." She didn't respond. Then the Spirit went to her husband and told him the same thing. He didn't obey either and they both felt something land on their chests.

I had another friend, who was a speaker who operated in the prophetic. She told me that she was invited to a movie by the people she was staying with before a service she was to speak at the next morning. She agreed to go with them. But when the film began to become violent, the Lord let her see demons come out from the screen and begin to "mess with the people." She left immediately and waited in the lobby until

the movie was over.

I believe that the devil is using much in our media today to spread spirits of lust and violence and that is one of the reasons there is so much unrestrained immorality. I also believe that spirits of complacency are transferred onto susceptible Christians through the media resulting an increasingly "dumbed down church."

God will allow witchcraft to operate against His people when they are in sin. *Ezekiel 21:21 - For the King of Babylon stood at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination: he made his arrows bright, he consulted with images, he looked in the liver.*

God permitted the King of Babylon to use enchantments to guide him in his attack on the Israelites. When we walk in disobedience to God, the walls of our protection come tumbling down. And sometimes it takes years to rebuild what we have allowed the enemy to destroy.

Walk worthy of your calling.

Sometimes obedience is required to break assignments and promote healing.

My husband and I ministered in a church in New Hampshire that I now suspect had been infiltrated by witches.

Before we had arrived at the church I was communicating by phone with the worship leader. She was being very pushy about coming to see us the day of our arrival on Saturday, just to go over the bulletin with us. I knew we would need to rest that day and I wanted her to wait until Sunday morning to go over the order of the service which would only take a minute or less. She refused to take no for answer and insisted she'd be there on Saturday. I sensed something was wrong and so I asked the Lord to keep her from showing up on Saturday. It turned out she was out of the state on Friday, her flight was canceled and she couldn't even make the service! I was suspecting that she might have been a witch and wanted to

“read us.” Some higher witches have this ability and can discern our level of spiritual insight and can tell if we are going to be a problem for them.

An acquaintance of ours who was a Christian and postman, told us that he delivered mail to a witches’ house. One day he overheard her trainee say to her teacher after she had observed him, “Is that the enemy?”

On the day of the service the entire Masonic lodge decided to attend. If you don’t know much about them, please refer to chapter ten. One of their leaders was almost growling at us through the entire service.

We were glad when it was time to leave. When we arrived back at our camper lot, my husband hooked up our electricity and was coming around the camper in the narrow walk between the trailer and the edge of the raised driveway. He suddenly slipped and pitched off the two foot drop and landed full force on his side upon a rock, his head barely missing another rock. I was inside the trailer and didn’t know what had happened.

As He was lying there stunned, he heard the Lord tell him to get up. He obeyed. Strangely, he wasn’t feeling any pain. Then the Lord told him to take a deep breath and go walk several times up and down the road in front of our camper. He obeyed. Then he came in the camper. It was only then he felt a slight discomfort.

That evening the imprint of a hand manifested in the condensation on the window.

Miraculously he didn’t even develop any bruising which should have been massive. We went to the doctor just to make sure everything was okay. She was amazed he hadn’t suffered any damage after a fall like that directly on a rock from that elevation.

My husband said that he felt like something had shoved him off the edge of the driveway, but he also felt a cushioning

as he landed. We know that he had been attacked, possibly from the elements that were in that church and that the Lord had countered that attack. We believe that the obedience of doing exactly what the Lord told him to do; by getting up, breathing and walking as he was instructed, were instrumental in healing him from any damage.

Discipline

The following segments deal with specific techniques for dealing with demonic attacks. These things are not meant to be done once, and then be forgotten. They must be practiced on a daily basis and this takes discipline.

God wants a disciplined people and we must be disciplined in our prayer lives if we are going to be effective soldiers. The enemy's attacks are constant. Imagine soldiers in a fox hole shooting at the enemy, and then while the bullets are still flying above their heads, they put down their rifles and start playing a game of cards. This is the equivalent of what we do when we become lukewarm in our prayer lives.

Prayer is the mortar that must be applied consistently to reinforce our spiritual forts against the enemy.

Pray without ceasing - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

In other words:
stay connected!

4

Prayer, Praise and the Armor of God's Word

Prayer

Prayer is the first weapon against witchcraft. An ex-witch who converted to Christianity said that when the Christians prayed her coven couldn't do anything. Pray in groups when you can. Unity is powerful.

An acquaintance of mine told me of a vision the Lord had shown her concerning prayer. She illustrates it very effectively using candles. One candle (or person who is praying) puts forth a certain amount of light, or power in prayer. When joined by another candle, the flames merge and glow even brighter. With the addition of more candles the flames become a miniature bonfire and these collective prayers reach into a heavenly realm.

There is tremendous power released when Christians unite together in prayer. Let us not forget to come together and be that bonfire that can change hearts and lives by warming the Throne Room of God with the collective light of our petitions.

We must remember that God has handed the sword to us. The Scriptures teach *us* to cast out demons in Jesus name. (Luke 9:1). We have to know the proper order that God has

ordained. Instead we end up praying this way, "Dear Jesus please cast the demon out of this man," - instead of following the Biblical mandate which is "In the name of Jesus I commanded you demon out of this man."

There is a reason we are instructed to pray this way.

One day I was feeling a little battle weary and I asked the Lord, "Why do we have to deal with these demons?" and I received this answer.

"You (mankind) are responsible for letting them in (in Eden) you must share the responsibility of dealing with them." Then I understood why Jesus gave us the authority to cast demons out in His name. We are required to take up the sword and assume our responsibility for the war. This is why He has ordained *us* to cast out demons in His name. We are accepting our responsibility for this battle.

It is also very important to pray for protection. Always bind spirits of retaliation and destruction that will try and come against you and command them not to operate in Jesus' name.

Never challenge the spirits or witches - clean up after them. This will spare you from unnecessary warfare. You can command the demons not to operate through any witch that tries to come against you or your church. This completely strips the witch of her power, because she can only operate when the demons are helping. When they know that you are going to send them into the bottomless pit ahead of time, they retreat. This is a sample of the prayer I use to remove demons who are operating through people or independently. -

"In the name of Jesus, I command you to stop afflicting us (you can name specifics, church, family members, etc.) through any witch, or anyone, and I send you into the bottomless pit now and you can't come out even in the tribulation."

You can pray this way to protect yourself in advance from demonic attack by phrasing the prayer this way. –

“Any demon that attempts to operate through any means to harm us in any way, I send you into the bottomless pit now and you can’t come out even in the tribulation.”

When you pray like this, you are telling the demon that his career is over. One deliverance minister said that demons are very legalistic. You have to tell them to go *into* the pit. If you just say, “go to the pit,” they’ll go there, but just stand on the edge.

By praying this way, any demon who wants to afflict you knows in advance what his fate will be. At the same time, bind Satan from operating against you in case he decides to sacrifice one of his soldiers in order to retaliate.

Our warfare has greatly decreased since I began praying this way. This was after the incident in Virginia.

We had been staying at a Christian retreat in that state. The retreat had at one time been a plantation, the site of much suffering and demonic activity. One night I woke up and saw a demon come through the window. It had a featureless face and its body was a grey stream. I was foggy with sleep and didn’t rebuke it with my usual zeal. I believe just peeping the name of Jesus will send a demon packing, but this time it didn’t leave. I believe in this instance, the Lord permitted its attack for our training. We were about to learn how to pray on another level.

The demon immediately attacked my husband. In a few moments he was out of bed and on his knees crying out to God because it felt like he was losing his mind. This mental attack was extremely severe, and even though we were both praying and rebuking it fervently, the thing would not budge. Then the Lord Jesus told me to mentally picture myself sitting beside Him at the right hand of the Father and to pray from that position of authority. I obeyed and began to pray from

that spiritual positioning of victory. It was only then that I could see the demon begin to loosen its hold and retreat.

It left, but my husband still experienced some residue from that attack, which I believe may have been some actual damage to his brain that the Lord eventually healed.

Again, I believe that this attack was permitted for training purposes. We are in the Lord's army, and no soldier ever has an easy time in boot camp.

The lesson we learned from this only reinforced our faith in the authority we have in Jesus when we are walking with Him. We share His seat with the father. That is because we are united through the Holy Spirit.

In John 6:38, Jesus said He came down from heaven, yet indicated in John 3:13 that He was also "in heaven" at the same time, verifying the fact that His Spirit is God's Spirit and is omnipresent and can be in more than one place at the same time.

While our bodies and souls are still here on earth, our spirits are made one with the Father and the Son through faith in Jesus' atonement and resurrection from the dead. Thus we are with them in heaven spiritually while we are on earth.

This union and positioning with the Father and Son through the Holy Spirit gives us tremendous power and authority over the enemy.

I was studying the Psalms searching some of the ways that David dealt with his enemies. As I was reading I heard the Still Small Voice of the Lord whisper, "Pray that the veils that have been placed on the minds of the people by enchantments be removed." People cannot receive the Gospel when their minds have been veiled by witchcraft. *II Cor. 4:4 - the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not.* We are beginning a work of prayer that the Lord will finish at His coming when He removes the veil that has been placed on the nations (Isaiah 25:7).

Praise the Lord

God has perfected praise to still, stop and shut down the enemy (Psalm 8:2, Matthew 21:16). An acquaintance of ours had a vision of marching angels. The demons before them were very active, but when the angels sang and praised the Lord, the demons were immobilized.

When Jehoshaphat was faced with an impending attack he sent his army out to confront the enemy with the praising singers going before them. They did not have to fight in that battle for God turned their enemies upon each other (II Chronicles 20:22).

The Lord told me that when we are surrounded by territorial strongholds, as we praise we are surrounded by a cloud of His power.

I believe worship was instrumental in receiving a healing. I had chronic neuralgia. Neuralgia is an extremely painful condition which is caused by a cold in the nerves. Every time it rained if I didn't stay on my heating pad, I would become immobilized with pain. One day I heard a testimony from a woman who had sciatica, a similar, painful nerve condition. She said nothing worked to relieve it. The Lord told her to make her suffering an offering to Him. She did and the pain left.

After I heard that I thought, "If this condition is caused by a demon, and you make what he is doing to you a form of worship by offering it to the Lord, a demon can't praise God so it has to leave."

I made my neuralgia an offering to the Lord and I was healed immediately of a chronic condition I'd had for seven years.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! - Psalm 107:8

Arm Yourself with God's Word

The devil knows your weaknesses and where you are vulnerable spiritually. This is why it is so important to build yourself up in God's word. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13).

A pastor I know was sharing with me about his early days in Bible school. His class would go and minister at the local prison. Most of the time the prisoners there were a bit rambunctious in their response to the Gospel. Bibles would be cast into the toilets, and there was quite a bit of irreverent mocking.

Then one day when his team arrived, the normally arrogant and rebellious group were sitting together very much subdued. There was another prisoner, newly arrived, sitting off by himself, smoking a cigarette and rocking back and forth.

My friend was informed that that particular prisoner had a demon. The reality of what was being preached to them in the past, had suddenly emerged into a real life illustration. My pastor friend wanted to go minister to him, but the other prisoners told him not to. He didn't listen and went over to the man. Before he had a chance to say anything, the prisoner looked over at him and said, "Have you come to give me the gospel, John?" Startled that this man had known his name, the demon spirit began to address every insecurity he had, every doubt he had entertained about his faith, his fears, and all his inadequacies.

It is important for us to understand that the devil knows our weaknesses and will try and use these things to take us down. We need to be astute in this area, recognize where we are vulnerable and give those things to the Lord for Him to remove. God is committed to our inner transformation. This focus has been downplayed in many of our modern churches,

leaving God's people more vulnerable to demonic manipulation. God wants to remove the inner handles the devil can use to derail us.

In view of this principle, the council to "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" in Ephesians chapter six, takes on a new meaning. Each one of those protections is designed to keep the devil's hands off our inner being, so that we may be able to "stand" and not permit the devil to knock us down.

Truth is your belt, and that Truth is Jesus, who wraps around you with the fact that He is the only Way, Truth and the Life, and the only way to the Father (John 14:6). Your weapon, the sword of the spirit, is the word of God, and hangs upon this belt. It is your training manual and defense. God's word renews, cleanses and heals. Continually reinforce yourself with God's word. If you discern that the devil is using fear to derail you, arm yourself with Scriptures that deal with fear. If your problem is lust, cleanse yourself with scriptures that encourage you in your battle against it. As you read and pray, you are putting on the breastplate of righteousness.

We already have Jesus' righteousness for our salvation, it is a gift, but we need righteousness in our daily lives to protect us from the devil's attempts to use our sins against us. The breastplate of righteousness guards our hearts and emotions. Walking in holiness is a refreshment for the soul. It's like drinking pure water and breathing clean air. We experience a refreshing freedom when we are released from the bondage of our inner enemies. This is what the abundant life Jesus came to give us is all about; freedom from the fear of death and freedom from our sin natures. This is the fruit of abiding with Jesus, for without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). We sit at His feet and pray and seek for the fruits of His spirit to develop in us. When we do this, we are reinforcing our

defenses against the evil one.

Your feet are covered with the Gospel of peace. Sharing the Gospel is your motivation and your purpose as a disciple of Jesus. It keeps you moving in the right direction. Remember moving targets are harder for the enemy to hit. Stagnation in this area makes you an easier target. Having this purpose fulfills us, and can actually guard us from depression. When we are focused upon sharing the Gospel, we are focusing on the welfare of others. The devil can insert depression into our lives when we are too focused on ourselves. Focusing on another's needs can help to remove the handle of depression. Keep active in your marching orders the Lord has given you, Soldier.

Because you are using the sword of God's word with one hand, you hold the shield of faith with the other, for the Holy Spirit uses the word to continually reinforce your faith. Thus those fiery darts of doubt that the devil will try to hurl against you, will bounce off your shield with no effect.

You have placed the helmet of salvation upon your mind. You know the word is true, you have wrapped the truth around you and you know you are saved. The proverb says, "Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (proverbs 4:23). The more accurate translation from the original Hebrew, actually uses the word 'mind,' in place of 'heart'. The head is where all the armor is maintained through the knowledge of your salvation. Your mind is guarded through the weapon of prayer. Therefore we are reminded again to be "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." We pray for ourselves and for others - "watching with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

I believe that when Job obeyed God's direction to pray for his friends, (Job 42:10) this obedience was instrumental in releasing him from the devil's afflictions. Prayer changes us

and our situations. And when we are continually communicating with our Commanding Officer, the voice of the enemy in our lives is silenced.

I have pursued
my enemies, and overtaken them:
neither did I turn again till they were
consumed.

For You have girded me with strength
unto the battle: You have subdued
under me those
that rose up against me
Psalm: 18:37, 39

5

Bind Demonic Influences

In the previous chapter we have learned that prayer, praise and unity are being important. I was talking about this to one of the pastors I met and he told me that those were the three areas in his church that were attacked the most. If the church is functioning well in these things, then the stronghold in an area cannot function. That is why prayer, praise and unity are so often attacked from within the church, usually through other believers. Why? Because demons are influencing members of the church to disrupt the flow that God is trying to create.

We forget that we are not wrestling with flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). When we direct our attack against the demonic influences that are operating in the people, we can do much to restore the proper spiritual balance in the church.

In Revelation 20:2, God sends an angel to bind Satan so the millennium can begin. Three times in this chapter deception is mentioned (verses 3, 8, 10). This chapter is an example. When the spirit of deception is bound, people turn to the Lord. Jesus also taught about binding the strongman (Matthew 12:29). If we begin to bind spirits of deception operating in the people, spirits of jealousy, slander or whatever seems to be the carnal spirit the devil is using, and command it not to operate in Jesus' name, we are removing much of the problem. We still

have to contend with basic rotten human nature, but when we eliminate the added demonic influence it is like stopping gasoline from being poured on a smaller fire that can be then put out much more easily.

A pastor I counseled who was having problems in his church tried this technique and told me afterwards that things were much better. It makes sense to pray against the unseen forces that try to disrupt and destroy God's work. Also I believe that when we are casting a demon out of someone it is important to bind the strongman first as Jesus instructed, before the demon is cast out. *"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). This will do much to stop the demon from retaliating. And they can retaliate. One pastor I know told me that after he and his group cast a demon out of someone, everyone that was involved in the deliverance became ill. The pastor prayed with them and the illnesses disappeared.

6

Break Curses

All witchcraft is based on making curses. We have been given the power in Jesus' name to break them.

I had a conversation with a pastor in Vermont who was telling me about all the bad things that were happening in his church which had a history of these events even before he took the pulpit there. When problems are chronic I get suspicious so I started asking questions and during the course of my query he told me that there was a warlock living a few miles behind the church.

"Your church has probably been cursed," I told him and I instructed him how to break them in the name of Jesus.

When my husband and I moved back to New England after a long absence, no one knew who we were, except the local coven. They knew we were praying. We went for a walk one day, and by our driveway someone had deposited a life-sized plastic skull with bloody hollow eye sockets. Across the street were two stones piled on top of each other (chapter eleven). Shortly afterward my husband began to get sick. A deliverance minister discerned that there was a spirit of death on him and cast it out. My husband's color came back within the hour and he was fine.

During this time I talked to a lady pastor who had come down with a rare toxic metal allergy. She went to a healing

service. The speaker there said he could pray and all would be healed except his wife who was terminal. He didn't understand. Then someone told him about breaking curses. He broke a curse on his wife and she was healed instantly. So when they gave the altar call, the lady pastor went forward. They broke a curse on her and she was healed instantly. She told me curses have to be broken on a daily basis, especially for those in ministry because new curses are made all the time.

Not all illnesses are the result of curses, but we always break curses first whenever we are praying for someone who has an infirmity because the healing cannot come until the curse is broken. Many times when there is a curse involved the doctors will find no medical cause for the affliction.

A woman came up to me for prayer complaining of pains in her chest. None of the doctors she went to were able to find out what was causing the pain. I broke a curse on her and she was amazed when the pain left instantly.

My husband and I went to Southern New Jersey to minister one winter, thinking we would be escaping the witchcraft in New England for a while. We found out later that South Jersey has the highest population of witches for its size and population than any other state in the country.

He woke up one morning and was horrified to see that blood was coming out of the lifeline on his hand. I told him calmly, "Oh, it's probably just another death curse, dear." That was logical, blood on a life line. I broke the curse and wiped the blood away. There was no cut or wound that would cause it, and no medical explanation.

The next morning there was just another smaller amount of blood trying to return on the lower portion of the life line on his hand. I broke the assignment again, and it never returned.

At that time, my husband was still a bit passive about doing this kind of warfare, being the meek and gentle man that he is. But after his encounter with the bloodline curse,

you would think that he'd learned something.

I think it was our second venture into New Jersey when he saw a gold tick like spider float through the window of our camper and disappear into his bed. He didn't rebuke it. We both got the flu and could have died. He has since learned to be more vigilant and aggressive in his spiritual warfare and as head of the house, it is required that he take up this sword to defend his home and family.

Have you ever wondered why when someone comes to the Lord for the first time all hell suddenly breaks out in the new believer's life? That is a spirit or curse of destruction.

The missionary Amy Carmichael told of the trouble they had with the children they rescued that had been dedicated for service in the pagan temples in India. She said they could not keep them alive. They didn't have this problem with the other children in her orphanage. Those children had been dedicated to Satan and now they were no longer his, and what he can no longer use he tries to destroy. If Amy had known how to break curses on those children, specifically the curse of destruction, they would have been delivered.

I read an article about a missionary in Africa years ago in a National Geographic magazine. There was to be a special ceremony in the tribe she was ministering in. The chief did not want his daughter to be made the "star" of the event because he told the missionary it would invoke spirits of jealousy against her. The missionary assured him that there was nothing to that and he and his daughter had nothing to fear.

The night of the celebration at the height of the ceremony, his daughter's gown caught fire and she burned to death. The missionary's credibility and her witness for Jesus were hindered there. If she had taken the chief's concerns seriously and they had prayed together to break any curses and assignments and bound the spirit of jealousy that would try and operate, the outcome might have been a lot different.

Unfortunately, this type of training in spiritual warfare is almost non-existent in most seminaries. Most missionaries have to learn how to deal with these things on the job. I spoke to a young pastor who told me that a demon possessed man erupted in his congregation during a sermon and the pastor did not know how to deal with it.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”

People have asked me how to pray to break curses. The following is a sample prayer.

“In the name of Jesus, every curse and verbal assignment that has been placed on our health, finances, ministry, (etc.) is broken by the power and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as He brings to your mind specific needs to address. There are curses of marital infidelity, teenage rebellion, accidents and suicide. Witches curse marriages, especially those of Christian leaders.

“The curse causeless shall not come.” -Proverbs 26:2

Christians often hide behind this verse, thinking that if they are not in some obvious sin they are safe from this kind of demonic attack. I have never met a perfect Christian, have you? Break curses daily.

7

Send Angels

In Psalm 35, verses 5 and 6, David asks the Lord to send angels to chase and persecute his enemies. I learned from a deliverance church that this was the most effective tactic they used to get a demon out of someone. They ask the Lord to send His angels to destroy the souls (beings) of the devils that are afflicting the person. My husband and I do this on a daily basis for our protection. Jesus said when He was being arrested, *“Don’t you think that I could ask My Father and He will send legions of angels to defend Me?”* (Matthew 26:53). Elisha showed his fearful servant the power we have on our side (II Kings 6:16, 17). Believe it is there and have faith when you pray that God will send the help you need when you ask Him. We pray daily that God will send His angels to destroy the devils that are afflicting His missionaries and servants all over the world.

One time the Lord led me to pray for Him to send angels to destroy the demons that were using a serial killer the police were looking for. Three days later he turned himself in.

It is important to understand that we have not been given authority to command angels directly, which is reserved for the Lord, as He is the commander of the heavenly hosts. Those who operate in the occult command “angels” to do their bidding, but are in actuality commanding demons in disguise. We do not duplicate occult practices or follow their patterns.

Therefore in this case, the Biblical pattern is that we are required to ask the Lord to send His angels on our behalf.

I have a friend who was shown in a dream the enormous army of angelic help we have available. In the dream she saw the church as the bride of Christ, just watching this army, but she wasn't doing anything to instigate their help. Let's realize that we have this power on our side and ask the Lord to send His angels to help us in this war.

Sample prayer:

Dear Lord, I ask you in Jesus' name to send angels to destroy the demons that are afflicting my church and to destroy the demons that are using the witches that are cursing Your people in my town. I bind every spirit of retaliation and destruction and commanded them not to operate against me or my congregation. I plead the precious blood of Jesus over myself, my family and my church for our protection, safety and unity.

8

Wrestle

Demons come out in the name of Jesus, but as we are shown in Ephesians 6:12, principalities and powers must be wrestled. In certain places the devil has been given permission to operate by someone. While he has been granted certain turfs, he does not have the right to the souls of the people God has ordained for salvation. That's all God is interested in anyway. We have every right to bind spirits when they can't be cast out so they cannot hinder those souls coming to Jesus (Matthew 16:19). When the church is functioning in unity and love, I believe like some others, that territorial strongholds come down automatically.

It is important not to enter into areas that the Lord has not directed you to. I once heard about a homosexual ring in another town. There was a murder involved and I became indignant and started praying against them. My husband had a dream that a large, black cloud was coming over our property and he didn't tell me. One day while we were working in our yard, I suddenly became overwhelmed with a deep, uncharacteristic depression. I immediately wanted to die. My husband was holding a hammer in his hand and I went over to him and asked him to kill me with it. I was serious, but fortunately he didn't take me seriously. (Remember the nurse in chapter two? I believe she was

attacked with a similar curse of depression.)

I went on a little hill and lay down on the moss, mentally putting myself in El Shaddai's lap and I cried and prayed until the depression left. At that time I did not know how to specifically bind the spirit of depression and cast it off me (Matthew 18:18) or pray from my position of authority in Jesus. In some cases when the attack is this heavy it must be endured for a bit until it leaves, but you must fight through it the whole time.

This incident taught me two things, one, don't try and challenge a territorial stronghold or pick out targets in your flesh, and -two- the prayer from one Christian woman was so threatening they had to try and wipe me out.

I have found one of the best ways to pray when you are dealing with a stronghold in an area, is to pray within the protective confines of the Lord's Prayer. "Thy will be done." I pray that God's perfect will is done in the areas where the devil has strongholds. I believe praying this way protects from demonic retaliation because you are no longer challenging the stronghold directly, but giving it over to God's will, and Father knows best when it comes to dealing with things we cannot see.

I know of several other instances when Christians have gone into territories saturated with demonic activity and attempted to command those strongholds out with devastating results.

We are shown in the book of Daniel that there are princes over certain territories on this earth. (Daniel 10:13). They are allowed to operate because the majority of the people of those areas are not following God. These strongholds have to be removed by the Lord Himself. *And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly...* (Romans 16:20).

Christians who happen to reside in these areas will experience more spiritual warfare. We have an example of this

in the book of Revelation. The church of Pergamos was located in an area where Satan's seat was. This particular location was not inhabited by any ordinary demon, but Satan himself who had apparently decided to make Pergamos his outpost at that time.

It has been recorded that the martyr Antipas, was killed because he was casting demons out of people the majority wanted to keep around. When people prefer the devil above God, strongholds are formed.

Again, while Satan has been given permission to operate in certain areas, he does not have the right to the souls God has ordained for salvation. Instead of challenging and trying to remove the stronghold which is out of our jurisdiction, we can still break curses and ask God to send angels to destroy the demons that are using the witches who are operating against God's people. Unifying with other believers in prayer and praise inhibits demonic activity. This again is one reason why the devil tries to keep Christians from being unified. The spiritually mature can always agree to disagree on minor points of doctrine and refuse to allow the devil to divide us over issues that have nothing to do with the Gospel.

Sometimes when a Jezebel spirit is involved there will be an attack of oppression and depression. After Elijah's tremendous victory over Jezebel's priests, he responded to her threats against him by becoming overwhelmed with depression to the point where he wanted to die. It took supernatural ministering by an angel to get him out of it, and some practical ministering. We are more subject to demonic attack when we are over tired and not eating properly.

Depression associated with a Jezebel attack leaves quickly when it is discerned as a Jezebel and rebuked in the name of Jesus.

This spirit will become more and more prevalent in the churches in the last days. It is the spirit of compromise and her

target is the remnant Christian who holds fast to the word of God and will not compromise God's standards of holiness and the "One Way" doctrine of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Some attacks are "Jobs." As with Job, God will allow measured attacks to refine and train us. These assignments have a specific purpose and they will be removed in their proper season. In the meantime we wrestle, endure, seek the Lord to learn what He is trying to teach us and continue to believe that we will always have the ultimate victory because...

*All things
work together for good
to them that love God,
to them who are the called
according to His purpose. –
Romans 8:28*

9

This Kind Comes Out With Prayer and Fasting

In Mark 9:17-29, Matthew 17:14-21 and Luke 9:37-42, an incident is recorded where the disciples could not cast a demon out of a young boy. Some commentaries I've read say that they could not cast it out because of their lack of faith. This doesn't make sense because up to that point the disciples had been casting demons out of people like popcorn, so faith wasn't the issue here, other than the fact that when the demon didn't respond as usual they didn't have the faith and persistence to keep trying. The account in Mark doesn't mention faith at all. Jesus told His disciples, *this kind comes out with prayer and fasting, ... this kind...* There are different types of spirits and in this case I believe Jesus was dealing with a generational spirit, the kind that travels down family lines. These spirits are called "familiar spirits." The boy's father brought the child to Jesus and the Lord made a point of asking him "When did this start happening?"

"From a child."

Years ago I read an article on "Spirituality" in a secular woman's magazine. One woman contributed this account. She was bitterly disappointed that her father had died before her baby was born and the child was never going to know his grandfather. One day while the baby was playing on the floor,

she saw that the child was suddenly surrounded by little lights (remember those in chapter two?). The toddler was batting them and then the mother watched the lights disappear into her child. Shortly afterward, the child looked up at the picture of the woman's father on the mantel and said, "Grandpa!" The woman joyfully concluded that "Grandpa" had visited her child and now they knew each other.

In reality it was Grandpa's familiar spirit that had lost its host and then entered the child. These spirits skip generations always seeking the youngest so they will have the most time in their new "host."

My nurse friend related what happened when one of the patients was dying. When he took his last breath, a big green ball emerged from his chest and the nurses who were in the room fled in terror. That was a demon who had been inhabiting the man, and the nurses were able to see it leaving the corpse.

Some of these demons enter a lineage when there has been a witch in the family line. When someone becomes a witch, they invite in and operate with a familiar spirit. When the witch dies, the spirit remains in the lineage. I read one study where it was noted that these demons will even enter a pet in order to stay with the family. These are the spirits that Jesus said come out by prayer and fasting.

Because "The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children until the fourth generation," (Exodus 34:7) it is important for someone who is willing to get rid of the demonic strongholds in the family line to be led in a prayer to cleanse the line. The person lists as many sins in the family that they know about and as the Spirit reveals. The Lord is asked to forgive those sins. No demon can come out if the host wants it and getting someone to admit they have a demon when they don't even believe in them is difficult.

I had a close family member like that who had one of these spirits. She could be a sweet, lovely person, but if someone pushed the wrong button, her voice would change and suddenly you would be confronted by another entity. She actually threatened to kill my husband when she was under the control of that spirit. She would say these outrageous things, and then not remember it exclaiming, "I said *that?*"

One day the thing that was in her began talking about its host as I was sitting next to her while she was driving. It was an unnerving experience.

These demons can cause a lot of trouble. I learned not to tell her anything about my personal endeavors, because whenever she knew about anything we were doing, whatever it was would end up in failure. Things only began to get better for us after we began to distance ourselves from her. A deliverance minister counseled us not to send her photographs (remember Jake and the figurine in chapter two?) and to continually pray for our protection.

These spirits can actually contaminate objects. My mother had given me a set of copper bottom cooking pans that had belonged to my grandparents. One night I had a dream that I saw my mother with the large frying pan she had given me balanced on her head. I started putting things together and realized that the connection between the pan and her mind could indicate that the pan somehow was a "point of contact;" a way she could keep track of me somehow.

I started to get rid of the pans. They were expensive and hard to replace. I asked the Lord to show me if getting rid of them was the right thing to do. The next time I telephoned my mother, who was living very far away in another state, the first thing she said was, "Do you still have that copper frying pan I gave you?" It had been removed from my home and the spirit in her sensed that connection was gone. The rest of the cookware was eliminated without any other reservations.

Remember to pray over, or get rid of any objects, you suspect might have been given to you from someone that could have a spirit. Also rebuke any spirits off anything purchased from a second hand store. This is why one should never keep artifacts from primitive tribes. One of the pastors I knew from Alaska told me that he had a statue from a tribe. When he tried to get rid of it by throwing it into a fire, it kept jumping out.

We are very grateful to the Lord that He has taught us how to protect ourselves...*Pray without ceasing...* (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

I have come to suspect that some homosexuals are entrapped by these familiar spirits. The demons enter their victims at infancy, so the child grows up seemingly homosexual from birth. Not all homosexual spirits are generational, but the generational spirits are the hardest to overcome.

I spoke with a deliverance minister in New Mexico who told me that without exception every homosexual he interviewed had witchcraft somewhere in their lineage. Wherever there is a lot of witchcraft like in Massachusetts and England, there is always an abundance of homosexuality.

Homosexuals can be delivered from these spirits, but they must genuinely want to get rid of them. They must be led through a prayer for Jesus to forgive the sins of their ancestors, which is part of the process. Sadly, most churches who teach against homosexuality do not believe in the deliverance ministries or have the knowledge to deal with the demonic elements involved.

I believe that the church will someday give an accounting to the Lord for her disobedience in this area and for the multitudes that she could have set free if she had been seeking the Lord for the entire counsel of His word.

We have to realize that many incidents in the Scriptures are

there to help us understand different types of demonic warfare. Many people have questioned why in the Old Testament God allowed His people to annihilate entire cities including women and children, and for some it is a real stumbling block that keeps them from receiving our God of love and mercy. God knows that demons can travel down family lines and the tribes that were eliminated were steeped in demon worship and were horrendous, demon controlled people. When archeologists unearthed these civilizations, the question wasn't, why did God eliminate them, but why did He wait so long? If the children from these tribes had been spared, then the demons would have continued on in the children and those infected lineages would have eventually polluted God's people. Deliverance from these demons wasn't possible until the coming of our Messiah Jesus, and it was vitally important that the Messianic Hebrew lineage be a pure and undefiled womb through which to birth our Deliverer. This is why Noah was spared to be the seed to continue the Messianic line as Noah was a righteous man, "perfect in his generations" (Genesis 6:9).

Most of the demons actually originated after the flood. They are thought to be the souls of the Nephilim, (a loose translation of the word giant) and they were giants (Genesis 6:4). The Nephilim were the offspring of the fallen angels, or "Sons of God" (Job 1:6). Although some Nephilim may have died prior to the flood, any who were alive at the time of the great deluge were eliminated. When the Nephilim died, their polluted souls remained as the disembodied evil spirits we refer to today as demons.

We are told in Genesis, that the Sons of God, began to take wives from the children of men. - *And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose*

(Genesis 6:1,2).

As I mentioned previously, the lineage that was birthed directly by God from Adam to Noah, was the blood line through which God would birth the Messiah Jesus and it had to be kept holy. The fallen sons of God wanted to corrupt that line to prevent the Messiah from being born. The devil had been told that there would be someone that would "bruise his head." (Genesis 3:15), and he was committed to preventing that from happening.

Jesus tells us that angels do not marry (Matthew 22:30). Some have argued that refers to only angels in heaven, but because angels are created directly from God, they have not been designed to reproduce. They are not human and are not capable of inseminating a woman, - unless these particular angels somehow reproduced within themselves a copy of human reproductive organs through their supernatural powers, - or produced an embryo in the womb, much like scientists can do today in laboratories.

The angels could have also taken wives for themselves, from men who had already made their women pregnant. In either case, the angel would have the ability to join himself to the woman by demonic possession, transferring its spirit into the woman, and that spirit would then be transferred into the embryo, thus producing a demon possessed evil child. Through their supernatural abilities, the angels would have the power to manipulate DNA, thus producing oversized human beings.

The demons that were released after the flood through the deaths of their bodies, were the result of a corrupt spirit, or life force, that had become so one with the soul of its host, that it cannot be separated from the soul, as with a normal human whose spirit returns to God after death (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

Because the fallen angels were in such intimate contact with humans at that time, and their spirits were so powerful,

the souls they produced were anomalies particular to that season.

Some believe that even today the fallen angels are again trying to produce Nephilim that will be released on the earth during the great tribulation. Jesus said that before He returns it would be “as the days of Noah” (Matthew 24:37). The Lord is preparing us for the evil that is to overcome the earth. Knowing how to deal with demonic forces is vital.

After Jesus was crucified, the Apostle Peter tells us that Jesus went to hell to preach the Gospel and deliver those who had died before Him, (I Peter 3:18-20, 4:6). Even people who had died in the flood were given a chance to receive Him. And now because of Jesus, in His name deliverance is possible – if God’s people are willing to take up the sword and fight for the souls He died to save.

Blessed be
the LORD my strength,
who teaches my hands to war,
and my fingers to fight:
Psalm 144:1

10

Plead the Blood and Quench not the Spirit

When Jesus shed His blood for us on the Cross, he released the Divine Antidote for our healing and protection. When the Israelites obeyed God and put the blood on the door posts of their houses, the angel of death could not touch them. The devil cannot cross that blood line and it is important to plead the blood of Jesus over your mind which is the first target in a demonic attack. Demonic attacks of oppression, depression, accidents and infirmity can be thwarted by keeping yourself in the blood of the Lamb of God.

In these last days we will also be experiencing a higher degree of spiritual warfare as we progress to the end and the return of our Lord. High tech witches can use mind control and other tactics upon the mind to influence human behavior.

I was attending a church service in the town we lived in that had a high population of witches. There was a singing group ministering at the time and we were all standing up and worshipping. Then suddenly I felt something descend on

my mind. I looked over at the other people and my faith had been totally eradicated. I thought, "These people are worshipping nothing." Then one of the singers left the stage and came directly over to me. She said, "The Lord told me to pray with you."

I told her I was being attacked. She prayed with me and the spirit left and the veil was removed. This happened in the early days of my spiritual warfare education before I had learned to rebuke these things myself and keep my mind covered with the Lord's protection through prayer.

Witches can target government leaders in this way, and there is a high degree of this type of influence operating in the government of the United States.

A pastor I know had a relative who worked in the Department of Transportation in Washington D.C.. He told me that when he was visiting there he was in one of the buildings that are not open to the public. He saw that in the floor there was a logo for the department which also contained the number 666 (Rev. 13:18). Who put this satanic symbol there? Every president of the United States has been a Mason or associated with them except three; Lincoln, Kennedy and Reagan. McKinley, was a Mason at one point and lost their favor. These four presidents all have something in common - they were all targets for assassination.

Most people who belong to the Masonic lodge and are on the lower levels, are not aware of the fact that the leadership in the highest levels are satanists and communism is their political ideology. One of the pastor's wives I met told me that her father is a thirty-second degree Mason. She and her husband have received multiple death threats from him. One time he told her, "Your names are on a list, and when Lucifer's new dawn arrives you are going to be rounded up and eliminated." I personally know two other people who have received death threats from Masons. It is not a wholesome

organization no matter what kind of innocent façade they try to project. No Christian should be involved with supporting this cult on any level.

Pastors should also understand that if they have a Mason in their congregation, they are there to recruit. A Mason and his wife attempted to recruit my husband and myself after we attended a church in New York. The Masons in your church should be politely told to make a choice, renounce the Masonic Lodge or leave the church until they are ready to make a full commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Masonic Lodge does not support the Christian doctrine that affirms Jesus is the only way to God the Father, and are actively involved in the movement to create a one world government and corresponding one world religion.

As we begin to see the fulfillment of Biblical prophecies in these last days, be sure that the spirit of antichrist who operates so successfully in this seductive secret alliance will no doubt continue to undermine and deceive Christians who are not aware of the power of witchcraft operating in disguise.

Plead the blood of Jesus over your mind.

Quench not the Spirit - I Thessalonians 5:19

A witch contacted one of the pastors in a town in New England. The witch told him that witches would be infiltrating the churches to disrupt them. He was also informed that the witches would not be going into the Pentecostal churches because they could not operate in them.

I don't know why that witch felt inclined to offer that information, unless the Lord overcame her to let that pastor know how to protect himself.

New Orleans was known as the witchcraft capital of the United States, (at least before Katrina). The satanists there would hand out tracts. Some Christian women received one of

them and reported on the satanist's agenda. On their list of things they wanted to accomplish, it was noted that one of their goals was to keep the Holy Spirit out of the churches.

Some Christians seem to have the same agenda. If you are in that camp, I have to ask you just one question – whose side are you on?

Quench not the Spirit for your own protection.

The gifts of the Spirit are vital in combating witchcraft. The gift of discerning spirits is essential and many times when there has been a witch trying to operate in a church, Christians with this gift have been able to detect and prayerfully deal with the enemy.

I participated in a deliverance in California. A woman came up for prayer at a service in a homeless shelter. She told the pastor, "I'm tired of all this bad luck I've been having."

He replied, "It's not luck." When he put his hand on her head to pray for her, she immediately fell to the floor and began to writhe. We all started to pray and rebuke the demon, commanding it to come out of her in Jesus' name. When she finally stopped writhing, the pastor began to lead her in a prayer for salvation. She was halfway through it, when she stopped and a glazed look came over her face. We knew there was another demon that we had to deal with. We started to pray; she began to writhe and then became quiet. The pastor began to pray with her once more and it happened again. The glazed look came back so we prayed and she writhed. The thing inside her was distorting her face and rolling her eyes. I thought we were all going sprayed with green bile.

Then one of the women who had the gift of discernment, said, "This one is a deaf spirit."

It finally came out and the writhing stopped for the last time. The woman sat up, and calmly reached up to her ear and withdrew her hearing aid. She completed the prayer and received the Lord as her Savior.

The girl who could tell us about the deaf spirit told me that the Lord had instructed her the day before to fast. It is also important to be able to hear the Still Small Voice of the Lord, and to allow Him to use supernatural means to guide us in ministry.

Here's another example; my husband's mother would use her imagined physical symptoms as a means to gain sympathy and manipulate members of the family. We didn't know then that there was a demonic element involved. I had never had a vision before and I was startled when I saw a vision of her lying on the couch with a little green demon on her chest. It told me, "You can't cast me out, because she wants me."

This is true; if someone wants to remain in the wrong, you can't get rid of their demons until they want to change.

About a year later she became ill for real. At that time we were living quite a distance away, so my husband called her and felt prompted by the Lord to tell her of the vision I'd seen of the demon on her chest. He asked her if she wanted to get rid of it, and she said yes. He prayed with her and she told him that she felt something come off her chest and go out her from her leg. From that point on she began to grow spiritually.

This brings up the question, can Christians be possessed by demons? My husband's mother was a Christian, and she obviously had a demon that was influencing her behavior that needed to be cast out. One of the pastor's wives I met told me that a Sunday school teacher in the church she attended came up to the altar for prayer one morning and ended up on the floor writhing as the prayer team cast a demon out of her. It was learned later that she would chase her children around the house with a butcher knife.

A Christian can have and be influenced by demons. Many times demons are already in the host when they become Christians and were never cast out. I don't believe that it is

possible for a Christian to be totally possessed by a demon as long as they are abiding in Jesus. Possession is a complete takeover where the host no longer has control over his own will. As long as someone can make the decision to be released from demonic influences, they are not possessed.

It is wisdom to pray over our spirits and rebuke any demons that would try to influence us. It's also important to be aware of our own spiritual conditions. When we allow the Holy Spirit to remove the negative things in our beings like sinful attitudes, fear, lust, greed, unforgiveness, jealousy; anything the scriptures tell us to avoid, we remove the handles that the devil can use to manipulate us. Holiness is not only pleasing to our God, it is also a protection.

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Rock Piles and Ports of Entry

On the road into the town where we lived in New England, we noticed an odd symbol painted on one of the rocks. Above it was a tall pile of rocks and across the street from it were two others, the whole thing forming a triangle. There was another one a little farther down the road. We learned later that the symbol on the rock was a "Watcher." That one used a dot; others will have a painting of an eye. Supposedly there is a demon stationed upon it reporting back to whoever put it there who is going in and out. I don't know too much about these things, but I suspect that some of them are used to establish territorial claims on an area. Whenever we see one on the road we bind the demons in Jesus' name and command them not to operate there anymore.

They may also be used to establish "Ports of Entry" for demonic entities. Jacob saw a ladder in his dream and angels going up and down it (Genesis 28:12). He called the place "The gateway of Heaven" (verse 17). Then what did he do? He made a pile of rocks, an altar (verse 18). "This stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house" (verse 22). He claims a

territory for God. The devil will copy and use the methods that God has ordained for His people.

My husband and I drove between the rock piles one day and went to the next town. We had lunch there and when we came out of the restaurant our tire was flat and there was a large nail sticking out of it that had gone in head first, on the side of the tire. I pulled on it and it was solid like cement. We drove a couple of blocks to the tire store. I went in to get one of the repairmen and brought him out to show him the hole and the nail. The nail was gone, there was no hole anywhere and the tire was flat. That's witchcraft.

Several women in the area, including myself, all started experiencing cancer symptoms. Up to that point we had been driving through that "port of entry" pleading the blood for our protection. We started breaking curses to cancel the assignments as we drove through it. The first day we did that, on the same day one of the women told me she felt like she'd had a healing in her body. Her husband went there and knocked down one of the rock piles. They all came down after that and from that point on they were never replaced. Until then they had always been well maintained by whoever put them there.

I began to notice that after we broke the assignments on some of the other rock piles in the area, immediately afterward we'd see that the rocks were rearranged, or another pile would be placed next to the one we had spiritually demolished. This showed us that the witches could tell the power was broken and they were attempting to reestablish in vain.

Witches will make territorial claims on church property to hinder growth and cause as many problems for the church as they can. One of the pastors I know related this story to me. He had invited a speaker from Africa to minister at his church on prayer and he shared this story. This speaker had started a

prayer group in his village. One of the other pastors had learned about it and asked the group of young men to come and pray in his church. He had been there eight years and still had only the same eight people.

The young men came and as they were praying they heard a loud thump against the building. They opened the door and looked outside. On the ground lying just outside the door lay a naked woman. "Help me." She pleaded.

"We are all young men, we will get the women of the church to help you," she was answered politely.

The women came; the woman was clothed and ministered to, for there were burns on her body. She told them that she was a witch. She and her friends would go out into the hills at night and "eat the souls of the people." (That explained why there were so many unexplained deaths in the area). Then she told them they would come down and defecate on the church property.

"That is why this church has not been growing," she said.

That night she was coming to do her poop duty on the property, when she saw a ring of fire around the church. Then something picked her up and threw her into the fire. She hit the wall and landed on the ground where they had found her. The fire had burned off all her clothes and her. She asked what that was. And she was told, "God. And if you don't repent, you are going to experience a greater fire than that one."

She repented and became a Christian.

Basically her coven had been establishing invisible altars on that property by their actions. These altars needed to be torn down with prayer.

One of the things I counsel pastors to do is bury a Bible or scriptures in the ground on the church property. By doing this you are desecrating the altars you cannot see. Every church that has done this has reported back to me that things have

gotten better.

Sometimes when I mention this the pastor will look at me like I'm a little off the wall. One of them did this, and then the same week I was at his church, he got a call from his missionary in Scotland. She said, "you may think I'm crazy, but the Lord told me to bury Bibles in the ground on my farm and while I was doing it I found an altar."

The pastor put Bibles in the ground on his church property. He told me afterward that there were immediate changes in him, and the people in his church. Things started to get better because the invisible, satanic altars that had been placed on his property had been torn down by his obedience. Sometimes that's all it takes - a simple act of obedience.

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The Ostrich Club

In World War I the cruise ship Lusitania was sailing to England despite warnings from the Germans that traveling would be at their own risk. One of the passengers suggested that a safety drill would be a good thing to do since there was a possibility of being attacked by enemy submarines. His suggestions were shrugged off and he nick named those in charge "The Ostrich Club." The ship was attacked, sank and many died needlessly because they were never shown how to properly put on a life preserver.

Many people are dying because the church is not instructing her people how to defend themselves from demonic attacks. Still others will continue to suffer with demonic attacks and never pick up the sword because they think all of this is nonsense. I was disgusted when a pastor literally shut a door in my face as I was explaining the need to minister in this area.

A platoon leader in Vietnam developed a strategy for fighting in the jungle that enormously reduced the amount of lives lost. When he attempted to share what he had learned with his superiors, he was disregarded. He knew what he had

learned worked and could save lives, but no one would listen to him.

I read an account in the newspaper of a woman who was shoved off a subway platform in New York City. She couldn't get back up and started screaming for help. The train was coming, yet no one moved.

Finally a man leaped forward and pulled her up to safety just seconds before the train zoomed by. He said, "I can't believe that no one came to help you."

Will you hear the cries of those who have been endangered like the woman in the subway? Will you be the one who breaks out of the crowd and saves a life?

Will you listen to those who have had experience in these strategies and put them to work, or are you a member of the ostrich club, preferring to keep your head in the sand? Just remember; when you are in that position you can't see what's sneaking up behind you.

The choice is yours. Will you become the sword?

*For we wrestle not against flesh and
blood, but against principalities,
against powers, against the rulers of the
darkness of this world, against spiritual
wickedness
in high places. –
Ephesians 6:12*

Song of Deliverance

Out of the mouths of babes,
From the heart of the humble,
Our God has ordained praise
To still the enemy and the avenger.
For God dwells with the contrite and the lowly,
And in the power of humility
The devil's strength is bound.
Sing in the face of an approaching army
A child's song of adoration
And watch the enemy wilt into the ground.
Ask, like David, for God to send His angels
To destroy the souls of the devils
That would afflict God's own.
And see the evil flee before thee,
Chased by the heavenly throng.
In the mighty name of Jesus
Curses are broken,
Strongholds are torn down.
For greater is He that is in you,
Than he that is in this world.
Clothed in the armor found in God's word,
No weapon formed against you shall prosper.
Rightly standing in righteousness,
Children, march on singing,
For you are protected
Dependent on God alone.

Psalm 8:2, Isaiah 57:15, II Chronicles 20:1-30

Psalm 35:5, 6, Mark 16:17, 18, I John 4:4

Ephesians 6:13-18, Isaiah 54:17

Be sober, be vigilant;
because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walks about,
seeking whom he may devour:
Whom resist steadfast in the faith,
knowing that the same afflictions are
accomplished in your brethren
that are in the world.

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil,
and he will flee from you.

But thanks be to God,
who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Peter 5:8,9, James 4:7,
I Corinthians 15:57