

Jesus and Warfare

In life we have to face things. There are a number of things to face. Facing Yourself, Facing your work or mission, Facing Others, Facing God in the afterlife, and here and now, Facing Your Enemy. This series is about Facing the enemy of our souls. **Jesus walked in authority and He expects us to do the same. Let's remember that all His miracles were done as a man fully anointed by the Holy Spirit. This is why He said we will do greater works if we believe.**

God is not impersonal. He has desires and longings for His people. He desires that we walk in authority.

1 John 3:8 "The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." We have been sent with the same mission, to reinforce what Jesus started; to destroy the works of the devil. John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 1 John 4:17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. NKJV Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. This is a powerful statement. This speaks of the extent of our oneness with Christ. In this message we will study Jesus' dealings with the kingdom of darkness and get tools for how we too can engage the enemy.

1. Jesus' authority was one of His unique selling points.

The Demoniac in the Synagogue

Mark 1:23-27 *"Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!' 'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly. 'Come out of him!' The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. **The people were all so amazed** that they asked each other, 'What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.'"*

*It is clear that one of the main things that stood out about Jesus was His authority. **Walking in authority is central to being Christlike.***

2. All demons recognised their subjection to Jesus' authority

The Gerasene Demoniac

Mark 5:6-10 *"When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, 'What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!' For Jesus had said to him, 'Come out of this man, you impure spirit!' Then Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' 'My name is Legion,' he replied, 'for we are many.' And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area."*

Are you recognised in the spirit realm? Jesus I know, Paul I know....

3. Deliverance is for anyone who desires and believes

The Syrophenician Woman's Daughter

Mark 7:26-30 "She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. 'First let the children eat all they want,' he told her, 'for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs.' 'Lord,' she replied, 'even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he told her, 'For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.' She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone."

4. Jesus recognised that many sicknesses are the result of a spirit of infirmity

The Boy with a Demon

Mark 9:17-18; 25-27 "A man in the crowd answered, 'Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.' ... When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. 'You deaf and mute spirit,' he said, 'I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.' The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, 'He's dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up."

5. Deliverance and healing ministry is often misunderstood

The Mute and Blind Demoniac

Matthew 12:22-28 "Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, 'Could this be the Son of David?' But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, 'It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.' Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.'"

6. The Word of God is central in warfare

We walk in authority to the degree to which we agree with God's Word.

Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV) 1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (**Deuteronomy 8:3**) 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" (**Psalms 91:11-12**) Here we see the devil trying to twist God's word after realising this was Jesus' weapon against him. He is still doing this today, through heresy. He has accepted that Christians love the Word so he just twists it. 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (**Deuteronomy 6:16**) 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is

written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Deuteronomy 6:13) 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Part of the enemy's strategy is to lead you to believe and confess something else which is not God's word.

Once you begin to do this, it will result in your own defeat. The Bible exhorts us to keep watch and not to be ignorant of the wiles of the enemy. The term "wiles" talks of trickery. If the enemy can trick you in your mind, then you end up not experiencing the fullness of God's purpose for your life. Ignorance is not bliss in the kingdom of God. **Jesus used the Word in Warfare.** When Jesus was tempted by the enemy in the desert, He would respond by declaring the word of God, "It is written, it is written..." He knew and believed the Word of His Father. **We must know the Word. Ignorance is not bliss. My people perish for a lack of knowledge is a statement of warfare not philosophy.**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Stronghold - Castle, fortress, anything on which one relies, fortifying your opinion against an opponent.

Warfare is about displacing the mental strongholds (arguments and opinions) with the truth of God's word.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NLT) We are human, but we don't wage war with human plans and methods. We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds...break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God...conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ.

Use His weapons alone, not a mixture of the world's approach and God's approach. The world will intimidate, seduce, dominate and control.

Neil T. Anderson: "Spiritual conflicts must be won with spiritual weapons. Anything else is ineffective and foolish."

7. The Enemy's primary weapons are false accusation and deception

These tactics are all based on lies.

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Lies result in murder. It's true of Cain and it's still true of many today. Many wars were started because of a lie. I was ministering to a group of men recently and this was what many were battling with; false accusations from their wives.

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die. "You will not certainly die," the

serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

This passage of scripture tells us that the serpent was more crafty, it does not tell us that he was more powerful in terms of authority. How many of you have been conned by a con artist? I remember years ago, when at university, a guy came to our digs and deceived us into believing that he was brother to the lady who was our house helper. He informed us that his "sister" had sent him to collect her advance salary. The story was so believable that we gave him the money only to discover upon our house helper's return that they were not related to each other at all and that we had been conned! This deceptive guy was only powerful to the degree that we yielded to his trickery and the way you avoid this is through knowing the truth. **You need to have so much of God's word in you so that you cannot be conned by the enemy.**

The Genesis 3:1-6 shows us that the authority that the enemy was given on earth was given to him by those who were stewards over the earth. The Bible further tells us in the book of James, that the enemy roams the earth like a lion, seeking whom he may devour. This means that there are other people who are not devourable. Remember that a curse without a cause cannot alight, it cannot land. **You cannot stop Goliath from cursing the armies of God but like David, you can ensure that the words of the enemy do not get into your spirit.** Some of you have come from backgrounds where you have allowed demonically inspired words from other people to control you. **God's power is encapsulated in His word and can displace the words of the enemy in your life.**

What is the extent of Jesus' authority?

Phil 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Sometimes the way we speak about sickness, disease or troubles in our lives we speak as though those names are greater than the name of Jesus, they are not. The name of Jesus is above every other name, not just in heaven, but on earth and under the earth. There is no title that supersedes the name of Jesus. I do not know what situation you are in, but there are a lot of things that happen because of activities taking place in the spirit. I do not know what situation you are going through that you think is natural and that you think happens to everyone, do not accept it, it is not your portion.

If we are in Christ Jesus what does our identification with Him mean?

If we are in Christ we also walk in the authority of His name.

Ephesians 1:18-22 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.

Is the body below the feet or above the feet above? It is above the feet! All things have been placed under Christ's feet. You might say to me "but that is Christ, He is the one far above all rule and authority" but look at the scripture below:

Ephesians 2:6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

Remember that you are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. **When you have the revelation of knowing who you are in God, it changes everything. It changes the way you pray, the way you speak, and the things that you are afraid of.**

Luke 10:19 "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."

*Matthew 28:18-19 "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Therefore go** and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'"*

Some messages we preach and teach are an act of warfare to dislodge strongholds in minds.

1 John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Reflection Questions

1. How does understanding Jesus' authority shape your approach to spiritual warfare?
2. In what ways can you actively walk in the authority that Jesus demonstrated?
3. Reflect on a time when you faced a spiritual challenge. How did your understanding of Jesus' authority influence your response?
4. How can you ensure that you are recognized in the spiritual realm, like Jesus and Paul?
5. What role does faith play in experiencing deliverance and healing in your life?
6. How can you apply the Word of God more effectively in your spiritual battles?
7. How do you guard against the enemy's tactics of false accusation and deception in your life?
8. What are the "mental strongholds" in your life that need to be displaced with God's truth?
9. How can your understanding of being seated with Christ in heavenly places transform your daily life and spiritual practices?
10. In what areas of your life do you need to remind yourself that "the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world"? How can this truth empower you in spiritual warfare?