

It's War - Personal Sin

This is week 3 of "It's War", a series on angels, demons, and spiritual warfare. The last couple of weeks we've looked at our helpers (angels) and our enemies (demons). So we know who helps fight for us and we know who we are fighting against. This week we are shifting gears and we are going to see what we should do about it.

We know we are in a war, it's a war that has already been won, but the enemy is still firing away. Think about US soldiers deployed in a country, engaged in battle, our country may declare the war over, we have won. It may be all over the news, the enemy may even know it's over, no chance of victory, they have been defeated.....But that doesn't necessarily mean the enemy will stop firing. Those troops that are still on the ground in hostile territory.....even though the war has been won, they can't ignore the enemy, they must continue to fight until they are pulled out and freed.

We know that Jesus has already overcome the world! He has defeated satan, the demons, and death. The victory belongs to Jesus and His people! But we have dumb enemy who will not stop firing our way. Even from a place of victory, we must continue to fight!

We don't fight FOR victory.....We fight FROM victory! Amen?

The focus today is Personal Sin. How many of you know that Jesus was killed to pay the price for the sin of the world? Sin has a price....

Romans 6:23 (HCSB)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus paid the price....the very steep price for our sin. He paid a debt that you and I owed but couldn't afford to repay, one that we never would be able to repay.

What is amazing is that He doesn't even ask us to try and repay it. He says it's paid in full, a free gift if you believe in Him. Then in Him, we may have eternal life!

That.....my friends is the gospel.....there is a reason it is "Good News". No matter what you have done...today you can have a Savior in Jesus Christ....today can be YOUR day!

But then what? What about this Christian life where, as I've shared a few times recently, you still have to deal with evil and sin.....

Matthew 1:21 (HCSB)

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

You’ve got to understand that this was a prophetic word from the very mouth of God spoken by His messenger angel. He said Jesus will save His people FROM their sins!

Who will He save? His people. First you have got to accept that good news and become His....born again. In doing so He will save you from your sins.

Romans 6:22 (NKJV)

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Freedom from sin doesn’t mean you won’t have to deal with sin and evil, what it means is that sin is no longer your master, it doesn’t control you!

To be free FROM sin means that there is a separation between you and sin, you can be broke free!

Last week we looked at the activity of satan and demons and how they affect the lives of all people, even believers. A very brief recap.....we had:

Principalities - Assigned over nations or large regions

Powers - These are given authority in specific areas, under direction of Principalities, assigned over cities, states, territories or smaller, more specific areas

Rulers of the darkness of this age - These are in control of the spiritual blindness and ignorance in this period of time. They operate through deception often using agendas or movements

Spiritual hosts of wickedness - evil spirits, destructive in character. These afflict and sometimes possess people or animals

Our focus from this point out will primarily be on these “Spiritual hosts of wickedness”. So when I say demons, that’s usually going to be what I’m talking about.

Again, these demons can affect people primarily in 3 ways:

1. Demonic Possession

This is to “have a demon”. In this case the demon or demons are inside of you and can take control and influence your soul (mind, will, emotions) and even take control of your physical body. Born again believers CAN’T be demon possessed.

2. Demonic Oppression

This is to “be with a demon”. In this case you don’t have a demon “in you” but they are “on” or “around” you. Due to access that you have given them, they have the right to speak, tempt, lure, and influence you. Born again believers CAN be demon oppressed.

3. Demonization

This is to “be demonized”. A demon has control to some degree in a specific area of your life. The devil has a foot in the door and can whisper into your heart, tempting, luring, and drawing you back to the sin that gave him access. The more you open the door to sin, the more influence you give him to speak into your life. Born again believers can’t be demon possessed. Born again believers CAN be demonized.

Our hope is that we can see the captives set free by the power of Christ! That you can live in victory!

Many believers (born again, saved people) are still caught in the same sins and bondages that they were in before they got saved. Why is this???? Haven’t I been forgiven?

Jesus saves....and forgives....but the enemy will keep accusing, lying, harassing. Often times it’s because a door to your soul hasn’t been closed. This is why deliverance is so important.

Deliverance means salvation, specifically salvation from your enemies!

Once we give the enemy an open door, we have to revoke his right to be there, otherwise he doesn’t have to leave! Let’s look at some ways we open the door.....

Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV)

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

To practice these things means to do them continually, for them to be habit. We call this living IN SIN.....choosing this lifestyle over godliness. But even if we repent of these sins and we come out from under them, we may not have closed that door to the enemy.

I want you to think about sins you have committed, confess and repent if you haven’t already, rebuke the enemy, fill that gap with the Holy Spirit.....you can do that today.

Most of those things are “common sins” that people know and recognize the effects. We often know exactly where the open door is. I’ll get back to these....

Then there are some very important open doors that we often don't recognize. Sins that we have committed in the past have opened these doors, we may have repented but the open door gave satan influence that he still may have in your life.....

Soul tie – Something (spirit, person, object) that is able to influence your soul (mind, will, emotions) either toward, or away from God.

Do you want your soul influenced toward God or away from God? This is where deliverance comes in, it deals with the soul. If you are in Christ, your spirit has been redeemed, cleansed by the blood. But your body (flesh) is unredeemed and still inclined toward sin. It is with the soul (mind, will, emotions) that you choose to submit to the spirit or the flesh.....keep that in mind.

So soul ties can be good and they can be bad.....

Soul ties with God: Deuteronomy 10:20 states, "You shall [reverently] fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and by His name and presence you shall swear."

Cling or cleave in the Strong's Concordance means to cling or adhere, cleave (fast together) be joined together. We are to form a soul tie with the Lord, and this is very important for us in our daily warfare and Deliverance. We must commit ourselves to the Lord and serve Him, and as this soul tie is formed we will be able to say as Jesus said, "...I and My Father are One...". Yoked together. In Christ!

Soul ties with Christians: Ephesians 4:16 "For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love." Colossians 2:2 "[For my concern is] that their hearts may be braced (comforted, cheered, and encouraged) as they are knit together..." v 19) "and not holding fast to the Head, from Whom the entire body, supplied and knit together by means of its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God."

This speaks greatly of unity! Many times we simply look at the physical aspect of the Church. Unity is something that must take place in our spirits. As we are "knit together" not only will we be sensitive to the needs of those we are one with, but we will be able to function as one.

Soul ties with friends - I Samuel 18:1 "When David had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own life."

It's important to know who you are allowing to influence your soul (mind, life, heart, emotions). As you come close to your friends, they can greatly influence your soul for the better or worse.

Soul ties with pastors or leaders - II Samuel 20:2 "So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba son of Bichri: but the men of Judah stayed faithfully with their king, from the Jordan to Jerusalem."

Soul ties with your husband/wife - Genesis 2:24 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his

mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

Soul ties in adultery and fornication - Genesis 34:2,3 "And when Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he seized her, lay with her, and humbled, defiled, and disgraced her. But his soul longed for and clung to Dinah daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke comfortingly to her young heart's wishes."

If there has either been adultery or fornication, you have allowed an ungodly union of soul to take place outside the covenant of marriage. Through this ungodly "soul tie" the demonic could easily gain access into your life.

I want to spend a little time on this because so much of America deals with sexual sin in thought, action, or both!

Ephesians 5:31 tells us that when two spirits are joined in the flesh, through sexual union, they become "One Flesh". You are a spirit, with a soul and you live in a temple of flesh called the body. **Man is spirit** and the spirit flows in everything we are and do. The spirit will be involved by everything your body (flesh) does and visa versa. Jesus was not half God and half man. No, Jesus was one-hundred percent God and one-hundred percent man. **Fully that's what we are as spiritual beings: fully spiritual and fully physical as one!** What one does affects the other. What one's spirit does, their flesh will be involved in, and what one's flesh does, their spirit is involved in as well. One affects the other. The soul, in the middle, chooses its master.

- Inside Immorality

The biblical meaning of sex is that it's not just a physical function, but a meeting of two spiritual beings; its mind to mind, memory to memory, imagination to imagination, heart to heart, soul to soul, body to body, will to will, emotion to emotion, spirit to spirit, etc. Two spirits are joined in sexual union and become one. The word "one" in this context means to be joined, one and the same, or to be inside of.

The worlds theory on sex is that one can share a bed with anyone and it's only a physical thing. This is horrendous in the sight of God and His word. Paul wrote to the Corinthian believers in 1st Corinthians 6:16-20 "*Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two" He says, "shall become one flesh," but he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. **Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore **glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**"*

The word "body" in this passage means "totality" or "the entire man." All other sin is outside the body the scripture says, but sexual immorality comes against one's entire being. Sexual immorality is a sin "inside" the body of the entire man: spirit, soul, and body. It not only grieves and violates your spirit; it plunges the entire man into sexual confusion.

Genesis 4:1a (NKJV)

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived

Notice the “knew her;” God has created it so that only one man can tell one woman who she is and visa versa. God ultimately is the one who tells us who we are, the marriage bed communicates affirmation as well. Until they are united as one before God, they have no right to be telling each other in the fullness of the flesh “who they are!”

God said a number of times in the Pentateuch (first five books of the O.T.); the reason that a couple in fornication or adultery must be taken “outside” the camp and stoned is because, “*they have created confusion in Israel.*” Why? Because the wrong man, is telling the wrong woman, “who she is!”

- Confusion

Confusion comes through sin.

World Book Dictionary def of “confusion” – *a disordered condition of things or of the mind, the failure to distinguish properly, a mental disturbance, bewilderment, uneasiness and shame.*

The word “confusion connotes the inability to hear, think clearly, and follow instructions. For the Christian this can be a devastating spiritual condition.

Webster's dictionary def of “confusion” – *“a condition where things are not in their proper places or relationships; chaos, disorder, a disturbed mind, pandemonium, and babel.”*

“babel” is derived from the Hebrew word [balal]; meaning mixed up or confused. Remember Genesis 11:9, God named the tower Babel, because the Lord confused the languages of the people and scattered them over the face of the earth. Confusion's nature and intent is to scatter. Confusion came in because of mixture. They built the tower to reach God, but their real motive and intent was to build a monument unto man (v.4) “*come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; **let us make a name for ourselves** lest we be scattered...*” I wonder how many ministers today build ministries to make a name or monument unto themselves? Mixed motives bring spiritual confusion upon the people and I believe these ministries scatter God's people.

1 Corinthians 14:33a (NKJV)

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace

The greek word for confusion means *instability, disorder, commotion*. The same word is found in James 3:16 linked together with “*every evil thing present,*” a result of envy and self-seeking

The most used Hebrew word for confusion is [tebel]; which means mixture. Confusion comes through mixture. Many Christians read secular articles without difficulty of comprehension or memory, but when they open their bibles their minds become confused. They are unable to retain, within seconds, what they read. Some folks will be in a church service worshipping God, out of nowhere it seems, come perverse blasphemous thoughts. The entire being of the person is spiritually confused and mixed up. Why? Because unholy union are being identified with them,

that out not to be. The blood of Jesus must be ministered to sever these spiritual cords (soul ties) that bind if they are to be free!

When you are joined to someone, you become one with them. Through sexual union, you join yourself to and take into your being all that they are! Every satanic foothold of oppression, demonization, soulish control, and evil spirits that they possess are transferred to you through this act of "two becoming one flesh."

What about married couples.....

1 Corinthians 7:14 (AMP)

14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified [that is, he receives the blessings granted] through his [Christian] wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be [ceremonially] unclean, but as it is they are holy.

In the confines of a covenant marriage, there is covering! It is when we cross the boundary lines of covenant, through immorality, that we have no covering or protection! Once you cross over the bloodline of covenant, through sin, the blood covering stops. The blood is applied through repentance and the nature of repentance is to completely stop, turn around, and go the other direction.

Church I am here today to say that WE need to start taking sin more seriously. I'm so tired of seeing my brothers and sisters hurting, dealing with the same junk over and over.....quite frankly a lot of it is because you aren't honest with yourself.....

And even if you are honest with yourself....you're not honest with God. Consider the last time you REALLY gave something over to God. Not the last tragedy, most believers will then, I'm talking about daily struggles. And not just these head prayers....you know what I mean.....but when was the last time you hit your knees and wept over it to the Lord.

When is the last time you confessed it to a brother or sister and asked them to pray for you.

When is the last time you ACTUALLY repented....you know changed your mind about your sin.....hating what is evil (sin) and clinging what is good (God)

Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV)

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It's through this love that Jesus not only provides a way for us to be forgiven.....but also FREE from sin!

“On the back of Satan’s neck is a nail scarred footprint.” —C.S. Lewis

You know why life is hard.....you ain’t free! When we say Christianity is hard.....it’s because we aren’t free.....still bound! God gives us the ability to do every single thing He asks us to do....the problem is, sometimes we are trying to do His work with handcuffs on....bound by the enemy.

Get free today! Confess you sins! Repent of your sins! Let Jesus free you!

God hates sin but loves you, satan loves sin but hates you

1 John 3:8b (HCSB)

The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the Devil’s works.

If you have sinned and you have repented of that sin, yet somehow it seems to constantly come to mind, tempting, influencing, you need deliverance.....saved from your enemy. Would you come today and let us pray with you?

**Sources: Jakob Barrientos’ book Dealing with Darkness.