

## Basic Foundation Before Doing Spiritual Warfare (and Warnings)

God does not make things difficult for us. Any Christian has the authority to do spiritual warfare (Luke 10:19). If you belong to Jesus Christ, you are qualified to do spiritual warfare. Can even a new baby Christian do spiritual warfare? Yes, Jesus gave **AUTHORITY** to ALL believers, but of course, the more **grounded you are in the word of God**, the more **ASSURANCE** you will have in **using your authority**. If a new Christian immediately gets immersed in God's word, they may grow and mature sooner than others that have been saved for years. It's not how **LONG** you've known the Lord that counts, it's **HOW MUCH** of **His WORD is in you!** You'd better believe that Satan wants to keep you ignorant of what God's word has to say about your authority over him!

- **John 15:7** "If you abide in Me, and **MY WORDS abide in YOU**, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you."
- **Colossians 1:12-13** "Giving thanks to **the Father who has QUALIFIED US** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has **DELIVERED us from the POWER of DARKNESS** and translated us into the kingdom of His beloved Son."

Our authority is based on our position: **WE** are **SEATED with Christ far ABOVE Satan** and his demons, and He has given us **AUTHORITY** over ALL of Satan's power. Those who don't know what God's word says, or those who doubt and don't have **FAITH**, see themselves as weak and helpless and see Satan as having authority over them (I Peter 5:8, II Cor. 11:1-4, Matt. 17:19-20, Num. 13:33), when it is actually just the opposite - we have authority over Satan, because we are **IN Christ**. If you feel that your faith is weak, Romans 10:17 tells us that our faith grows as we read and hear the word of God.

- **I John 5:4** "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and **this is the VICTORY** that has overcome the world - **OUR FAITH**."
- **Ephesians 1:20-21& 2:4-6** ".....Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, **FAR ABOVE** all principality, and power (Satan & demons), and might, and dominion, and every name that is named....." "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, has made us alive together with Christ (by grace are you saved); and has **raised US up together, and has made US to sit together** in heavenly places **with Christ Jesus**."

Although ANY born-again child of God technically has the right and the authority to do spiritual warfare against the enemy, you need to be **READY** to do spiritual warfare. You can't just waltz in there and do battle with the devil unless you are right with God, unless you want to get beat up, that is (see Acts 19:13-17). In the story in Acts 19 about the seven sons of Sceva, they were unbelievers, that's true, but the message is the same for us. A warning that we need to be confessed-up and prayed-up with God, with no hidden sins. Not only does God already **KNOW** about any "hidden" sins, but Satan and his demons saw you doing them, and are aware of it in that way. This doesn't mean you have to be perfect, but just that you are on the right track, so to speak, and willing to be obedient to God. However, if you have been involved in any of the activities controlled by Satan and have **NOT** been willing to give them up and really repent of them, you will not be able to do spiritual warfare. **You are still in the enemy's territory!** Don't think you can call the psychic hotline one minute, and then resist the devil or do any kind of warfare the next. Don't think you can be involved in adultery or fornication (that's old fashioned language for ANY kind of sex outside of marriage, including sexual fantasies and pornography) and be successful in spiritual warfare. If you have truly repented and left all this behind you, and these things are all in your **PAST**, that's okay. I'm talking about Christians who want to straddle the fence - who are double-minded! James

says **"PURIFY your HEARTS, you DOUBLE-MINDED."** Being DOUBLE-MINDED means you are still entertaining some of the devil's thoughts or just your own SELFISH thoughts, and **your mind and heart** are not completely the Lord's. Also, don't keep things around "just in case" you might want to go back to them. **CLEAN HOUSE! Get rid of all OBJECTS** associated with sinful or idolatrous practices: religious or superstitious charms or amulets (rosaries, New Age crystals, etc.), incense, religious statues, drug paraphernalia, that bottle of booze hidden away somewhere, pictures, magazines, books, tapes, etc. (See Acts 19:13-20; Romans 13:14)

- **Deut. 7:25-26** "The graven images of their gods you are to BURN WITH FIRE, you shall not covet (desire to keep) the gold or the silver that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be SNARED BY IT (contaminated by it), for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. And you shall NOT bring an abomination into your house and become a CURSED THING like it; you shall utterly abhor it, for it is a CURSED (contaminated) thing." (See I Cor. 10:14-21; Psalm 106:37-38)
- **Deut. 18:9-14** ".....you shall NOT learn to imitate the **detestable** things of those nations. There shall NOT be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire (human sacrifice), or one who uses divination (FORTUNE TELLING), or one who practices WITCHCRAFT, or one who interprets omens (ASTROLOGER), or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or one who CONSULTS with FAMILIAR SPIRITS (PSYCHICS, New Age channelers), or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead (SEANCES). For whoever does these things is **DETESTABLE to the Lord**.....but as for you, the Lord your God has NOT ALLOWED you to do so."
- **Acts 19:18-19** "Many also of those who had believed (in Jesus) kept coming, **confessing and disclosing their practices**. And many of those who practiced magic (spells, witchcraft) brought their books together and began BURNING THEM in the sight of all, and they counted up the price of them and found it to be 50,000 pieces of silver."

Another important area where we must be PREPARED for battle is the area of attitude sins. Satan can't read your mind, but he can observe any actions or words based on your attitude. **God knows your attitude, and an attitude of HUMILITY is needed, because the most important condition is to SUBMIT yourself to God**, before you can RESIST the DEVIL, and have him flee from you (James 4:7). It is also compared it to the athlete who strips down of ALL excess weight and entanglements in order to run the race. If you are not prepared for battle by being completely SURRENDERED (submitted) to God in every area of your life, you will be open to attack from Satan (I Peter 5:7-8). Humility is the opposite of pride, so get rid of any kind of PRIDE. You may not think you have a problem with pride. Pride can be thinking you are better than others, but it can also be just **holding onto YOUR OWN will - YOUR right to make YOUR OWN decisions**. You must SUBMIT yourself and SURRENDER yourself entirely to God, becoming a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1-2) by sacrificing and **turning your FREE WILL over to God** completely.

- **II Timothy 2:4** "No one **engaged in warfare** entangles himself with the affairs of this life...."
- **Hebrews 12:1-2** "Let us **lay aside every WEIGHT**, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us RUN with endurance the RACE that is set before us, looking unto Jesus..."
- **I Peter 5:7-8** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary **the devil walks about** like a roaring lion, **seeking whom he MAY devour**. **RESIST him**, steadfast in the faith...."
- **James 4:6** "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, '**God resists the PROUD**, but gives grace to the HUMBLE.'"

Confess any sins to God, and **REPENT**, which means to **turn around and go the opposite way**. If you aren't willing to repent and submit to God, you might as well forget about

resisting the devil. Bitterness, resentment or unforgiveness are also attitude sins, so you must **FORGIVE those who have offended you or HURT YOU in any way.**

- **I John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, **He is faithful** and just **to FORGIVE us our sins,** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- **James 4:7-8** "Therefore **SUBMIT** to God. **RESIST the devil** and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **CLEANSE your hands, you SINNERS;** and **PURIFY your HEARTS,** you double-minded."