

**FOUNDATIONS  
and  
PRINCIPLES  
of  
MINISTRY – III**

**“Overcoming Spiritual Obstacles  
and  
Living Victoriously”**

**Dr. Kenneth Meadors**

## **Foundations and Principles of Ministry III**

### **“Overcoming Spiritual Obstacles and Living Victoriously”**

#### **Syllabus**

- 1) Introduction to the Spirit World
- 2) Is Satan Defeated?
- 3) Spiritual Warfare—Weapons of Warfare
- 4) Spiritual Warfare: Praise As a Weapon of Warfare
- 5) All Things Under Our Feet
- 6) How to Win Over the Enemy
- 7) Overcoming and Living Victoriously
- 8) Overcoming by the Blood of the Lamb
- 9) Ministry of Angels I
- 10) Ministry of Angels II
- 11) Casting All Our Cares on the Lord
- 12) Be Strong in the Power of His Might

# LESSON ONE

## “Introduction to the Kingdom of Darkness”

### Introduction

The spirit world is very real. There are spiritual conflicts that people are faced with everyday. It is important for us to know something about the nature of what we are faced with in order to live in total victory. We know that our ultimate victory is in the victory that Jesus won over Satan in His conquest of death, hell, and the grave. It is important to understand that Satan is a real entity. This is very evident in the problems that the world faces today. It is more important to realize that Satan has no power or authority over the believer who knows who he is in Christ. Yet, as believers, we are faced with dilemmas and obstacles that need to be overcome. It is also important to understand how we can practically live in victory as overcomers.

It is to the overcomers that the consummate blessings of the Lord are promised to. It is a fact that one can never be an overcomer without having something to overcome. Jesus said, “In the world you will have tribulations, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John writes, “This is which overcomes the world, that is our faith.”

In this course we will first take a brief look at the workings of the Kingdom of Darkness. We will seek to find out why we are faced with certain battles when Satan has been defeated by the Lord Jesus Christ. In the finished work of Christ, the battle is over, but still battles rage. We will take a look at why this is so.

Some Christians put too much emphasis on the devil and the Kingdom of Darkness. There has been phases that believers have gone through in “doing spiritual warfare.” Whatever you may call it, there are things that must be put under our feet. There are weapons at our disposal that God has given to ensure that we win over conflicts and to live a victorious, overcoming life. Paul states, “Our weapons are not carnal, but are mighty...” We will look at the specific weapons which God has given us.

We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. What does this mean? What is the significance of the blood? What is the word of our testimony? These and other questions will be answered in the course of this study.

There is a lot of interest in angels. Angels are special agents of God given to minister to us who are heirs of salvation. We will look at the ministry of these angels, including getting a proper understanding of their nature and work.

Finally, we will seek to understand how we can cast all our cares on the Lord because He really cares for us. There are many cares of this life that are designed to distract us from the purposes of God. What are some of these cares? How do you trust in the Lord? We will seek to find answers to these questions. The admonition of the Lord is that we be strong in the power of His might, for it's not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord. Courage is a characteristic that every believer should possess in facing the many obstacles that stand in our way blocking us from total victory in Christ Jesus.

### 1) Satan Has A Kingdom

#### a) Rules over darkness

- b) Head of hierarchy (Eph. 6:10-13)
  - i) Spiritual wickedness in high places.
  - ii) Rulers of the darkness of this world
  - iii) Powers.
  - iv) Principalities
- c) Demons are his messengers.
  - i) We're to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

## **2) We Must Know Our Enemy.**

- a) Exposure greatest tactic.
- b) Most will never become grossly involved, but will contact demons, especially of oppression, and perhaps occults, or other seemingly harmless, innocent entities.

## **3) Truth about Demons.**

- a) Fallen beings.
- b) Demons are spirits—belong to the spirit world.
  - i) Seek embodiment.
    - (1) Allows them more mobility in the physical world.
    - (2) Will return from whence I came (after the house was cleansed).
    - (3) Demoniac of Gadara (sought to go into swine).
  - ii) No respecter of persons (rich, poor; no respect to nationalities).
- c) Degrees of control.
  - i) Oppression—attack from without.
    - (1) To subject a person or a people to a harsh or cruel form of domination.
    - (2) To keep down by the cruel or unjust use of power or authority.
    - (3) To crush, trample down.
    - (4) Overpower, subdue.
    - (5) To weight heavily on the mind, spirit, or senses.
    - (6)
  - ii) Obsession.
    - (1) Definition.
      - (a) An idea or feeling that completely occupies the mind.
      - (b) The state of being obsessed by somebody or something.
      - (c) Uncontrollable persistence of an idea or emotion in the mind, sometimes associated with psychiatric disorder.
    - (2) Originally, the act of an evil spirit in possessing or ruling a person.
    - (3) A persistent idea, desire, emotion.
    - (4) Mostly in the realm of soul (mind, emotion).
  - iii) Possession.
    - (1) Ownership, occupancy.
    - (2) Total control.
    - (3) Dominates the spirit, which controls all the rest of us.

## **4) The Occult Is Breeding Ground and Channel of Expression of Demonic Activity.**

- a) Occult means hidden or secret (secret or known only to the initiated)
- b) Offers temptation of forbidden wisdom.

- i) Satan's ploy against Eve.
- ii) Appeal of Eastern religions.
- c) God's warning against involvement in the occult.
  - i) Deut 18:10-12
    - (1) Divination—an attempt to obtain illegitimate knowledge of the unknown.
      - (a) Definition. The methods or practice of attempting to foretell the future or discovering the unknown through omens, oracles, or supernatural powers.
      - (b) Other forms of divination.
        - (i) Quija boards.
        - (ii) Necromancy
        - (iii) Fortune-telling
        - (iv) Astrology.
    - (2) Observer of times—astrology.
    - (3) Enchanter—cast spells.
    - (4) Witchcraft.
    - (5) Familiar spirits—mimicker of departed spirits.
    - (6) Wizard—witch, magic.
    - (7) Necromancer.
      - (a) Communication with dead (in conjunction with familiar spirits).
      - (b) The practice of attempting to communicate with the spirits of the dead in order to predict or influence the future.
  - ii) The occult is an abomination to God to be punished by death (Lev. 20:27).

## **5) Appeal of the Occult (Why Do People Become Involved?).**

- a) Promise of power.
  - i) Sorcery (witchcraft)
    - (1) Simon the Sorcerer.
    - (2) Wise men and magicians of the Old Testament.
    - (3) Same as magic and witchcraft.
  - ii) Magic. (a supposed supernatural power that makes impossible things happen, or that gives somebody control over the forces of nature)
    - (1) Black Magic—evil.
    - (2) White Magic—good.
  - iii) Witchcraft.
    - (1) Definitions (Encarta Dictionary).
      - (a) The art or exercise of magical powers.
      - (b) The effect or influence of magical powers.
      - (c) Alluring or seductive charm or influence.
    - (2) Described as work of the flesh (Gal. 5:20).
    - (3) Forbidden to live under the law of Moses.
    - (4) Popularized today, especially by television.
      - (a) Bewitched.
      - (b) Disney movies.
      - (c) 8,000,000 witches worldwide.
      - (d) A religion that imitates many Christian rites.

- (5) Uses sorcery, incantations, and magic to exercise supernatural control over things in the material world.
- (6) Biblically, witch and sorcerer interchangeable.
- (7) Greek for witchcraft is “pharmakia,” from which we get the words *pharmacy*, *pharmaceuticals*.
- (8) Lev 19:31—“...neither seek after wizards.”
- b) Promise of Knowledge (of hidden, mystical things; secret).
  - i) Fortune-telling; satan’s false prophets.
    - (1) Palm-reading.
    - (2) Crystal-ball gazers.
    - (3) Card-laying (tarot cards)
    - (4) Fallacies of fortune-telling.
      - (a) Frequently wrong.
      - (b) Contrary to Scriptures.
      - (c) Rely on demon forces to give credibility.
  - ii) Necromancy—communication with dead—the devil’s substitute for resurrection.
    - (1) Familiar spirits.
    - (2) Spiritualists.
    - (3) Use of séances and mediums.
  - iii) Astrology.
    - (1) Definitions.
      - (a) Study of planets and human behavior.
      - (b) The study of the positions of the Moon, Sun, and other planets in the belief that their motions affect human beings.
    - (2) Distortion of astronomy.
    - (3) Horoscopes can be self-fulfilling.
    - (4) Forbidden by God.
      - (a) Deut 17:2-5
      - (b) Is 47:13
- c) Promise of Pleasure
  - i) Inquisitiveness.
  - ii) Fantasy games
    - (1) Ouija boards.
    - (2) Dungeons and Dragons.
  - iii) Sexual-perversion.
  - iv) Illegal drugs.
- d) Promise of Peace.
  - i) Good luck charms.
  - ii) Grief over loss of loved one.

**6) Other Related Topics.**

- a) Halloween.
- b) Haunted Houses.
- c) Ghosts.
- d) Hypnosis.
  - i) Demands trance-like state.

- ii) Passive mind—an abdication of self-control that evil powers can take advantage of.
- iii) Question of control.
  - (1) We're to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.
  - (2) A mind stayed on the Lord will bring peace.
- e) Reincarnation.

**7) Satan Is Using Deception to Lure People.**

- a) Deception of “it’s just a game,” “it’s only fantasy, or fun,” “there’s no real harm.”
- b) Taking advantage of people’s desire of spiritual things.

**8) Shun the Very Appearance of Evil.**

- a) Renounce the hidden things of darkness.
- b) Seek for deliverance if needed.
- c) Pray for others.

**What Is Spiritual Warfare?**

Ephesians 6:10-12. 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 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. KJV

**1) Everyone doesn’t fight the same warfare.**

- a) Don’t fight on the same level.
- b) Don’t have the same enemy target.
- c) Some of God’s people are called to higher levels of combat.
- d) Three levels of activity.
  - i) Works of the flesh—dealt with through crucifixion of the flesh.
  - ii) Demonic activity—dealt with through deliverance.
  - iii) Higher level activity—dealt with through warfare.
- e) The Kingdom of Darkness is highly organized.
  - i) They understand chain of command.
  - ii) They understand authority.
  - iii) We will not win by being haphazard.
  - iv) We must experience power in unity and agreement.
- f) Four areas of high warfare.
  - i) Principalities.
  - ii) Powers.
  - iii) Rulers of darkness.
  - iv) Spiritual wickedness in high places.

**2) Principalities (at the level of government)**

- a) A principality is a domain of authority, such as city, county, state, nation, world.
- b) There are rulers over each domain, called principalities.
- c) Each domain has a unique personality.
  - i) Personality dependent on personality of ruler.

- ii) Personality dependent on level of spiritual activity in that community.
  - (1) Prayer level of community.
  - (2) Light or witness of believers.
  - (3) Assertiveness of the church.
  - (4) Standard or level of values (based on effective influence of the church).
  - (5) Resistance to the works of darkness.

- d) Not everyone is called to deal with principalities.
  - i) Moses with Pharaoh.
  - ii) Daniel with Babylon.
  - iii) King of Tyrus (Ezek. 28).

### 3) Powers.

- a) Means of control over others.
- b) Economic power.
  - i) God of mammon.
  - ii) Money means power; love of money the root of all evil.
- c) Media power.
  - i) Means of control of men's souls by power of suggestion, influence, lust through gates of the ear and eyes.
  - ii) Propagator of humanistic concepts seeking to pollute with filth and spread an anti-god message.
- d) Power of music—a vehicle of demonic activity to gain souls of men.
- e) Political power.
- f) Power of organized crime.

### 4) Rulers of darkness.

- a) Blindness, deception, unenlightenment.
- b) Lewd, base, grotesque.
- c) This is the domain of being stripped of your dignity.
- d) Dungeon, prison, gutter.

### 5) Spiritual wickedness in High Places.

- a) A place of false worship.
  - i) Scriptures.
    - (1) Leviticus 26:30. And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you. KJV
    - (2) 1 Kings 22:43. And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places. KJV
    - (3) 2 Kings 18:4. He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan. KJV
    - (4) 2 Kings 21:3-6. For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab



king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. 4 And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. 5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. 6 And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. KJV

- ii) The rise of cultic worship, witchcraft, and devil worship.
- b) High Places can also be a place of true worship.
  - i) 1 Kings 3:2-4. 2 Only the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the LORD, until those days. 3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. 4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. KJV.
  - ii) Spiritual wickedness in high places will represent abomination in the house of the Lord.
  - iii) Great persecution from those who call themselves by the name of the Lord—those who would kill you thinking they're doing God a service.

**6) The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God (2 Cor. 10)**

- a) Through God.
- b) Pulling down of strongholds
- c) Casting down imaginations.
- d) Every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.
- e) Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

**7) The Battlefield of the Mind**

**8) Preparation for battle.**

- a) Putting on the whole armor of God.
  - i) The name of the Lord is a strong tower; they that run into it shall find safety.
  - ii) The anointing destroys the yoke of bondage.
  - iii) The Spirit of the Lord is upon us to set at liberty those that are bound.
- b) Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- c) Commitment, consecration, righteousness, holiness.
- d) Power of unity and agreement.

## LESSON TWO

### If Satan Is Defeated Why the Difficulties?

#### Is Satan Defeated?

##### 1) Jesus Accomplished What He Was Sent to Do.

- a) 1 John 3:8. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. KJV
- b) Hebrews 2:14. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; KJV

##### 2) If Satan Is Destroyed, Who Is Responsible for All the Works of Evil and Darkness?

- a) Destroy (kat-arg-eh'-o). To cast down, pull down by force, to render entirely useless; to become of no effect; to make void.
  - i) Satan has been rendered powerless towards the believer. He has been dethroned, defeated, put to naught, made of no effect, overthrown, neutralized, paralyzed, crushed and put out of commission.
  - ii) Spanish translation—"reduced to zero."
  - iii) Paralyzed.
- b) Satan no longer has power, authority or dominion in the Kingdom of God.
  - i) He still has full sway in the kingdom of darkness.
  - ii) We have been translated into the kingdom of the Son of God.
  - iii) If he exercises any authority, he does so illegally.
  - iv) A thief is someone who does things he has no right to do.

##### 3) Where Did Satan Lose His Power?

(Colossians 2:10-15) 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. KJV

##### 4) If Satan Is Defeated, Why Does It Seem He Wins So Many Battles?

- a) He goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- b) Hosea 4:6. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge,..KJV
- c) We must study to show ourselves approved...

- d) Satan will steal what you will let him by not understanding you will let him by not understanding you have authority to resist him.
  - e) Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
    - i) Submit yourselves therefore to God.
    - ii) Draw nigh unto God.
    - iii) Cleanse your hands, ye sinners.
    - iv) Purify your hearts, ye double-minded.
- 5) All power is given me in heaven and in earth.
- a) If Jesus has *all* power, then Satan has none.
  - b) I conquered with Christ—His victory is my victory.
  - c) Whatever you bind on earth; whatever you loose on earth.
  - d) We are to bruise the head of Satan—we are the seed of Christ.

## When You Go Into Battle

Deuteronomy 20:1-5

1 When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 2 And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people, 3 And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; 4 For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you. 5 And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying, What man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it. KJV

### 1) Four Questions

- a) Is there a battle?
- b) Who is the enemy?
- c) What is our attitude toward him?
- d) How do you do warfare?

### 2) Is There A Battle?

- a) Kingdom of God suffereth violence; violent take by force
- b) There is a battle until every enemy is destroyed; total victory
- c) Should not be satisfied until your brethren are helped, and they find rest
- d) Will have to fight for every square inch

### 3) Who Is The Enemy?

- a) War not against flesh and blood
- b) Against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this world
- c) Spiritual wickedness in high places

**4) What Is Our Attitude toward the Enemy?**

- a) No compromise
- b) Total victory

**5) How Do We Do Spiritual Warfare?**

- a) Weapons not carnal but mighty
- b) Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit
- c) Putting on whole armor of God
  - i) Stand against wiles of devil
  - ii) Gird loins with truth
  - iii) Breastplate of righteousness.
  - iv) Feet shod with preparation of gospel of peace
  - v) Shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the enemy
  - vi) Helmet of salvation
  - vii) Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)
  - viii) Praying always with all prayer and supplications in the Spirit

**6) Forms of Prayer as Weapons**

- a) Intercession
- b) Supplications for those in authority
  - i) Lift up hands that hang down
  - ii) Satan hath desired to sift thee as wheat, but I have prayed for you
- c) Praise
  - i) Send Judah first
  - ii) Jehosophat
  - iii) How does praise do warfare?
    - (1) Honoring the Lord for who He is
    - (2) Drives the devil insane
    - (3) God inhabits the praises - here God is, problems have to leave
  - iv) Praising Him for the victory

**7) If I Hold My Peace, Let the Lord Fight My Battle**

**8) Therefore the Redeemed of the Lord Shall Return and Come with Singing unto Zion**

**The Battle of the Ages**

Kenneth Meadors  
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From the very beginning  
There has been a fight going on.  
It has been a warfare  
Between right and wrong.  
It seems that the fight continues  
And the battle rages.

The rightful conclusion  
Is that it's the battle of the ages.

Many say the fight is  
Between God and satan.

But there is no greater wrong  
This is a lie that is blatant.  
For who could withstand God?  
How would you begin?  
In a fight against God,  
You could never win.

Some say the battle  
Is between darkness and light.  
But when the two collide,  
There's really no fight.  
For what will really happen  
When you turn on the light?  
The light will always prevail.  
And darkness must take flight.

So where was the battle?  
It was between seed.  
And this has been a battle.  
It was a great war indeed.  
For upon the feet of men  
The serpent would tread.  
But the seed of the woman  
Would trample his head.

As the seed of the woman  
Jesus came to do God's will.  
By doing the work of God,  
The Word was fulfilled.  
Jesus conquered the enemy.  
He spoiled principalities.  
He defeated every power and foe;  
He displayed them openly.

Every enemy of man  
Jesus has come to defeat.  
And after His victory,  
The work is now complete.  
Every law of ordinance  
That was against me  
Jesus took everyone of them  
And nailed them to a tree.

I must come to realize  
That the battle has been won.

Jesus came to win the war;  
The will of God has been done.  
But the battle seems to continue.  
There's a warring within me.  
There seems to be a struggle  
For my spirit to be free.

If the battle is over  
Then what is wrong?  
If the victory's been won,  
Why does the fight continue on?  
If Jesus won the fight,  
Is there anymore to discuss?  
If we have been set free,  
Why do shackles still bind us?

So now where is the warfare?  
Where is the battle?  
If the victory has been won,  
Why do we still struggle?  
Why do we still fight?  
Why do we still war?  
Is there really anything  
Left to fight for?

The battle that is raging  
Is on the inside of me.  
It's the battle of the ages  
Being fought in the heavenlies.  
There is a great struggle  
For my spirit to be free.  
So my mind must surrender.  
To know full victory.

My mind says do more.  
My spirit says do less.  
My mind says to labor.  
My spirit says to rest.  
Which is right?  
And which is wrong?  
If this is not settled;  
The battle will go on.

Every imagination  
Of my mind and thoughts

Must be surrendered  
And to the Lord be brought.  
Every high and lofty thing  
Must be brought into captivity.  
To the obedience of Christ.  
Then we will truly be free.

So this battle that rages  
Is not fought between men.  
It's not about the devil;  
It's not about sin.  
For these have been conquered  
At the cross of Calvary.  
When this we understand,  
Then we will be free.

Its not a fight of flesh and blood;  
Its not between nations.  
It's a battle of the mind;  
To cast down imaginations.  
The Battle is not outward.  
It's fought internally.  
It's a fight for control  
Of my destiny.

The warfare prophesied  
By wise men and sages.  
Still stirs imaginations  
And fills many pages.  
Though settled once and for all.  
Yet for many still rages.  
It is the battle of the mind of men  
It's the battle of the ages.

## LESSON THREE

### Spiritual Warfare—the Weapons of Our Warfare

#### 1) How Do We Do Spiritual Warfare or What Are Some Principles of Spiritual Warfare?

- a) Should not go into battle until you count the cost.
- b) You must be prepared—put on the whole armor of God.
- c) Choose your battles—understand that if the battle is not ours, but the Lord's, we must hold our peace and let God fight our battles for us. (2 Chronicles 20:15). And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. KJV
  - i) Let go and let God...
  - ii) Faith to believe that God is going before us.
- d) Choose the right weapons.
  - i) Our weapons are not carnal but mighty.
    - (1) "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God.
    - (2) To the pulling down of strong holds.
      - (a) Casting imaginations.
      - (b) And every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,
      - (c) And bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."
    - (3) The greatest battle takes place on the battleground of our mind.

#### 2) What Are Some of Our Weapons?

- a) Be in covenant with Almighty God.
  - i) David and Goliath.
    - (1) "You uncircumcised Philistine—I come to you in the name of the Lord."
    - (2) Goliath was not in covenant (he was uncircumcised).
  - ii) Jehosophat's remembrance of God's covenant with Solomon. (2 Chronicles 20:9), If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help. KJV
- b) The Spirit of the Living God is one of our weapons.
  - i) Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord.
  - ii) Isaiah 61:1-3. 1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; KJV
  - iii) Luke 4:18-20. 18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. KJV
  - iv) The anointing destroys the yoke of bondage.
- c) The Word of God is one of our weapons.

- i) Everything must respond to the Word of God.
- ii) Part of the whole armor of God is the Sword of the Spirit (the Word).
- d) Prayer is a weapon of spiritual warfare.
  - i) Praying always with all prayer and supplications in the Spirit.
  - ii) Prayer as a weapon.
    - (1) Produces spiritual power.
    - (2) Overcomes the works of darkness.
    - (3) Deals with cause, not effect.
  - iii) Three major types of prayer.
  - iv) Luke 11:9. 9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. KJV
    - (1) Ask—petition.
    - (2) Seek—devotional.
    - (3) Knock—intercessory.
  - v) The prayer of petition (asking to receive something from God).
    - (1) Ask in faith.
    - (2) Abide in relationship with Christ. (John 15:7) 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. KJV
    - (3) Motivated properly. (James 4:3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. KJV
    - (4) Ask according to the will of God. (1 John 5:14-15) 14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. KJV
  - vi) Prayer of devotion.
    - (1) Praise—send Judah first.
    - (2) Jehosophat sent the singers and praisers ahead of the troops.
    - (3) How does praise do warfare?
      - (a) Confounds the enemy.
      - (b) It honors the Lord for who he is—recognizing that He is the King of all kings, and the Lord of all lords; besides Him there is no other.
      - (c) It reminds Satan that Jesus has triumphed over him in battle—he is a defeated foe.
      - (d) God inhabits the praises of his people—where God is, problems have to leave.
      - (e) Praising Him for the victory.
      - (f) Communion and Fellowship with God. “I didn’t come here to ask you for anything; I just came to talk with you Lord.”
        - (i) God created us for fellowship.
        - (ii) God desires to commune with us. “I’ll come in and sup with you.”
        - (iii) Praise to Him for who He is; not for what He’ll do for us.
    - (4) Praise precedes the glory.
    - (5) 2 Chronicles 5:13-14. 13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for



ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; 14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God. KJV

### 3) The Song of Moses

- a) Revelation 15:3. 3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. KJV
- b) Exodus 15:1-19. 1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. 5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. 6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. 7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble. 8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea. 9 The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them. 10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters. 11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? 12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them. 13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation. 14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina. 15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. 16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased. 17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established. 18 The LORD shall reign for ever and ever. 19 For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea. KJV
- c) And Miriam took a timbrel in her hand.
  - i) All the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.
  - ii) And Miriam answered the, Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.
- d) Praising Him for the victory.
  - i) David danced before the Lord with all his might.
  - ii) Michal despised him in her heart.
  - iii) David - "I will be more vile than thus..."

## **PRAISE: A WEAPON FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

(Psa 149:6-9 KJV) Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.

### **1) The Gospel of the Kingdom of God.**

a) *Associated with healing the sick.*

b) *Associated with casting out devils.*

- i) If I by the finger of God cast out devils, the kingdom of God is come nigh you.
- ii) Declaring Jesus is Lord brings victory over the kingdom of darkness.
- iii) Not just casting devils out, but living an overcoming victorious life through spiritual victories.

### **2) Tremendous Victory for People of God Through Praise.**

a) *Jehosophat.* 2 Chronicles 20.

i) Pursued by the enemy.

ii) Battle not yours, but God's

(1) Fear not, be not dismayed. The Lord will be with you.

(2) Jehosophat bowed.

(3) Judah and Jerusalem fell before the Lord and worshiped.

iii) Levites stood up to praise the Lord with a loud voice on high.

(1) Singers and musicians put on front line.

(2) Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.

(3) It is interesting to note that they were not calling down fire from heaven, or invoking God's wrath upon the heathen.

(a) Too much of our "Spiritual warfare" gets distracted with rebuking the enemy, or with calling on God to act for us in some specific way. But these singers were not recommending a battle strategy to God, nor did they bother to curse the enemy.

(b) In its essence, their song of praise said, "Lord, we recognize that you are the omnipotent God and that you have promised to fight for us today. So we thank and praise you for the victory, rejoicing in what we know you have already determined to do on our behalf. Words like that release God to act in the way he knows is best. Warfare through praise does not dictate to God what he should do--it praises him for his wisdom and might, recognizing that he is capable of settling the problem in the best possible manner. We do not focus on the battle or the enemy; we look only to the solution--God!

b) *Paul and Silas.*

i) Cast out a spirit of divination which brought great gain.

ii) Beaten and thrown into prison.

(1) After they had been flogged and put in an inner cell, with their feet fastened

securely in stocks,

- (2) Around midnight, Silas said, "Paul, did we miss God today? My back hurts, and my feet hurt, and I just don't feel like putting up with all this. Should I invoke a curse on the jailer for treating us like this, or perhaps we should just call down fire on this whole place!"
  - (3) Paul groaned a little as he turned his aching body toward Silas and said, "Silas, I think we should praise the Lord! Let's thank him that we're still alive! Let's thank him that he's going to bring something good out of this situation!"
  - (4) So at midnight Paul and Silas began to pray and sing hymns unto God!
    - (a) And the prisoners heard them.
    - (b) Paul and Silas were not crying out to God for deliverance. They were not rebuking the stocks nor casting demons out of the jailer. They were simply praising God for his greatness and goodness.
    - (c) Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose." (Acts 16:26).
- iii) The story ends with the jailer and his entire household confessing their faith in Jesus Christ.
- (1) God responded to their praise and not only freed them from jail but also delivered an entire family from the clutches of Satan!
  - (2) Praise resulted in deliverance and evangelism!

### 3) In Praise, We No Longer Attack the Problem or the Enemy.

- a) *We simply confess and rejoice in Christ's Lordship.*
- b) *We rejoice in the fact that he is Lord and victor in our current dilemma. When we rejoice in his strength, he goes to battle.*
- c) *As we confess him as Lord in that situation, our faith begins to rise to the level of our confession, and*
  - i) God says, "Why, my children really do believe that I am God and Lord in this situation! In that case, I will display my strength and glory!"
  - ii) God responds by granting us a great victory!
- d) *Prayer often dictates to God when we ask him for things when he would want to answer in a different and fuller dimension.*
  - i) Praise takes the lid off the possibilities, because it simply confesses and rejoices in the absolute ability of God to be exactly who he is in the situation at hand.
  - ii) When we confess God's supremacy through praise, our faith rises to the level of our confession, and he responds.

### 4) High Praises and the Two-Edged Sword. Ps 149:6

- a) *High praise.*
  - i) Refers to an intense level of praise.
  - ii) High praise refers to praise that is occurring high above us right now, the praise that is ascending to the Father from before the throne.
    - (1) Possible for us here below to participate now in that "high praise."
    - (2) By listening with our spirits, we can discern the type of song being sung around

the throne. Holy, holy, holy. In earth as it is in heaven.

(3) A type or level of praise that ascends into the heavenlies and wars on our behalf.

- b) ***Ps 149 links high praise with the two-edged sword, or the word of God.***
  - i) Executing “vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people.
  - ii) God does not usually respond to our praise by pouring out his wrath and judgment on the heathen.
- c) ***God is saying, “There is an inheritance for the church in the nations, but it is not yet claimed.*** Go forth and bind the satanic powers that blind the hearts of men, and reclaim for the kingdom that portion of the body of Christ that has yet to be brought in.”
  - i) (Isa 30:32 NIV) Every stroke the LORD lays on them with his punishing rod will be to the music of tambourines and harps, as he fights them in battle with the blows of his arm.
  - ii) Get out the tambourine. Get out the guitar. Let the pianist be seated; let the drummer take his place. It is time to go to war. It is time to lead God's people in high praise, to declare that he is victorious in all the earth.
- d) ***God wants to punish the kingdom of darkness by rescuing from Satan's hand many souls who are now doomed to destruction.***
  - i) (Isa 25:7 KJV) And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.
  - ii) Mount Zion famous as a place of praise. On that mountain of praise, the Lord will destroy the blanket of darkness that covers cities and families.
- e) ***Noise from the temple.*** (Isa 66:6 NIV) Hear that uproar from the city, hear that noise from the temple! It is the sound of the LORD repaying his enemies all they deserve.

## 5) Praise.

- a) ***Praise is preoccupied with who God is and what he has done.***
- b) ***Praise is extroverted in nature.***
  - i) It is characterized by celebration and exhilaration and is expressed through singing, shouting, speaking forth, playing of musical instruments, dancing, and other external forms.
  - ii) Praise is “raising much to-do about God.” The Hebrew people were very emotional and vocal in their expressions of praise and adoration before God.
- c) ***Praise is action.***
  - i) Praise is to be declared or manifested. (Psa 66:8 KJV) O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:
  - ii) Praise is not praise until it is vocalized or expressed outwardly.

## LESSON FIVE

### All Things under His Feet

Eph. 1:19-23 - *"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in 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, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."*

#### 1) God Wants to Show His Great Power to Us.

- a) The greatness of his power to usward who believe.
- b) According to the working of his mighty power.
- c) Which was wrought in Christ through the resurrection of the dead.
- d) God has set Jesus at his own right hand in the heavenly places. This is a high and lofty position.
- e) God has put all things under his feet--all things is pretty inclusive.
- f) God has given Jesus to be the head over things--even the church.

#### 2) Where It All Started.

- a) Gen. 3:15 - "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."
  - i) What had been a working agreement and cooperative effort between the woman and the serpent has now turned, and the two become alienated.
  - ii) Continual battle of seeds.
    - (1) Seed of the serpent.
    - (2) Seed of the woman.
      - (a) Seed is singular, but many-membered. "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." (Ga. 3:16)
      - (b) We know that we are the seed of Abraham, therefore we must be of the Christ seed. We corporately represent the many-membered Body of Christ.
    - (3) Likewise, the seed of the serpent is many-membered.
  - iii) Seed of the serpent will bruise the heel of the seed of the woman.
    - (1) We are the heel, while Jesus is the head of the seed of the woman.
      - (a) A bruised heel will affect your balance, walk, and stand.
      - (b) It may not be life-threatening, but it can certainly affect you.
  - iv) The seed of the woman shall bruise the head of the seed of the serpent.
    - (1) Who is the head of the serpent's seed? Satan.
    - (2) Jesus, the head of the woman's seed has already the serpent's head--Satan.
    - (3) Thus it is written...

- (a) Jesus destroyed him who had the power of death, that is the devil.
- (b) Jesus took the keys of death, hell, and the grave.
- (c) Death is defeated. "O, death where is thy sting? O, grave where is thy victory?" (I Co. 15:55).
  - (i) "The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law" (v. 56)
  - (ii) "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (v. 57)

### 3) We Are to Have Dominion. Heb. 2

- a) For he has not given angels the power to put under subjection the world to come (v. 5)
- b) What is man, that thou art mindful of him? (v. 6).
  - i) He was made a little lower than angels (God).
  - ii) Crowned with glory and honor.
  - iii) He was set over the works of God's hands.
  - iv) All things were in subjection under his feet. (that's where the seed of the serpent belongs).
  - v) There is nothing that is not put under him.
- c) We are the feet of Christ.
  - i) We represent the part of Christ's body which connects to the earth.
  - ii) Heaven is my throne; earth is my footstool.
  - iii) Earth is where God places His feet, since this is His footstool.
  - iv) Earth is where the purpose of God is walked out, but the orders still must come from the head, which is in heaven.
    - (1) "The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious" (Is. 60:13)
    - (2) Jesus as the head has already defeated Satan, but we must also put him under our feet. *"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly..."* (Ro. 16:20).
- d) But we see Jesus.
  - i) Was made a little lower than angels (God)--only when he became man.
  - ii) Crowned with glory and honor.
  - iii) He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
  - iv) We have become fellow heirs.
    - (1) "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory" (Heb. 2:10).
    - (2) "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one..." (v. 11).
  - v) Jesus took not the nature of angels, but the seed of Abraham.
    - (1) It was important that he be made like his brethren in order to be a merciful and faithful high priest--to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.
    - (2) This was Jesus' redeeming work.

### 4) God's Throne Is in the Heavens.

- a) That's where spiritual blessings come. (Eph. 1:3). "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in

Christ."

- b) Heavenly place are high above all else.
  - i) (Eph. 1:21). "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come."
  - ii) Phil. 2:9-10. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."
  - iii) Eph. 1:22. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."
- c) What is the church? "...His body, the fulness of him..."

5) AND WE ARE TO SIT WITH HIM IN THESE HEAVENLY PLACES!

- a) Jesus is now in heavenly places. Eph. 1:20. "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places."
- b) We are to sit with him.
  - i) "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." (Eph. 2:1).
  - ii) "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened (God) us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

## LESSON SIX

### *"How to Win Over the Enemy"*

*Is. 54:17 - "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."*

#### 1) **I Will Call upon the Lord.**

- a) (Psa 18:3 KJV) I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.
- b) (Psa 23:5 KJV) Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

#### 2) **Our Enemies.**

##### a) ***The world.***

- i) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (I Jo. 2:15)
- ii) "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is on the world." (v.16)
- iii) "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (v. 17)

##### b) ***The flesh.***

- i) Flesh - Denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God.
  - (1) "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. (Ro. 8:5).
  - (2) "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." (Ro. 8:13).

##### c) ***The devil.***

#### 3) **Our Attitude.**

- a) Proper thinking.
- b) Our weapons are mighty to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down evil imaginations; bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.
  - i) As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.
  - ii) What we think about our problems or circumstances is so important.
- c) ***How do we size up the situation?***
  - i) Do we overemphasize the gravity of a matter?
  - ii) Do we say woe is me? Poor little ole me?



d) ***How do we view the devil?***

- i) Do we see ourselves weaker than the opposition?
- ii) Do we make the devil a big bad devil?
- iii) Do we perceive a great big devil and a little bitty God?
- iv) Should not give glory and honor to the devil.

e) ***We must realize the extent of our resources.***

- i) Greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world.
- ii) God is bigger than any problem.
- iii) We walk by faith and not by sight.
- iv) It makes no difference whether God works by many or by few.
- v) Our attitude is that we are well able (though there be giants in the land).
- vi) Determine that God's will is to deliver us.
  - (1) "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." (Ps. 34:19).
  - (2) Three Hebrew Children: ...Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king

4) **Our Strategy.**

a) ***Be.***

- i) Just be.
  - (1) Be not weary in well doing. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Ga. 6:9).
  - (2) "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Php. 2:15).
- ii) Being reflects becoming. Pressing toward the mark. "...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Php. 3:13b-14).
- iii) Continuing to be. Keep on keeping on.

b) ***Stand.***

- i) "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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.
- ii) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- iii) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

(Eph. 6:10-18)

iv) Stand fast; be consistent; be persistent. *"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."* (I Co. 16:13).

(1) Having done all, continue to stand.

(2) Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.

c) **Know.**

i) Know the strongman that is in the house.

ii) "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils" (Lu. 11:21-22).

iii) "No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house." (Mr. 3:27).

d) **Resist.**

i) Resist the devil and he'll flee from you.

ii) One can chase a thousand; two ten thousand. The power of united resistance.

## 5) How Do We Resist?

a) **Don't accept everything that comes along** even though it is delivered to you!--don't sign for the package.

b) **Exercise your spiritual authority.**

c) **Invoking the name of Jesus.**

d) **Standing in unity and agreement, and loving one another.**

e) **Speaking to your circumstances.**

f) **Pray.** A blanket of prayer.

g) **Praise.** Praise puts to flight the enemy.

## 6) God's Promises.

a) (Exo 23:22 KJV) But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

b) (Lev 26:7 KJV) And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. (Lev 26:8 KJV) And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

c) (Deu 20:1 KJV) When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

d) (Deu 28:7 KJV) *The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.*

## LESSON SEVEN

### Overcoming and Living Victoriously

(Rev 12:10 KJV) And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

(Rev 12:11 KJV) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

#### 1) **There Are Battles on Many Fronts, but God's Will Is For Us to Overcome.**

- a) ***Faith to overcome.*** (1 John 5:4 KJV) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.
- b) ***Believers overcome.*** (1 John 5:5 KJV) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?
- c) ***Blessings to the overcomers.***
  - i) (Rev 2:7 KJV) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.
  - ii) (Rev 2:11 KJV) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.
  - iii) (Rev 2:17 KJV) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.
  - iv) (Rev 2:26 KJV) And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:
  - v) (Rev 3:5 KJV) He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.
  - vi) (Rev 3:12 KJV) Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.
  - vii) (Rev 3:21 KJV) To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.
  - viii) (Rev 21:7 KJV) He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

#### 2) **A Major Way We Overcome Is by Renewing Our Minds.**

(Rom 12:2 KJV) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- a) ***How does the devil build strongholds in the mind?***

- i) Wrong thinking.
- ii) Wrong believing.
- iii) Wrong actions.

**b) *We become free by renewing our minds, which indicates that the area of warfare to overcome is in the realm of the mind.***

### **3) The Mind as the Arena of Warfare.**

a) Scriptures on war, warrings, warfare.

- i) (Rom 7:23 KJV) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
- ii) (2 Cor 10:3 KJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
- iii) (2 Cor 10:4 KJV) (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) (2 Cor 10:5 KJV) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
- iv) (James 4:1 KJV) From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? (James 4:2 KJV) Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

b) ***Devil not mentioned in one of these scriptures.***

- i) Many who have fallen into sin blame it on the devil, but satan found an open door through which he could get into their lives. They were either thinking wrong thoughts or they weren't crucifying the flesh.
- ii) Genuine spiritual warfare has to do mostly with the mind and the flesh and fighting the good fight of faith. (1 Tim 6:12 KJV) Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

### **4) Waging a Good Warfare.**

a) ***War a good warfare.*** (1 Tim 1:18 KJV) This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; (1 Tim 1:19 KJV) Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

- i) Holding faith.
- ii) Stay in the fight of faith.
- iii) Occupy. (Luke 19:13 KJV) And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.
  - (1) Occupying army just enforcing the victory that's already been won.
  - (2) That's why believers shouldn't magnify the battle; they should magnify the triumph.
- iv) Fulfill the call of God on your life.

b) The challenge to Timothy was to fulfill his ministry and not be deterred by any opposition he may face.

- i) Stay committed to the call of God on your life regardless of the cost.
- ii) There's a price to pay to be a good soldier and that is discipline and dedication.

- c) Those who wage a good warfare keep their mind renewed and their flesh in check and know how to stand in faith on the promises in God's Word.
  - i) This can only be done by the Word of God and by the Spirit of God.
  - ii) The truth of God's Word is a spiritual force mighty enough to overcome the lies and deception satan tries to bring against our minds to bring us into bondage.

## 5) Having Done All--Stand.

### a) *The believer's "battle" stance is to stand.*

- i) (Eph 6:11 KJV) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil.
- ii) (Eph 6:13 KJV) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**.
- iii) (Eph 6:14 KJV) **Stand** therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (Eph 6:15 KJV) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (Eph 6:16 KJV) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
- b) **Stand fast in the Lord.** (Phil 4:1 KJV) Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.
- c) **Stand fast in faith.** (1 Cor 16:13 KJV) Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
- d) **Stand fast in one spirit.** (Phil 1:27 KJV) Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;
- e) We do warfare by standing our ground of victory in Christ enforcing the truth of God's Word.
  - i) Time to stand for something instead of against.
  - ii) Stand for the truth of the Word of God and Jesus' victory over satan at the cross.
  - iii) As we stand for truth and get the Word on the inside of us, situations in our lives will begin to be corrected.
  - iv) Stay on the offensive preaching the Word of God, not on the defensive constantly trying to battle a defeated foe which you will continuously have to battle.

## 6) Stand Still and See the Salvation of the Lord.

- a) **Moses.** (Exo 14:13 KJV) And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. (Exo 14:14 KJV) The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.
- b) **Jehoshaphat.** (2 Chr 20:17 KJV) Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

## LESSON EIGHT

### “Overcoming by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of Our Testimony”

Revelation 12:11. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. KJV

#### 1) The Word of Our Testimony Puts into Motion What the Blood of the Lamb Has Already Done.

- a) *Jesus has destroyed the works of the devil by the shedding of His blood.*
- b) *If that were all that was needed, everyone would automatically receive the benefits of the atonement without any action on their part.*
  - i) There is an action that produces every reaction; or there is a cause for every effect.
  - ii) Everyone who comes to God must believe—
    - (1) That He is...
      - (a) His existence.
      - (b) That He is what we need Him to be.
    - (2) And that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- c) *Before we benefit from the blood, we should know what the blood represents--the power that's in the blood.*

#### 2) What the Blood Means.

- a) *Why did God require blood?* Is He a bloody God? Why was Abel's blood sacrifice more acceptable than Cain's sacrifice?
- b) *Why did God require bloody circumcision?* (Moses' wife accuses him of being a bloody husband when he circumcised their sons).
- c) *Two purposes of blood:*
  - i) The blood covenant (exchange of blood).
  - ii) To satisfy the demands of justice.
    - (1) Fallen man to be restored back to fellowship with God.
    - (2) To claim back what Satan had taken.

#### 3) The Blood Covenant.

- a) *Covenant translated from Hebrew word berith, which means "to cut."*
- b) *"To cut" means to "let the blood," which is an important element of the blood covenant.*
- c) *It means to exchange blood.*
  - i) Circumcision represented man's blood.
  - ii) The blood of animals was the substitute for God's blood. Man, as God's representative, took the blood of the animals until the "real blood" was shed--the blood of the Son of God.
  - iii) Hebrews 9:18-22. 18 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and

hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. 21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. KJV

#### 4) **The Blood Covenant Is the Basis of All Primitive Religions.**

##### *a) Three reasons*

- i) Preservation
- ii) Partnership
- iii) Love--David and Jonathan

##### *b) How entered*

- i) Negotiation
- ii) Exchange of gifts
- iii) Intermingling of blood
- iv) Curses and blessings

##### *c) Sacredness*

- i) Never known to be broken
- ii) Perpetual, indissoluble, cannot be disannulled

#### 5) **God's Covenant with Abraham**

##### *a) Exchange of gifts*

- i) All Abraham had laid on altar
- ii) God's return promise to sustain, protect, bless

##### *b) Exchange of blood*

###### i) Circumcision

###### (1) Seal of covenant

(a) Gen. 17:13 - "And my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant."

(b) God's substitute - the Lamb

###### (2) Curses and blessings

(a) Blessings as long as keep covenant

(i) No enemies to prevail

(ii) No sick people

(iii) Never barren wife

(iv) No babies died prematurely.

(v) No crop failures

(vi) Deuteronomy 11:13-15. 13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. 15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. KJV

(b) Curses - went into captivity

##### *c) Sacredness*

- i) Joshua and Gibeon (Hivites).
  - (1) We will be your servants
  - (2) Cursed, none freed from being bondmen.
- ii) Gal. 3:15 - "Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannuleth, or addeth thereto."

## 6) The New Covenant

- a) Hebrews 8:10. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: KJV
- b) ***Sealed by blood of Jesus*** - Mt. 26:28
  - i) For this is my blood of the new testament
  - ii) Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, no life in you
- c) ***Sacredness.***
  - i) Hebrews 10:29. Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? KJV

## 7) To Satisfy the Demands of Justice.

- a) ***Fallen man restored back to God.***
- b) ***Had to be man; had to be perfect man.*** Jesus was the only one who could "fit the bill."
  - i) He became sin that we might become the righteousness of God.
  - ii) We are justified through the blood of Jesus.
  - iii) When Jesus was declared righteous, or justified, we also became righteous and justified because of our identification with Him.
- c) ***To take back what Satan had taken.***
- d) ***A man had to meet Satan on his own grounds and defeat him.***
  - i) There was only one such man who could do so; that man had to be free from the power of Satan through being free from the curse of sin.
  - ii) This required a person who was not of the first Adam. Jesus, the only begotten Son of the Most High God, was never under the bondage of sin.
  - iii) He had to become man; therefore, He was born of a virgin. Had he not been born of a virgin, he would have been born of Adam and could not have been that "man" to defeat Satan.
- e) That's the reason Satan has motivated liberal theologians to deny the virgin birth of Jesus; thinking that it would disannul the process which brought redemption. But what man says, thinks, or does, can not disannul what has already been accomplished.
  - i) That "man" had to overcome every power and effect of the fall, including death.
  - ii) The shedding of blood comes from the death of the sacrifice.
  - iii) The blood of Jesus is representative of His death, and what His death represented. It represented Jesus' defeat of Satan--including the power of death.

## 8) How Do We Overcome the Enemy by the Blood of Jesus?

- a) ***It is because the blood of Jesus has already overcome him.***
- b) ***Satan knows this, and he does not like to be reminded of it.***



- c) That's what takes place when we plead the blood.*
- 9) How Do We Overcome the Enemy by the Word of Our Testimony?**
  - a) The word of our testimony is the confession of our mouth; that is what activates the power of the blood.*
  - b) It is the word of our testimony that activates faith.*
  - c) The word of our testimony also can be a declaration what God has already done for us; believing that He will do it again.*

## LESSON NINE

### The Ministry of Angels - I

#### 1) Interest in Angels.

##### a) *Some interesting facts.*

- i) Approximately 300 direct or indirect references in scripture to angels.
- ii) Best seller lists regularly have popular titles about angels; book stores have whole sections devoted to angels.
- iii) On TV Patty Duke hosted an NBC special called "Angels: The Mysterious Messengers."
- iv) Michael Landon starred for five years as an angel sent to earth to assist mortals in "Highway to Heaven."
- v) CBS currently has one in the same vein on Saturday nights' called "Touched by an Angel."
- vi) Hillary Clinton has a gold angel pin she wears on days she needs help (1). Lots of interest.
- vii) According to a Time Magazine/CNN poll,
  - (1) 69% of American adults believe in the existence of angels; 46% believe they have their own Guardian Angel.
  - (2) Almost one-third (32%) say they have, at one time or another, personally felt an angelic presence in their life.

b) *Angels: a universal idea.* If there is such a thing as a universal idea, one that cuts across cultures and religions, common through the centuries, it is this belief in angels. Not only do Christians, Jews, and Muslims (the monotheistic religions) have angels, but Buddhism, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism do too; winged figures appear in primitive Sumerian carvings, Egyptian tombs and Assyrian reliefs.

#### 2) What Does the Bible Say about Angels?

##### a) *Derivation.*

- i) First of all, the term: "angel" is derived from the Greek word *angelos* which means "messenger."
- ii) *Angelos* and the Hebrew equivalent, *malak* (which also means "messenger" [the book of Malachi = My Messenger]), are the two most common terms used to describe this class of beings.

##### b) *Angels as mediators between God and us.*

- i) In general, in texts where an angel appears, the task is to convey the message or do something on behalf of God.
- ii) Since the focus of the text is on the message, the messenger is rarely described in detail. Thus, the divine emissary may or may not be some sort of supernatural being.

c) *God's heavenly entourage.* Another set of terms used to describe angels focuses not on angels as mediators between God and us, but on God's heavenly entourage.

- i) Terms such as "holy ones," and "heavenly host" seem to focus on angels as

CELESTIAL beings.

- ii) As such, these variously worship God, attend God's throne, or comprise God's army. These terms are used typically in contexts emphasizing the grandeur, power, and/or mighty acts of God.
- d) ***A third category of heavenly beings is that of winged angels.*** Cherubim and seraphim make their most memorable appearances in the visions of Ezekiel (1:4-28; 10:3-22) and Isaiah (6:2-6).
  - i) Cherubim function primarily as guards or attendants to the divine throne. They were placed as armed guards at the entrance to the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve were banished (and those cute cuddly pictures of chubby little cherubs does NOT reflect the Biblical image).
  - ii) Seraphim appear only in Isaiah's vision and there attend God's throne and offer praises.
- e) ***All three categories present us with heavenly beings in service to God.*** The text may focus on the service done or on the God served but rarely on the servants themselves.
- f) ***Angels are ministering spirits.*** The book of Hebrews calls angels "ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation." (Heb 1:14).

### 3) Characteristics of Angels.

- a) ***In the Bible, the appearance of angels varies.***
  - i) Only cherubim and seraphim are represented with wings.
  - ii) Often in the Old Testament angels appear as ordinary men.
  - iii) Sometimes, however, their uniqueness is evident as they do things or appear in a fashion clearly non-human.
  - iv) The brilliant white appearance common to the New Testament angel is not a feature of the Old Testament image.
- b) ***How about gender?***
  - i) Are there boy angels and girl angels?
  - ii) Some point to Jesus words in Mark 12:25 about there not being marriage as we understand it in heaven; instead we will, to use his words, "be like angels;" many have interpreted that as meaning that angels are sexless.

### 4) Ways Angels Minister to Us:

- a) ***Messenger.***
  - i) Many accounts in scripture centered around the birth of Christ and the spread of His word after His death.
  - ii) The priest Zechariah was visited by the archangel Gabriel, who declared that his barren wife Elizabeth would bear a son. This child was John the Baptist, whose mission was to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah.
  - iii) Gabriel was also sent to Mary to announce that although still a virgin, she would bear a son, who would be called Jesus.
- b) ***Provision.*** The Lord uses His angels to physically provide for His own. It was an angel who brought Elijah bread and water while fleeing from Jezebel after his victory on Mt. Carmel (I Kings 19:5-6).
- c) ***Guidance.*** Sometimes, angels give guidance so God's people will know what He wants

us to do.

- i) An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and instructed him to take Mary as his wife and to name her baby Jesus. (Mat 1:20-21).
  - ii) An angel told Philip where to go in his travels so that he could meet the Ethiopian eunuch and lead him to Christ (Ac 8:26).
- d) **Encouragement.** Angelic ministry to us can include powerful encouragement.
- i) When Paul and his shipmates were caught in a horrible storm and faced shipwreck, an angel appeared to him, assured him that not a life would be lost, and that he would live to stand trial before Caesar (Ac 27:23).
  - ii) One mother of a young girl told that after her daughter's cancer surgery, a very tall nurse with long braids, a real Amazon, ministered to her all night long. She was caring for the girl with a strong but gentle tenderness, and talking with the mom about how good God is. After they went home, the mother decided to write a thank-you note to the nurse, and called the hospital to ask for her name. Everyone--even the head of nursing--insisted that there was no nurse with that description working at the hospital. She believes God sent an angel to encourage her through that dark night.
- e) **Protection.**
- i) Daniel 6 tells the story of how an angel shut the mouths of the lions when he was thrown into their den.
  - ii) A young lady named Myra worked in the inner-city ministry of Teen Challenge in Philadelphia. One neighborhood gang liked to terrorize anyone who tried to enter the Teen Challenge building, and they harassed Myra as well. One night, when she was alone in the building with the gang banging on the door, she felt she should continue to try to reach out to them with the gospel of Jesus. As she opened the door, she breathed a prayer for protection. The boys suddenly stopped their shouting, looked at each other, turned and left quietly. Myra had no idea why. Later on, as the staff people were able to build relationships with the gang members, the ministry director asked them why they dropped their threats against Myra and left her alone that night. One young man spoke up, saying, "We wouldn't dare touch her after her boyfriend showed up. That dude had to be seven feet tall.: the director said, "I didn't know Myra had a boyfriend. But at any rate, she was here alone that night." Another gang member insisted, "No, we saw him. He was right behind her, big as life in his classy white suit."
  - iii) Another young woman walking home from work in Brooklyn had to go past a young man loitering against a building. She was fearful; there had been muggings in the area recently, and she prayed for protection. She had to go right by him, and although she could feel him watching her, he didn't move. A short time after she reached home, she heard sirens and saw police lights. The next day her neighbor told her someone had been raped, in the same place and just after she had passed by the young man. She wondered if the man she'd passed was the rapist, because if it were, she could identify him. She called the police and discovered they had a suspect in custody. She identified him in a lineup and asked the policeman, "Why didn't he attack me? I was just as vulnerable as the next woman who came along." The policeman was curious too, so he described the woman and asked the suspect about her. He said, "I remember her. But why would I have bothered her? She was walking down the street

- with two big guys, one on either side of her."
- f) **Rescue.** Sometimes, angels rescue people in danger.
- i) It was an angel--if not the Angel of the Lord, who is the pre-incarnate Christ--who joined Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego in the fiery furnace, rescuing them from the flames (Daniel 3).
  - ii) The apostles were seized by the high priests and placed in prison to be tried, but Acts 5:17-21 describes how an angel opened the prison doors, brought them out, and told them to go to the temple and speak to the people about Jesus.
  - iii) An angel rescued Peter from prison after prayer by the church.
  - iv) A man and a friend were walking through a rough neighborhood one night when 12 or 15 gang members jumped them. The man took two punches and sank to the ground. He expected to be robbed and severely beaten, but he wasn't. Instead, he heard a voice from about six feet up: "It's okay, they're gone." He looked up and saw his friend who mysteriously was now about 25 feet away, leaning against a wall with his fists still clenched as if he were ready to fight. But there was no gang. They just disappeared. And there was nobody next to the man.
- g) **Warrior Angels.**
- i) The scriptures tell of warring angels who fight spiritual battles for us and who overcome the efforts of Satan's demons to keep God's blessings from us.
  - ii) Daniel 10:12-14 describes a conflict in heaven between Michael, the Jew's patron angel, and the patron angel of Persia. Daniel had been fasting before God for three weeks, seeking understanding about the future. The passage's speaker, possibly Gabriel, came to deliver a message regarding the future to Daniel and explained that he had been detained for twenty-one days by the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" until Michael, a warring Archangel came to relieve him. Gabriel states that he must return to continue the fight, and he expects to be involved with the patron angel of Greece (a devil) also. That those evil demonic forces tried to withstand him suggests that they did not want Daniel to be told the things which were to befall the Jews in days yet to come.
  - iii) When the chief priests and elders of Jerusalem came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, his disciples were ready to attack. One even drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's slave. Jesus admonished him, saying that He could pray to God to send 12 legions (72,000) of angels to rescue Him Matthew 26:47-54 .
  - iv) During the wilderness wanderings of the Children of Israel, God led them with a fire by night and a pillar of smoke by day. He commanded Moses to travel onward to the land that had been promised them and promised that He would send angels to fight for them Exodus 33:2 . Without divine intervention and the activity of warring angels, they could never have hoped to attain their goal of the promised land.
  - v) The prophet Elisha prayed that the Lord would open the eyes of his servant so he could see the mighty angelic army of God protecting them.
  - vi) In Nazi Germany, one mother took her little boy, who was unchurched, to a shelter run by nuns that had become known as a safe place because nothing bad ever seemed to happen there. His first night, while everyone else was praying that God would protect them, this little boy kept his eyes open. After the "amen," he told his mother, "It came up to here on them!" and pointed to his breastbone. When asked what he

meant, he said, "The gutter came up to here on them!" A nurse asked, "What are you talking about?" and he told her that he saw men filled with light guarding each corner of the shelter, so tall that they towered above the roof. The shelter was protected by huge warrior angels that only a little boy could see.(4)

vii) Tony Abram's story of angelic protection of missionary in Africa where giant angels protected home.

h) ***Guardian Angels.***

i) Do we have guardian angels? The Bible doesn't give a definitive answer on that, although the Lord Jesus did say, "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:10)

ii) And Psalm 91:11 promises, "For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."

iii) Amy Grant sings a popular song called "Angels:"

Angels watching over me, every move I make,  
Angels watching over me!  
Angels watching over me, every step I take,  
Angels watching over me!

God only knows the times my life was threatened just today.

A reckless car ran out of gas before it ran my way.

Near misses all around me, accidents unknown,

Though I never see with human eyes  
the hands that lead me home.

But I know they're all around me  
all day and through the night.

When the enemy is closing in,  
I know sometimes they fight

To keep my feet from falling,  
I'll never turn away.

If you're asking what's protecting me  
then you're gonna hear me say:

Got His angels watching over me, every move I make,

Angels watching over me!

Angels watching over me, every step I take,

Angels watching over me....

In the comic strip "Family Circus," Billy comes into the house all tattered and torn. He looks like he has been in a wreck, then a fight, then dragged for a mile or two by a team of runaway horses. He asks, "Do guardian angels take days off?"

**5) Angels Sent As Result of Prayer.**

a) ***Abraham and Lot.***

i) Abraham, told by God of His plan to destroy the wicked city of Sodom (and

- Gomorrah), pleaded on behalf of the righteous and his nephew Lot: "Will you destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city, will you destroy the city and the fifty righteous who are in it?"
- ii) When God promised to spare the city for fifty righteous people, Abraham continued bargaining, eventually obtaining God's promise to spare the city for 10 righteous. God did not find even 10 righteous people in Sodom, but sent two angels to bring Lot and his family out of the city before its sudden and total destruction in a holocaust of fire and brimstone Genesis 19:15 .
- b) **Peter.** In Acts 12:5-8 , Peter was imprisoned and about to be brought before Herod. Constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church, and in the middle of the night, an angel awakened Peter, released his chains, and led him out of the prison.
  - c) **Should intercede for others.** It therefore behooves us as Christians to continue to intercede for others, to beseech God to intervene for all of us in our work for Him and in our daily lives.
    - i) Only heaven will reveal the many times we have been spared death or injury because of angel intervention as the response of intercessory prayer for one another.
    - ii) When you feel the impulse to pray for others do so at once. You do not know what may be happening at that precise time in their lives. Possibly God may dispatch an angel to help them in a time of desperate need.
- 6) **Summary.**
- a) In these final days of the church age there is an increase in angel activity, even as there was an increase in angel activity preceding Jesus' birth and during His ministry here on earth.
  - b) The end of the age brings with it an increase in satanic activity.
    - i) Counteracting that activity is the intervention of God's mighty angelic host. God's angels are warriors and guardians, charged with protecting His redeemed children as they go about their day-to-day tasks.
    - ii) Angels played a role in the preparation for the coming of the Messiah , and will play a role in the end times.
    - iii) It is important to understand that not all reports of angels are necessarily of God; there are counterfeit angels also. We must be able to discern good from evil, right from wrong, satanic angels from God's angels.

## LESSON TEN

### THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS - II

#### “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”

#### 1) The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

a) *We discussed the good last week.*

b) *The bad are fallen angels, or demons.*

- i) (2 Pet 2:4 KJV) For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;
- ii) (Jude 1:6 KJV) And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.
- iii) (Rev 12:7 KJV) And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, (Rev 12:8 KJV) And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. (Rev 12:9 KJV) And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

c) *The ugly are angels who masquerade as good (angels of light).*

- i) An angel of light in biblical terms is not an angel that appears in a burst of light or looks radiant or has a halo around his head.
- ii) An angel of light, regardless of what he looks like, says or does, is a spirit who presents a gospel other than what is found in the Bible.
  - (1) (2 Cor 11:14 KJV) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (2 Cor 11:15 KJV) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
  - (2) (Gal 1:8 KJV) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

d) *Angels are messengers.*

- i) Angels of God often appear in the Bible as God’s messengers.
- ii) Angels of light carry messages too, but they are not from God.

#### 2) When God Moves to Restore a Truth, It Seems That Human Nature Always Goes to the Extreme with It.

a) *People go overboard and get caught up in emotional extremes.*

b) *The enemy exaggerates fears* that things are out of control or becoming emotional and fleshly so that well-meaning Christians are the ones who quench the move of the Spirit.

c) *The Holy Spirit brings a balance* and integrates the restored truth with previous truths to make a solid foundation for the next restoration.

#### 3) The Secular World Counterfeits the Real.

a) *The world imitates God’s restoration.*

- i) When God moves in restoration, the secular world also somehow receives the truth



- released into people's spirits.
- ii) Because nonbelievers don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, they translate the thoughts or influence of the Holy Spirit into secular terms.
- b) **Examples.**
- i) The spiritual movement to take us back to the basics of the faith has translated in the secular world as a "back to the earth" movement, back to one's roots in nature.
  - ii) The spiritual move of breaking out of religious traditions became the Jesus Movement, but at the same time, hippies rebelled against all establishments, including God.
  - iii) The charismatic movement emphasized the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit for the second time this century.
    - (1) This was translated by the world into interest in the occult.
    - (2) Satan never misses open doors. His trade is wildfire--or no fire at all.
    - (3) The purpose of the move of God that we call charismatic was to restore the knowledge that He loves mankind.
    - (4) However, many Christians as well as nonbelievers somehow became "babies" who wanted toys and presents as a demonstration of love.
    - (5) God's love was viewed in many cases as permissiveness, with no emphasis on a holy walk.
    - (6) This resulted in a generation of spoiled baby boomers and baby Christians--the "Me Generation."
  - iv) The move of God to pull down the walls of racial separation in His church is being translated by the world into political correctness, which is tolerance carried to extremes.
- c) **The current fad is about angels.** When God began to restore this truth, Satan began to catch the world's attention.

#### 4) Prove All Things.

- a) **Believers must not, and nonbelievers should not, accept anything supernatural without testing its source.**
- i) Paul said to "prove all things." and to "hold fast that which is good." (1 Thes 5:21).
  - ii) John said, (1 John 4:1 KJV) Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
- b) **How do you test an angel?**
- i) See if his visit matches those in the Bible.
  - ii) If his words line up with Bible.
  - iii) If the purpose for which he visits achieves is biblical.

#### 5) Some Specific Points in Testing Angels.

- a) **Does he tell you he is the spirit of a dead friend or ancestor?**
- i) In other words, does he draw your attention to himself or to beings other than Jesus and the Father? That is not a real angel of God.
  - ii) God's angels never testify of themselves.
- b) **Does he bring you revelation that cannot be found in the Bible?**
- i) Says that all religions are of God?

- ii) Their lies started two major religions: Islam and Mormonism.
- c) ***Does he entertain, socialize and hang around after his “assignment” is over?***
  - i) Does he use spectacular lights, weird sounds or odd odors to get your attention?
  - ii) When a real angel appears, he gives you a message or helps you out of danger--and then vanishes.
- d) ***Does he flatter you?***
  - i) Does he flatter you and build up your pride, perhaps telling you how spiritual you are?
  - ii) An angelic visitation is not proof of spiritual maturity.
- e) ***Does he leave you feeling anxious, fearful or confused?***
- f) ***Does he try to force you to do something against your inner witness?***
- g) ***Do these encounters bear spiritual fruit?***
  - i) Do they cause you to change for the better in some way?
  - ii) Or are the results harmful to you or those around you?
- h) ***Does the angel carry ongoing communication?***
  - i) If an angel tells you that you can talk to him anytime or call him in some way; or if he tells you that angels can live within you--he is a counterfeit.
  - ii) Real angels never become part of you, nor can you ever become an angel.
- i) ***You can not test an angel if you do not know the Bible.***

#### 6) **Our Guarantee in Determining Counterfeits.**

- a) ***Know the real and the true.***
  - i) Bank tellers, learning to distinguish counterfeit money from the genuine item, do not major on the counterfeit. They study the real thing until they cannot accept a “dollar of light” as a real buck.
  - ii) In the same manner we need to study God’s Word and learn His ways so we will recognize Satan’s counterfeits.
- b) ***Walk close to God.***
  - i) There is no substitute for walking close enough to the Lord in prayer to be able to get what some Christians call “a check” or “a witness” from the Holy Spirit.
  - ii) These “red lights” and “green lights” tell us whether something we are hearing or reading is the real thing.
  - iii) Then we can investigate the matter further to find out what is right or wrong with it.

## LESSON ELEVEN

### *Casting All Our Cares on the Lord*

*II Pet. 5:7 - "Casting all your care upon Him ; for he careth for you."*

#### 1) **The Cares of This Life.**

a) ***"He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." (Mt. 13:22).***

b) ***The cares of this world represent the stresses of life.***

i) Fast-paced lifestyle; go, go, go society; keeping up with the Jones.

ii) *Finances - job, unemployment.*

iii) *Children.*

iv) *Marriage problems.*

v) *Health.*

vi) *Fear of the unknown; not knowing what to expect.*

c) *Definition of stress.*

i) *The wear and tear of living which each of us experiences as the result of the pressures of life.*

ii) *Actually, stress in itself is neither good nor bad; it's what we make of it that really counts.*

(1) *When it motivates us to action, stress can be good.*

(2) *That's why your heart pounds and our blood pressure rises when we receive a promotion; feel out of breath when our sweetheart agreed to be our wife.*

iii) *But when stress puts our bodies under prolonged physical and emotional pressure, then the very things that might have been stimulating and fun become destructive and unpleasant instead.*

#### 2) **CASTING ALL OUR CARE UPON THE LORD.**

a) *Jesus loves and cares for us.*

b) *Jesus has paid it all.*

i) *Borne our griefs; carried our sorrows.*

ii) *Touched by our infirmities (without strength or weak). Heb. 4:15 - "We have a high priest who is touched by feeling of your infirmities."*

iii) *Not just weaknesses, but emotional hang-ups and inner conflicts.*

iv) *Jesus understands our frustration, anxiety, depression, hurts, feelings of abandonment, loneliness, isolation, and rejection*

c) *Satan is effective in using weapons of guilt, rejection, fear, embarrassment, grief, depression, loneliness, and misunderstanding.*

d) *We are to lay aside every weight and sin that easily besets us.*

i) *Pain, hurt, disappointments, and failures.*

ii) *Discouragement, depression, hopelessness.*

e) *And besetting sin.*

- i) Anxiety, fear, worry.
- ii) Frustration, anger, uncontrolled temper, rage, bitterness, hatred, hostility.
- iii) Resentment, strife.

3) WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ANXIETY.

- a) *"The cares (anxieties) of this world choke out the world."*
- b) *Proverbs - "Anxious hearts are very heavy." "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop."*
- c) *Phil. 4:6 - "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*
- d) *"Martha, Martha, you are careful (anxious) and troubleth about many things..."*
- e) *I Cor. 7:32 - "But I would have you without carefulness (anxiety). He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord."*
- f) *Emotional problems may start with simple frustrations, disappointments, etc.*
- g) *Could end up as fear, worry, or full-blown psychological problems.*
- h) *Anxiety as fret and worry comes when we turn from God.*
  - i) *Shift the burdens of life on to ourselves*
  - ii) *Assume that we are responsible for handling our own problems.*

4) BESIDES THE POSITIVE WAY, THERE ARE TWO NEGATIVE WAYS OF DEALING WITH UNDESIRABLE EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS.

- a) Recognize, but cover up.
  - i) *Become increasingly frustrated.*
  - ii) *Sink deeper into disillusionment and despair - alienate ourselves from God.*
- b) Denial - *Repress feelings which later surface in all manner of illnesses and emotional disturbances.*

5) Preventing Anxiety

- a) *Learn to lean on the Lord; Trust God.*
  - i) *Take no thought for tomorrow.*
  - ii) *We are more important than the sparrows.*
- b) *Admit fears, insecurities, conflicts, and anxieties when they arise.*
- c) *Find someone with whom you can talk these over with on a regular basis if necessary.*
- d) *Acknowledge that separation hurts; attempt to maintain contact with separated friends, and build new relationships with others.*
- e) *Learn to communicate more effectively.*
- f) *Learn how to relax.*
- g) *Periodically evaluate:*
  - (1) *Priorities.*
  - (2) *Life goals.*
  - (3) *Utilize time management.*
- h) *Keep things in perspective.*

i) *Seek help from God and others in meeting one's needs.*

Choruses:

*Leave them there,  
Leave them there.  
Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there.  
If you'll trust and never doubt,  
He will surely bring you out.  
Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there.*

*When your body suffers pain,  
And your health you can't regain.  
And you have to get along on meager fare;  
Just remember in God's Word,  
How He fed the little birds.  
Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there.*

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*Learning to lean,  
I'm learning to lean.  
I'm learning to lean on Jesus;  
Finding more power than I ever dreamed,  
I'm learning to lean on Jesus.*

## LESSON TWELVE

### Strong in the Power of His Might

**Eph. 6:10-***"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."*

#### 1) What God Says Concerning the Weak and Faint-Hearted.

- a) (Prov 24:10 KJV) If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.
- b) (Deu 20:3 KJV) ...Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; (Deu 20:4 KJV) For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.
- c) (Isa 40:29 KJV) He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. (Isa 40:30 KJV) Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: (Isa 40:31 KJV) But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
- d) (Luke 18:1 KJV) ...men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
- e) (Gal 6:9 KJV) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

#### 2) Command to Be Strong.

- a) (Deu 11:8 KJV) Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;
- b) (Joel 3:10 KJV) Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.
- c) (Josh 1:9 KJV) Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.
  - i) Be strong and of a good courage.
    - (1) Moses and Joshua (7 times).
    - (2) David to Solomon (2 times).
  - ii) "Be strong and of a good courage" associated with "fear not; be not dismayed."
    - (1) (Deu 31:6 KJV) Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.
    - (2) (Josh 10:25 KJV) And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.
    - (3) (1 Chr 28:20 KJV) And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

### 3) **The Key Is To Be Strong in the Power of His Might.**

- a) ***The Lord is the strength of my life.*** (Psa 27:1 KJV) A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- b) ***Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord.***
  - i) Our strength is not within ourselves nor in the strength of man.
  - ii) Our trust is in the LORD.
  - iii) The anointing makes the difference.
    - (1) Samson was invincible when the Spirit of the LORD came upon him; but he was helpless when not.
    - (2) David defeated the giant because he trusted the LORD and not unproven armor.
      - (a) He came against the giant in the name of the Lord.
      - (b) The name of the Lord is a strong tower...
- c) ***God has chosen weak things...***(1 Cor 1:27 KJV) But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;
- d) ***Out of weakness made strong.*** (Heb 11:32 KJV) And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: (Heb 11:33 KJV) Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, (Heb 11:34 KJV) Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
- e) ***Treasure in earthen vessels.*** (2 Cor 4:7 KJV) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

### 4) **God Needs People Who Are Strong In Character.**

- a) ***Reputation is who people say you are.***
- b) ***Self-esteem is who you think you are.***
- c) ***Character is what you really are.***

### 5) **It Takes A Person Who Is Strong in Character to Stand Up in the Face of Adversity.**

- a) ***To say, "I will overcome; I will prevail; I will win; I will not give up; I will not give in; I will not be defeated, and I will not quit; I will persevere regardless of the cost."***
- b) ***It takes a strong person to get back up when you are down.***
  - i) May be down, but not out. (2 Cor 4:8 KJV) We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; (2 Cor 4:9 KJV) Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;
  - ii) The gates of hell will not prevail.
  - iii) May get heel bruised; but we will bruise the head of the seed of the serpent!

### 6) **It's Not So Much What Happens to You...**

- a) ***Its how you respond or react to what happens.***
- b) ***As parents, we demonstrate to our children how to deal with problems and adversities.***
  - i) When adversity strikes, you can fold or see it as an opportunity for God to manifest

His strength and His grace.

- ii) Problems represent opportunities to respond correctly.
- iii) When problems arise, you can run or stand.
- iv) Difficulties may simply become challenges.

**7) God Will Always Make a Way.**

- a) *He will make a way where there seems to be no way.*
- b) *What appears to be impossible with man becomes very possible with God.*
- c) *There's nothing too hard for God.*
  - i) There is no problem too big for Him to solve.
  - ii) There is no situation we find ourselves in which can defeat us.

**8) We Are Commanded to Put on the Whole Armor of God.**

- a) *Loins girt about with truth*
  - i) Procreative power--reproductive area girted with truth.
  - ii) (Heb 7:10 KJV) For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.
  - iii) (1 Pet 1:13 KJV) Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
- b) *Breastplate of righteousness.*
  - i) Protection for the heart.
  - ii) We are to guard our hearts.
  - iii) Motives of heart.
- c) *Feet shod with preparation of gospel of peace.*
  - i) Feet represent solid foundation.
  - ii) Feet represent our walking out what we believe.
  - iii) Feet provides direction--where the body should go.
- d) *Shield of faith.*
  - i) Maneuverable; can be moved to where the attack is.
  - ii) Warding off the attacks of the enemy.
- e) *Helmet of salvation.*
  - i) Protects the head or the brain.
  - ii) Protects the center of our thoughts.
- f) *Offensive weapons.*

Sword of the spirit--the Word of God.

Prayer.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

Watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

**Things to Do to Help Us to Face Each Day.**

*Should recognize the covering of God by being in divine order.*

*Should not attempt to start the day without prayer.*

*Should pray the protection of God around our families.*