

## **DELIVERANCE & SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

### *Part One*

Tonight I want to talk again about an area of our Christian walk that is either being *ignored* by Christians or is being *counterfeited* by religious demon spirits. This is the reality of evil spirits, and the fact that part of our call as Christians—and especially if we are “preaching the gospel”—is to war against these spirits and overcome them.

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And **these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.***

*Mark 16:15-18*

Let me call a few things to your attention in this passage. First of all, Jesus said certain “signs” would follow those who believe on His name. He didn’t say these signs *might* follow those who believe. He said they *will* follow those who believe. And the very first sign that is to follow those who believe is the power to “cast out devils”. If this sign is not following our lives or our ministries, something is wrong.

Secondly, Jesus mentioned *both* casting out devils and healing the sick in this passage. So if the only work demons could do was make people sick *physically*, Jesus would not have mentioned both these things in the same passage. The fact that he mentions them both, shows that demons are able to do *more* than just make people sick in their bodies.

*And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases **and torments**, and those which **were possessed with devils**, and those **which were lunatick**, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.*

*Matthew 4:24*

Again, when describing the work of demons, we see that they do more than afflict the body. They also afflict the soul (*ie: our mind, emotions, desires and will*). They are the cause of various emotional problems (“*torments*”) and mental problems (“*lunatick*”). When they attack our minds, the result is mental anguish and torment, mental breakdowns, and eventually insanity. When they attack our emotions, they cause us to be emotionally unbalanced and eventually cause nervous breakdowns. When they attack our will, we become passive and have no ability to fight whatever it is that is trying to gain control over us. Once a demon gains complete control over a person’s mind and will, that person is “possessed”.

After defeating Satan in the wilderness, Jesus spent the next three and a half years delivering *God’s people* from the power of evil spirits. It was the greatest “deliverance ministry” the world had ever seen. Jesus was pulling back the veil of the spirit realm and allowing us to get a glimpse of how things really work in that realm. He showed that demon spirits are the *cause* of most of the physical, emotional and mental problems we face.

Unfortunately, most of today's Christians have missed the point. They continue to view all these things as "human conditions" which can be managed through medication, psychological counseling, 12-step programs, and so forth. The truth that Jesus revealed has been ignored—and it will continue to be ignored because it goes against one of the basic (*sacred cow*) doctrines of the Evangelical Church, which is that a Christian cannot have a demon.

I'm not even going to waste my time trying to convince those who are hearing my voice that a Christian can "have" a demon—that is, that a Christian can walk and live under the influence and/or the power of a demon spirit or spirits. I've spent my whole Christian life helping God's people get free from such spirits; so I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that many of God's children can and DO have spirits. Those who want to believe otherwise are free to believe what they want; but please don't bother trying to convince me it's not possible for a believer to "have a demon" because I know it is possible.

One of the reasons I keep revisiting this subject is because those who deny or try to ignore the reality of Satan and his demons are headed for real spiritual trouble in these days. Unless we learn to recognize these spirits when they begin to move, and learn how to defeat them, we will eventually be deceived. So the *first* reason to learn about this whole area of truth is spiritual self preservation. We must learn it so we do *not* end up becoming part of the great apostasy.

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times** some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;***  
*I. Timothy 4:1*

Far too few of us have any *real* knowledge or experience in the area of deliverance and spiritual warfare. Moreover, most religious leaders (*except those in the Prophetic and Apostolic movements, who are themselves totally deceived*) will not even mention the subject, let alone preach about it. This is incredible, given the fact that many of these *same* leaders understand that we are now in the great end time apostasy, and they know Paul said this apostasy would be *the result* of God's people "giving heed to seducing spirits" and the "doctrines of devils".

It's very unsettling to see that Satan has managed to *hide himself* from the view of the majority of God's people, so that most of them *never* engage in warfare against him. What we have today is a situation where half the Church lives in denial regarding spirits, being too frightened to even think about the subject, while the other half has been seduced by spirits and are involved in a *counterfeit* of what God wants to lead us into. So either way, Satan has what he wants: the majority of us are *not* learning how to recognize the work of demon spirits, and we are not learning how to successfully wage war against them and gain the victory. Either they avoid the whole subject like cancer, or they have embraced a counterfeit version of spiritual warfare.

The second reason I keep revisiting this issue is because unless we learn how to recognize and defeat these spirits, we will never enter the "rest" of God. We will never receive the inheritance or gain the destiny God has prepared for us.

*There **remaineth therefore a rest** to the people of God...**Let us labour** therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.*

*Hebrews 4:9 & 11*

The writer of Hebrews talked about a “rest” which God’s people in every generation must enter into by faith. For the Old Testament Israelite, entering God’s rest meant taking possession of that which God had prepared for *them*—the geographical Land of Promise. For the New Testament believer, entering that rest means appropriating that which God has prepared for *us*.

Our Promised Land is nothing less than sinless perfection. Our rest is attaining the fulness of God and of Christ. It’s coming into total spiritual union with God as a result of being conformed to the image of Jesus. Israel’s conquest of Canaan was used to *illustrate* how New Testament believers are to enter *their* rest. Though it can only be entered by faith, it still requires *effort*. We do not enter God’s rest automatically, anymore than Israel automatically entered Canaan.

Entering God’s rest requires labor on our part. The labor that is required is two-fold in nature, and was summed up beautifully by the apostle James when he said: "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you*" (James 4:7). Our labor requires that we deal personally with both God and Satan. In order to submit to God we must obey Him. We must cease from performing our own works (*including our own religious works*), and doing our own will. We must lose our lives.

In order to resist the Devil we have to engage in spiritual combat. Resisting the Devil requires a confrontation with an *invisible*, but very real enemy. It's not possible to submit to God by resisting the Devil; and it's not possible to resist the Devil by submitting to God. We must do both. We must submit and resist. The purpose of resisting the enemy is so that he does not overcome us, but that we overcome him.

And how do we “resist” the enemy? We resist him by *wrestling* against his power and his temptations in prayer, and by exerting our own will against the desires and the thoughts he is trying to give us; or against the habits he has already formed in us.

*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.** 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. 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:*

*Ephesians 6:10-17*

In Ephesians 6:10 we are admonished to “*be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might*”. The reason we are told to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might is found in verse 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*”. The King James Version says these evil powers are in “high places,” but a better term, based on the Greek, is “heavenly places.” We are in a battle, not against flesh and blood (*human beings*), but against invisible creatures who dwell in the spirit realm (*heavenly places*).

If you will take your Webster's dictionary and look up the word "principality", you will find that a "*pality*" is a kingdom, and a *princi*-pality is a kingdom ruled over by a prince. Therefore, Paul is telling us in this passage that the enemy we (*are supposed to*) fight against as Christians is the ruler of a kingdom—an efficiently organized, invisible, world-wide kingdom—and all his demonic servants, which are the angels who fell with him.

So in order to enter the rest of God, first we must realize that such creatures exist, and that their *primary goal* is to keep us from attaining the destiny and the inheritance God has prepared for us in Christ. Then we need to understand that they are more powerful than we are in our own strength and wisdom, so we need to stand against them and wrestle against them in the power of the Lord's might, and that if we do not defeat them in our own lives, we will never receive our inheritance. Then we need to learn how to wrestle against them in the spirit.

Please notice that Paul didn't say we *should* wrestle. He said "we wrestle". It was a statement of fact. He just assumed that the sober, earnest child of God *will be* wrestling against the Father's enemies. In his mind, wrestling is an integral part of the Christian walk and experience. If it is not, our walk is seriously lacking.

When was the last time *you* wrestled with an evil power? How about a ruler of darkness or a principality? Have you confronted spiritual wickedness in high places lately? Do you know how to wrestle? Do you even know how to recognize the enemy when he begins to move? Wrestling is a peculiar kind of contest. In our day it is a sport and entertainment—a staged show. However, sport and entertainment are not the lessons Paul had in mind when he used it to illustrate our warfare. He used this kind of contest to emphasize the intensity of the struggle, the individuality of the contestants, and the close proximity of the conflict.

Wrestling is a one to one contest. One opponent singles out another and enters the arena with him. Each wrestler exerts his whole force and strength against the other. It is much more intense, much more fierce, than fighting in a regular army. For though a regular battle may be long and bloody, a soldier can stop to get his breath occasionally. During the battle he may never actually engage in hand to hand combat and in fact, may escape without a scratch. This is because in typical warfare the opposing force is not focused on one individual in particular but on the whole regiment.

Wrestling is much different. In wrestling, each contestant is the *sole object* of his challenger's fury. It is continuous hand to hand combat. Armies fight at some distance, but wrestlers grapple up close. A soldier may be able to dodge an arrow or hide behind a barricade but wrestlers man-handle each other. And when the opponent (*ie: some demon spirit*) actually has a hold of you, when he's got you in his grip, you only have two choices: surrender or fight back. You can't run and hide. You can't hope he goes away. You can't invent a theology that says he can't hurt you. The confrontation will continue until either you have conquered him or he has conquered you.

Whether we like it or not, we must "go into the ring" with Satan. He is not going to give up any land he still controls in us without a fight. In fact, he will try to win back any territory he has already lost. He never misses a trick; he never misses an opportunity. The very moment we let down our guard he will start attacking the territory we have already conquered. We must fight! Fight to get free and fight to stay free.

A minister who is now dead, but who God brought into the deliverance ministry many years ago, was led into that ministry through a dream. He was a Baptist preacher who didn't even believe

in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit or the gifts of the Spirit. But one day God got through to him and he received the baptism. Within six months he had led all of those in his little congregation into that experience. Soon after that, God showed him the truth of divine healing, which he also led his congregation into. Then God started teaching him about the kingdom of Satan and how to wage war against demon spirits.

What this man experienced was identical to what the Church has been experiencing during her long years of restoration. The pattern was the same. First, salvation by grace through faith (*Brazen Altar*), then the truths of holiness and sanctification (*Brazen Laver*), then the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the manifestation of the various gifts (*Golden Lampstand*), then the truth of divine healing, followed by learning how to war and defeat demon spirits, and then the revelation of Sonship and the Feast of Tabernacles (*Table of Shewbread*), and then God gave him the message of death to self (*Golden Altar of Incense*).

When God led him into warfare and deliverance, He gave this brother a dream. In the dream he and all the people in his church were traveling through fields and woods. They were all little children, seemingly about nine years old. Suddenly they came to an open space in the fields. There, stretched out in that open space, was a great serpent about 20 feet long. He looked like he was dead and all the children said, "He is dead." But then one of the men in the church, who was a child in the dream, reached down behind his head and picked him up. When he did, this great serpent came to life and began to wriggle and squirm. The man dropped him and he slithered off. Then this brother and all the children sat down upon the ground and made a covenant together to seek out this serpent and destroy him.

It's not very hard to interpret that dream.

The serpent represented Satan. The reason he looked like he was dead in the dream was because, at that time (*around 1960*), ninety-five percent of Christianity lived as though the devil was dead, or asleep, or not even real. (*Since then a whole theology has been formulated which says even though he's real, he can't harm us because we are saved*). But God was showing that brother that Satan is very real, and when you get serious about defeating him, you are going to find out just how real and how alive he is! Making a covenant together to seek out that serpent until they found him and destroyed him meant that God was calling them into the deliverance ministry, and to learn how to recognize and defeat Satan. God was calling them to be used to do what the Scripture says Jesus came to do—destroy the works of the devil.

*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.*

*1 John 3:8*

Did you know *the purpose* for Jesus coming was to “destroy the works of the Devil”? But I thought He came to die for our sins? Why did John say that? He said it because he walked with Jesus for over 3 years and watched Jesus cast demon spirits out of multitudes of Jews. Through this, he learned that demons are *spiritual* creatures; they are *invisible* and *immaterial*. He learned that the only way Satan can really “work” is THROUGH people. That’s how he accomplishes all the evil that’s in his heart. He does his work through human vessels.

In one sense, God could have destroyed “the works” of the Devil back in the Garden of Eden, simply by binding him and placing him in the Lake of Fire right then. But the Lord wants something more than this. He wants to destroy the works of the Devil *in mankind*. For you see, mankind took on *the nature* of Satan when Adam fell. So putting Satan in the Lake of Fire right then wouldn’t have done anything in the way of curing man’s fallen condition. As long as man does the works of fallen Adam, he is doing the works of Satan, even if Satan is no where around.

So in order for Jesus to destroy the “works” of the Devil in every aspect, He had to come and die on a Cross so the Holy Spirit could come and dwell inside of us and show *us* how to STOP Satan and his demons from working *through* us. This is why God *wants us* to feel about Satan and his demons, the way He feels about them. This is why, not only must we have a *desire* to wage war on the enemy, we need to learn to fight that war, for we have been called to fight an unusual sort of battle.

Until we let God bring us into this area of warfare, we are simply fighting against Satan in the flesh. When we are preaching sermons, witnessing to people, teaching truth to people, we are only warring against *the manifestation* of demon spirits. We are only dealing giving people truths to offset the lies and the false doctrine and the error that the demon spirits have planted in their minds and hearts. But this will never fulfill the ultimate purpose of God. For we are only picking the branches off a tree.

Even when we pray for the sick and physical healing comes forth, we are still only dealing with *the manifestations* of demonic work. We are only dealing with people in the physical realm. Only as Jesus begins to impart His wisdom and knowledge of the demoniac realm, can we begin to war against the spirits themselves, who are causing all the trouble. Only then will begin to war against them effectively enough that we will begin to cut the tree out by its roots.

When God's people are properly trained and equipped *by the Holy Spirit* on in this whole area of deliverance and warfare, there will be much less need for the “casting out” of spirits than there is now. In the natural world, preventative medicine is much better than surgery. It’s the same in the realm of spiritual deliverance and warfare. It’s much better to teach a people how to recognize and defeat evil spirits when they first start talking to them or working in their lives, than it is to have to cast them out because they have found a *permanent home* in them.

Besides being told the lie that a Christian can’t have a demon, another reason we feel no burden to prepare ourselves or seek truth from God on this subject is because we only think of deliverance ministries “casting out demons”. But in reality, there are *six* basic areas of demonic work in human experience. There is the *deceiving* work of demons, the *tempting* work of demons, the *vexing* work of demons, the *depressing* work of demons, the *oppressing* work of demons, and finally, demon *possession*. Many of God's people must fight the battle against demon spirits in at least the first three of these areas—and often in the first four areas every day. My burden is that we would ask the Lord for His wisdom in these matters, so we can fight the battle and win the victory every day, every time. This way we won’t have to think or speak in terms of “casting out”.

Another reason so many of today’s Christians have no desire to enter into this whole area of spiritual experience is because it leads to a life of danger where one *must* surrender everything to God, or be subject to deception and oppression by the very demons we are warring against. This is why so many of today’s religious leaders, especially those in Prophetic and Apostolic circles, who claim to be in the “deliverance ministry” are themselves deceived and totally under

the control of demonic forces. They ended up in this tragic condition because: (1) they approached the issue of warfare and deliverance the way they have approached all the other issues of Christianity—through head knowledge; and (2) they are not endeavoring to live a crucified life before God.

These men (and women) had no idea when they entered this arena that it is extremely dangerous. When you set out to be used of God to defeat the power of Satan in yourself, and in the lives of others, you are entering a walk that is filled with spiritual land mines. If you are not deadly serious about living a crucified life, and about following the Spirit of God continually, you will end up like these poor deluded souls who think they are delivering people from Satan's power, when in fact, they are being used by Satan to bring them under his power even more than before. What's happened to these prophets and apostles in the spirit, is much the same thing that happened in the natural to the seven sons of Sceva in the book of Acts.

*And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, **took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus**, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And **the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.***

*Acts 19:11-16*

As I have said before, humans are tri-part beings. We are made up of spirit, soul, and body. Demon spirits traffic in the *soul* realm. They move in the realm of thoughts, feelings and choices. The object of every demon, when it comes to a Christian, is to gain enough control over our lives so that eventually our spirits become defiled—at which point the *life of God* begins to be driven out of us. This is how the spirit of Antichrist is able to “take his seat” in the “temple” of God and prove to the person that he is God—which in the end, destroys the believer eternally.

Again, the work of demon spirits in the lives of believers should not be viewed in the framework or explained using the language of “demon possession”. The term, “demon possession” brings to mind the idea that Satan owns the person in a legal sense, lock, stock and barrel. Rather, it is better to put this reality in a different kind of framework. Years ago the Lord showed us that, at least at the beginning stages, the work of demon spirits in our lives is more like *walking under the influence* of another person's views or desires. Only in this case, that “person” is an invisible spirit. When we listen to thoughts or desires that are coming from another spirit, we are walking under the influence of that spirit.

It's a lot like when we say a person is “drunk”. When we say that, we mean they are “under the influence” (*or control*) of alcohol. But when we say a person is *a* drunk, that's different. That usually means the person is continually and habitually addicted to alcohol. The person who walks temporarily under the influence of another spirit's thoughts or desires is not automatically possessed. Nor does it mean that legally, Satan now *owns* that person and they no longer belong to God. All it means is that they are walking under a wrong influence, and they are probably making bad decisions and bad choices because of this.

Much ado is made over whether or not we are to “cast out” an evil spirit that is tormenting us. We certainly have the power and authority to cast them out, if we are a genuine believer. But the whole problem with casting out spirits is that they *don't have to stay out* unless the condition that originally allowed them to become entangled in our lives to begin with, changes. I've seen people get spirits cast out of them and just a few hours later they were all back again because the sin, or the selfishness, or some other condition that allowed them to enter in the first place was not changed. This is what Jesus was talking about when He said:

*When the unclean spirit is **gone out of a man**, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, **I will return into my house** from whence I came out; and when he is come, **he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished**. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and **the last state of that man is worse than the first**. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.*

*Matthew 12:43-45*

In this passage, Jesus is clearly warning the *people of Israel* of what will happen to *the nation*. He not only came to die for the sins of that nation, but also to *cleanse it* spiritually. That's why He spent so much time casting out demons. But He knew that once the *nation* had rejected Him, Satan would return with a vengeance and the people as a whole would be worse off than they were before He began his ministry.

The same is true of individuals who have demons cast out. Once the spirit has been overpowered and cast out, they try (*some times immediately*) to enter back in. We can be sure that in this case, the power that drove them out was the power of God, for as we saw in the case of Sceva and his sons, the demons do not have to listen to the commands of anyone who is not moving in the real, supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. The demons came out because the Spirit of God drove them out. But the fearful thing is, they don't have to stay out! Jesus said when they return, if they find their former abode “*empty, swept, and garnished*”, they can enter in again and take even more spirits with them.

The term, “empty, swept, and garnished” speaks of the condition of the place they were driven out of. Since demon spirits are UNCLEAN spirits, when they are driven out of a place they once occupied in our lives, that place is now “clean” and swept. However, that place was not said to be FILLED with anything. It was now empty because the spirits that dwelled there were gone. But nothing filled up that place so they could not re-enter.

What we learn in all this is that it's not that difficult to drive evil spirits out of some area of our lives if we are walking in the power and authority of Jesus Christ. But keeping them out—that's another story! In order to keep them out, something must change. The place they once occupied must be filled with the Spirit of God or they can (*and will*) come right back.

We will go into more detail regarding deliverance and warfare in part two of this study, but right now let me recap what I have said. There are several reasons why we need to learn about deliverance and spiritual warfare. The first reason is so that we don't end up being deceived and becoming part of the great end time apostasy. The second reason is so that we will know how to *labor* to gain the inheritance and the destiny God has prepared for us. But there is yet *another*

reason that we should be learning about these things, and this has nothing to do with spiritual self preservation (*not ending up deceived*) or with gaining the inheritance and the destiny God has prepared for us. Rather, it has to do with hating the thing that God hates, for His sake, simply because we love Him. It has to do with wanting the thing that God wants, for His sake, simply because we love Him.

Christianity is not a religion—it's a *war*. And we are not being trained in this life to be “apostles” and “prophets” and “preachers” in the coming age. We are being trained to be **KINGS** who have the ability to **RULE** the nations with Jesus, with a rod of iron. God is training a people who will have the faith, the spiritual experience, and the spiritual maturity to *utterly destroy* Satan and all his kingdom when Jesus returns.

*And I saw heaven opened, and behold **a white horse**; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and **in righteousness** he doth judge and **make war**. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And **the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean**. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should **smite the nations**: and **he shall rule them with a rod of iron**: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

*Revelation 19:11-15*

God want's you and me to be part of “the armies” which are in heaven. Jesus wants you and me to ride *with Him* into battle against His enemies on the Day of the Lord. Those enemies are first and foremost the demonic powers of Satan's kingdom. But they will also include *the nations* who have been rejecting Christ, and who have been murdering His people, and who have refused to repent all through the Great Tribulation. The Lord wants us to *be at His side* when He binds Satan and “smites the nations”. He wants you and I to be at His side when he rules over those smitten nations with a “rod of iron” for a thousand years.

Now I realize that many of you have *no desire* to rule over other people. You have *no desire* to be a king over others. All you want is to be with Jesus forever, and to experience His love. That's a good desire. That's a proper desire. But I want you to understand that the Lord isn't going to sit on His heavenly throne forever, just looking at us and telling us how much He loves us! King Jesus has things He intends to do in the next age. He has things He intends to accomplish in the ages to come, after the Millennium—and He wants a people (*a wife; a body*) who is permanently joined to Him, and who can participate with Him in all that He does, forever!

Why do we think Jesus is preparing a “body” for Himself? So the body can just sit back and *watch* the Head do everything in the coming ages? Oh no my friends! God is preparing a body right now, that will participate with Him in **EVERYTHING** He does, ages without end.

In order to be that people, not only must we be made like Jesus so that we become *compatible* with His sinless, incorruptible nature, we must also come to the place where we want what *He wants us to want*—and one of the things He wants us to want is to be *prepared* and *ready* when He comes to utterly destroy all the power of Satan and his demons, and subdue the nations and

put and end to the rebellion they have been living in for over 6000 years, and establish His everlasting kingdom and rule and shepherd the nations with a rod of iron.

So if we really love the Lord, we will want what He wants us to want—and what He wants is to have a people who will be part of the armies of heaven, who will ride on white horses with Him into battle when he returns. Therefore, this is what we should want. And the attitude that we have no desire to rule over others, and that we don't care about the overthrow of Satan's kingdom because after all, Jesus is the one who's going to do all that, right?, may sound very humble and very spiritual, but it's not. What He also wants is a people who hate evil that who hate Satan. Do we realize the Scripture says that God "hates" evil? And do we realize that it also says those who "love" the Lord and "fear" the Lord should hate evil too?

*These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

*Proverbs 6:16-19*

*I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.*

*Amos 5:21*

*Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.*

*Psalms 97:10*

*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

*Proverbs 8:13*

Have you ever thought about the fact that God *hates* Satan? God hates him so much, He made an indescribably horrible place called the "Lake of Fire" to torment Satan and his demons FOREVER (Matt. 25:41)—that's how much God hates him! He hates Satan because all that he is, is evil, and all that he does is evil—and we should hate him too, just like God hates him.

If you are called to be an overcomer, if you have been called to gain the prize of the High Calling in Christ Jesus, if you have been called to Sonship, if you have been called to ride with Jesus into battle when He returns, then I promise you, one of the things God wants to work in your life right now is a *hatred* for Satan and his demon spirits.

Look at the condition of the world right now. Look at the condition of the Church right now. I tell you by the authority of Jesus Christ, *the source* of all the deception in the Church and all the misery in the world that you see, is a fallen Cherub and the angels who fell with him. The rape, the murder, the war and devastation of terrorism, the ruined lives from alcohol and drug addiction, and every other wicked thing you are witnessing today, has its source and its root in

the wickedness of a rebellious, self-obsessed, ego-maniac named Lucifer—and his only goal and purpose for existence is to destroy everyone he can, any way he can.

God is calling His people to rise up in the Spirit and learn how to defeat the power of Satan, both in their own lives, and in the lives of others who are spiritually weak and need our help. It's very true, God is *not* telling us to try and defeat Satan's power "out there" in society—that's not going to happen until the Lord returns with the armies of heaven. But He *is* calling us to learn how to recognize the enemy in *our own* lives. He is calling us to "be strong in the Lord" and wage war against him and defeat him by "the power of His might".

God is calling forth a people who will hate Satan with the *same intensity* that they love God. He is raising up a people who have a burning desire to be trained by the Spirit in this whole area of deliverance so they will know how to set others free from the bondage of spirits. He is raising up a people who want to be part of the manchild company, who, as the result of completely overcoming Satan's power in their own lives, will *release* Michael and his angels to finally cast Satan and his demons out of heaven, once and for all.

Do we have any comprehension of the rejoicing that will take place among the heavenly host when the manchild is finally born? This event will signal the beginning of the actual end of Satan's reign. So there is a lot at stake here folks.

Will you answer that call?

If you will, then there is nothing more important in this life than letting God teach you how to recognize the tactics and the activity of demon spirits, and how to war in the Spirit against them until *complete* victory is achieved. There's nothing more important than letting God show us how to drive every unclean spirit out of our thought life, out of our desires, out of our emotions, and out of our choices and deeds, so we will be qualified to ride with Messiah when He returns.

The apostle Paul said it best:

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For **the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God***

*Romans 8:18-19 (NAS)*

All creation is waiting for a that people!