

Your Authority as a Child of God

Table of Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
Taking Authority	4
Fighting the Unseen	9
God's Word	17
Fear Not	23
Walking in the Spirit	26
The Baptism of the Holy Ghost	30
In the Name of Jesus	35
Obedience	39
Wearing Out of The Saints	42
Intercessory Prayer	47
Walking In Deliverance	49
The Final Chapter	57

Chapter 1.

Taking Authority

One of the best illustrations that I can give to explain what it means to take authority comes from my years of being a teacher/principal in both the public and private schools. One of the lessons that I had to learn early in my teaching years was how to take authority. I learned it in a small public school that actually had grades K-12 in one building. All teachers were required to take turns doing hall duty after school, monitoring the halls while the buses were loading. I was new at teaching, and I was totally new at having to deal with teenagers. I was new to them, and I was an elementary school teacher, which made things harder. It was beneath them to listen to me. I was nervous at having to tell them what to do, and I was a soft-spoken, mild mannered person. Often that doesn't mix with teaching older students. I had not learned to take authority. I barely had learned how to take authority in my classroom, but my hall duty time was a nightmare. Nobody listened. I was too unsure to take the authority that was mine as a teacher. Some of the teachers who had been there for years had no problem with their authority. They knew their place. They knew their rank and they knew how to pull it. Most importantly the kids knew, too. When they walked into the hall, the place would grow quiet. If there was something going on that wasn't supposed to, it stopped when they showed up. These older teachers walked in their authority. They were sure in that authority. Later on as I grew in understanding my place and how to take the authority that was mine, when I walked in I had the same affect. It took some time. It also took a little help from God. One day I noticed a remarkable change in the respect that the older students had for me. I started asking around to find out what the change was. Now this was back in the days before teachers got too educated to use corporal punishment. We were allowed to paddle. I had paddled several of my second grade students. They were an unusual group. It was a group that had been handpicked out of that class with the most discipline problems. When I asked about the change in attitude of the older students, one of the students told me that it was because they had heard about how I had taken authority over my own class and it had made an impression. (Before you get off on

corporal punishment, bear me out and hear about my message in taking authority.) This was the jump in authority that I needed. When I saw that I could take authority, it became easier. When the teenagers saw that I had started taking authority, they listened when I told them what to do. It wasn't long before my presence had the same affect on these kids that the older teachers had.

Now you may ask what does this have to do with taking authority over the devil. The devil is just like an unruly teenager. You can talk to him all you want to, you can even quote scripture all you want to, it will have little affect until you take authority over him. This comes from knowing your place as a child of God and walking in it. As you grow in your relationship with God, and you grow in understanding of who you are according to God's Word, you will grow in the authority that you have over satan. Just as I grew in my authority with the teenagers on hall duty, you have to grow in your authority over the devil. You might say you are on permanent hall duty. It is your job to monitor the devil's behavior and see to it that he does not get into things that he isn't supposed to.

Now when I started teaching one of the main problems that I had as a newcomer to the school was that I didn't actually know what all the kids were supposed to be doing, and what they were not allowed to do. I didn't know their restrictions. It didn't help that they knew their restrictions, and they knew that I didn't. They were some of the best little con artists. They could talk me right into my giving them permission to do what they knew they weren't supposed to do. They could get by with doing things in front of me to break the rules, because they knew I didn't know the rules. As children of God, we face this same thing with the devil. We often don't know his limits. God has put strict limits on what he can and cannot get by with. For example, if you read the story of Job, you will find out in chapter 1 that for the devil to try Job, he had to get permission from God. Read the whole first chapter. Then reread Job 1:10-12. In this section of scripture the devil tells God that because of His protection, he can't touch Job. The devil knows the limitations that God has put on his work. The problem is that often we do not. The Bible is filled with teaching about our position as children of God and our spiritual authority in that position. That is why it is so important to know the Word of God. We run everywhere to find all the

answers, but never to the one true source. We spend time doing everything else, but never have time to read the scriptures like we know we should. (By the way, watching TV will not insure our soul's salvation, rather it steals from our spiritual strength. If you think you don't have time, start recording how much time you spend in front of the TV.) Through God's Word we will find out the rules and just what the devil can do.

Besides knowing what the rules are, to be able to take authority, you have to learn who you are and what rights and privileges you have as a child of God. This doesn't mean that these rights and privileges are based on who you are in the flesh. Many times we get this confused. We think that because we aren't perfect, or super-spiritual, or giant Christians, we don't have any rights as children of God. Now if we are not committed and submitted to God we lose many of our rights. For example, the Bible tells us that if we are double-minded, we won't receive anything from God (James 1:8). It tells us that if we are not obedient to God then we lose our authority over the devil. It tells us that if we submit to God, then we can resist the devil and he has to flee (James 4:7). Therefore we know that if we are not submitted then we cannot resist him and have him flee. There are certain conditions of heart and life that we have to have to be able to take the authority that God has given us, and to take our position as children of God. But many people are walking so far in condemnation of the flesh, that they can't see that their rights as children of God are not dependant in their strengths or weaknesses. As a teacher on hall duty, I was a lousy teacher, because I had not learned to take authority. However, my rights and the position I held as a teacher with all the authority that came along with it did not change just because I was a lousy teacher. I was still a teacher, and I had authority, even though I had not learned how to take it. That is the same way with you as a child of God. You just have to learn your position and walk in it. Then when you square your shoulders back and tell the devil to get off your premises, he has to listen.

Now the true test of my hall duty came one day when one of the teenagers had gotten hold of some bad drugs. He meant to do harm to teachers and students alike. I was able to take authority over him. He left the premises. That is how it is with the devil. He will come with the soul purpose of doing harm to you and those you love, and those you serve God

with. When you know the rules and you know who you are, you can take authority, and the devil has to leave the premises. It is my prayer that through these pages, you learn that you can put him to flight.

Now before I go on in this book further, I want to take time to talk about casting out devils. This is our right as children of God to cast out devils. When people hear this they think of only one thing. They think of casting demons out of demon filled people. This is a genuine and very real ministry. I have seen this in our own ministry. There are people who come to the Lord as new Christians after a life filled with the occult and drugs, and they are possessed. I have seen these people delivered through the power of God. I want to say carefully though that this is not all there is to taking spiritual authority. Every day I have to take authority over the powers of hell who are trying to gain control of my life or the ministry that God has given me, especially in the ministry of working with young people. Especially if you are in some sort of ministry, you should know what I am talking about. We are in a spiritual battle and we had better learn how to take spiritual authority to be able to win this battle. The weapons that we have are not carnal, and we had better learn what they are and how to use them. If we never learn these things it will be easier for the devil to steal our day-to-day victory, and if we never learn them, he can eventually steal our soul. If we are in a ministry, that battle is compounded by the fact that not only will the devil come against us personally, but he will also come against the ministry that the Lord has given us. He means to keep us from doing that which God intends for us to do. If you think that you are not in a spiritual warfare and you think that you don't really need all this, then you really need to beware. There is an old saying, "If the devil isn't fighting you, then he may already have you." The devil won't fight you if you are living a compromised life. He will blind you into thinking that there really is no warfare in your life. Look out. All of us are in this spiritual warfare, if we are children of God. Ephesians 6:12 tells us, "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." I pray that through these chapters you learn to identify the battle, and you learn how victorious you are. Ephesians 1:18-23, "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope

of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 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 fullness of Him that filleth all in all.” Amen Amen Amen Amen.

Chapter 2.

Fighting the Unseen

I have been the director of a Christian school for over 15 years. I thank God for these years because they taught me a lot about spiritual warfare and how spirits operate. One of our programs worked with at-risk teenagers. I had 30 teens in class at one time. Many of them had been dismissed from public school as too much to handle. They often came from backgrounds that weren't Christian. They packed with them oppressions and possessions of all kinds of spirits. When I say possession, I don't mean demonic possession to the point of the kind like the movies portray. You can't look at Hollywood's portrayal of anything demonic to find information about what it means to be controlled by spirits of the devil. You can't look to Hollywood for any information about how to fight demonic warfare. Matter of fact, most of these movies and shows dealing with the devil were written by the devil. That is why is an old demonic spirit, or feeling, about those shows. Matter of fact it isn't strange that the increase in movies, programs, and music that deals with satan worship and witchcraft is directly in proportion through the years with the increase of satan worship and witchcraft in our schools. The devil knows what he is doing and he knows the medias that he can use to "preach his message". Sad to say, most Christians don't know enough about him and his tactics. They often watch their homes and churches being destroyed by him and they don't even know how to protect themselves. They should know enough to be able to get on the offensive with taking over his territory. Demonic influences against homes and families are very real and very destructive. Because of the ignorance of many Christians, they even allow this music and movies, and other media that the devil uses to come into their homes. I have known many well-meaning Christian parents who allowed their children to participate in the occult because they didn't know what it was that they were doing. I wish that I could give to every parent the knowledge that I have gained through the years especially concerning the power of the devil in music. (Hang in there; I haven't forgotten what I started at the beginning of the chapter. We'll get back to it.) One extreme example was a boy about thirteen years old who was really wrapped up in

this kind of music. He was so wrapped up in it that he even played it in his sleep at night. If your child becomes addicted to a type of music, and threatens all kinds of rebellion if you try to stop him from listening to it, you might as well know that that whatever he is listening to is demonic. This is true even if they tell you that they don't listen to the words. The message behind the song is clear, and the demonic influence there, even if they don't listen to the words. If they put up a fight to keep listening to "their music" you can bet that what they are listening to isn't as harmless as the Beach Boys. This young man became obsessed and it took its toll. One day he slashed his wrist. He survived to be sent to a hospital that deals with troubled youth. He told me later that he had done this because the music told him to. I checked it out. The particular group that he had been listening to had put out a song that repeated over and over the words, "Cut yourself. Do it again. Slash yourself to the bone." What were the findings of the particular hospital that he was sent to? They actually concluded that his problem was created by the music that he listened to. Talk about a parent that regretted having let her son be caught up in this. Like I said before, sometimes the most well-meaning parents do things out of the ignorance of what might happen. I hope that you take this chapter to heart.

I can also remember a family that became under such open demonic attack that their children couldn't sleep because of a harassment of the devil. There was such oppression about their household that things would actually move around that weren't supposed to move. They became totally bound in fear and the devil moved in. This was a Christian household. They asked their pastor and people from the congregation to come and anoint their house with oil and pray that these attacks of the devil would stop. They fasted and prayed and came together to pray that this bondage be broken. We have power to bind and to loose. Matthew 16:19 tells us, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." They came together to pray at the house. They asked God to show them the cause of the problem. Now we do have spiritual authority, but sometimes this means that we have to do things in the flesh as well as the spirit. They asked God to show them the problem and what to do about it. It wasn't too hard to find

the answer when they went into the teenager's rooms in the house. These kids had started listening to certain music. They had become obsessed with it to the point that they had filled their house with posters of these groups. It was almost like a shrine to the devil's prophets, and whether you like to admit it or not, these groups are often satan worship high council prophets and priests. God showed them that they needed to get rid of every bit of this kind of music, and every poster, every picture, everything that was related to them. They prayed and bound the devil from being able to torment this family any longer. This family kept up this, and they began to focus their family more on the Lord. They spent time praying in a way that they hadn't done before. You can believe that after all this, even the kids were anxious to do all these things.

I don't listen to any kind of music besides Gospel. I have been delivered from the world, and don't care to listen to the world's music. I get no thrill about listening to the drinking songs and songs about cheating on their women that comes in the Country music. I get no thrill about listening to anything that the devil or the world has to say in the demonic rock music. I want to hear music that lifts up my spirit and renews that inner man within me, giving me peace and hope and joy. As far as I'm concerned, there is only one type of music worth listening to, and that is Gospel about my Lord and Savior that I love with all my heart. If I had children, it would be easy to make a rule that they would only listen to that as well. I would teach them why, and I would live it before them. There is so much that they have to fight against as young people in today's world. I wouldn't allow them to do anything that made that battle any harder. I would protect and shield them with a covering from the devil's influences, I certainly wouldn't allow them to do anything that threw them right into harms way. Yet we do this when we allow them to listen to music that is not Gospel. To back up all this I'll give you another illustration. As an ex-rock and roller who struggled to be delivered when I was first saved, I can tell you what the Lord established as a precedence in my life. He told me as a young Christian to lay down everything but Gospel music. One of the hardest things that I had to give up was my music, but when I did, I was delivered from my past.

We know someone who works at the local civic center. They told us how many of these groups have séances to conjure up demonic spirits to be with them in their concerts. They come hours before their concerts to do this. (Sad to say many Christians can't come together for an hour of prayer before service.) These groups have literally sold their soul to the devil in return for popularity. What is the devil's price in giving them this popularity? The hearts, minds, and souls of your children. Just ask a young man who travels around the country speaking about the danger of this music. He is in a wheelchair. During a concert he climbed up and grabbed hold of the high power wire. Why? He later told that something had overcome him. When he came to himself he was laying on the floor. Guard your children's spirits and their souls. Sure it takes a lot of effort. Sure you will have a battle. Aren't their souls worth it?

Back to where we left off after the first paragraph. The Word of God bears out that Christians cannot be possessed by the devil. They cannot completely be under the devil's control, because if they have been saved, the Spirit of God comes into their heart. The devil and the Spirit of God cannot both inhabit the same vessel. The devil can't move in and totally control you, because the Spirit of God dwells in you. However, many Christians allow themselves to be oppressed by satan. This means that, even though the devil can't move in and take over, he can cause spirits to come against you. If you allow these things to control your life you become oppressed. One example, I have known Christians who became bound by a spirit of fear to the point that they didn't leave their homes. They allowed this spirit to control their life. We can be bound by many spirits. It may be a spirit of depression, a spirit of bitterness, a spirit of anxiety or worry, a spirit of anger, or many other things. The devil is a master at moving these in against us so that we can't find total victory in Jesus. He does this because we allow him to. He sneaks them in so that we can't see what is happening. If we aren't walking in the spirit, and allowing God to control our life through our submission to Him, we may not even see what is happening. The devil is careful to keep us ignorant of how to walk in the spirit, and how to do spiritual warfare. This isn't something that is taught in most churches. Because we ourselves are bound, we can't do the spiritual

warfare that is needed to help others walk in deliverance. The devil keeps us ignorant of our spiritual authority and fights us from being able to walk in it. Because of all this, he steals our joy, our victory, our peace, and that of those who we love. If he isn't checked he can eventually steal our souls, which is his ultimate goal. When we know who we are, we know our authority, we know our place in God and we know that the devil's place is under our feet, then we have nothing to fear. When we walk in a walking, talking, obedient relationship with God, God will reveal what the devil is up to, give us spiritual authority to bind him, and then how can the devil win? When we take spiritual authority over our own lives, then we can also take authority over the lives and the atmosphere around us. Just like I had to do as principal of our school. (Wow, believe it or not I am finally back to finish up what I started.)

As a director of the school I was in charge, I was in authority, I was to control not only what was going on physically, but spiritually as well. As parents, we are to be in physical and spiritual control of our households. This isn't easy. It is all too easy to give up and let the kids and the devil control. When that happens, we will pay a price that is far harder to pay than that effort of control. Like I said earlier, these kids would come to school packing with them all kinds of spirits. For example, one young man was in a household where the family fought continuously. That was their way of life. A spirit that brought this about in their lives controlled them. He would come in from a night of parents fighting with an attitude, and he would pack on his back this contentious, fighting spirit. I would begin to feel this contention when he walked in. I would discern through the Holy Ghost what was going on. God gives discernment to us to be able to tell what is going on in the spirit. (Hebrews 5:14, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.") I would take authority over this devil. Then I would get this boy to the side and talk to him. He would unload and things would be OK. What about those days when I was too busy to take authority? That was a different story. This young man wouldn't have to say anything or do a thing. The spirit on his shoulder would hop off on half a dozen other teens. We would have an all out argument or some kind of battle going on between them before the day was

over. Spirits cause us to have feelings. That is why we often call them spirits of contention, bitterness, fear, etc. If we allow our emotions, our natural feelings, to control us, instead of submitting to the Spirit of God in us, we will never be able to take spiritual authority. If we walk in the flesh, we cannot take authority over the spiritual. We won't even see it coming. If I had been walking in the flesh instead of taking authority, I would have been the one ring leading the wrestling match, fighting with everyone else. Also, if I had not taken spiritual authority before I took authority in the natural, things would have been different. I might have in the natural tried to talk to him, but before that spirit was bound that was harassing him; he would have been in no mood to talk. We would have argued, but nothing would have been accomplished. (Tried that before.)

Well, how can you apply all this to your life? First, you have to recognize the places where the devil is trying to control your life, just like I had to recognize where he was trying to get into the school. That is called discernment. It may be that he is trying to bring fear, bitterness, rebellion, depression, physical infirmities, doubt and unbelief, or many other things in oppression against you. This will influence your everyday decisions, and your victory in God. How can you identify these? Ask God to reveal them to you. Then listen when He tells you. I have watched God show people where the devil was coming against them. They didn't obey and do what He told them to do. They weren't willing to walk in the Spirit, but they gave into their spoiled flesh. They weren't willing to take authority, and the devil controlled their lives, and often controlled the lives of those around them, whether they meant for this to happen or not. Also, the devil would control, because instead of their taking spiritual authority as they should, the devil would wind up controlling them. Then they would bring into the midst of those around them these spirits that dominated their lives. Here is one example. We had been through a struggle in our ministry, a time of testing. We'd had so many battles that there were a lot fewer victories. Miraculously, we were not only winning but also growing, and this type of battle often goes on sometimes in times of growth. In the middle of that time, I would start to pray. An overwhelming confusion would come against my mind, and I couldn't concentrate enough to make words, let alone pray. I would also get an overwhelming feeling that there was no use

to pray. I gave into this a few times more than I would like to admit. God showed me that it was a spirit coming against me to stop me from praying, because at this time, my prayers were very important, as were all of ours. I started talking to others in the ministry and found out that the devil was trying the same thing on them. Together we bound this devil and our prayers were loosed. Another example, I have known many people who were called to do something for the Lord. The devil would bring a spirit of fear against them. They would become so afraid that they would not be able to do it. He would also bring a spirit of pride against them. They would start to be afraid that they would mess up in front of everyone. Between these two, the devil would choke out of them any fight they had to do for the Lord. One person is called to sing. They are bound by fear and pride. They have been disobedient for years. This is a break in their relationship with the Lord. This can lead to rebellion. They resent others who are obeying God because they aren't. They want to, but they have allowed these spirits to control their lives. They aren't close enough to God, and walking in the Spirit to see what is going on. They have understanding of how to take spiritual authority, but they aren't obedient enough to do so. Unless this changes as time goes on, they will loose in their Christian walk.

Another example, I was saved as a young person, but didn't learn enough to keep me. I grew up in a church where there was little teaching of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and how to walk in the Spirit. There was little teaching of how to take authority over the devil. When I went to college, I got into everything that there was to get into. I rebelled against everything at a time when rebellion was "the thing to do." A spirit of rebellion controlled my life. When I came back to the Lord, I had to overcome this. I had to learn quick how to walk in the Spirit. This spirit of rebellion meant to drag me back where I had come from. It had such a strong hold on me that if someone would tell me to do something, I would do the opposite and not even mean to. At that time, 20 some years ago, I started traveling with our ministry. Our pastor gained my respect, which was a key to breaking this bondage in my life. He and his wife would spend hours talking with me. Then one day he did something that might seem a little strange. I had a favorite shirt. I loved to wear that shirt. The

Lord showed the pastor to burn that shirt with me right there. I didn't realize at the time what that shirt represented to me. It was my "hippy shirt". It represented this rebellious part of my life and my past. I was angry with him for burning my shirt, but at the same time, I respected him. I submitted to knowing that this needed to be done, especially after the Lord showed me that this was right. Whether I liked it or not, I submitted to this. Whether it was because I had allowed something from that part of my life to be destroyed, or because I had submitted to this, I'll never know. I will know that the bondage of rebellion that had controlled me for most of my life was broken. This was through a simple act of obedience that didn't in the natural make any sense at all.

Spirits can bind our lives and we may not recognize it. We have to walk close enough to God for Him to show these to us. We have to walk close enough that we can feel them when they come around. Then we have to take authority. Do we have to fear what the devil can do? As an obedient, believing child of God—absolutely, positively not.

Chapter 3. God's Word

Let's go back to the story from my hall monitor days. I was teaching at the public school. I was a teacher. That gave me certain rights. Because of those rights, I expected certain treatment from the students. These rights gave me authority to demand this certain treatment. I could also expect the students to treat one another in a certain way. I had authority to see that this happened as well. This, however, was my first teaching position. When I started, I didn't yet know what it was that I should expect from the students. That left me at a disadvantage. This made my authority shaky. I had to learn first who I was in my position, and I had to learn the position of the students. I talked to older teachers and to the principal. I gradually learned my authority. Just realizing this increased my ability to take authority.

We as Christians often face the same problem in spiritual warfare. We look at ourselves in the natural. We see our weaknesses and failures. We fail to see ourselves in the way that God's Word tells us that we are. We fail to see our position in God and we fail to walk in the authority that is given to us because of that position. We also fail to recognize the devil's position. We fail to realize that his position is planted squarely underneath our heel. (Genesis 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.") Often this is because of our ignorance of God's Word. This may come because we have not been taught these things. God's Word is filled with scriptures that tell us both our position in God and the devil's position as well. Here are some things that God tells us about who we are in Him.

1. I am a living Son of a living Savior. (I John 3:1, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God....")
2. I am His inheritance destined to be one with Him as He is one with the Father. (John 17:21, "That they all may be one: as thou,

Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”)

3. My inheritance is to be able to do all the things He did on earth and more. We can not only receive our healing, but we can seek God that we be given the gift of healing which comes through His Spirit that dwells in us. (I Corinthians 12:4-11, “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God, which worketh all in all. But the manifestations of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom: to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.”)
4. I have the keys of death, hell, and the grave that were given to me by my elder brother. (Matthew 16:19, “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”)
5. I have a God given right to be victorious in my life. (I Corinthians 15:57, “But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”)
6. I have a right to be in health and prosper even as my soul prospers. (III John 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prosper.”)

7. We have victory over death. (I Corinthians 15:54, "...Death is swallowed up in victory.")
8. I will **eternally** inherit the blessings of God. (John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.")

We have to learn to see ourselves according to God's Word. If we are committed, submitted, and obedient children of God, then these things are true. Read these things over again in a personal way putting your name in the verses. **I** (your name) am a Son of God. Read them all this way and believe them, because they are the Word of God and the Word of God cannot lie. Read them everyday. Read them when the devil brings doubt, confusion, and self doubt. Read them to him. God's Word has a way of doing away with the devil's lies.

We can spend all day looking at our weaknesses, our failures, our past, our sicknesses, our problems, and our flesh. It would be much better if we spend our time with our mind submitted in the Word of God remembering the verses that declare our victory and our rights as the children of God. We can spend all day looking at our weaknesses, or we can remember to submit these to Him so that He becomes our strength. (II Corinthians 12:9-10 "And He (Jesus) said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.... for when I am weak, then am I strong.") If we concentrate on our flesh and our weaknesses, we deny the power of the Word of God to work in us. We deny the Holy Ghost Who is inside us. We deny Jesus Christ, Who is our only hope of glory. (Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.") We need to stop seeing our flesh, and start seeing Jesus in us. We need to stop concentrating on our weaknesses and begin to see the promises of God's Word. We need to know who we are in Him and stand up and claim our God given authority.

These things that we talked about in the previous paragraph are not things that we can see in the natural. To accept the work of God's Word, and the things that it promises, we have to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. These are not things that are based on who and what we are in the natural, but who we are in the Spirit of God. They have little to do with who we are in the natural. We are required to be committed and submitted. We may be very imperfect. We may be just rising up from being the biggest failure in the world, no matter. If we are God's children, then we have a position in His love. We have a position in His kingdom. This position comes with authority. Read this section of scripture found in Ephesians 1:17-23. Verses 22-23 summarizes the section. "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 fullness of him that filleth all in all." Condemnation and discouragement are two tools the devil often uses to come against us to cause us to lose authority. When we walk in the Spirit and we realize that our position and authority is based on who God is, not on who we are, then we move to a place where the devil can't control us with these.

Let's go back to my school situation. There were many days in my early teaching experience when I went home feeling like a complete failure, and to put it plainly, I had failed. But I didn't stop there. I kept trying. I learned and I overcame. I learned that I had authority and learned to take it. No matter whether or not I had failed miserably, I learned that my authority didn't change. You have a position in God. Even when you are weak, discouraged, buffeted by the devil, and down and out, you still have a position in God and the authority that comes from that position. This authority comes from God's Word and it isn't based on how you feel about that situation, just as my authority didn't change as a teacher, whether I felt victorious as one, or not. Ask God to give you strength to rise against those things that are coming against you. Ask Him to help you to take the authority that is yours. Ask God to make your forehead to be like a flint rock and your backbone like a crowbar. (Ezekiel 3:8-9, "Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead....") Then rise up and take your authority as a child of God.

God's Word tells you who you are and what authority you have in that position. That is not conditional to how you may feel about yourself. God's Word gives you the victory if you will take it. God's Word gives you authority, if you'll take authority and walk in it. This book is filled with great verses concerning your authority over satan. Write them down. Memorize them. They are great ones to quote to the devil when he comes against you. God's Word gives you authority. The devil knows God's Word better than you do. Use it against him.

It is also through God's Word that we find satan's limitations. We have to learn how much he is allowed to get away with. If we don't, we will fear him and that in itself will give him power to destroy us. When I was afraid of the older students at the school, I couldn't take the authority over them that was mine. Job illustrates some of the boundaries satan has. Read this part of his story in the book of Job. In this story we know that the devil went before God. God told him, have you considered the faithfulness of my servant Job. The devil said, I have, but I can't do anything to shake him. You have put a hedge up and I can't reach him. God took down the hedge and allowed satan to try Job for a season. This part of the story is found in Job 1:6-12. When the season was over and Job had remained faithful, God restored and blessed and multiplied everything that he had lost. God limits what satan can do to us. In Job 1:10, satan himself said to God, "hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?..." The devil can only do so much to hinder us. God gives us power to overcome him. I John 2:14, "I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning, I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you and ye have overcome the wicked one." Like Caleb said to the children of Israel in Numbers 13:30, "...Let us go up at once, and possess it (what God had given them) for we are well able to overcome it."

We have a hedge built around us. There is something here to consider, however. If we are not submitted and committed and walking in the Spirit, we may cross over that hedge and put ourselves in harms way and not even know we have done so. For example, there have been so many times in my life when regretfully, God nudged me to go here or not to

go there, or to do this, or not to do that, and I failed to heed God's voice. When I disobeyed, I walked over that hedge that God had built around me. I walked over it and right into harms way. If we are not in the habit of walking in the Spirit and obeying God, then we automatically walk right into the devil's territory. That is what comes when we walk in the flesh. Romans chapter 8 is a great chapter to read about walking in the flesh and the dangers that it brings. We can see clearly through this chapter that we cannot bind the devil if we are walking in the flesh. Our flesh will actually take the devil's side. Human nature would like to think that because God loves us, we can do whatever we want. We are protected by His love, that is true. His Word, however, tells us that disobedience will earn certain things. Study out those people in the Bible who walked in disobedience and contrast them to those who walked in obedience. Through this you can see that we must walk in obedience to have a victorious and peaceful life. Those who obeyed walked in victory. Those who refused to do so suffered, and their life was filled with turmoil. For an example let's say that I as a teacher told my kindergarten class to stay out of the four-lane highway because if they didn't, they would suffer bad consequences. Let's say they refused to and went ahead and played there. What would probably be the result? Would they suffer because of their disobedience? Would it be my fault that they suffered? I had warned them. God warns us. When we disobey, it isn't His fault that we suffer. Disobedience even nullifies, or does away with the promises that God give us in His Word. It also takes away the authority that we have. For example let's go back to my hall monitor days. If I had been a disobedient teacher, one that was breaking all the rules myself, would the students have listened when I tried to take authority over them? The devil recognizes whether or not we are obedient or disobedient. To walk in authority, we have to have a sound relationship with God, so that we are absolutely sure of our authority, and we have to have an obedient relationship with God so that the devil is absolutely sure of our authority. We have to know our position and our authority according to God's Word. We have to know the limitation that God has put on our enemy. We have to be sure that we don't fear our enemy. And when all that is done, when we say devil you have to flee, then he has to flee.

Chapter 4.

Fear Not

When I was on hall duty, there were two main reasons why I didn't take authority. First, I wasn't sure of my place and the place that the students were to have. Second, I was afraid. Fear is one of the main reasons why we are not able to take authority, especially authority over satan. When I first started learning to take spiritual authority, I found myself in with a group of people who really played at taking authority over satan. They talked constantly about all the spirits that were around them and how they had to bind them. They spent more time dwelling on the devil than they did on praising God. The devil was their focus. I think that they did this because they were actually afraid of the devil. They looked for him everywhere. Guess what? They found him everywhere they looked. When you are afraid of the enemy, and you let him know that he is important to you, you might as well look out for an ambush. The more that you pay attention to satan, the more he will be there to bother you. Especially if you are afraid of him. When I was afraid of those students, they almost laughed in my face when I tried to take authority over them. They knew that I was afraid. The devil is the same way. When you are afraid, you cannot bind him. He doesn't have to flee as long as he has you running scared. One example of this-have you ever heard someone testify in church about all the devil was doing. They eventually got around to praising God after spending 20 minutes talking about everything the devil had done. You can believe they are going to have a worse week coming up. We can ask for attacks from satan if we aren't careful. We have to learn the devil's limitations. We have to learn our place as children of God. We have to learn that we have nothing to fear, but fear itself. Then we can stand in the authority that God intends us to have.

As children of God, we have no reason to fear. The Bible tells us time and again to "fear not". Get a Strong's Concordance, or another comprehensive concordance and reference how many times the Bible says to fear not. One example is found in II Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Here are some more "fear nots". Read these. Genesis 26:24, I Kings 17:13,

II Kings 6:16, Isaiah 41:10, Isaiah 43:1, Isaiah 43:5, Matthew 10:31, Revelations 1:17, and Revelations 1:18. God's Word has given us authority over satan. I John 4:4 tells us, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." Greater is He that is in you. We have no reason to fear. When we stand in that position in God where we know that we have nothing to fear from satan, and we know our place in God, then when we speak, the devil has to listen. And he has to flee. Not because we are extra special, but because our God is. Not because we are super spiritual giants, but because God's Word says he has to flee.

Another thing that stops fear from controlling our lives is growing in a relationship with God. When I first got saved, I was almost afraid to obey God. Every time that I would, the devil would launch an all out attack against me, even threatening my life. I became afraid to make a stand. God put me in an extreme situation to teach me that I didn't have to fear satan. One of the best jobs that I ever had was a job at a Christian, Spirit-filled half way house that worked with some of the most troubled young people from all over the US. It was one of my best jobs, because there I learned not to fear satan. Many of these young people had been involved in witchcraft and satan worship. This was one of my first experiences with people who were literally so devil possessed that they would actually turn violent. I never will forget the first time that I heard a man's deep voice come out of the mouth of a sixteen-year-old girl. I learned very fast not to be afraid. I learned that if I showed fear, I was going to be in for rough time. There was one very large girl that taught me a lot about fear and our authority in God. She had tried to do me bodily harm on several occasions. I remember this one time especially. She was determined to leave the halfway house. I wasn't really smart in some ways and I made the mistake of standing at the head of the stairs to stop her from going down the stairs. She was so big that she would make up three of me. At the head of the steps was not the best position to be in. She would run at me intending to push me down the stairs. She would get within a couple of inches from me and she would stop just like there was a physical barrier between us that kept her from touching me. Try as she might, she could not touch me. Then in a man's voice she yelled at me, "Why can't I touch you?" The

devil that was controlling her was determined to kill me that night. God said otherwise. When I saw that she couldn't touch me, I must admit, I even got a little cocky and did a little victory dance mocking the devil. It was easy to be cocky when I saw what God had done. The more that we walk with God and we grow in our relationship with Him, the more we realize that we are loved, the less fear that we'll have. We are cared for. We are protected. We serve a God that is able to keep us. He proves Himself time and time again. We have no reason to fear.

We serve a God that created the devil and his angels. They were not created for harm but to serve God. They turned away and rebelled. Because of this they were turned out of heaven. God made the devil. He certainly rules over him. When the Word of God says that He gives authority, then He has a right to turn that authority over to us. What He says goes. Whether we feel like it, or not. Whether we want it to be so, or not. That authority has been given over to us. What if I had not continued in the authority that the Lord had given me that night? What if I had not conquered fear, and I had backed up? I believe that I would not be here today to write this book. Maybe the situations in which the devil is trying to control your life, your ministry, the lives of your family, and others that you love is not as dramatic as the one I illustrated. But it may be all the more deadly. The situations that the devil will bring against you will either be physically or spiritually deadly. We may not see them as clearly as I saw that huge girl that night. But they are there nonetheless, and they are just as real. If we don't learn to identify satan and his tactics, then we will not be able to stand against him. If we don't stand against him, we will suffer the consequences. Our enemy is very real. If we don't take authority over him, he will control our lives. Even though all this is true, we take God at His Word when He tells us to "fear not". Know where you stand in Him and take authority over satan. Your victory is guaranteed. We have nothing to fear.

Chapter 5. **Walking in the Spirit**

Not long ago a situation came up with our Christian School. People with a contentious fighting spirit were at the root of the situation. I knew that because I discerned it in the Spirit. The situation promised to be a huge mess. The devil began to put a spirit of fear against me because if I feared the situation, then I would lose my authority over him. In the natural I didn't know what was going on. I just knew that every time I thought about the situation, I got scared about the repercussion of what could happen. God showed me that the enemy was bringing this spirit of fear against me. I struggled with this feeling of fear for a couple of weeks. I prayed, encouraged myself in the Lord, prayed through to His strength, and bound that fear. Then I was able to take authority over the situation in both the spiritual and in the natural. This thing totally turned around and became a victory. I know that if I had let my emotions control me, if I had gone by what I thought in the natural, if I had walked in the flesh, we would still be floundering in the mess. When we are walking in deliverance and taking our rightful authority over satan, we must walk in the spirit and not in the flesh. One reason is this. The devil is a spirit. That is where he operates, in the spiritual realm. How can we even see what he is doing in the flesh? The situation that I mentioned before had started months before. These people looked like really wonderful Christian people in the natural. My flesh was happy that we were able to have them to be a part. The Holy Ghost started pricking my heart that all wasn't as it seemed. He warned me to watch and guard against something going wrong. If I would have continued to walk in the flesh, the devil would have blown things sky high and I would have still been impressed with how wonderful those people were. I began to be on my guard in certain situations. This in itself stopped a lot of what the devil was trying to do. If we are walking in the flesh, we won't even see the devil when he is at work and we won't know what to do to prevent his mess. We have to walk in the Spirit.

Taking authority sometimes means taking spiritual authority, and taking authority in the natural. In the spiritual side, I began to allow the Holy Ghost in me to intercede and I bound that spirit that was causing the

situation. I began to allow the Holy Ghost in me to literally grab hold of that situation. I felt Him begin to take hold and take authority. As the Holy Ghost in me began binding and rebuking, praying in tongues, the Spirit began to lead me in what to do in the natural to take care of the situation. I obeyed and took charge of some people and warned them of their bad conduct. I let them know that through the Holy Ghost I knew what was going on behind our back, and let them know with authority that this was to stop and to stop now. I let them know that we were not at fault and that they had the problem and it wasn't going to be laid at our door because it didn't belong there. They knew that I meant business. I took authority as God led in the natural after I knew that I had authority in the supernatural. You are probably thinking that this was the end of the situation. Sometimes, however, the devil is like a pesky kid. He will come back and come back and keep trying until eventually he goes away. But he does go away, and he knows his limits when you are standing in the authority of God. Right after I took authority over the situation, the devil tried to put that spirit of fear on me again. He was mad that I had busted up his playhouse and he was after me again. This time I was ready for him. I had just won a victory, so it was easier to take authority. The situation was fixed and the victory was ours. This story illustrates how to win in spiritual warfare. It also shows something important about walking in the flesh. As we mentioned earlier, a great chapter about walking in the flesh is found in Romans 8. If you didn't read that earlier go ahead now. If we walk in the flesh or if we allow our natural thinking and emotions to control us, there is no way that we can take authority over satan. It won't work. He is a master at using our emotions and even our own thoughts against us. We can think anything. That doesn't mean that it is true. He can influence our thoughts. He can even use our own thoughts against us. In this situation, I really needed to know the truth about what was going on. This was especially true since in the natural everything seemed so fine. I needed the Holy Ghost to show me that truth.

On our own, without God's Spirit, we can't even walk without falling. That is why it is so important to know this. So many Christians are caught up in trying to prove to everyone how holy or how right they are in God. If we are constantly trying to prove what we know, we won't know

anything. We have to let God break us, break our will. We have to let Jesus through the power of the Holy Ghost, rise up and control our thoughts and feelings. You cannot do this as long as you are trying to prove to everyone how special you are. The Holy Ghost takes out the pain of being self-conscious. You don't have to worry about who you are and whether or not you will make a mistake. You just stop being you and start obeying God. Then everything will work out OK. We have to allow Christ to be formed in us then we have to submit to Him. (Galatians 4:19, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.") The flesh is enmity with God. It will actually take the devil's side, and we won't even mean to do so. I have seen so many people who genuinely wanted to serve God and be a help, but because they were walking in the flesh and not the spirit, everything that they did turned out to cause a problem. All the while they thought that they were helping God. One good example of this is Saul who killed Christians in his zeal to serve God. That is a pretty extreme example, but it is a true one. Our best in the natural, no matter how hard we try, will only be a hindrance. God cannot use us until we give it up, give it over, and let God. Then we can live and have our being in God. Then we will be able to identify and bind satan. He is a spiritual enemy and not a flesh or natural enemy. We can only fight him in the spirit. Ephesians 6:12, "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."

We also have to be careful that we are 100% committed before we take on the devil. We also have to have a made up mind, not compromising. We cannot be double minded and expect to take authority. If in the situation that I told about earlier, I would have begun to wonder if these people were really bad after all, I would have lost my authority over the situation. You must have your mind made up to stand and then you have to stand ye therefore. Here are some verses about standing where God has planted you: I Corinthians 16:13, Ephesians 6:13, Philippians 4:1. If your ground shakes, still stand. Stand firm and when the dust settles, the devil will be under your foot. Also, if you aren't 100% committed you will not be able to take authority. One of the conditions of having spiritual authority is obedience. James 4:7 tells us, "Submit yourselves therefore to

God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Obey God and satan will flee. We have authority over satan. When we learn to take that authority, we have a right to tell him to flee, and he has to flee. To do so we must walk in the spirit and not in the natural. The Spirit of God must control us. We must be submitted and 100% committed. When we are, look out devil, because his kingdom is coming down.

Chapter 6.

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Trying to take authority over satan without having the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is nearly impossible. You just won't have the power to overcome him. The Word of God bears out this fact. The devil rules the supernatural world. You fight unseen powers. You don't fight a natural enemy. This enemy has to be fought in the spiritual. If he were a natural enemy we would probably have beaten him up years ago. But he's not. He has to be fought in the spiritual to win. Who says we need the Baptism of the Holy Ghost? God says. For the rest of this chapter I have included excerpts from my book, "Walking in the Spirit". By the way it is a great book and it has understanding that will help you further in taking authority over satan.

Now I know that there may be some who read this book that right away disagree with me on whether or not we need the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I daresay that some of you might even disagree that it is real. Just bear with me and hear me out, please. You may learn something that will change your life. If you don't hear me out, then you may never know. There was a time when I was exactly the same way. I grew up not knowing about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. I grew up in an area that had been blinded and bound to think that this gift of the Spirit was not real. I was taught that when you were saved, you got all of God's Spirit that there was. I was taught that after salvation, you had it all. I grew up not knowing a thing at all about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. The area I lived in was so bound in this teaching that I had never even heard of the Baptism of the Spirit at all. I hadn't even heard that it was wrong. Through a miracle, God brought me into contact with a church that believed in the Baptism of the Spirit. After I received it for myself, no one could tell me that it wasn't real. It was the key that brought me victory over a life that had been bound by sin, drugs, and alcohol. The devil had worked overtime in much of my life to destroy me because he knew that I would one day serve God. He blinded me from seeing this because he knew what it would mean if I received it. He was right. Maybe the key for you to overcome is the same as it was for me-the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. You will never know

unless you try it. At least hear me out. When I first learned about the Baptism I got it. I grabbed hold and didn't let go. There was none of that intellectual twisting around that a lot of people do. God showed me that this was the key for a victorious life and I turned it. Even though I had grown up not knowing about it, when it came time for me to accept it, I knew I needed it. That settled that. Don't read about this and talk yourself out of thinking that it is real, and that it is not for you. God said it is in His Word so let that be the end of that.

Now over 25 years later, I can say that no wonder the devil tried to keep me blinded. I have been working full time in a ministry shaking his kingdom for 25 years, and will continue to do so. Not in my own power, but in the power of God's Spirit. I had to be hungry enough to submit myself to allow God to do things His way. I had to take Him and His Word at face value. I had to receive the gift that He had for me. I have never regretted it. God will allow His Spirit to control only the things that we allow Him to control. When we say, God, I have decided to do it your way. Come and fill me up to the brim. Then we are ready for the Baptism of God's Spirit. He fills us up all the way with His Spirit. That is what the Baptism of God's Spirit is all about. Here is what God has to say about it in His Word. We first read about it in Acts Chapter 2. Here we read that the disciples were all gathered in one mind and accord. In verse 4 it tells us, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." What was the outcome of this? These few who were hiding in fear after the crucifixion, became bold enough and so full of God's Spirit that they turned the world upside down. Without the Baptism, they would not have endured to start the church, and keep the Gospel that was committed to us today. Verse 41 tells of the outcome of that day, "Then they that gladly received His word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." This didn't stop here. We read about this throughout Acts. In Chapter 8, verses 14-17, these men received the gifts of the Holy Ghost. In Chapter 10, verses 44-48, the Holy Ghost is again on the scene filling the Gentiles. In Acts 19: 1-6, these men also received the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Paul asked them if they had received the Holy Ghost since they had believed. These men were already saved, but they had

something in addition to salvation that they were about to receive. They answered, “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” In verse 6 the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied. I think of myself when I read their answer to Paul, “We have not so much as heard whether there be a Holy Ghost.” I hadn’t heard, but God found me anyway. How do you receive the gift of the Holy Ghost? I was blessed to find a church that believed this way. The congregation laid hands on me and prayed for me in the same way that Paul laid hands on the men in Acts 19:6. But I still didn’t receive it that night that they prayed. Several nights later, when I was by myself, the Holy Ghost fell on me and I was filled. I prayed in tongues for the first time that night. You can receive it through the prayers of others, or you can receive it through your own prayers. It is a gift of God that He has given us to empower us against the battle of satan. It is a gift that gives us boldness in our witness, like it did those on that first day. It is for you. I have heard many people argue against the Baptism of the Holy Ghost being real. They argue that it is not for us today. When I hear this I know several things about those people. I know that they are ignorant of God’s Word. In Acts 2:38-39 we read, “Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” I would say that means us too. I also know when I hear people argue that the Baptism is not for us today, that these people do not know God. I know that He wants the best for His children. He wants us to overcome and be victorious. I also know that we live in the last days, which has to be one of the hardest times to live on the earth. Why would God give a gift to help the early disciples, tell us about it, and then deny us the right to have it or make it so that it is not available to us who need it the most? That is not the God I know.

I think that one of the things that hinders people from receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is that it comes along with the gift of speaking in tongues. For many, that is a stumbling block. This is because the devil wants to scare people away from being able to pray in the Spirit, or pray in tongues. What it means when we pray in tongues is that the Spirit of God

prays through us in His own language. He is praying directly through us using our vocal chords. We may not understand what He is saying, though sometimes He will allow someone to interpret. Whether or not we understand, the devil knows when we start praying that something is being done to bind him and to loose the power of God on the scene. No wonder he works overtime to confuse people about this powerful gift. Have you ever wanted so badly to pray for someone but didn't know how to pray? All you could do was to say a general half way prayer, when you know you needed to do more. The Holy Ghost knows exactly how to pray in God's perfect will. When He prays through you that is a powerful prayer that will get the job done. Also, when we pray in the Holy Ghost it strengthens our inner man. This inner man is the Spirit of God in us. (Jude 20, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.") When we are filled and consumed with the Spirit of God, and we allow Him to pray in us, we are submitted to His Spirit in a way that nothing else can do. We strengthen His Spirit in us. We submit our flesh and our flesh man takes second place in our life. With all that going on, our flesh doesn't stand a chance. God's Spirit rises strong in us and we take on His likeness.

Now you may interrupt me here to say, what about the people who receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and wind up turning their back on God, or they sin in a big way and take on a life of sin instead of a life with God? Just because you have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost it doesn't make you perfect. You still have your flesh man. If you have the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, but the Holy Ghost is still not allowed to control your life, then flesh will. That is why it is important to allow the Holy Ghost to move in you. Pray in the Holy Ghost daily. Don't hinder the Spirit of God when He starts to move in or through you, whether it be in church or at home. Allow God's Spirit to control. Then He will be there when you need Him. One of the greatest stories I have ever heard about the power in the prayer of the Holy Ghost is this. The Holy Ghost moved on a man and began interceding through him. The man had no idea why, but he obeyed and yielded. God spoke to him to take note at what time this had happened. The next day he heard about a close friend who had been stabbed. That had happened at exactly the time that the man had prayed. The other man's life had been

spared. Another time I heard about a man on a plane who had interceded through the Holy Ghost. After they landed, they were told of a mechanical failure that had nearly caused them to crash, but miraculously the failure had corrected itself. The man who had prayed had no idea, but God knew. Thousands of times I have heard stories about how the Holy Ghost had interceded by speaking in tongues through those who had the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. The situation was corrected, the life was saved, the soul was saved, the person was delivered, or whatever need there was, it was met. There is no prayer that is more powerful than the prayer of the Holy Ghost Himself. If you do not have the gift of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, ask God for this. Seek it. The Bible says that when we seek God, or His gifts, we will find them. Who says so? Jesus. Luke 11:9, "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." Read this section of scripture through verse 13. In verse 13 we read, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"

For an example, let's say that you knew that you were going to have to face an enemy. Let's say that enemy had weapons of warfare, and you knew what they were. Let's say that you were given a choice of weapons. You might know exactly all there was to know about how those weapons worked, but I am sure that you would choose weapons that were greater than those that your enemy had. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is one of the greatest weapons that you can possess to use against your enemy. If you don't have it, you need to get it. You may not understand all there is to know about it. When we start out new in something we never do. But God does. He wouldn't offer it if it wasn't needed. Reach out and receive. Seek and you shall find.

Chapter 7.

In the Name of Jesus

An illustration that I often use to show what it means to take authority over satan in the name of Jesus is taken from the time when the Bible was translated into English. I have taken this illustration from my book "You Are Beloved and Longed For". During this period, the feudal system existed. This came about when a lord with riches, power, military might, and great authority that was sanctioned by the king, lived in a castle, on a manor that was almost like a walled city. All the poor people were forced to live on his property. They lived in little, ill kept houses, worked his land much like a slave, often not even getting enough food to feed their families. They were under the control of the lord. They submitted to his control because of his power, and because this was a dangerous and warlike period. The lord had a walled castle and town for protection. When another lord or king attacked, the people could go to the lord and stay in his castle for protection. There were many that were rich and powerful because they had found the lord's favor. If they were given some task to do, some battle to fight, proxy gave them the lord's power to do what they had to do. They were given the same riches, power, and authority their lord had until they accomplished what they were to do. They had his authority to control the situation, the circumstances, the people, or whatever else there was that was under the lord's command. They went in his power, in the name of their lord. These lords were given their authority straight from the king.

I have read hundreds of times the phrase in the scriptures concerning praying in the name of Jesus and have prayed that way, but I was only repeating what I heard with no understanding of why we should do that. As we grow in God, we will do this many times, repeating or doing what we feel like we should do without really understanding why we should. That works, but the real power to make it work in our lives comes when we do what we do in His understanding, not ours. God began to show me what it meant, "in the name of Jesus". We know that Jesus is Lord of all. We even ask Him to be Lord, sometimes we mean it and sometimes we don't. Being Lord means having absolute power, control, and authority. More often than not we don't want to submit to Him in our lives to give Him that absolute

control. I Timothy 6:14-15 tells us, "That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords." He has and will have complete control and authority. God Himself gave it to Him and He'll rule until all things are put under His feet. (I Corinthians 15:25, "For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet.") We will have to let Him be Lord of our lives. We will either have to let our wills be broken and submit to Him and let Him willingly be Lord, or we will be at judgment forced to let Him be Lord. (Philippians 2:10-11, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.") Luke 20: 17 and 18 tells us, "That He beheld them, and said, what is this then that is written, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Jesus is Lord. That is an established fact. What place his Lordship plays in your life will depend on you. If you fall on Him and let His love break your will and cause you to submit to Him, you will be broken. If He falls on you, if His judgment comes into your life, you will be ground. Until we submit to Him and allow Him to break our will, we will not be able to walk in His love and find fulfillment as an obedient child of God. We will never learn what it really means to His beloved.

Jesus also has absolute rule over the powers of hell. Satan is in submission to Him. He is allowed a certain degree of power to test and try the saints, but He will at the time of the Lord's choosing be bound up and cast into the bottomless pit. No lord has ever had the power that our Lord Jesus has. He controls not only the seen but also the unseen. We know that we are in spiritual warfare. This is a battle between satan and God. We are fought because we are close to God's heart. Because of this, satan wants to destroy us. We have to have the power to overcome. Where do we find that power? In the name of Jesus. What does that mean? We have to know our place in God. We have to come into favor with the Lord of all, so that we can go out to fight this battle that we fight daily with His power, with His authority with His riches in glory, in His name, in the name of Jesus. When

we say, "In the name of Jesus, satan get out of my way, you are bound", we are telling satan he is bound from being able to work in a given situation. We are using the authority that God has given us, and he has to submit to that authority.

There are conditions to having the power of the name of Jesus work in your life. You have to accept God's Word and believe it when it tells us we have that authority. James 4:7 tells us, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." For the authority of God to work in your life you have to submit to Him. We have no power or name of our own. The seven sons of Sceva in Acts 19 spoke against satan in their name. The devils answered, Jesus we know, but we don't know your name. They proceeded to wreak havoc against them. You don't have any authority, but when you submit yourself to God and go in the name of Jesus, you will have the victory. This battle we fight is His fight. Go in His name with all the power and authority He has. You will not only be able to march in battle in victory, but you will overcome.

Here are other things that we receive in His name. Luke 24:47 tells us, "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name...." John 14:13-14 tells us, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." John 20:31 tells us, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing ye might have life through His name." Romans 10:13 tells us, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." I Corinthians 6:11 tells us, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." Go in His name. In our own selves we do not have the power to overcome, but when we go in His name, we have His power, and all that He has. How can we lose? Why do we have these things in His name? Because we are chosen, set aside, made accepted in Him when we submit to Him. Our flesh, who we are in the natural, has nothing to do with it. As long as our weaknesses and sin is under the blood, and we are walking a committed, submitted life in the Spirit. God's Word gives us authority. So does the blood of Jesus. So does the Holy Ghost who dwells in us. So does the name of Jesus. We are given authority, not

in our own name, or in our own right, but we are given authority in the name of Jesus.

I am sure that in the days of lords and manors, some of the people who were doing things for their lord tried to do so in their own name. There were probably many who went to the people to command them to do something for their lord and used their own name as the authority they needed. That probably didn't work. That probably lost a lot of the effectiveness of their authority. But if they went in the name of the ruling lord, then they had the authority that they lacked on their own. The lord's power, kingdom, riches, and army stood behind them as they went in that lord's name. They did not go alone against the enemy if they were to go there. They did not stand alone when their army was encamped round about by the enemy. They stood with the power of their ruling lord behind them. It is the same with us. We have to learn that we can't fight this fight on our own, and indeed the battle isn't even ours. As the Spirit of the Lord told Judah in II Chronicles 20:15, "...Be not afraid or dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." When you study out the Old Testament to see whose name the battles were fought in you can determine from that information whether or not each battle would be won or lost. For example, think of Jehosaphat who went "in the name of the Lord". How about Gideon whose army cried out the "sword of the Lord and of Gideon". When they fought in the name of the Lord, in faith and in the authority of God, they won. Over and over and over again.

We have to make sure that we are not fighting this thing in the flesh. We have to make sure that we are not fighting in our own strength, but in the strength of God. We have to make sure that we are in the Spirit and not in the flesh to be able to fight a spiritual battle. We need to take the authority that is given to us by God's Word. We need to take authority, not because we are who we are, but because He is Who He is and we are His children. We need to understand what authority we have in the name of Jesus and go in His name. We will overcome satan. In the name of Jesus, we can't loose.

Chapter 8.

Obedience

I once taught with a teacher that led a compromised life. She presented one side to the staff, but some of the students who got to know her found out that she wasn't real in her relationship with the Lord. One example, the school had a no smoking policy. This teacher had a bad controlling smoking habit. She wound up smoking behind the building. The students saw her. Not long after that she caught some of the students smoking. When she stepped in to take authority over the situation, she quickly found that she didn't have any. They had lost all respect and nobody paid attention to her. Another example of losing authority. I know someone who is having a spiritual struggle. The devil constantly bombards not only them but their whole family as well. They are learning to take spiritual authority, but it is a constant struggle. It is an uphill battle. They constantly stay worn out from the struggle. If they aren't careful the struggle will grow to the place that they give will give up. To be truthful, they have considered it many times. What is their problem? Where is their victory? There are areas of their life in which they are disobedient. The Lord will show them something that they need to do, but they refuse to do it. The devil has them bound with the fear of failure and their pride, and they find every excuse in the book to keep from obedience. They are walking in disobedience. Because of this, they have lost their authority. The devil doesn't listen to them. The devil will often take us only as serious as we take our relationship with God. Just like in the story at the beginning of this chapter, this lady lost her authority; we can through disobedience lose our authority over satan. Obey God then rebuke the devil and He will flee.

One of the reasons why we lose our spiritual victory and our authority over satan is because we in our heart know that we are disobedient. This cripples our stand in God. Because of our disobedience, we are unsure of our relationship with God. This hinders our trust. When we know that we are God's kids, and we are sure in that love, then we can stand against whatever the devil throws. When we are disobedient, this hinders that trust. This cripples our stand in God. We wind up trying to

fight with one leg tied up. When we disobey God, we know it. Our position is compromised. As I mentioned in an earlier chapter we have a hedge around us. When we are disobedient we walk out from under this hedge. If God is leading you to do something for Him, I don't care what excuse you have not to do it, you'd better go ahead and do it. The consequences and the price you'll have to pay for not obeying will be worse. Disobedience brings on us all kinds of things. If God is leading you in a certain direction then there is a reason He is doing so. Just go there and let Him take care of the results.

Disobedience compromises you so that you are not sure of your authority. It puts you in a position where the battleground is no longer level but slanted in the enemy's favor. This battle is real. It is a battle for your eternal soul. Whatever your reason for disobedience is, it's not worth it. Don't play games with God. Don't play games with the devil.

How do we fix this when it happens? We need to allow God's Spirit to convict us. We need to repent. Then we need to start obeying. It doesn't just mean that we receive God's forgiveness to turn around and keep doing the same thing. We need to fix our disobedience by obeying. If we loose track, then we need to go back to wherever we were when we got off track and do that next thing that we were supposed to do. We then need to allow His Spirit and His love to restore us to His will and we need to be renewed in our relationship with Him. Then, look out devil. We're back. And we are ready to tear up his kingdom.

Just as hurt puts a breach between two people who love one another, disobedience puts a breach in our relationship with God. For that relationship to become whole again, we have to repent and work things out with God. We have to fix things to make them right. Then just like we do when a breach is in our natural person-to-person relationships, we have to accept forgiveness when it is given. We have to reach across the divide of our disobedience to Jesus who will be reaching back.

As a footnote to this chapter, disobedience often robs us of complete spiritual victory in another way. Remember the story I told about the people who intended to do the school harm. I was able to defuse the situation in one part by obeying God. God told me what to do and how to pray in the spiritual. I did. He also told me some things to do in the natural

to take charge of the situation. If I had failed to obey Him, we would not have seen victory. We have to obey God in the supernatural and in the natural to take complete authority over the devil. When you are in a spiritual battle, and the Lord is leading you to do something, I don't care how silly it seems, do it. It will break the devil's stronghold. I remember a tent meeting service that was terribly bound. The tent was set in a town that was controlled by a witchcraft demonic spirit because there were so many people there in the town that was involved in witchcraft. The Holy Ghost led the preacher to have someone to go around the tent and anoint each tent pole. Sounded silly, but that really doesn't matter. The supernatural spiritual understanding of things will seem silly in the natural. About the time that the person anointing the poles got to the last one, revival broke. God moved in the service in a tremendous way in a revival that shook that part of the country. The devil was bound by a simple act of obedience.

I remember the story of a grandfather who had a lot of children and grandchildren in his family. A lot of them were lost and bound by the devil. His church was in the process of buying chairs for the sanctuary. The Lord led him to buy enough chairs for all of his family. A revival broke loose in his family and those chairs were filled. That simple act of obedient faith bound up the chains of the devil and loosed this man's family to serve God.

Obey God. What have you got to loose?

Chapter 9.

Wearing Out of the Saints

One of the tactics satan uses against us is to keep up a barrage against us until we are just too worn out to fight. Our ministry has always been one where a few people carried a gigantic load. A few people were faithful and dependable and took responsibility to become submitted and committed to the vision that God committed to them. There were times when we had hundreds of people around, but there were still only a few truly shouldering the load. If this happens to your ministry, don't despair. Remember that throughout the scriptures, the crowd that was doing the work wasn't always a large crowd. God sometimes gives a few supernatural abilities to be able to get more done than thousands could accomplish. Especially if the thousands weren't committed, submitted, and obedient, headed in the same direction. For one example, read the story of Gideon in Judges 6 and 7. God sent thousands home and won the war with the few. When only a few are shouldering the load, it is easier for the devil to wear out the saints. He'll do this by causing hindering spirits to hinder what God is trying to accomplish. Some hindering spirits will cause equipment to malfunction, things to go wrong, people to go haywire, and circumstances that just eat up your time so that you can't get anything done that needs to be done. All these things are designed to wear us out. A whole lot of constant little things can wear you out as quick as a few big things. They can steal your strength and keep you from standing up and taking authority because you just get too tired to do so. Some examples of hindering spirits are found in the scriptures. Read them. Here are two: Romans 15:22, and I Thessalonians 2:18. Paul was familiar with hindering spirits sent to hinder him from obeying God. Hindering spirits can even bind up and hinder our prayers from being answered. One instance of this is found in Daniel. An angel told Daniel that he would have come to answer his prayers sooner, but the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood him. Daniel 10 tells this story. This prince had to be a spiritual prince to withstand an angel. He had to be a demonic prince or he wouldn't withstand an angel. He was hindering the work of God. Daniel was in despair. He was in need of strength. He had been in a battle. Daniel 10:8

tells us, “Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me....” Because the hindering spirit had delayed help from the Lord, Daniel had lost his strength to be able to continue to stand in this situation. This hindering spirit had literally worn him out. However, help was on its way. It had been delayed, but it arrived before it was too late. The angel strengthened Daniel. The angel told him in Verse 19, “And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee; be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.”

As we mentioned earlier, Paul was no stranger to hindering spirits. Read this section of scripture in II Corinthians 1:8-10. He also knew what it meant to be strengthened by the hand of God. Ephesians 3:16 tells us, “That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man.” In II Timothy 4:17 he said, “The Lord stood by me and strengthened me.” He had learned the secret of strength. In II Corinthians 12:9 we read “And He (God) said unto me (Paul), My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” Paul had learned that his greatest strength was his weakness. When he was weak, he relied on God’s strength. He didn’t trust in his own flesh, or his own abilities. But he trusted in the strength of the Spirit of God within Him. When we learn this, the more the devil hinders, the more we are strengthened in God. When that happens, how can we loose.

Paul is a great person to learn about when we are studying how God strengthens us through adversity. Read throughout the New Testament about the battles that he faced. He definitely knew what it was to be hindered, even more so than most of us. He had learned to rely on the strength of God, and he had also learned an important key about joy. He had learned that the joy of the Lord was his strength. In many of the epistles he started with a greeting wishing them joy and he prayed many times that they be filled with joy. Nehemiah 8:10 tells us “...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” When we rejoice in the Lord, we are strengthened. When the devil is busy hindering, we can do one of two things. We can look at all he is doing and dwell on it to the point of

becoming discouraged. Or we can rejoice in the Lord, and praise the Lord for what He is doing in our lives. We don't really have to look very hard to find something to praise God for. James 1:2-3 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." We can get down about what the devil is doing, or we can rejoice in the Lord, receive His strength, and encourage ourselves in Him. Then we can rise up over the enemy and recover that which he has stolen. David knew about hindrances. Read the story in I Samuel 30. The enemy came in while the men were away at war. They stole what they had, burned their town, and took their wives and children to be slaves. Verse 4 tells us that David and the men returned to find this destruction. It tells us that David and all the people left wept until "they had no more power to weep". Talk about discouragement. You may have had a battle lately, but it surely can't compare to this. Verse 6, however, tells us what David did when he was finished with despair. It tells us that he encouraged himself in the Lord. When the devil has had his biggest lick against you and you have wept until you had no more power to weep, don't leave things there. Get up. Rise up from your despair. Get out your Bible. Get out those Gospel CD's that are recorded when those writing the songs were encouraging themselves after a battle. You know, the kind of songs that reaches into your heart and lifts it up. Start praising the Lord. Find out what direction He wants you to go in. Encourage your heart and spirit and mind in God. Then do what David did. In verse 8 he sought the mind of God and God gave Him a promise. He took God at His Word. He pursued his enemy, took authority over them, and in verse 18 he recovered all. He took back all that they had stolen from him, and more. We ourselves need to take time to be encouraged in the Lord when the devil is hindering us. We need to be strengthened and rejoice in His promises. We need to get the direction that we are supposed to go in, and we are to go there, and recover all. We may be facing a battle, not because we are doing something wrong, or because we are bad failures, but because the enemy is hindering us from that which God has for us. If we keep on pressing on, we will see those things that the Lord is promising. If we allow the hindering spirits to stop us, and we become double minded about pressing on, then we may never see the blessing.

In David's case it wasn't so hard for them to see that the enemy was coming against them. In spiritual warfare, we often fight the unseen. If we don't identify that the enemy is coming against us when he starts, then things often boil up to be a greater problem. God will reveal things to us and through the Holy Ghost we can discern what is going on. But it does God absolutely no good at all if we turn around and fail to do anything about it. I know many, many people who when God reveals something to them, they refuse to bind the devil. Then they act surprised when something terrible happens because of their disobedience and their walking in the flesh. If you don't listen to God and heed His instructions for your life, then you will throw yourself right into the path of the enemy, and not only will you but also your family and those dear to you may pay the consequence. If David had failed to encourage himself in the Lord, if he would have failed to go after his enemy and pursue them, then all his family would have perished. We have to literally take our loved ones sometimes right out of the hands of the enemy himself. But if we stand true and obedient to God, we will recover them all.

Hebrews 5:14 tells us, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." When we are able to discern spirits at work, then we can bind them. There have times around this ministry when hindering spirits have been at work. I remember one particular time when the ministry needed a financial miracle. Everything started to break. Every piece of equipment that could malfunction, malfunctioned. Then the vehicles of the people in our church congregation started breaking down. The devil meant to stop us by bringing hindering spirits against mechanical things to rob us of the money that the ministry needed. It did this by hindering the ministry finances as well as by hindering the congregation's finances of those who would step up and obey God by giving. We discerned that this was what was happening. As a body we came together to bind these spirits. We in unity took authority over them. Our financial need was met in spite of those hindrances. If we had not discerned that the devil was at work, and if we had not taken authority, then who knows what might have happened.

When hindering spirits are at work, we need to build our faith and keep our trust in the Lord that we will overcome. Not only will we overcome, but also we need to stand and declare that God will work all these things out for our good. Romans 8:28 tells us, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.". Like David, we need to go out and recover all. We need to declare God's promise that we will be blessed back with all that the enemy has stolen. Even blessed back to a hundred fold. I Samuel 30:17 tells us, "And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day.... Verse 18-19 tells us, "And David recovered all....And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great...nor anything that they had taken to them; David recovered all." We need to be strengthened. We need to encourage ourselves in the Lord. We need to go out and recover all. Amen, amen and amen. Then where will those hindering spirits be? Under our heel where they belong.

Chapter 10.

Intercessory Prayer

There have been times when I have prayed and bound the enemy and that was all it took. Instant prayer and instant answers. I broke through immediately to God's victory. There have been times when I had to bind together and pray in unity with my brothers and sisters in the Lord to be able to bind the enemy. There have been times when the entire church as a body of believers came together in a service to bind satan and he was bound. But there have been times when this binding and interceding had to go on for a season. I have interceded sometimes for months and even years before a bondage was broken. But when it was broken it was gloriously broken. For example, sometimes you have to intercede for someone to be saved for years before satan is bound and that person can come to the Lord. Sometimes persistent and continual intercession is the way to deliverance. If we aren't careful, we will give up if we don't see God move right away. During these times of intercession, the devil will come and tell us that we are not strong enough or holy enough in the Lord to break this bondage. We need to remind him who we are in God and keep right on binding.

The Bible teaches that there are some times when a bondage of the devil won't be broken without prayer and fasting. Jesus said in Matthew 17:21, "Howbeit this kind (of spirit) goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." In this instance Jesus told his disciples that they needed to fast to bind this devil. Fasting is mentioned often in the Bible: Ezra 8:21, Esther 4:16, Joel 1:14, Matthew 6:16. There are several types of fasting mentioned in the scriptures. One is like the fast that Jesus did in the desert when He was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing for 40 days. Another type of fast is referred to as being Daniel's fast. In Daniel 1:11-12 Daniel ate grains and fruits and vegetables and nothing else for a time period. Another type of fast is one in which you fast a certain shorter length of time, maybe for three days. Sometimes in the Bible people fasted sex as well as food. (I Corinthians 7:5). Another fast that I have been on was one in which I fasted a certain food or drink, or something else that my body craved, for a certain length of time. There have been times when I gave up a certain food or drink for good and didn't eat or drink that thing ever again. When you fast

be sure to do so as God leads. I have known a very few people who went on a fast for 40 days. The ones who did were led of the Lord and He strengthened them to do so. I have known some people who went on an extended fast and they weren't led of the Lord to do so. He didn't strengthen them and they did themselves physical damage. This happened because they did what they did in the flesh and not in the Spirit. When you fast remember to eat grains and fruit before and right after a fast. This helps keep your system flowing. Also, drink plenty of liquids.

Fasting is important for a couple of reasons. It keeps our flesh under subjection. It says to your flesh that it will not rule. You put your flesh's desires down and lets the Spirit of God control your life.

There is another type of fast, and I believe that it is the most important. We need to lead a fasted life. That means that we don't let the flesh control our emotions, our thoughts or our actions. This means that every day we keep our body under subjection lest it rule us. I Corinthians 9:26-27 tells us, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." We can do this by controlling ourselves as well as our appetites. When I see people who are ruled by their appetites, I see people who are often ruled by their emotions and their natural thinking as well. The flesh will destroy you if you allow it to. If you play games with it, it surely will. We can overcome this by taking authority over our flesh spending time fasting, praying, and reading God's Word. Daily we need to take authority over our flesh. When we do this, we can then take authority over satan.

Chapter 11.

Walking in Deliverance

God has given us armor to guard us against our enemy-satan. He has given both armor and a weapon. We read about them in Ephesians 6:10-18. (I haven't written this passage in here because it is lengthy. Please read this section from your Bible. It is an important one.) For us to stand against principalities and powers, this armor needs to stay intact. If we aren't careful, we can get chinks or holes in our armor. The devil is a master at making sure this happens. Let's look at each piece and learn how to stop him from doing so.

1. Loins are girded with truth. Knowing the truth protects us. Knowing the truth of God's Word protects us. We also can discern through the Holy Ghost the truth about situations or people that may let the devil use them against us. The devil can destroy us if we aren't able to discern what is going on. He will also keep us blinded from knowing the truth. Both the truth about what is happening as well as the truth of God's Word. Denominations often concentrate on a part of the truth. Because of this they don't know all the truth. And this can bind them seriously. I know people who concentrate on having a little part of the truth and they even become boastful that they have this truth that others fail to see. They concentrate on a little part of the Bible and totally leave the rest unread. I think that this is because they are afraid to loose that little corner of truth that they are holding on to so hard. They become bound and they are not walking in deliverance and victory. They loose their ability to take authority. They can easily fall. We need the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We won't find this anywhere but in God's Word. Some people run everywhere searching for the truth. But they never take down their Bible and read it. They "church hop" from place to place and get a little bit of the truth here and a little bit of the truth there. By the time they get all their little bits and try to piece a picture together out of them, they are totally confused. We need to seek God and His Word personally, and then we need to hear others. Then we

need to seek God to lead us to a church where we can feast in His Word in the Spirit and in truth. When He leads to that place we need to make a commitment and stay there. Even if a little something or other happens to hurt our feelings.

We also need to remember that Jesus is the truth. John 14:6 tells us, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life...” The only way to have our loins girded with truth is to have a real relationship with Him. For Him to be our shield, we can’t follow Him from a far off. We have to be walking right with Him, every step where He leads us. We have to have a walking and talking obedient relationship with Him.

2. Breastplate of righteousness-This guards our heart. Our heart has to be righteous and upright before God. We can’t play games with sin and allow rotten attitudes to control us. If we do, we can’t be protected from satan. We can’t allow wrong attitudes or actions to control us when we are walking in the devil’s territory and taking authority over him. When we do we walk out from under our breastplate of righteousness and the devil can buffet us. Right is right and wrong is wrong. We have to consistently choose right as a way of life. Righteousness is a requirement in serving God. This doesn’t mean we are perfect, but it means that with all our heart we choose to keep God’s Word. With all our heart and with a made up mind we choose to do it God’s way. When we fail, we repent, ask forgiveness, get up, and don’t do it again. Then we turn from our sins. We can never use His love as a cloak to hide our wrongdoing. I Peter 2:16 tells us, “As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.” We should never take an attitude that we are His children, He will forgive us, and so we can do anything we like. What kind of love is that??? To keep our breastplate on securely we need to make sure that we repent of our sin and become determined that with God’s help through the power of His Word, His Holy Ghost in us, and His love that we won’t do that again.

3. Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel-God's Word is a lamp unto our feet Psalm 119:105 tells us, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." God's Word will keep us walking in the right direction. It will keep us in safe places. Another meaning in this verse comes when we consider the purpose that we are called to. We are called to in some way spread God's Word to a lost and dying world. Acts 1:8 gives us all a great commission. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judah and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." If your feet are busy doing so, going about doing God's work with all your heart and might, then you will certainly stay out of trouble. You won't have any time left to give the devil. I don't have time to go anywhere that I am not supposed to go, because I am too busy with going where God tells me to go. I am too busy about his business to do any of the world's business, or become involved in what the world is doing. Many Christians are saved, and then they sit contently in that salvation with no thought to the thousands that die every day without Christ. They never consider their family, neighbor and friends that are lost. If we really get serious about our understanding that the Lord is returning soon, even in our own lifetime, then we will become busy about our Lord's business. That means the preparation of the Gospel. We will reach out to the lost. Serving God will become a priority. When we don't, we sit at home in our selfishness and self-centeredness. We are not busy about God's work. Our feet are not busy about the preparation of the Gospel. The devil can begin to manipulate our time. We begin to get our priorities out of line. Serving God comes second, then third, then eventually last. Be sure to keep your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel.
4. Shield of faith-a shield is a big part of any armor. Our faith is a big protection against satan's tricks. If our faith holds strong, we can bounce back no matter what the devil does. He cannot strike a fatal blow. When we trust God and walk in faith, we can keep on going

no matter how hard the devil strikes against us. Just like a warrior with a strong shield can keep on pressing on no matter how the enemy is striking, so can we keep on going when the enemy is attacking us. In the middle of an attack someone with a strong shield can even gain ground. The devil will war against our faith because he knows this is our shield. One time, after a particularly hard battle, I began to lose strength. I began to waver in the fight. I asked God to show me what was wrong. He showed me that my faith had been under attack, and my faith was growing weak. He showed me a picture in my mind. He showed me my shield. It was really beaten up. It was still holding but it was really battered. He showed me that I needed to draw to the side, encourage myself in the Lord, and encourage my faith in Him. When we are under attack, sometimes the devil keeps us so busy that we don't have time to draw to the side and seek the face and the love of God. We don't have time to get out the Word of God and encourage our faith by reading about His wonderful power and how He has worked for others, which encourages us in looking for what He is surely going to do for us. We don't have time to pray in the Holy Ghost and build up our faith. The devil steals our time so that we can't. We just have to drive up a stake and declare that we are going to do those things anyway. Then the devil can't weaken our faith and bang our shield to the place that it no longer can protect and shield us. Remember how we talked about David earlier. No doubt when he returned from that battle and found all the destruction the enemy had done, his faith wavered. But he encouraged himself in the Lord and recovered all.

4. The helmet of salvation-when we are saved, we think differently than we once did. Remember when you first realized that. When the Spirit of God comes into our hearts, He brings about a change in how we think. We can begin to think with the mind of Christ. Romans 8:27 tells us that when we walk in the Spirit, "And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit..." We can begin to walk in the Spirit and that is much better than being dependent on our natural mind. If we aren't careful though, we can get caught up

in thinking with our natural mind, in the flesh. We can begin to start thinking like the world, like everybody else does. Our flesh begins to control our mind instead of that “new Man” who has taken residence inside of us. When that happens the truth goes out the window. When we are thinking in the flesh, we can’t know the truth. We can’t think the right things. Our perception of things is off. Our understanding is warped. Our thinking can get bound with fear, doubt, and unbelief. The decisions that we make will be wrong. We will be going in the wrong direction with our lives and not even know it. Our reactions to circumstances will be wrong. We have to be sure that our mind is covered with our helmet of salvation. Through salvation, Christ enters into our heart and changes our thinking. We have to let our mind be transformed. (Romans 12:2, “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.”)

5. The sword-the Word of God. The Word of God has power to change us and to deliver us. Without it we don’t know how to act or think. Without it we would let the flesh rule and not the Spirit. Without it we wouldn’t even know that we were in a battle, let alone be able to win it. God’s Word shows us that we need deliverance. God’s Word teaches us that the devil is there and it teaches us how to withstand him. If we never read God’s Word, this leaves us wide open for attack from satan. The sword is the only attack, offensive weapon that we have in our armor. The rest is for protection. The sword is for attack. The Word of God not only gives us protection, but it also changes our position from a defensive position to an offensive position. It enables us to put the devil on the run. Through God’s Word we can tear satan’s kingdom down. That is why it is so important to read God’s Word. Read it over and over and over again. I took a Bible study once that helped me to read through the Bible. After that it was easy to take on the thinking that I had read it once, I didn’t need to read it again. That was nothing but the devil. God began to deal with me that this wasn’t right. I picked it up again. I

read something that leaped off the page right into my spirit. Something that hadn't at the time I read it earlier, made that much of an impression on me. I have learned that God's Word is a living book. Its author writes its pages on our hearts. When I need encouragement, I'll pick it up and verses of encouragement come alive in my spirit. This happens if I need strength, joy, a release, or whatever I might need. Read it. Over and over and over again.

As a footnote to this chapter, we often fail to keep the armor of God on because of bondages that the enemy puts against us. The enemy can bind us to the place that we can't really see God's love and the power of His Word. One example might be a past life of sin. If you have had a life filled with sin before the Lord saved you, then the devil will bring condemnation against you. You might feel like you are not worthy of God's promises. This will bind you from being able to receive God's Word. If you have been involved in things in your past, before Jesus came into your heart, then you need to let God deliver you from your past. To do this, you need to completely and totally let your past go. You cannot hold onto even one little seemingly insignificant corner of your past. If you don't, the devil will eventually use that one corner against you to destroy you. When Jesus comes into your heart you become a new creation. II Corinthians 5:17 tells us, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." Old things are passed away. You need to totally turn loose of what is behind you before you can really grab with both hands onto what is ahead of you. This means all the people and activities associated with your past. If there is something in your past that you miss, then you have not totally given it up. If you don't get delivered, the devil will constantly bring this up before you. Until you do, then you will never totally get delivered from the spirits that bound you in your past. Another thing that you have to do to get delivered from spirits that have bound you in your past is that you have to forgive those that hurt you in your past. I mean total and complete forgiveness that comes only through the Spirit of God who is in you. If you don't, then these spirits can come back to bind you. To continue to walk in that newness that God has given you, you must totally and completely turn loose of the old. One

example is this. I had been saved for a while. But I couldn't get total deliverance from some of the devils that had bound me as a sinner. I asked God what was going on. He showed me that I had a bitter spirit. I had bitterness against some people who had hurt me during this time. These spirits that were controlling those people were able to come against me. I had a hole in my armor and wasn't protected against these because of my bitterness. I was vulnerable to attack from them. With God's help I forgave these people, and God restored me. If we don't forgive, then we have a high risk of actually becoming like those that we are holding bitterness against. Press on ahead. That is where the mark for our high calling is. Philippians 3:14 tells us, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

We also can become attacked from the devil when we fail to get out the root of a problem in our life. For example, we might have a battle with rebellion. We don't want to submit to those around us. If we don't submit to those around us, then we have a major problem submitting to God. Also, when this happens, we can't really work as a body of Christ. We will be trying to prove what this or that should be, and where we should all go, but that won't be in the direction that the Spirit of God and the rest of the body is going in. Because of this we will always feel lonely and left out. We are. We aren't where everybody else is. But it is our fault and nobody else's. We may be able to discern what spirit is coming against us. God may show us that a rebellious spirit is what is coming against us. We will bind it and it will stay gone for a season. Then it will be back. We'll do it again only for it to shortly return. This is because we haven't gotten the root out. I have a little strawberry patch in my yard. It has been taken over by weeds. I can't pull up the weeds because the roots of the strawberries have gotten all entangled with the roots of the weeds. When I try to pull up the weeds I pull up the strawberries. The only way that I can keep the weeds out is to have my husband weed eat those weeds. That only works for a short time. It isn't long before there they are again. He does this all summer long. Sometimes this is how we fight the devil in certain areas of our life. We deal with the outer symptoms, but we never get down to the root of the cause. We fight a rebellious spirit, and continually bind it, but it keeps

coming back because of the root. Sometimes the root for rebellion comes because we have been really hurt by someone that we submitted to in our past. This hurt was so bad that we built up a wall unconsciously that keeps us from submitting to anyone, God or anyone else. That is why we rebel. I really am an expert on this subject because this was my life's story. God had to deliver me from my hurt. He had to heal my heart. This could only happen when I totally and completely gave it to Him and allowed Him to. Then I could bind that spirit of rebellion and it had to stay bound. My authority was restored. This is just one example of how roots can cause us to stay bound even when we are binding these spirits. We have to get the root out.

Put on the whole armor of God. Don't neglect to put on any part. We may have a strong faith but be lacking in our efforts in the preparation of the Gospel. The devil will attack our feet and bring us down. Whatever part is weak, that will be the part that the devil attacks. When we put on the whole armor of God, then it will be the devil who will be put on the run.

Chapter 12.

The Final Chapter

Our Triumph Over Satan

To fully get into your heart an understanding of the place that satan has, and the authority that God has over him as well as the authority that God has given you over him, then you need to digest this last chapter. That doesn't just mean the last chapter of this book, but also the last chapter in His Book. You need to see what our final victory over satan will be like. We get a glimpse of this throughout the book of Revelations, which is the final chapter. We'll go to those scriptures directly. We'll start with Isaiah 14:12-18. This is a great section of scripture, but it won't do you any good unless you read it. I didn't write it down here because it is lengthy. One day we will walk by the pit where God has chained the devil. Revelations 20:1-3, "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season." We will glance down at him narrowly, not even with a full stare, and we'll say, "Is that what bound us?" And then we'll walk on into the glory of all that God has prepared for us for eternity. The devil will sit there bound in his chains. The devil can never have the glory that waits the children of God. He can never get back what he had at the beginning of things when he had an honored place in God's kingdom as an archangel. He lost that place by beoming lifted up in his heart and rebelling against God. He led one third of the angels in that rebellion. They lost that rebellion, of course, and were thrown out of heaven. (Isaiah 14:12, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north.") He can never again have that heavenly life with God that he once had. That is why he hates you. He knows that is your destiny, and

your destination. You have ahead of you all the glories of what he left behind. That really makes you over him, not under him. God created us to rule over the devil. In Genesis he was put under our heel.

We will soon walk in a world that has no devil and no flesh that he can control. It will be filled with God and the Holy Ghost and Jesus. It will be a perfect place that Jesus Himself has prepared for us. John 14:23 tells us, "Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14:2 tells us, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also." God is supreme over satan. If this were a lie, then heaven would be impossible. We know that it is possible. We know that it is our God-given right as a child of God. We also know that victory is our God-given right as a child of God. We also know that this perfect place of total victory is prepared for us by a God of total victory. When you are being tried, remember that perfect place. When it seems like the devil is winning, remember that place that Jesus has prepared for you. It will give you that extra faith and strength to keep on fighting. Remember, the only way that you can loose is if you quit. Keep on pressing on. Your victory is just around the corner. What is waiting for the devil? Chains and bondage. What is waiting ahead for you? The Bible promises these things for those who overcome. They are found in Revelations 2 and 3. They are: the right to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God, to eat of the hidden manna, a white stone with a new name written, power over the nations, a white raiment and your name confessed before God and His angels, being a pillar in the temple of God, sitting with Jesus in His throne, inheriting all things, and being the Son of God. With so much ahead to press on for, don't quit now. Victory is just in sight.

We have been given authority over satan. We have rights as children of God. We are winners, victorious in the name of Jesus. Stand up and be counted. It is time that you rise in the authority that God has given you and shake your world. It is time that the devil runs when he sees you coming.

Not only will your life be changed, but so will the lives of those you love. Take the authority that God has for you. Go forth in His name. You will be guaranteed to win.