

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

No 221

[Kaitaia Combined Churches' Night of Prayer - 15/9/00 - EKB]
[Revised February 2003]

- 1 In Spiritual Warfare **we are not fighting to win the battle** because Christ has already won the battle at Calvary and in His Resurrection, *Eph 1:20-23, Col 2:15, Heb 2:14, 1Jn 3:8b*, and He has given to us His triumph, *2Cor 2:14, 1Cor 15:57, Mat 28:18*. We are to stand in Christ's victory by faith, *1Jn 5:4, 2Cor 1:24, Eph 6:11,13,14*.
2. The powers of darkness over a town **have authority given to them by the people who are doing their will**, e.g. powers of drug addiction, pornography, abortion, immorality, violence, New Age, materialism, pleasure, etc.
3. **We do not have authority over these powers ourselves to cast them out**, or "pull them down." Christ has all authority but has given people free will to choose whom they will serve, *Josh 24:15*. The way we see a limiting of the powers of darkness is by our witness of Christ and sowing the Seed of the Word of God, out in the community. As people repent and turn to Christ, they are delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son, *Col 1:13*. In this way these powers lose their authority and influence. Furthermore, **as the gathered Body of Christ exalts the Lord in one accord of Spirit and Truth, He brings judgment on these powers**. This brings a definite limiting of their activities, *Ps 149:6-9, 2Chr 20:22, Ac 16:25,26, 2Chr 7:14*.
4. Each believer, Christian couple, local church, unified Body of Christ in a town, **has authority over their particular sphere of life given to them by God**, to resist satan, *2Cor 10:13-15, Jam 4:7*. Each, within their God-given realm of authority, by the Word of God, the leading and power of the Holy Spirit, the Blood of Jesus Christ and the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ can effectively resist satan. For example: As a believer you have authority from God to resist satan in your own life, family, house, property and business *Lk 10:19, Jam 4:7*. Stay within the realm of your God-given authority. Avoid presumption, *Num 14:44, Ps 19:13, Deut 17:13*.
5. **So spiritual warfare is declaring by faith the victory of Christ in these areas of God-given authority and responsibility, effectively resisting satan, and bringing increase to God's Kingdom**.
6. In doing this **we need the protection and armour of God**. This is described in *Eph 6:10-20*. We need to put on: **truth, righteousness, 1Thes 5:8, gospel of peace, faith** as our shield, **helmet of salvation, 1Thes 5:8, the Word of God** as our sword, **praying always in the Spirit, watchfulness, perseverance, praying for all the saints, utterance to speak the Gospel boldly** and God-given **ability to stand firm**, i.e. put on Christ Himself, *Rom 13:12,14*.
7. Also we need the **protection of: personal holiness, Jn 14:30, 1Thes 4:3, full surrender to Christ, Mat 7:21,24, Lk 6:46, Jam 4:7, humility to God and loving service to others, 1Pet 5:5,6, Gal 5:13, with full forgiveness to others, Mk 11:25,26, and a releasing of others from judgment, Mat 7:1-3, Rom 2:1,2, Jam 4:11,12**.
8. **The fulness of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God** gives us God's strength and power, *Eph 5:18,19, Col 3:16, Ac 1:8, Ac 10:38, Lk 4:18,19*.

9. **Oneness as the Body of Christ**, as believers together, is where God commands His blessing, *Ps 133:3, Mat 12:25, Phil 1:27, Ac 4:24-31*. We maintain this by constantly forgiving others, *Mk 11:25,26*, releasing them from all judgment, *Mat 7:1,2, Jam 4:11,12*, handing every problem over to God to sort out and resolve, *Mat 11:28-30, Ps 55:22, 1Pet 5:7*, and praying for others whole-heartedly as Jesus has commanded, *Lk 6:27,28,35-37*.
10. **God has established His authority in the earth** by four means:
- a. **The Blood of Jesus Christ**, by which we are saved, *Rom 5:9, Heb 13:12, Eph 1: 7, 1Jn 1: 7*, keeps us right before God.
 - b. **The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ**, by which we are saved, *Eph 1:20-22, Phil 2:5-11, Lk 10:19, Mk 16:17, Mat 18:18-20*, is above every other name, and is given to us.
 - c. **The Word of God**, by which we are saved, *Mat 4:4,7,10, Mat 8:16, Ps 119:89, Ps 138:2*, carries the authority and power of God, *Lk 1:37AMPV*.
 - d. **The Anointing of the Holy Spirit**, by which we are born again, *Mat 12:28, Ac 10:38, Lk 4:18,19*, is the power of God in action.
11. **In spiritual warfare** these four authorities of God are activated and released by:
- a. **Prayer and fasting**, *Ps 50:15, Rom 10:13, Ac 12:5-11, Ac 4:29,31, Ac 13:2, Lk 18:1-8*.
 - b. **Preaching the Word and witnessing to the unsaved**, *Ac 1:8, Ac 8:4,5-8, Ac 11:19,20, 2Tim 4:1-5*.
 - c. **Praising God**, *Ac 16:25-34, 2Chr 20:20-22, Ps 100:4, Ps 18:3*.
“It breaks the enemy’s power, sets the captives free..... and sends us forth in power and victory.”
 - d. **Proclamation of the Word, in the Holy Spirit**. *Heb 10:23, Heb 3:1, Heb 4:14, Mk 11:22-24, Josh 1:8, Deut 30:14, Rom 10:9,10*.
Bold, believing, persistent proclamation of God’s Word of truth has very great power.