

WELCOME TO WORD OF FAITH LIFE GROUPS **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER**

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

Pulling Down Strongholds, Pt. 1

Thursday, April 7, 2022 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching

OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

If this is your first time joining us, please introduce yourself! We are glad you took the time to join us today. Our group has four purposes:

1. **L... Learning together from God's Word**
2. **I... Interceding through prayer**
3. **F... true Fellowship in the Spirit of Christ**
4. **E...Evangelizing the lost**

PRAISE & WORSHIP (5 MINUTES)

FACILITATION OF LESSON

Sermon Title: “Pulling Down Strongholds, Pt. 1”

POINT 1

Bishop butler prophesied that this is the year of the authority of the righteous. But we need to know the scriptural methods of walking in that authority. Especially in the area of pulling down strongholds.

One thing we do know is evil spirits like to remain in the locality where they have established strongholds.

READ: Mark 5:9-13 - Jesus delivered the madman of Gadara.

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⁹ And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. ¹⁰ And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. ¹¹ Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. ¹² And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. ¹³ And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

The evil spirits that inhabited the man didn't want Jesus to send them out of the country. Because those evil spirits did not like to leave that area, they requested to enter a herd of pigs. In verse 13, Jesus granted them permission. The passage states, *And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.*

QUESTION:

1. What can you learn about demon activities from this passage? Have you ever been in a situation when you sensed demonic activity or when something just didn't set right with you?

The evil spirits that dominate a city will attempt to infiltrate local churches if there are members willing to yield to them and let them in. When church members yield to evil spirits, the devil gains access to the church. It grieves the Holy Spirit, and He will be unable to manifest Himself in the way in which He desires.

QUESTION:

1. How do members of the church yield to evil spirits? What examples do you have of the Holy Spirit being hindered from manifesting Himself?

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POINT 2

We must understand that, as Christians, we are under no obligation to listen to the devil. We are also under no obligation to submit to him. We are not obligated to allow the god of this world to dominate our thoughts or actions in any way.

So, whatever spirits dominate in a community, those same spirits will try to enter the church if the people in the church yield to them and let them in. This is evident, for example, in Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians.

READ: 1 Corinthians 5:3-5

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Corinth was one of the most immoral cities in the east at the time. The immoral spirit that had taken control of the city entered the church because someone in the church allowed it in by wrongdoing. In the church, there was a man who was living with his father's wife. In his letter to the Corinthian church, Paul addressed these moral issues. So, whatever spirits dominate in a community, those same spirits will try to enter the church if the people in the church yield to them and let them in. This is evident, for example, in Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians.

In this passage, Paul only addressed the man and his sin; he did not address a ruling spirit in the church or the city.

QUESTION:

1. What is the most extreme teaching you've heard about spiritual warfare and pulling down strongholds?

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POINT 3

What does the Bible say about tearing down strongholds in particular? What is a stronghold, according to the Bible? To gain a better understanding, read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

READ: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

1. Describe a stronghold based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 in your own words. Have you ever used or heard someone else use this scripture out of context? Give an example of a mistake you've made or heard in the past!

By taking verse 4 out of the context of the next verse, they begin to make it say something that it really isn't saying.

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READ: 2 Corinthians 10:5 again:

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

QUESTION:

1. When you read verse 5, what is Paul's main point or subject? What is he not saying in relation to our subject lesson?

Once again, the biggest battle you will ever fight is in this area of the thought life and the mind. It all starts right there. Fighting the battle of the mind so you can stay in faith is the way to victory in every area of life.

QUESTION:

1. If the biggest battle is the battle of your mind, what are you doing about this battle? How have you successfully fought this battle? Everyone take an opportunity to share.

In 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, Paul is talking about taking thoughts, imaginations, arguments, theories, reasonings, deceptive fantasies, conceits of men, and barriers of pride and bring them into subjection to the true knowledge of God – the Word of God!

Due to the fact that the mind is the primary target of Satan's attacks, the devil's tactic is to create strongholds in our thinking that exalt themselves above actual knowledge of God. Your mind will tell you certain things and practices that you are doing are okay, but they don't line up with the character of God or the word of God.

QUESTION:

1. Have you ever found yourself reasoning concerning something you know you're not supposed to be doing? Why are people afraid to bring everything to God in prayer?

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POINT 4

The Bible teaches that we are to repent from wrong thoughts:

READ: Romans 8:29 *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

READ: Philippians 2:5;8 -- *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: "*

He says, *"Let this mind be in you."* What mind? The same mindset Jesus had! He was sold out to God

VERSE 8 SAYS: *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Jesus had a mindset that I'm going to be obedient to God even if I'm facing death. We must conform to the image of Christ in our thinking. That is one of our greatest defenses against Satan.

QUESTION

1. What wrong thoughts have you had to repent from?

POINT 5

We can't get into over emphasizing some aspect of spiritual warfare, that's based on a misapplication of scriptures like 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5. Be careful of taking scripture out of context to fit your personal desire which can be unscriptural.

There is spiritual warfare, and militancy in the sense of being aggressive and fervent in the Word and in the Holy Ghost. Militancy meaning fervency is fine, but when people teach others to focus all their spiritual activity on the person of the devil – that is both dangerous and unscriptural.

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Where this is the most obvious is in the practice of trying to dethrone Satan over cities and communities. Militancy is taken out of the bounds when we get the idea that we have to accomplish something that Jesus has already accomplished for us.

Why would believers want to dethrone Satan or principalities and powers? The truth is in:

Colossians 2:15:

READ: Colossians 2:15, *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

Jesus has already defeated Satan for us. As the church, we triumph in that victory – the victory Christ has already won for us at the cross. Our job now is to make manifest the savor of that victory through the knowledge of God's word here in Colossians 2:15.

We must meditate on the fact that the devil is already a defeated foe, so I know no weapon formed against me shall prosper. I have the victory!

QUESTION

1. How do you maintain and savor the victory Jesus already won? Make it personal!

POINT 6

We don't have to win the battle over Satan. Jesus already won the victory for us. We must simply walk in the light of God's Word concerning that victory, And Jesus' victory over the devil will become manifest in our daily lives.

The fact that Satan and his hosts are still here should not disturb us. They will continue to be here until Adam's lease runs out.

The fact that Satan rules over the lives of others through strongholds of deception doesn't mean we have to re-enter into battle with him as Jesus did.

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We can use the name of Jesus in prayer to bind and break his hold over people and then we can simply enforce Satan's defeat through the preaching of the word. The light of God's Word will dispel the darkness of Satan's deception in people's lives. The business of trying to do battle with evil spirits in the heavenlies is an effort of the flesh to try to defeat an already defeated foe.

However, in some Christian circles today, dethroning Satan over cities and nations through spiritual warfare and violent intercession is seen as an absolute prerequisite before any revival or effective evangelism can take place. But you can't find this theology in the Bible.

Take time to study the Gospels and the Book of Acts for yourself to see what Jesus and his disciples did to bring revival. One thing you'll notice is that Jesus and his disciples didn't pull down demonic powers ruling over cities or countries. Jesus and his disciples only dealt with demons in connection with individual people.

QUESTION

1. How did Jesus and the disciples deal with demonic forces? Give examples! How should we deal with them?

POINT 7

The book of Acts emphasizes the teaching of sound doctrine and preaching the gospel to bring people into the kingdom, not fighting devils and bringing down strongholds.

We don't have scripture for pulling down strongholds over cities and nations, but we do have scriptural grounds for binding the operations and strategies of principalities and powers in their attacks against us.

READ: Matthew 18:18 AMP: *I assure you and most solemnly say to you, whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth shall have [already] been*

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bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth shall have [already] been loosed in heaven.

If those strategies are illegal, I can bind them – where? On earth. If those strategies and operations are holding people hostage, I can command them to be loosed and declared unlawful.

READ: Luke 10:19 AMP: *Listen carefully: I have given you authority [that you now possess] to tread on serpents and scorpions, and [the ability to exercise authority] over all the power of the enemy (Satan); and nothing will [in any way] harm you.*

We have the ability to exercise authority!

READ: Philippians 2:9 AMP: *For this reason also [because He obeyed and so completely humbled Himself], God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow [in submission], of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth.*

Everything must bow to the Name of Jesus. We have the authority to use that name against the operations and strategies of principalities and powers in their attacks against us.

We do that with the Word of God and the Name of Jesus. We take our stand against the enemy with the Word of God, just as Jesus did in Matthew 4:4-10 when he repeatedly said it is written.

2. Name a time when you had to stand against the enemy and walk in your authority!
What Scriptures did you use?

ALTAR CALL - Time of Decision (Everyone Bow Your Heads)

1) Receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior:

- a. Some may have never received Jesus.
- b. You may be a good person, give to the poor, and serve in the community.

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c. Has there been a day where you confessed Jesus and Lord?

(Read Romans 10:9) If need to make this decision, raise your hand:

Repeat this prayer after me: *“I believe that Jesus is the son of God. I believe he died for me bearing my sins for me. I believe he rose from the dead and is alive right now. Dear Lord Jesus, come into my life now! Come into my heart now! I believe in my heart, and say with my mouth that Jesus Christ is my personal Lord as Savior. And I am, right now, born again.”*

2) Rededicate your life:

a. Is your life a mess? Are you struggling right now?

b. You know something is just off in life?

(Read 1 John 1:9) If you want to be restored with God, raise your hand:

Now we want to take an opportunity to pray and to repent before God for any area you have sinned: *“Father, I come before you in the Name of Jesus asking for forgiveness ... (allow the person to personally speak to God about the specific thing they are repenting for). After they are finished, close out the prayer with them, thanking God for forgiveness and restoration.”*

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family) - *Have members complete the form and submit to you by email or in person.*
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:

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- a. Pastor Ronald D. Walker, Jr., Evangelist Sharon L. Walker, Minister Promise Walker, Brittany and Christian and the ministerial staff.
- b. Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler

Have you reached out to your circle today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 MINUTES)

1. **Single with Purpose Ministry is having a Night Out!** “We are going to Dinner,” **Friday, April 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. - Location to be announced.** Invite a friend to have dinner with you. See you then. For more information see Minister Bachelor in person or email her at singewithpurpose2019@gmail.com.
2. Join us for **Baby Dedication, Sunday, April 10th at 10:00 am** to register, please call the church office at (340) 774-8617 or see Minister Promise Walker at the end of service.

OFFERING

- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
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CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL
