

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

LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

Praying Scripturally Against The Kingdom Of Darkness, Part 6

Thursday, June 23, 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: *“Praying Scripturally Against The Kingdom Of Darkness,” Part 6*

POINT 1

When it comes to praying scripturally against the forces of darkness. Jesus appeared to Dad Hagin in 1952, he told him, you take authority over the first three classes of demons, and I'll take care of spiritual wickedness in high places. Satan's dominion after his fall encompassed not only the realm of this world, but it also included the regions known in the bible as the high places of heavenlies.

The scriptures say in: **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 [OR WICKED SPIRITS] in high places [HEAVENLIES].

Instead of spiritual wickedness, a marginal note in the King James version reads, wicked spirits in the heavenlies. Therefore, we know that Satan rules in the heavenlies.

QUESTION:

1. How do we know there are four classes of demons? What are the classified as?

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What does the bible mean by heavenlies? The Bible refers to three heavens. We see direct reference to more than one heaven in **2 Corinthians 12:2-4**. Most bible scholars agree that the Apostle Paul was talking about himself in this passage:

READ: 2 Corinthians 12:2-4

*I I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to **the third heaven**. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise [HEAVEN], and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

As we see in verse two, there is a third heaven. If there is a third heaven there also has to be a second heaven, otherwise there would be no point for the scriptures to mention a third heaven. If there is a second heaven, then there must be a first heaven.

The **first heaven** right above us is what we call the **atmospheric heaven**, or the heavenlies. Beyond that, out in space, is the region where the stars, sun, moon, and planets are – **the stellar heavens or space**. This is referred to as **the second heaven**. Out beyond that, further than science knows about or has been able to explore, is the **third heaven – the heaven of heavens – where God's throne is located**.

QUESTION:

1. What are the three heavens referred to in the bible?

POINT 2

We are given some information about the **third heaven** in scriptures. For example, we know that under the new covenant. Paradise is located in this **third heaven**;

READ: Luke 23:43 where it says:

And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

The paradise Jesus is referring to is heaven.

READ: 2 Corinthians 12:4, where once again Paul said

How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

He heard those unspeakable words not down here in the earth realm. He heard them in paradise which is heaven. He was caught up into heaven.

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Revelation 2:7 confirms that paradise is in the *third heaven*. It says:

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

When we see the word “*paradise*” in the Word of God it is referring to the “*third heaven!*”

Where is Jesus right now? **Read Mark 16:19:**

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Jesus was received up into the *third heaven* and He is sitting on the right hand of God. God is in the *third heaven*.

Look at **Hebrews 1:3** where it is also talking about Jesus. *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; [IN THE THIRD HEAVEN]!*

If that is not enough to convince you, read one more passage Hebrews 4:14 where it says:

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Jesus is right now in the third heaven or paradise.

QUESTIONS:

1. How is the third heaven described in the above passages?
2. What are six instances where heaven is described as such?

POINT 3

Heaven is real folks! But when you mention heaven make sure you understand which heaven you are referring to. The Bible tell us in **John 14:2:**

In my Father's house [TALKING ABOUT HEAVEN] are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Jesus is preparing a place for believers in heaven. We know with a certainty that believers go to heaven to be with Jesus when they die. Jesus goes on to say:

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3 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.

Well, where is Jesus? In heaven and He says *where I am, there ye may be also!*

Paul also told us believers go to heaven when they die. He says in: **Philippians 1:21**
For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

We look at death as a lost, but Paul looked at death as a gain. What is that gain? Verse 23 reads:
23 *For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:*

The gain is I'm going to be with Christ. That's not a lost, that's the ultimate gain. If we understand this, we can understand why Paul told us not to mourn like others who have no hope. We have a hope and that hope, and expectation is, we are going to be with Jesus when we depart this life here on earth. That's a gain; not a lost!

QUESTIONS:

1. What proof do we have that heaven is real and that's where to go?
2. Why do people consider death as a lost instead of a gain?
3. What is people reactions when they look at death as a lost instead of a gain? What have you witnessed yourself?

POINT 4

When Jesus appeared to Dad Hagin in a vision. He talked to Dad Hagin for an hour and a half on subject of Satan, demons, and demon possession. One of the things he said to him was that there were four classes or categories of demons or evil spirits as Paul listed them in:

READ: 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 [OR WICKED SPIRITS] in high places [HEAVENLIES].

Paul started at the bottom of the list with the lowest class of demons and worked up in order of their rank: Principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places or wicked spirits in the heavenlies.

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Here is their order or rank from **the greatest** to the **least** in power:

1. *Wicked spirits or spiritual wickedness in high places: this highest class of demons exist in the heavenlies, not on the earth. They are just under Satan himself. These are demons that control nations.*
2. *Rulers of the darkness of this world: the highest class of demons believers have to deal with on the earth. These are demons who influence kings. The Greek says world rulers of this darkness.*
3. *Powers: they are dominated by and receive their instructions from the rulers of the darkness of this world.*
4. *Principalities: the lowest class. They are ruled over and dominated by the other classes and do very little thinking on their own. These are demons (familiar spirits) who possess unbelievers and oppress believers.*

The devil is an organizer. He is organized because his example came from the lord. As Lucifer, he was over the angels and just under the Godhead in authority. He is a counterfeiter. He can only pervert what he learned from God.

QUESTIONS:

1. What's the order of Satan's organization and how do they function?
2. How did the Satan learned to be so organized? Explain.

We have scriptural grounds for believing that the first three classes of demons and evil spirits principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world – exist in the first heaven which is the air and the atmospheric heavens right above us.

It's the dwelling place of demons because the bible calls Satan in **Ephesians 2:2:**

*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the **prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

This is his domain. You can't see them, but they are there, and they dominate and rule anyone on the earth **who will let them.**

Out beyond the atmosphere or air in the stellar heavens is the second heaven where the stars and the planets are located.

The second heaven is what the bible refers to in **Ephesians 6:12** as the high places. And that is the domain where wicked spirits or spiritual wickedness in high places rule.

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And out beyond that is the third heaven, the heaven of heavens, the realm of paradise where God's throne is. Of course, there are no wicked spirits in God's realm.

QUESTIONS:

1. What scriptural grounds do we have for believing that the first three classes of demons and evil spirits dwell in the first and second heaven?
2. How can demons' rule and dominate people?

CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

PRAISE REPORTS - *2-MINUTES PER PERSON

PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

Prayer focus:

- 1) Your Circle (friends and family)
- 2) Life Group members
- 3) Word of Faith Leadership:
 - 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. Join Covenant Partner's, **Friday, June 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** for Karaoke Night!! Bring your song and let's "Duet" Together. Invite another couple and see you there! For more information contact Minister Lavern Oysterman by email at wofcovenantpartners@gmail.com.
2. Join the SWAT team for their next SWAT Outings, **Saturday, June 25th at 11am.** SWAT Outings are schedule every 2nd and 4th Saturdays. For more information see Minister Francis.
3. Mark your calendars! **Sunday, June 26th at 10:00 am** - Get ready to have an encounter with God with ministry of the Word by Bishop Keith A. Butler from Word of Faith Southfield, Michigan. Prayer begins promptly at 9:45 am. This is an event you don't want to miss.

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OFFERING

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