

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

## LIFE GROUP LESSON PLAN

### Praying Scripturally Against the Kingdom Of Darkness, Part 8

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

*Teaching The Bible Through Practical Biblical Teaching*

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#### OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

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#### WELCOME TO OUR GROUP (5 MINUTES)

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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)

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#### FACILITATION OF LESSON

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**Sermon Title:** *“Praying Scripturally Against The Kingdom Of Darkness,” Part 8*

#### POINT 1

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We talked about taking our authority over the works of the devil. But there are things we need to realize. There are limits to our authority. A person's authority in the natural realm and in the spiritual realm can only be exercised so far.

For example, a believer has authority over the powers of darkness in his own home and for his own kinfolk.

**Read: Acts 16:14-15**

*14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

Lydia attended to the word Paul was preaching. When she received and believed and acted on it.

*15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

Notice it says she was baptized and her household. Her household was brought out of darkness. It doesn't say anything about the neighborhood or the city.

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#### QUESTION:

1. How was Lydia whole household saved?

#### **Read: Acts 16:25-26**

*25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.*

When Paul and Silas sang praises and prayed unto God and the prisoners heard them. Their bands were loosed. The power of God hit that prison!

#### **Read: Acts 16:27-32**

*27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

Notice they said first you believe and then we will work on the rest of the house.

*32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.*

The word still had to be preached to them and they still had to receive it and believe it. So, everyone in his house was saved.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. What broke the bands loose? Have you ever had to break through some things in a similar fashion?
2. How did everyone in the keeper of the prison's household get saved?

#### **POINT 2**

Both Lydia and the jailer had authority over their households after they became believers. But when a believer gets out beyond his own authority or jurisdiction as he prays for others, he'll have to get their permission in order to exercise any spiritual authority in their behalf.

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Notice Paul got permission from Lydia to preach to her household and get them saved. Also, Paul and Silas received permission from the jailer to minister to his family and his whole household was saved.

That's the reason Jesus told us to pray in agreement in **Matthew 18:19**

*Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*

**Matthew 18:19** in the Amplified bible reads:

*Again I say to you, that if two believers on earth agree [that is, are of one mind, in harmony] about anything that they ask [within the will of God], it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.*

If we both agree within the Will of God; it has to be according to His Will, it will be done! Both parties have to agree together on God's Word.

If we pray beyond our realm of authority for someone else, that person needs to be in agreement with us, so our prayer can be effectual.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. What does a believer have to do in order to pray for someone beyond their own authority or jurisdiction?
2. What does it mean to pray in agreement? Explain

#### **POINT 3**

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As we stand in Christ's authority and bind the operation of the first three classes of demonic spirits, we We also need to understand the limitations of our authority over Satan's kingdom if we are to deal effectively with the devil.

For instance, we have authority to break the power of the devil over people's lives in the Name of Jesus, we see that in **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 bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth shall have [already] been loosed in heaven.*

And in **Philippians 2:9 AMP**.

*9 For this reason also [because He obeyed and so completely humbled Himself], God has highly*

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*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,*

We break the power of the enemy in the Name of Jesus, and we make it easier for them to accept Jesus or reject him. By breaking the power of the Devil over a person's life, that person is unhindered from Satan's influence, so he can make a free decision for Christ. But we don't have scripture for breaking the power of the Devil over an entire city once and for all, because a city is composed of people. People have free choice, and they can choose who they will serve, Satan or God, and in every city many people choose to serve Satan and to continually yield to him. But we can push back the influence of darkness in prayer so that the word has an opportunity to prevail in people's hearts and lives through the preaching of the gospel.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How do we help people make a free decision for Christ?
2. Why can't we just break the power of the Devil over an entire city once and for all? What can we do?

#### **POINT 4**

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By the same principle, there are limitations to how the believer can exercise his authority in regard to demon activity. In other words, I can deal with the devil in my own life. But I can't necessarily deal with the devil in someone else's life unless that person gives me authority to do so.

He may want the devil in his life; he may love the works of darkness and not want to come into the light. Every person has the right to choose whom he will serve, and you won't be able to violate his will.

We make a mistake when we try to take the rightful authority we have in our own lives in Jesus' Name and try to exercise it in someone else's life. We don't have that kind of authority! We can run off the devil from our own lives, but we can't always run the devil out of someone else's life. A person's will has a lot to do with his own deliverance. An example in the natural realm is: I can handle my own finances, but I can't handle your finances unless you give me that authority.

Well, spiritual things are just as real as natural things. But when it comes to spiritual things, it seems we think we can intrude into other people's lives without their consent.

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And sometimes people act like they are giving their consent, but their heart is not really in agreement. And unless people give their consent, you won't be able to get them delivered unless you have a supernatural move of God's Spirit as Paul did in **Acts 16**.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why can't we deal with the devil in someone else's life?
2. What is the only alternative if a person doesn't give their consent?

#### **POINT 5**

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As long as a person's own mental faculties and will are at work and he can control himself, he has a lot to do with his own deliverance. That's why we need to teach people their own responsibility in dealing with the devil. Your responsibility is to stay full of the Word and full of the Holy Spirit and learn to stand against the Devil for themselves. And if people come to you for help, teach them how to bind the Devil and stand against him for themselves. For example, when people come to the Pastor for help, he can usually help them because by coming to him for help, they are giving him permission and authority to help them. And as long as they are in control enough mentally to give him that authority, he can help them. Otherwise, he would need a supernatural gift of the spirit in operation to set them free.

#### **QUESTION:**

1. If a person's own mental faculties are intact, what can you do or not do?

Smith Wigglesworth tells a story which helps illustrate the believer's realm of authority. Wigglesworth traveled by ship from the United States back to England, and a stranger occupied the same cabin with him. It was a young man, and he was sick in bed when Wigglesworth entered the cabin. The man was just skin and bones, and he told Wigglesworth, *"I'm going to England. My father has just died, and I've inherited his estate." But I'll just drink it up; I'll lose it all in gambling and drinking. I've drunk so much that I can't eat anything; I've got ulcers of the stomach.*" Wigglesworth had never met this man before. But Wigglesworth said, "just say the word, and I can get you delivered." The man said, *"Yes, I want to be delivered."*

Wigglesworth laid hands on him and cast an evil spirit out of him, and the fellow was instantly healed. After that, the young man was totally set free and could eat every meal while he was on board that ship.

There's a scriptural principle involved here. Wigglesworth said to him, "Just say the word." You see, even though Wigglesworth had the ability in the Name of Jesus to set the man free, he didn't have the authority

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to do anything for him until the young man gave him permission or authority to deal with the devil in his life. Unto the man gave Wigglesworth permission, Wigglesworth couldn't help him.

#### QUESTION

1. How Does this example illustrate what we've been talking about? Explain!

You can't make people accept Christ or make anyone want to be delivered or to choose what God has for them, because people have a free will. Yes, you can pray for them and bind the power of the devil over their lives, and it gives them an opportunity to make a choice unhindered by Satan's influence. But they still have free choice!

1. Why can't we just make people accept Christ?
2. What can we do and what will be the results?

#### CALL - TIME OF DECISION (EVERYONE BOW YOUR HEADS)

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#### PRAISE REPORTS - \*2-MINUTES PER PERSON

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#### PRAYER FOCUS / INDIVIDUAL PRAYER REQUEST (10 MINUTES)

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##### 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)

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1. Single with Purpose will be meeting in person, for a "Night of Refreshing." **Friday, July 8, 2022, 7:00 pm.** Bring a Dish, invite a friend and let's have great fellowship with one another. We All need each other. For more information email Minister Bachelor at [singewithpurpose2019@gmail.com](mailto:singewithpurpose2019@gmail.com).

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2. Join us for **Baby Dedication, Sunday, July 10, 2022 at 10:00 am.** To register call the church office at (340) 774-8617.
3. Join us **Monday, July 25, 2022 at 6:30 pm for Command, Praise and Worship Day.** Service will be held at the church. Join us as we command the safety of the entire Caribbean from hurricanes, earthquakes and natural disasters and welcome are peace be still season.
4. Join us for **Covenant Partner's, Friday July 22 at 7:00 p.m.** for Game Night. For more information contact Minister Oysterman by email at [wofcovenantpartners@gmail.com](mailto:wofcovenantpartners@gmail.com). Invite a couple and bring a dish.
5. Mark your calendars for the **Word of Faith Annual Convention, Wednesday, July 20- Friday, July 22.** Hosted by Bishop Keith A. Butler and Pastor Deborah Butler. Guest speakers, include MiChelle Ferguson, Michael Freeman, Mark Hankins, and Hank Kunneman. We are expecting the Lord to do great and mighty things in these services. For more information, please see Minister Abbott.
6. Do you want to become a member of Word of Faith? Join us for membership class, **Saturday, July 30, 2022 at 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.** To register see Minister Abbott or email [wordoffaithvi@gmail.com](mailto:wordoffaithvi@gmail.com)

#### OFFERING

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- <https://wordoffaithstthomas.com/give-online/>
- <https://www.givelify.com/>

#### CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL

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