

Sunday

Using the Sword of the Spirit

Now, we're going to shift gears and go from praying and seeking God, over to using our authority. Praying is vitally important, whether it is praying over your food at the dinner table, or spending several days praying and seeking God for direction. Each kind of praying is vitally important to our spiritual progress and growth. But something equally important, and maybe even more important for one to be taught, is using your spiritual authority. Very few Christians that I've ever encountered know anything about their spiritual authority in Christ Jesus.

Let's read the following scriptures:

And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. ³⁶And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. ³⁷And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. ³⁸And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? ³⁹And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? ⁴¹And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Mark 4:35-41

⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, 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. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; Mark 16:17

¹Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ²And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

⁵Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, ⁶And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. ⁷Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. ⁸Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; ⁹And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. ¹¹Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him. Matthew 4:1-11

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. Matthew 11:12

²⁸But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. ²⁹Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. Matthew 12:28,29

¹⁷And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. ¹⁸And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And 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. Matthew 16:17-19

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Matthew 17:20

Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Matthew 18:18

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Mark 11:23

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; Mark 16:17

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:19

Neither give place to the devil. Ephesians 4:27

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Ephesians 6:17

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philipians 2:9-11

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. ¹ Peter 5:8-9

Some things that we encounter in life, such as tests, trials, and attacks of the devil are not going to get any better by our praying. In fact, many dear people have died prematurely praying that God would help them, because they neglected to exercise their authority over the devil, in Jesus' Name. When Satan comes against us, we're not to panic or lose control, but instead, we are to get a grip on ourselves, calm down and realize where all of this is coming from. We do not go to God about the devil and his attacks, but rather, we go directly to the source of the problem. When it is poverty, lack, sickness, disease, depression, oppression, fear, worry, stealing, killing, or destroying that come to us, we know that all of these are from the devil.

The disciples of Jesus went to Him during the storm when they should have used their authority. Had Jesus not gotten up and used His authority on that ship, they all could have drowned, even though it was not God's will for that to happen. Paul said that there was a messenger of Satan sent to buffet him, and when he enquired of the Lord, God said, "*my Grace is sufficient for thee*". The thorn came from Satan, just as it was Satan who attacked Job in Job, chapters 1 & 2. We are instructed by God to take authority over the devil. Too few believers know anything about this. And, of those who do know, precious few of them exercise their authority. You have authority over the devil and anything he would try to do to you, and if you don't rebuke and resist him, or take authority over him, or cast him out, and, if you give him place in your life, then you limit God's protection for you.

If Jesus hadn't stood up on the bow of that ship and taken authority over that storm, they all could have lost their lives. If Jesus had started crying and started blaming God for allowing it to happen, wondering why this had to happen to Him, *the devil could have taken Him out before He even would have gotten to the cross.*

In every incident that we have in the gospels with the devil coming against Jesus, He rebuked the devil by saying, "*It is written...*" and then He would use His authority. Now, today, we're to do the same thing, in the Name of Jesus. Everything that comes to you that has to do with defeat, sickness, disease, or poverty (*which are curses of the broken law*), we are commanded by God to take authority over it.

Religion never teaches the individual believer anything about who they are in Christ Jesus, nor their redemptive rights and privileges, nor how to take authority over the devil, in Jesus' Name. And, because so many people are steeped in religion, it is difficult to persuade them that they've been given authority, because all that they've ever been taught or told is that *"God could do anything if it is His will; God is in control of everything; what will be will be; and one should accept everything that happens to them as being God's will"*.

But Jesus didn't believe that way about God, or He'd never have rebuked the storm. He would have accepted the sinking of the boat as God's will. And, every sick person that Jesus encountered, He never accepted their condition as being God's will—— For, every person that was blind, crippled, deaf, dumb, mentally incompetent, sick or afflicted —— *never in one of those incidents* did Jesus ever say that it was the will of God, or that God was getting glory out of the person's being sick, or that God made this person crippled, because they were "special", and they could handle this special gift. No. On the contrary, Jesus spoke differently, for He said in John 14:9,10, **"Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father? ¹⁰Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."**

And, for the woman who had been bowed over for 18 years, He said, **"Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity."** (Luke 13:12). And Jesus said, *"If you've seen me, you've seen the Father."* In not one gospel incident did Jesus ever tell one soul that God wanted them sick, or that it wasn't God's will to heal them, or that God made them sick for a special reason, or that God knows best. In fact, when His own disciples failed in Matthew 17:14-21 to get a little boy delivered, Jesus rebuked them for failing and said the reason why they failed was because of their unbelief and that they needed to fast and pray. Religion always blames God, but once a person begins to see the truth and takes God's Word and uses it as the sword of the spirit in the Name of Jesus, ——*that's when they begin to make the devil flee.*

Keep building yourself up in faith by claiming your scriptures, especially those that have to do with your authority in Christ Jesus, for it's a constant fight and battle that you will have to wage against the enemy, who's been defeated by Jesus for you. All you and I have to do is enforce that defeat by constantly saying, *"Satan, it is written"*, and then quote a verse of scripture that covers your problem.

For instance, if it's a financial problem, you could say, *"Satan, it is written, (2 Corinthians 8:9), I refuse poverty, in Jesus' Name, for Jesus came that I might have life, and have it more abundantly, and God wishes above all things that I prosper, in Jesus' Name"*. And you do that as long as the battle is on —— night and day.

Is it easy to do? Probably not. But it sure is rewarding! So, keep your prayer life going, but also pick up your sword. And keep speaking those scriptures, in Jesus' Name, to your enemy, Satan, until he flees. And then, you will walk in victory, because God's Word never fails.

I look forward to sharing with you tomorrow.

Brother Rich.

And remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

P.S. Below, I've included some examples of how to take your authority over the devil.

Exercising Your Authority

Through the written Word of God and the Name of Jesus

Healing and Health:

Satan, it is written, Christ hath redeemed me from the curse of the law. Jesus bore my griefs and carried my sorrows; He was wounded for my transgressions, He was bruised for my iniquities; the chastisement of my peace was upon Him. Jesus Himself took my infirmities and bore my sicknesses, and by His stripes I was healed. I refuse any sickness, disease or pain in my body. My body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, and God wishes above all things that I prosper and be in health, even as my soul prospers, in Jesus' Name.

Finances:

Satan, it is written, I'm an heir of God, a joint-heir with Christ Jesus and an heir of Abraham's blessing. I refuse poverty and lack. I bind you from my finances. Jesus gave me power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. You can't keep me from prospering. According to Mark 11:23, Jesus said I can have what I say, and I say I live in abundance and all my bills are paid on time. I'm debt-free and I have favor with God and man. Whatever I do prospers. I'm redeemed from poverty and lack, and I'm an heir of wealth and prosperity. Satan, you can't keep blessings from coming to me, nor can you keep people from giving unto me, for I have what I say in Jesus' Name.

Worry and Fear:

Satan, it is written, God has not given me a spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind. I have the mind of Christ, and the memory of the just is blessed. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. I can do all things through Christ. It is written, whatever I bind on earth is bound in heaven. Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you. Resist the devil and he will flee. Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith... In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Present Problem:

Satan, it is written, I have favor with God and man. No weapon formed against me shall prosper, but whatever I do will prosper. In Jesus' Name, Satan, I take authority over you and I bind you from _____. It is written in Romans 8:28, 31, 32, & 37, 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. ³¹What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? ³²He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. In Acts 27:25, it is written, Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me... in His written Word, in Jesus' Name.