

Become Acquainted with Your Weapons

Each one of us, as a born-again child of God, should be skillful in the Word of righteousness and quit attempting to be religious and politically correct (Hebrews 5:12-14). We need to become more aggressive with our spiritual authority and weapons God gave us, such as the Name of Jesus, the spoken Word of God and the ability to resist the devil and put him to flight.

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

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

...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you . James 4:7

Many believers have heard about Mark 11:23 and faith's confession of calling those things that be not as though they were through faith tapes, radio, or television broadcasts, or internet teachings of the Word of faith. But, because the faith message didn't go along with what their pastor taught, or what their Christian friends and relatives believed, they became intimidated and afraid of being ridiculed and persecuted. They chose to no longer fight and ended up thinking whatever came their way was God's will.

There's almost nothing more pathetic than for a group of people to be trained to win and then someone else comes along and slaps some restraints on them (for example: people trained in the military, sports, or some professional fields such as doctors, lawyers, and school teachers). For these people not to be able to function or perform their job the way they were trained to function destroys humanity.

I think about blind Bartimaeus in Mark 10:46-52, as he was reaching out to Jesus in faith and the people around him told him to shut up. That's what of some of our friends and relatives in churches and denominations are trying to get us to do when they make fun of us and persecute us for what they call, "*name it and claim it.*" The persecution they bring on is all because of our enemy, Satan, who doesn't want us to name it and claim it, and speak the Word only.

There's a lot to overcome when you get born-again. Suddenly, you begin to be taught about the authority you have in Jesus' Name, and you can have what you say. I know from personal experience the criticism that came to me when I got my first faith teaching tapes. When people found out about them, they looked me up to inform me that Mark 11: 23 and 24 didn't mean what I thought it meant.

I started out with fear and trembling, decreeing and declaring what the Word said about my circumstances. It all began when a brother in the Lord handed me a six-tape cassette series of faith teaching tapes and suggested that I listen to it. I really didn't want to listen to those tapes, but I didn't want to say no. So, I borrowed someone's cassette player, put the first tape in, and started listening to it. I was amazed that a tape could have so much teaching from God's Word in it!

The How-to of God's Word

Up until that point, I'd only had the Bible preached at me. But these tapes were teaching me how I could get the Word of God to work for me. Listening to these faith-building tapes also let me know how I could release my faith and believe God for physical health and financial prosperity, as well as how I could walk in the God-kind of love and be led by the Holy Spirit. And there is something else these tapes taught me that was very important to me: These faith teaching tapes taught me how I could stop the devil from stealing, killing and destroying in my life.

Until you're taught how to put the Word of God into action, you'll never experience exercising your authority over the devil, in Jesus' Name. You'll never know how to be led by the Holy Spirit, and you'll never love everybody. Without learning how to walk in the God-kind of love, you'll only love the people that you like. And there are many other things you'll never experience, either. You will just get caught up attending church, maybe even becoming a member, or volunteering to teach Sunday school, or whatever.

Almost every opportunity you'll have to go hear someone teaching the Word of faith, you won't be able to, because you've got to be at church. And, if you do go and attend the meeting, you almost feel guilty, because you're not at church. Every time I would go somewhere to hear the Word of faith after I got saved, I'd get hammered on with the guilt trips as soon as I got back to church! *(If my church had taught the Word of faith, I wouldn't have had to go somewhere else. — Don't blame me for going somewhere else! It's not my fault I had to go somewhere else to seek out the Word of faith. I knew if I didn't get fed on the Word, I was going to be the one to suffer the circumstances.)*

You'd better do what's necessary for you to get the Word of faith. I don't know about you, but there's nothing and no one that is going to stand in my way through guilt or condemnation to prevent me from following the Lord and keeping myself built up. The

people I went to church with always wanted to know where I had been, and why I went to the seminars when they were having church services. They'd tell me how wonderful the services I missed were, and I should have been there. They'd say my first responsibility was to be there, with them at church. This was the same voice that used to tell me I had to eat fish on Friday -- it was just different people saying these things.

Let me share something with you: Any time you succumb to anyone, or anything, whether it be to family, friends, relatives, or to your religious group and their guilt trips and condemnation, you've just entered into the bondage of men. **Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.** Galatians 5:1

If you do succumb to bondage, there's a real high probability that you won't get out of it, because most people don't. You'd better prayerfully consider things, and make sure you hear from God before you join any church or organization, because the body of Christ sometimes ends up playing "*monkey-see-monkey-do.*" I'm against anything that stifles the spiritual growth of any believer, or anything that does your hearing from God for you.

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

Your Word of faith pastor,

Pastor Jesse Rich

Jesse Rich Ministries

P.O. Box 237170

New York, NY 10023

PHONE: (212) 501-7999

Email: www.JesseRichMinistries.com/contact.htm

Website: www.JesseRichMinistries.com