

## **I. SPIRITUAL WARFARE – RESISTING DARKNESS**

- A. It is clear from scripture that the two dominant spiritual kingdoms man is influenced by are the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness or the devil.

***20 But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. 22 But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. 23 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. Luke 11:20-23***

***To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound. Isa. 61:1***

- B. One of the signs of the ministry of Messiah was that he would be a ‘deliverer’. He would set captives and prisoners free. The narratives of the Gospels and Acts describe to us the power ministry of Jesus and the Apostles as they stand against demonic darkness.
- C. Humankind has been at war spiritually since the failure of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3). From that moment in time, there has been enmity between Satan and humankind.
- D. Choosing to love God, His Son Jesus and Holy Spirit is an act of spiritual warfare. Living the Sermon on the Mount is an act of spiritual warfare. Walking in obedience to the culture of the kingdom of God is an act of spiritual warfare in this present age.
- E. Spiritual warfare takes place in various ways and manifests at various spiritual levels when the kingdom of God invades, disrupts and defeats the kingdom of darkness.

## **II. MILITANT BOLDNESS IN FAITH – BELIEVING GOD FOR THE BIG THINGS**

- A. Cultivating a militant spirit with boldness of faith will result in much blessing for many people. Standing in aggressive faith with boldness against the demonic attacks on people, times of sickness, persecution, etc., will mean the difference between life and death on occasions.

- B. A militant spirit enables us to rise up to aggressively withstand and then quench the attacks of the devil.

***“...that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” (Eph. 6:11)***

***“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities...” (Eph. 6:12)***

***“...taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” (Eph. 6:16)***

- C. A militant spirit includes boldness that resists timidity. In other words, it involves believing God for the big things He has promised. Boldness is agreeing with God for great things.

1. Boldness without fear of failure and shame.

2. We refuse timid “religious humility,” which is unbelief. God has promised great things for His church. Therefore, we will not draw back with religious timidity and false humility, which is unbelief.
3. Bold agreement with God is essential for revival. We must walk in zealous pursuit of the great things that we believe.

### III. BELIEVING GOD FOR GREAT THINGS

- A. Fullness of the Holy Spirit’s power –

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

*“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” (Lk. 24:49)*

- B. Authority over sickness and demons

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” (John 14:12)*

*“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Luke 10:19)*

*“However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” (Matt. 17:21)*

*“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)*

- C. For prophetic revelation

*“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke.” (Acts 2:17-19)*

*“But earnestly desire the best gifts.” (1 Cor. 12:31)*

*“...desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” (1 Cor. 14:1)*

- D. A glorious victorious church filled up to the fullness of God

*“to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph. 3:19)*

***“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;” (Eph. 4:13)***

***“that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.” (Eph. 5:27)***

***“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” (Matt 16:18)***

E. Conviction of revival – Isaiah. 61-62.

***“He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.” (Isa. 61:10-11)***

***“Go through, go through the gates! Prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway! Take out the stones, lift up a banner for the peoples! Indeed the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the world: Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Surely your salvation is coming; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.’” (Isa. 62:10-11)***

F. Conviction of revival causes faith for night and day prayer to run high.

G. The combination of a militant spirit with a spirit of devotion in intimacy with God is a rare blessing. A militant spirit along with intimacy (devotion) – These are two necessary components of intimacy based intercession. Many prayer ministries set these essential dimensions of the grace of God against one another.

1. Jehosophat’s strategy in warfare combined a militant spirit along with intimacy in worshipping God.

***“And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: ‘Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever.’” (2 Chr. 20:21)***

2. Esther’s intercession before her husband king, was a demonstration of a bold spirit mixed with intimacy (relational equity).

***16 “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” Esther 4:16***