
The Believer's Authority

Andrew Wommack book notes

Introduction

Most people have a humanistic view of how life works. Even though Christians don't like this terminology, many of them function day by day with this mentality. By only looking on the surface level, they don't recognize the spirit realm behind it all.

Humanists don't acknowledge God. As a whole, they're either agnostic or atheist—believing that everything in life has a natural, physical cause. It's sad to say, but many Christians have this same attitude. They don't realize the spiritual dynamics behind what's happening in the physical realm.

We are in a spiritual battle! Every single day, there is a battle raging in the spirit realm for the heart of each individual person, society, and the world as a whole. God is trying to draw us toward Himself and righteousness. He's trying to influence us to live consistently with Him so that His blessings can manifest in our lives.

At the same time, Satan is trying to steal our hearts away from God. In an all-out battle against the Lord and His kingdom, the enemy is pouring all the trash and corruption he can into our lives.

Most of us—even Christians—don't recognize the intense battle being waged all around us each and every day. We don't know the spiritual significance of our choices, words, and actions. We're functionally ignorant of how these things determine whether we're yielded to God and releasing His power and blessing into our lives, or yielded to Satan and releasing sin and death into our lives. (Rom. 6:16.)

The devil can't control you outside of your will. However, your lack of awareness and understanding of the battle only works to his advantage. If you choose to believe God's Word and learn to recognize what's happening in the spirit realm, you can begin taking the proper action to improve your situation. You can cooperate with God to manifest His power and blessings.

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

You can resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Your passivity and lack of resistance doesn't mean that the battle isn't raging. It just simply means that you aren't winning. Satan is beating you in this area.

As you begin to understand and exercise your authority as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, Satan will flee and God's power and blessings will manifest in your life greater than ever before.

Chapter 1 - We're In A Spiritual Battle

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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 in high places." Eph 6:10-12

God's Word reveals that we are not wrestling against flesh and blood, but demonic powers. Our fight isn't against people, but the spiritual forces influencing them. However, most of us simply don't recognize the role that the spirit realm plays in what occurs in our daily life. We think it's just human—natural—but the devil is busy influencing people every day.

It's useless to debate whether or not an individual is possessed, oppressed, or just depressed. When the New Testament calls someone demon-possessed, the Greek word there literally means "demonized." They are under

the influence—and therefore, control—of the devil. This issue people make about whether someone is possessed, oppressed, or just depressed isn't in the Scriptures. The truth is that people all around the world today are being influenced, controlled, and used—to whatever degree—by the devil.

PROPER PERSPECTIVE

There is an abundance of demonic activity anywhere you go in the world, including the West. We just tend to look at things as being normal and natural for this day and age. We miss the fact that the origin of many things that happen in our day—things that tick us off and come against us—is spiritual. We fail to recognize the spiritual influence behind it.

If you were to adopt the biblical mindset, it would make a huge difference in the way you respond. You'd recognize that it's not that person who sits next to you at work, it's not your neighbor, your spouse, or your circumstances that are really what's coming against you. They can be influenced, inspired, and used of Satan, but they themselves aren't really the source. When you genuinely understand that this isn't a physical battle, it changes the way you respond.

I've come to recognize that Satan is the one who's trying to get my attention off of what God has told me to do. I recognize that the enemy is using some person to come against me. He's trying to gain an inroad into my life so he can steal God's Word from me. (Mark 4:16-17.) But because I look beyond the individual and don't take their comments personally, I'm able to put things into proper perspective and deal with it differently.

There are times when the devil speaks to you through people. He'll use people to get at you. Of course, they may be unaware of the fact that they're being used of Satan.

WHOSE VOICE IS IT?

You need to recognize that Satan—as well as God—can speak through and use the people in your life. Like Jesus, you need to discern whose voice is coming through.

STRETCHED TO THE MAX

We are in a spiritual battle! Unfortunately, most of the time people don't recognize it. They're just looking at things from a natural, human perspective. They factor God, the devil, and the whole supernatural realm right out of the equation. The average person doesn't realize the spiritual dynamics taking place. God doesn't send bad things our way. It's not just happenstance or fate. There's a real enemy out there that we must learn to deal with.

I'm not fighting flesh and blood. I'm fighting a spiritual battle, with spiritual weapons, against spiritual enemies.

I realized that Satan was trying to come against me, and then acted on the Word. I recognize that there is a spiritual battle raging—and nobody is going to rent space in my mind! Nobody is going to occupy my heart except God. I refuse to harbor **unforgiveness** toward anyone. I will not allow **bitterness** even a toehold in my life. I'm aware that Satan uses such things as an inroad against me.

Like it or not, there's a spiritual battle raging right now for your heart and mind. As you think in your heart is the way that you'll be. (Prov. 23:7.) Your thoughts become what you say and do, with your actions being the greatest expression of your authority. Therefore, you'll be influenced, dominated, and ruled by whomever you yield yourself to—God or Satan.

Chapter 2 - Whom He May Devour

When you yield yourself to sin, you're serving Satan, who is the author of that sin. But when you yield yourself to obedience, you serve God, who is the author of that righteousness.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of

sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? Romans 6:16

In this spiritual battle, your actions are very important.

Most people recognize that actions are important in the physical realm. You know that there are consequences for what you do. When we talk negatively about someone, we can hurt their feelings or even loose demonic powers against them.

There's much more to life than just this physical, natural, surface level. Spiritual dynamics are constantly taking place. Whether or not the person you're speaking evil about ever knows it, you'll be affected. Venting anger, frustration, resentment, or unforgiveness affects you whether it affects anyone else or not.

If you get angry and bitter, you've just yielded yourself to Satan. Whether you recognize it or not, the devil is the one who influences us to respond in the wrong way.

THE WRATH OF MAN

James 1:20 says, "The wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." In other words, giving place to anger and bitterness doesn't accomplish the righteousness of God. You aren't going to accomplish God's purposes by getting in the flesh, giving in to anger, and losing your temper. That's not the way God's kingdom works. So whether anyone else ever hears you or not—what you say is having an effect on you.

When you give place to anger and vent like that, Satan jumps on it like a chicken on a June bug. The enemy will take full advantage of an open door like that to come and steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10.)

Where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. James 3:16

When you get into envy and strife, you're flinging the door wide open and saying, "Come on in Satan and do your worst in my life." You're drawing a great big target on your back and saying, "Shoot your best shot!" When you give in to envy and strife, you make yourself a target for the devil.

ARE YOU SPIRITUALLY STINKY?

We are unto God a sweet savor [smell] of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish. 2 Corinthians 2:15

What is your spiritual scent? Are you giving off the sweet aroma of Christ, or are you spiritually stinky? Just like flies and rats, demons are attracted to open wounds and garbage in your life. Your rotten attitude—getting mad in traffic, being bitter over whatever, and criticizing everything and everyone—is putting out an aroma that's drawing every demon in the county to your house. And you wonder, Why am I having these problems? Why does nothing go right for me? That's just ignorance gone to seed. You need to recognize that we're in a spiritual battle. Your thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions are either releasing the power of God in your life, or they're releasing the power of the devil.

God is good and He's doing everything He can to save, bless, heal, and prosper you. However, we do have an enemy who is going around looking for anyone he may destroy.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Notice that it's "whom he **may** devour." Satan cannot devour (or destroy) you without your cooperation. One way he gains that cooperation is through ignorance. You may think that it doesn't matter if you get mad at the car you're working on, or the driver who just cut you off in traffic. You might think that nobody's harmed when you gossip about someone who isn't there, saying, "They won't hear this." But the truth is, once you start venting these things, Satan takes advantage of it.

I've heard Christians rail on a presidential candidate or some other public officer in ways that aren't healthy. You can disagree without putting a person to shame with the words you say. It doesn't matter whether they ever hear you or not. You could be opening up a door to the devil through your words. (Rom. 6:16.)

SPIRITUAL DYNAMICS

You need to set a watch before your mouth (Ps. 141:3) and take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. (2 Cor. 10:5.) You need to control your actions (Gal. 5:22-24) and recognize that the demonic realm is trying to take a shot at you every day of your life. If you allow a door to be opened to them, they'll come in for no other purpose than to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10.) Remember, Satan is looking for whom he may devour.

You need to learn to recognize the spiritual dynamics happening in your life. God wants you to yield to Him so that His power and blessings can be released in you. Satan wants you to yield to him so that destruction and death can be released in you.

In order to gain an inroad, the enemy is constantly trying to snare you with bitterness, unforgiveness, and ungodliness of all kinds. Therefore, no matter what you do, you're either obeying God or obeying Satan. You're either submitting to God and His influence or to Satan and his influence. Every time you act, you are releasing spiritual power — either God's or the devil's—into your life. Since most people are ignorant of this truth, they allow all kinds of things in their life. Yet, if they were to recognize the results they're going to reap, they would never allow these things. Every time we submit to doing things Satan's way, we are having spiritual relations with him, which conceives evil. It isn't just benign.

SIN'S CONCEPTION

Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. James 1:14,15

Sin is conceived in your emotions. Every time you have a negative emotion—whether it be sadness, anger, fear, strife, or one of many others—you conceive something. Many people are conceiving things that they don't want to birth. They don't want depression, strife, suicide, or their marriage to fall apart. Yet they allow these negative emotions to flow through them without recognizing that we're in a spiritual battle. When you give in to your flesh and start saying and doing these things, you are releasing spiritual forces. There is a battle raging and the enemy is looking for an opportunity to come against you.

The devil's will is to devour everyone he can. (1 Pet. 5:8.) He desires to steal, kill, and destroy every person everywhere. (John 10:10.) If Satan got what he wanted, then the whole earth would be devastated, and there would be no good anywhere. However, God has a will too. Jesus said: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

Jesus is trying to release life into you. Satan is trying to steal, kill, and destroy anything good that you have.

Both are willing and able to move and manifest those things in your life, but **the determining factor is you.**

You need to recognize this battle that's raging and the fact that everything you say and do is either empowering God or the devil. The Lord wants to release His life into you. Satan wants to steal that life and kill and destroy you. It's not fate or luck. Your thoughts, choices, and actions make a huge difference in your life.

The devil is the one who—wherever envying and strife are— brings confusion and every evil work. “God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.” 1 Corinthians 14:33

When you fling a door open like that to the devil, don't be surprised if you see different forms of sickness, tragedy,

poverty, and death manifest. Satan jumps on opportunities like that and uses them as inroads into your life. As a roaring lion, he's constantly seeking whom he may devour.

Chapter 3 - Satan's Inroads

Since we're in a spiritual battle, you can't afford to indulge the "luxury" of strife. If you think that a certain amount of strife is just normal—the way we're supposed to live—you're wrong. God is a God of peace (Rom. 15:33; 16:20), and we were created in His image. (Gen. 1:27.) The fruit of His Spirit working in our life is peace. (Gal. 5:22.)

Therefore, our life should be full of peace, not strife. I'm not saying that we will ever live totally free from all strife from every source, but you should never just accept it, indulge it, or promote it. You ought to actively stand against and fight it, recognizing that every time you get into strife a door is opened for anything the enemy wants to do in your life. Satan has access to you when you're in strife.

SEEDS ARE BEING PLANTED

Whether you realize it or not, you are now in a battle. Remember, Satan is walking about as a roaring lion, "seeking whom he may devour." The devil is trying to destroy your life today. You could become overwhelmed with that and fearful, but God is also going about seeking who will respond to Him. He's trying to get His anointing, power, and blessings into your life. There's no reason to panic and freeze up in fear, because the Lord is infinitely greater than the devil. However, you do need to sober up and realize that we're in a battle. You can't afford the luxury of indulging your negative emotions and getting into the flesh.

I minister to people all the time who desire the results they see in my life but aren't willing to do what I do. They want to sit and watch "As the Stomach Turns" on television. They watch R- and X-rated movies, indulging negative emotions that I would never indulge. I recognize that there is a spiritual battle going on, and if I ever began to open up and allow such things into my heart and mind, Satan would take advantage of it. So I live a very restricted life, refraining from many things that other people do. (Ps. 101:3.)

Although many people would like to see blind eyes and deaf ears opened, terminal diseases healed, the dead raised, and financial blessings manifest the way I have (by God's grace), they're not willing to spend the time yielding to and fellowshiping with the Lord in His Word, prayer, and obedience. They'd rather be out in the world, indulging their flesh and thinking, It's not hurting me to do all of this stuff.

It may not hurt them at that moment, but seeds are being planted.

You can't be tempted with something you don't think. (Heb. 11:15.) If you would quit opening yourself up to envy, strife, division, and all the other negative things our society uses for "entertainment," Satan wouldn't have these inroads into your life.

Strife is much more deadly than a poisonous snake! Along with envy, strife opens up an inroad for every evil work in your life. It's time you snap out of complacency and recognize that you're in a spiritual battle. You can't tolerate envy, strife, unforgiveness or any other negative emotion.

Every one of us is exposed to the forces of the kingdom of darkness each and every day. We aren't on R&R (rest and relaxation). We aren't in a secured area where our actions don't really count. We're in a spiritual battle, with a real enemy who wants to take advantage of us any way he can.

RAISED FROM THE DEAD

God's Word says, "Neither give place to the devil," (Eph. 4:27). You are the one who gives Satan inroads into your life. He takes whatever "place" you give him through your thoughts, words, emotions, and actions. Your emotions can give Satan a place. Satan will take advantage of whatever we give him. We are often hung by our own tongue.

Chapter 4 – No Wicked Thing

There are times in life when we just feel like speaking forth our negative thoughts and emotions. In light of the spiritual battle, however, these are times we must exercise our faith and self-control. In Matthew 6:31, the Lord reveals to us at what point we take a thought for our own: Take no thought, saying... A thought becomes your own when you begin speaking it out of your mouth.

You can't keep all kinds of thoughts from coming across your mind.....you can keep from taking those thoughts as your own. Negative thoughts will come at times, but you don't have to receive them. They don't have to become a part of you. If you don't say it, it won't be yours.

HUNG BY THE TONGUE

Satan passes thoughts, feelings, and attitudes across our hearts and minds. So how do we prevent these seeds from taking root, beginning to grow, and then producing the negative crop he desires? We just saw how—we "take no thought, saying."

If you don't say it, then it's not yours. However, the moment you start verbalizing and speaking forth these negative things, they become yours and begin releasing this negative power in your life. You need to take on this attitude: "I refuse to speak forth anything contrary to what I'm believing for."

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Proverbs 18:21

You can't only just speak life with your tongue. You can also speak death. Sadly, the truth is that most of us release much more death than life. We counter ourselves with our own words. We're hung by the tongue!

WORDS ARE IMPORTANT

You may be praying for one thing and then speaking against it. You may be praying for restoration in your marriage, yet you constantly criticize, beat down, and speak negatively about your marriage on the other hand. You are releasing a negative spiritual force—death—that will counter what you're praying for. Even though God wants to move on your behalf and restore, you're releasing a contrary spiritual force with those negative words.

You need to be constantly aware of the truth that your words are either releasing life or releasing death. Don't just allow anything to come out of your mouth. Set a watch over your mouth and speak life (Ps. 141:3), because you will eat the fruit of it. "A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled." Proverbs 18:20

Every word you say out of your mouth is a seed that produces after its kind. If you are griping, complaining, and speaking forth all this negativity, then that's the kind of fruit you'll wind up eating from those words.

BLINDED TO THE TRUTH

In this spiritual battle, Satan takes advantage of the words we say. "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matthew 12:37

When we don't realize just how important our words are, we speak forth foolishness, doubt, unbelief, and other things that allow Satan to devour us because we let down our guard.

Many people don't really recognize that Satan is dominating—exerting power in—their lives. They just think it is circumstances, fate, or luck. This scripture makes it very clear that they have been under the influence of the devil.

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV

Before we converted to Christ, we were by nature children of Satan. We lived our lives under his influence and dominion, blinded to the truth.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 2 Corinthians 4:4

The devil is actively at work today hardening people and **blinding them from the truths of the Gospel!** This is not a passive battle. He's aggressively pursuing and trying to destroy people. One of the reasons why the enemy has such a stronghold on so many people is that the church hasn't really recognized the spiritual battle we're in.

Some folks think, Oh, I can watch this stuff and it doesn't affect me. God's Word says they're deceived. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." 1 Corinthians 15:33

You simply cannot maintain your spiritual equilibrium while indulging your eyes on ungodliness. David—the man after God's own heart—understood this. He said: I will set no wicked thing before my eyes. Psalm 101:3

As a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, you need to make the same commitment, saying, "I will not watch anything wicked. I refuse to paint a picture on the inside of me of lust, anger, immorality, hatred, strife, or murder. I recognize that every time I open myself up to such things, there is a negative spiritual power there waiting to gain an inroad into my life. By God's grace, I will not give the devil any access into my life!"

We can't be tempted by what we don't think (Heb. 11:15), but what we think about constantly will become what we talk about and do. Everything you say and/or do is releasing either God's or Satan's power in your life. Your enemy is an active force at work in the world seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8.) He blinds the minds of those who don't believe in order to steal, kill, and destroy them. (2 Cor. 4:4; John 10:10.)

We are responsible to submit to God and resist the devil. (James 4:7.) Our thoughts, emotions, words, and actions are either giving place to God or giving place to the devil. (Eph. 4:27.) We need to recognize the spiritual dynamics happening all around us.

I'm amazed how many people don't associate their actions with the results they're experiencing. They totally miss the correlation and don't have a clue how Satan is destroying them.

Right now you are living in a way that exempts you from God's power. You have yielded yourself to Satan and have violated God's Word. By doing so, you have released demonic power in your life. The devil is just having a heyday with you!"

FOLLOW GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

When you disobey God, you open up a door to the devil. Now, contrary to what religion says, God still loves you. He's not mad at you, but He wants better for you. By violating God's instructions in His Word and obeying the lust of your flesh, you've thrown open a door to the devil. Satan will come in, eat your lunch, and pop the bag!

If you don't want that, you may need to change your mind and adjust your actions. We're in a spiritual battle, and you can't afford the luxury of just ignoring the instructions God has given you.

Chapter 5 - Unconditional Authority (The Origin of Satan)

We are facing a spiritual battle right now, every day. So, we need to define who our enemy is and reveal what power he has.

Most people don't really give serious thought to why things are the way they are. Like life, they just deal with the

Bible on a surface level.

Chapter 6 - God Of This World

Lucifer envied God. He wasn't content with being the top angel. He was jealous and wanted God's position, but he couldn't just take that place with the delegated power he had been given. If he would have rebelled, that power would have instantly been taken away and he would have been destroyed. However, he saw an opportunity with man because God had given Adam and Eve something that He'd never given to the angels—an unconditional, no reservations or qualifications, no strings attached authority over the earth. Lucifer saw that if he could get Adam and Eve to yield to him and rebel against God, then he could become the new "god" of this world. (2 Cor. 4:4.)

We are the ones who enabled Lucifer to leave his position in heaven, come into a fallen state, and rule the earth as Satan—the god of this world. We were originally intended to be gods—absolute rulers—over this world. But mankind gave their dominion—authority and power—to Lucifer. God created Lucifer, but Adam and Eve made Satan. They didn't create Satan in the sense that God had already created Lucifer as an angelic being. Adam and Eve made Satan who he was by giving him their power and authority.

On his own, Satan is powerless. He depends completely on physical human beings yielding to and empowering him. Even under the Old Covenant, Satan didn't have the power to control and dominate people. He has to use our own power and authority against us. It's only as we submit to him that Satan is able to do anything.

A DEMON NEEDS A BODY

The devil and his demons—as spirit beings—have no power or authority on this earth apart from physical human beings yielding it to them.

Demons are looking for a physical body, a willing vessel. They need somebody who will submit to them. The power that the devil or any other demon uses against us is our own. Satan has zero angelic, spiritual power. All his authority comes from man. The only reason Satan exists and functions is because people cooperate with and empower him. That's why he always seeks to inhabit a body.

Even a pig has more authority on earth than a demon. An ant, a fly, or a snail has more power on this earth than Satan because they have physical bodies. He is absolutely powerless to do anything unless he can get a physical body to cooperate with him.

THE RIGHT TO USE POWER

God is the author of all power and authority. When He created mankind, He gave Adam and Eve dominion over the earth. (Gen. 1:26-28.) God gave us—physical human beings—power and authority to rule this world. Authority is simply the right to use power.

God is a Spirit. (John 4:24.) Satan is a spirit too. (Eph. 2:2.) He doesn't have a physical body, which means that he can't come and make anyone do anything. First, he must gain their cooperation.

Many Christians see Satan as an angelic being with godlike supernatural power and authority over man. They see him coming and overpowering them, when the truth is that the devil can't force them to do anything. He lost his power when he rebelled at God. The only power and authority Satan is functioning under now is human power and authority.

Satan can only function as he keeps people submitted to himself through lies and deception.

It takes your cooperation for the devil to do anything in your life. That's why he seeks whom he may devour. Satan doesn't have the authority and power to devour you unless you quit obeying God and yield yourself to sin. Romans 6:16 says that when you yield yourself to sin, you're actually yielding yourself to the author of that sin, which is

Satan. Satan can't just come in and destroy you without your cooperation. But when you sin, you are empowering the devil.

EARTHSUITS

Most people don't see it this way. They understand that, according to Scripture, Satan was originally created as an angel. Angels have a higher power than what we do, but they don't have the authority—the right—to exercise that power in the earth. Yet, most people assume that Satan has a higher power and authority than us, and they are intimidated by that perceived authority. They don't realize that he lost all of his angelic power when he rebelled, and now his authority is totally tied to us. Since God gave the authority over this earth and everything going on in it, to physical human beings, Satan—who is without a physical body—is absolutely powerless unless we empower him by yielding to and indulging his lust, lies, anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, or some other sin.

Satan can't do anything without somebody in an earthsuit yielding to him. This is why he's constantly vying for your heart, trying to get you to yield to him through anger, fear, hurt, pain, and depression. Every time you move away from what God's Word says and act in union with what the devil is trying to do, you yield authority to him. Every time you quit believing and receiving God's supernatural power and ability and sin instead, you empower the enemy.

It's sad to say, but one of his greatest weapons of deception has been the church. The church has taught that Satan is a superior power. He isn't. He's actually using nothing but human power and human authority acquired through our cooperation.

MY OWN HUMAN AUTHORITY

Does that mean Satan isn't a factor? No, he is a factor. There are millions of people on the face of the earth who are yielded to the devil today. They are operating in sexual immorality, lies, deception, hurt, fear, hatred, idolatry, and more. Every time we yield to something negative, we empower the devil. So, yes, Satan is a factor and he has to be dealt with. But as far as my individual life goes, Satan can't do anything without my consent and cooperation. Understanding that the power and authority Satan uses is human power—the power God has given to me, a physical human being, to rule and reign over this earth—has put everything in a brand-new light.

Now, instead of being intimidated by the enemy, I have boldness toward the devil. I understand that if I were to start doing the wrong things in my actions, saying the wrong things with my words, and indulging negative emotions, Satan would take advantage of it. He'd come in, eat my lunch, and pop the bag. I'm not ignorant of his devices, but I'm also not afraid of him. I'm not being passive toward him, but I'm actively and intentionally resisting him. I realize that all he's doing is coming against me with my own human authority and power.

Chapter 7 - Under The Umbrella

In light of what we've seen thus far, Ephesians 6:10-11 ought to make a lot more sense. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Wiles literally means "cunningness, craftiness, and deception."

Satan's only power is deception. He can't force you to do anything. He can't make you sin.

"Satan is stronger than I am." Not true. Satan doesn't have the power or the authority to force you to do anything. The problem is that he's a master liar, intimidator, and deceiver. It's all deception. When we don't know the truth about who we are in Christ and the power we've been given, then—in a very real sense—we are the ones who are giving Satan the power and authority to rule and dominate us. You can break that.

Satan is out to deceive you and he's coming at you every which way through all of the help and support he gets from people. Our airwaves are full of lust and lies. Every time you yield to the lies, you are the one who empowers

the devil to come in and destroy your life.

God created man by speaking words. Subsequently, He spoke words giving man dominion—authority and power—over the earth. In doing so, He limited His own authority. Man corrupted themselves by selling out to the devil and making him the god of this world. God wasn't in control. He didn't have dominion over the earth because He had given it to man.

THE GOD-MAN

Both of the terms "Son of God" and "Son of Man" refer to Jesus. Son of Man emphasizes His humanity and physical side. Son of God emphasizes His divinity and the presence of Almighty God that indwelt Christ's body.

Jesus entered into the devil's kingdom and destroyed it. He took away all authority and power from Satan and reduced him to a zero with the rim knocked off. The enemy has zip, zilch, nada power and authority against us. All Satan can do is deceive and tempt us. If we yield to him, we're doing the same thing Adam and Eve did—we are yielding our human power and authority.

This is completely opposite of so much of what the church has taught. Most people think that Satan is a major force to be reckoned with. He does exist, and you can't just be ignorant of his devices. (2 Cor. 2:11.) You need to know what's going on, but the devil is not someone to be feared. He's someone you need to recognize and resist, but Satan can't do anything to you without your consent and cooperation. Understanding this truth has transformed my life and given me a tremendous advantage over the devil. Now I recognize that if I'm having a feeling, a desire, a drawing, or a lust in some direction, all I have to do is quit yielding to those things that are allowing Satan to draw me in that way. I just use my physical body to go in exactly the opposite direction. What I do with (my mind and) my physical body releases either the power of God or the power of the devil.

Satan can't do anything to you without your consent and cooperation.

Chapter 8 - Is This the One?

WE CAN LIMIT GOD

We've seen that God is a Spirit and that He gave dominion over this earth to physical human beings. (Gen. 1:26-28.) In doing so, He limited His own dominion and authority. If we don't cooperate with God, we can limit Him. "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." Psalm 78:41

Yes, we can limit God. Jesus dealt with this in His own hometown. "He could there do no mighty work...because of their unbelief." (Mark 6:5,6) It's not that Jesus didn't want to; He couldn't do any mighty work because of their unbelief. Even the Lord Jesus Christ had to have cooperation from people to release His power into their lives.

Religion says, "God is sovereign. He controls everything." No, He doesn't. God is sovereign, in the sense that He's King of kings, but He doesn't control everything that happens on the earth. God isn't limited in the sense that He doesn't have the power. He has the power, but He gave dominion over this earth to physical human beings. Because of His own integrity, He will not overstep that authority and violate His own Word. Therefore, God has limited His own sovereignty, His own ability to intervene in the affairs of man here on earth. Until He became a physical being Himself, He didn't have the authority to come down to this earth and straighten out the mess man had created.

DEFEATED

Satan didn't get his authority directly from God. He doesn't have a superior angelic power that he uses over the human race. The devil was stripped of all his angelic power and authority. The power and authority that Satan has used to rule this earth has been mankind's authority that God gave them and they then turned over to Satan.

Understanding that Satan can do nothing in your life without your consent and cooperation puts him down on a plane to where he isn't a superior foe. As a master deceiver, he's still a threat because he can lie to you. You must know the truth and be on guard, but you can resist him.

I know I can win this battle. I can take the power and authority that God has given me and confront the devil. I'm not ignorant of him, but I'm no longer afraid of him either. I recognize that Satan is defeated foe.

GRANDMA'S ROOM

I began to look more closely at the Bible. I recognized that the spirit realm is as real today as it was two thousand years ago. I realized that many different things were demonic, including sicknesses. My friends and I began casting demons out of people and seeing miraculous things happen.

The Lord spoke to my heart, saying, "Andrew, if I were to show you the spirit realm, instead of seeing these huge powerful demons with fangs and claws, you'd see tiny little imps. You'd be amazed. They're nothing. They just have big mouths. They know how to scream loud and intimidate. They boast of great things, but they can't deliver." As soon as the Lord changed that image from towering demons to tiny little imps who had no power or authority, faith rose up in my heart. Instead of fear, I felt like the Incredible Hulk. A spirit of might and boldness came over me, and I got rid of those demons in no time flat.

SATAN'S ONLY POWER

After the devil made all his prideful boasts in Isaiah 14:12—14 saying, "I will do this and I will do that," this passage of scripture goes on to say: Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners?' Isaiah 14:15-17 NKJV

This passage prophesied how people would eventually respond to Satan. Of course, all this has come to pass now that Jesus has literally destroyed the devil through His death, burial, and resurrection.

When we see Satan as he really is, we'll say, "Is this the one who intimidated me? Is this the one I allowed to ruin my life? Is this the one I let keep me in bondage—this nothing, this zero?"

That's how Satan is. He doesn't have all this power the church has attributed to him. The only power Satan has came from man. Mankind made Satan. We are the ones who empowered him. God created Lucifer—a ministering spirit, an angelic being. Mankind yielded our God-given dominion, and it's this human authority and power Satan uses. That's why he has to have a body to possess. That's why a pig has more power and authority on this earth than a disembodied demon. **Satan is a factor, but only because people yield to him. If you know the truth, the truth will make you free.** (John 8:32.)

Chapter 9 - Such As I Have

The authority God has given us is huge. As born-again believers, Jesus has given us more authority than even Adam and Eve had. They had authority over this earth. However, after Christ rose from the dead, He had authority in heaven, authority on earth, and authority under the earth—meaning the demonic realm and hell. (Phil. 2:10.) After Jesus resurrected, but before He ascended, He turned to His disciples and said: All power [authority, power of rule] is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Mathew 28:18-20

Since therefore refers to "in light of what I've just said," Jesus was basically telling His followers, "The authority and power I have, I now give to you. Go, and continue doing My work, the work that I have begun." The authority we have as believers in Christ today is superior to the authority Adam had. We have everything back that he lost, and much more. We now have authority over the demonic realm.

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:1,7-8 NKJV

OLD VS. NEW

Compared to the Old Testament, there is a huge difference in the way the New Testament talks about Satan. Although the Old Testament hardly mentions him, the New Testament reveals that Satan is the one who caused different kinds of sicknesses, seizures, convulsions, and blindness. The New Testament reveals many things as being demonic in origin.

Why did God give us this knowledge in the New Testament, but not in the Old? Simply put, even if the Old Testament saints would have known these things, they couldn't have done anything with this knowledge. It wouldn't have done them any good to know that Satan was behind this or that because they didn't have authority to rebuke the devil or bind him.

Basically, the Old Testament people were told, "Just submit to these laws. With your actions, do these things and don't do these others." By yielding their actions to God in this manner, He was empowered to move in their lives. It also limited what Satan could do. Basically, this was the approach in the Old Testament.

In the New Testament, we now have an authority that has been given to us that enables us to go beyond the surface level. Since we've been given authority over demons, we can go behind the scenes and deal with the demonic powers that are causing sicknesses and diseases and inspiring people to act a certain way. We can see results that Old Testament people could never have seen. However, along with this superior authority we've been given comes responsibility. This means that since the Lord gave us such power and authority, if we don't use it, then we stop Him from intervening. God flows through us.

GOD'S POWER

Jesus gave us power [ability & might] and authority over the devil. Then he [Jesus] called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. Luke 9:1

Power here means that we have the ability and the might. We also have the authority to use that ability and might. But with that authority comes responsibility.

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

That means if we don't resist the devil, he won't flee from us. Although this is very simple, few believers understand it. Many Christians aren't using the authority that's been given to them. When Satan bothers them—maybe it's through some sickness, disease, poverty, tragedy, or other demonic attack—they approach God as if they don't have any power or authority. They beg God, saying, "Oh Lord, please change this situation. Please get the devil off my back." They don't realize that this isn't within God's authority—He's given that to us.

This is exactly what the Scripture says. We have been given power and authority over all devils." (Luke 9:1.) God gave us authority over the devil. If you're fighting a demonic force, you have the authority to do something about it. Now, you do have to be spiritual enough to discern its origin. Is it truly spiritual, or just something completely

natural? If it's truly a demonic attack, then you are responsible to get rid of that demon. You do so using God's power, but that power has been placed under your authority. If you don't use it, it won't be used.

WE MUST USE IT

Many Christians who come to me for counsel and prayer are just powerless. They don't understand that they have any authority. They're begging God to, "Please remove this sickness and prosper me financially. Please save this person." They are begging God to do things that He told them they have the authority to do. When God said, "You resist the devil, and he will flee from you," that means that if you don't resist the devil, he won't flee.

God isn't going to take care of the devil for you. He's already defeated Satan and stripped him of his power. God gave you authority, and if you don't exercise it, He's not going to come and rebuke the devil for you. The battle isn't between God and the devil directly; it's between the devil and us. God has equipped us with authority and power, and we have to use it.

You may wonder, Well, if it's God's will for us to be healed, then why did this person die? God gave us the power to heal. It's not our power. It's His power, but it's under our authority. Jesus never told us to pray and ask God to heal people. He told us to go and "heal the sick" (Matt. 10:8).

In the Gospels, Jesus never commanded His disciples to pray for the sick, but He did command us to heal the sick. (Luke 9:2; 10:9.) The way it's being done in the church today, we basically pray, "Oh Father, we know that You can heal this person. If it's Your will, please—pretty please—do it."

We come as beggars, asking. And if we don't see something manifest, if we don't see an instant result, then we wonder, why didn't God heal them? No, God has already released all the healing power it takes for every person on this planet to be healed of every sickness and disease. Jesus took the stripes on His back for our healing, and now He's given us the power to heal the sick. He gave us power and authority over ALL demons to cast them out and cure diseases. Jesus gave that power to us, and it's up to us to use it.

WALKING, LEAPING, AND PRAISING GOD

Consider Peter and John at the temple gate. Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. Acts 3:1-8

Notice in verse 6 that Peter said, "Such as I have, give I unto you" (author paraphrase). Peter and John would be kicked out of most churches around the world today for saying, "I have the power to heal you." It's become fashionable for us to say, "Oh, it's not me. I couldn't heal a gnat." Well, the truth is none of us can heal a gnat in our own human power. But we aren't only human, we're born again! God gave us power and authority—the right and ability to use that power. So Peter was absolutely correct when he said, "Such as I have, give I unto you."

Notice in this instance that Peter never even prayed a prayer. Most people would think that was terrible. How dare him heal someone without praying and asking God! I don't know about you, but I'm after results—and Peter got the right results. His approach to this situation is the proper approach. Peter said, "Such as I have, give I unto you." Peter knew he had power. He knew he had the authority to use that power. So he took responsibility and used that power. Because of it, that man was healed.

This is the very reason many people aren't seeing healing today. They're coming to God and begging Him. They don't understand that the power doesn't reside in heaven. God has placed the power to heal on the inside of every born-again believer. He's also given us the authority to use it, which makes us responsible. If someone isn't healed, it's not God who didn't heal them—it's us not using our authority and power.

IT'S OUR TURN

Of course, there may be some other dynamics involved. It's not always the individual's fault receiving the prayer. It could be the fault of the other people around them. Jesus operated in absolute faith, but He had to put out scoffers and unbelievers. Christ operated in faith perfectly, yet...

He could there [in His hometown] do no mighty work...because of their unbelief. Mark 6:5,6

The limit wasn't in Him, but in the people around Him. The limit isn't always in the person receiving the healing. There could be other factors round about. However, it always comes back to some person or group of people who are limiting God because they aren't taking the authority God has given and exercising it. We are shirking our responsibility, and we're trying to put all the responsibility off on God, saying it's His fault whether or not this person gets saved, healed, or prospered. That's absolutely wrong.

We need to understand and recognize that it's not God's turn to heal. It's our turn to believe that He's already healed. We must accept that power, take that authority, and use it. We need to speak to our problems and command things to change.

If we could get this truth down, it would make a huge difference in the way things happen today. The vast majority of the body of Christ believes that God can do whatever He wants, but they don't believe that He's already done it. They don't believe that He's given us power. So, they don't feel any responsibility to take and use their authority. This is where the system is breaking down. God has already done His part. He's placed the power and authority on the inside of us, which makes us responsible.

WE WERE HEALED

Through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, God has already done His part. Now it is up to you to respond in faith and receive His provision. It's totally your responsibility to get healed, prospered, and delivered. It's God's power, but He's placed it under your authority.

Although I'm strongly emphasizing our responsibility, there's no need to come under any condemnation. (Rom. 8:1.) The Lord loves you and wants you to understand these truths so you can enjoy the abundant life He's provided. That's why it's so important to understand our responsibility.

You may be asking, "So do I have to make all this happen?" Not out of your self—your human ability. The born-again part of you— your spirit—has God's power within.

All things are possible to those who believe. (Mark 9:23.) If you would understand and believe that God has already done His part, and then exercise your authority, you could make things happen.

I've come to realize that it's not me **petitioning and asking the Lord** to heal people, but rather that God has already healed us of all sickness and disease. The Word says that by His stripes we were—past tense—healed. (1 Pet. 2:24.) Now I understand that **God has put His power in me, and it's up to me to release it.** God has done His part, now I must take my authority, speak to the mountain, and command people to be healed. Of course, the individual I'm ministering to must believe and cooperate too, but I've seen hundreds of times more people healed than I used to.

JOHN G. LAKE

...this kind of boldness just startles people today. They think, how could you do that? You don't have any control over this. You don't have that kind of authority. You don't have any responsibility.

**Just go out and ask God to heal them. He might, He might not.
Whatever will be, will be. It's all up to God, you see. NOT TRUE!**

John G. Lake and his practitioners knew that God had already done His part to provide healing and that it's our turn now to take our authority and use it. Sometimes they would literally move in with the people and teach them the Word. They'd build them up in faith, minister to them, and see them healed because God has already done His part.

There's a huge difference between us healing the sick and praying for the sick. As a whole, the church has believed God can heal, but not that He has already done it. They don't believe that He has already committed the power and authority for healing to us. So when they have a need, they approach God like a beggar. They ask Him to heal so-and-so when the truth is that He's already done His part to produce that healing.

God has placed supernatural raising-from-the-dead power on the inside of every born-again believer (Eph. 1:19-20), and it's up to us to command those healings to come to pass. Instead of **passively pleading** with the Lord and asking God to do it, we need to become a commander—someone who stands up in faith, takes our authority in Christ, and commands the power of God.

Chapter 10 - Command Ye Me

To heal the lame man, Peter stood in faith, took his authority in Christ, and commanded the power of God. (Acts 3:6-8.) A lot of people say, "Well, I'd never do that," which is why they aren't getting the results that Peter and John did. This is one of the major reasons we aren't seeing the power of God manifest more today.

Many Christians are in need of a miracle. It's critical. Maybe you need healing in your body, a financial provision, or restoration in your marriage. Whatever it is, you are praying and asking God but you aren't taking any authority over the enemy, you aren't speaking against the problem, and you aren't commanding the infirmity to leave. You're **ACTING LIKE A BEGGAR** instead of the commander Christ has authorized and empowered you to be.

OLD SINNER OR SAVED BY GRACE?

Religion says, "You can't do anything. You're a worm. You are nothing." That's true if you're talking about my carnal, natural, fleshly self. Jesus said: Without me ye can do nothing. John 15:5

That is absolutely true. Apart from Christ, we are and can do nothing. However, I am not without Jesus. I'm born again. The Spirit of the Living God dwells on the inside of me. I'm not only human. Jesus Himself lives in and through me. (Gal. 2:20.) Christians who don't recognize that, in Christ, they've become a brand-new creation aren't taking their God-given authority.

They don't understand the authority of the believer. They come to God as **beggars**, saying, "I'm an old sinner saved by grace." I'm not an old sinner saved by grace. I was an old sinner, but then I was saved by grace. Now I've become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. (2 Cor. 5:21.) It's true that without God I'm nothing, but I'm not without God. He lives on the inside of me. Now I have the authority and power to command the power of God.

UNDER YOUR COMMAND

Keep in mind that this authority that Jesus has given us only enforces spiritual law. If God hasn't provided something, then we can't just command it. Taking and using the authority Jesus has given isn't us "making" God do things. "Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me." Isaiah 45:11

The last part of this verse is a strong statement that many people choke on. They can't receive it because they think to do so would be to take authority over God and tell Him, "Lord, You obey me. I command You to do this." Certainly, that's ridiculous.

I am not God. I'm not superior to Him. It's not me that is the power source. God isn't waiting on my every whim, and obeying what I tell Him to do. That's not what Isaiah 45:11 is talking about. The Lord said, concerning the work of My hands, you command Me. This means that God has told me to command the work of His hands—which is everything He's already provided in Christ—into manifestation.

GREAT ANALOGY

It's like electricity. The power company is the source—they generate the power. You aren't the power source. You could stick a light bulb in your mouth, but it'll never come on. The power company generates the power and delivers it to your home. You've signed a contract, and that power is under your command.

If you want the power to come on, you don't call the power company and ask them to come out and turn it on. No. They've already generated that power and delivered it to you. Now it's up to you to command that power. When you go over and flip that switch, you are commanding that power. You aren't the source, but the power is under your control. It's under your authority. So you use that authority and switch it on.

FLIP THE SWITCH

Now, if the power company doesn't generate the electricity, you could flip that switch all you want, but if there's no power there, nothing is going to happen. If someone who wasn't yet born again tried to speak to sickness or a demon and command them to leave, it wouldn't work. Nothing would happen because they don't have the power of God inside them. This is what happened to the seven sons of Sceva (see Acts 19:11-16).

If you aren't connected to the power source, if you aren't truly born again, you can't do what I'm sharing with you. But if you are truly born again and have received the power of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 1:8, then that power is in you, and it's up to you to command it.

If you called the power company and said, "I have some friends coming over for lunch. Would you please turn on the power? I need it to cook the food, have light, and play soft music."

It doesn't matter how much you plead or how serious your need is, the power company isn't going to send somebody out to flip the switch for you. They generate the power, but you must take your position of authority and flip the switch.

Many Christians today are praying and asking God to come over and flip their switch. They don't realize that He's placed that power on the inside of them. They don't recognize their responsibility to flip their own switch. They aren't believing God's Word which reveals that they now have the power, authority, and responsibility to go and heal the sick. Instead of commanding and releasing this power that's been given to them, they pray and ask God to heal the sick. That's just as silly as asking the electric company to come over and turn on your lights!

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"THE DONKEY I RIDE ON"

Some people take offense at this and say, "You just think you're somebody special!" No, I'm nobody special. There is nothing special in me, but I carry the most special Person who has ever walked the face of this earth. The Lord Jesus Christ lives on the inside of me, and He's given me His power and anointing. Just like Peter's shadow touched people and they were healed, I'm believing for a day when my shadow will do the same. Some people might think, well, you arrogant thing! It's not me, it's Who I carry. He's the same Person Peter carried. If it worked for him, it'll work for me.

Scores of Christians are so focused on the physical, carnal, natural side of who they are that they don't recognize that they aren't only human. They don't realize that they've been given supernatural power and authority. That's why they aren't seeing the power of God. There is a religious culture today that is against everything I'm teaching. It comes against this authority and tries to make you feel like you're nothing, that you have no power and no authority.

You come to God as a beggar, pleading with Him to do what He's told you in His Word that He's already done. He told you to go out and represent Him so stop begging and pleading, bawling and squalling, and asking God to do things that it's not His turn to do. Take a stand, use your authority, and command things to come to pass.

JOE BLOW BELIEVER

Jesus commissioned His disciples and sent them out saying: Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Matthew 10:8

You can't give away something you don't have. If you don't believe that God has already done His part and put that raising-from-the-dead power on the inside of you, then you can't go out and heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, or raise the dead. I wish I could just make people believe these truths, but I know I'm fighting against hundreds of years of religious traditions that have made the Word of God of none effect. (Mark 7:13.) God has already healed every person that will ever be healed.

That power has already been generated and is now deposited on the inside of every born-again, Spirit filled, tongue-talking believer. You have that power. It's not up to God to heal the sick. It's up to us to believe, take our authority, release that power, and command these things to happen. We must give—minister—this healing power to other people.

You have the power on the inside of you and you can command healings to come to pass.

Chapter 11 - Proclaim And Demonstrate

Whatsoever city ye enter...heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. Luke 10:8,9

Jesus told us to heal the sick and preach the kingdom of God. However, so much of the church has just chosen to ignore the first part of our commission. Proclamation and demonstration should always go hand in hand. God's Word needs to be confirmed with signs, wonders, and miracles. The Spirit-filled side of the church desires to see miracles and healings, but the way so many of them are going about it is to **beg and plead** with God, saying, "Oh God, I ask You to pour out Your Spirit. Do a new thing, and send revival."

That's not the approach the people in the Bible took. They believed that God had given them the authority. They went out and brought revival, commanded revival, and released revival by seeing miracles happen.

A true Christian is a person who not only has a proper doctrine about who Jesus is, but they can also demonstrate it

by the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Why isn't this happening more? The reason is that we are praying and ASKING God to do what He commanded us to do.

COMMAND HEALING TO MANIFEST

The Lord told us to go heal the sick. He didn't tell us to pray and ask Him to heal the sick. Jesus told us to do it. God is the power source, but He's placed that power on the inside of us. He gave us the authority to use His name and His power. If we don't command healing to come, it won't happen. It's not going to come by us BEGGING AND ASKING God to heal.

Perhaps you know someone who has an incurable disease. You've been praying and asking God to heal them. You've been trying to lay hold of God for healing, and you haven't seen the manifestation yet. You're fighting fear, doubt, and frustration. You need to recognize that you're asking God to do what He asked you to do. God told you to go heal the sick. He told you to give—minister—His healing power. Just like Peter and John, you need to take your authority and command healing to manifest.

GOD'S WILL

God desires for every person to respond to Him and receive salvation. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

God doesn't will for a single person to die and go to hell. Does that mean everyone will receive salvation? No, obviously not. Jesus said: Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Matthew 7:13,14

The Bible clearly reveals that God's will doesn't just automatically come to pass. So much religion and tradition in the church today misrepresents God. It says, "Nothing happens without His direct or indirect approval. God either causes it or allows it." This is not what the Word teaches. The reason this doctrine is so popular and people latch onto it is that it gives them an excuse and frees them from all personal responsibility. In other words, you can just pray, "Lord, if it's Your will, please heal this person. If it's Your will, save this marriage." Then if it works—great. If it doesn't, then it must not have been God's will. This thinking takes us totally out of the picture. We have no responsibility or accountability in the matter. This is absolutely wrong!

PEOPLE HAVE A CHOICE

Second Peter 3:9 clearly reveals that it's not God's will that anyone perish. Yet, people are perishing—lots of them. God doesn't control or just allow these things. He's not the One who "predestined" some people to be saved and others to be lost. There are a number of reasons why people are perishing instead of being saved.

Each individual person has a choice. God isn't going to force anyone to be saved. He honors our free will. Some people—due to the lies and deception of the devil, or because they've been hurt and taken up an offense—are preoccupied with the cares of this life. They have rejected all of the invitations and interventions of God in their life. So, by their own free will, they are choosing not to make Jesus their Lord. Your faith can't make a person get saved. That's not what the Word of God teaches. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:31

In context, this is saying, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. And as each one of your family members believe on Him, they'll be saved too." Each person must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and receive salvation for themselves. No one can do it for you, and you can't do it for someone else. People have a choice in the matter. *(More content in Evangelism Nuggets)*

Perhaps believers aren't preaching the true Gospel. They're ministering **religion and tradition** instead. Maybe some Christians presented a negative witness with their lifestyle.

Perhaps the lost person had one bad experience with someone who said they were a believer, and because of it refuses to really listen to the true claims of Christ. Some way or another, it's people who are messing things up. Satan is inspiring it. He's doing his best to prejudice people against the Gospel. It's not God's will that any person die and go to hell, yet it's happening.

This same logic applies to healing, prosperity, and marriages. People say, 'Well, if it's God's will, they'll be healed whether you or I pray for them or not.' Apply the same reasoning to salvation and see how it sounds. "If it's God's will, people will be saved whether we minister to them or not." That's not true. We have a responsibility. We've been given power and authority to preach the Gospel.

PREACH THE GOSPEL

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Roman 10:14,15,17

It's not God's will for anyone to perish, but God relies on people to minister His Word and cause different things to change. God has given us both the authority and the responsibility to preach the Gospel. If we don't take that responsibility and use that authority, the Word won't be preached and people won't get saved.

It's not God's will for our nation or this world to be in the mess it's in. His will is for us all to reflect His values, submit to Him, and shine as a glorious church. However, it's not working that way because people aren't responding to Him properly.

Let's stop begging God to do what He has told us to do. Instead of asking Him to send revival and save people, we need to go out and preach the Gospel with signs and wonders. Let's take what Jesus has already provided and make it manifest.

It's His power, but it's our authority (which He gave us) that makes it work. God's power is released as we use our authority.

Chapter 12 - Be A Witness

God gave power and authority to people to preach the Gospel, not to angels. Angels don't have the authority to preach the Gospel—we do. God has limited Himself to preaching the Gospel through people.

God's plan is for us to preach the truth of the Gospel, and for people to hear it and be born again through the incorruptible seed of God's Word. However, Satan has come in through religious teaching, saying, "You don't have to share God's Word. Just pray them into the kingdom." So now there are all these Christians who are praying and asking God to save people, and they never share the Gospel with them.

I've actually met people before who say they are "prayer warriors" who never get out of their closet. Their prayer list is so long, they can't even read it all in an hour. They don't share the Word with anyone, but they're praying for a "great move of God." That's deception. It doesn't happen that way. You can't pray a person into the kingdom of God.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING

You have to be born again by the incorruptible seed of God's Word. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1 Peter 1:23

God's Word is the seed. It must be planted in the ground of our heart. This is also like sowing a seed in the womb of a woman. You can't conceive a child apart from this seed being sown. There was only one virgin birth, and there isn't going to be another. You must get out of your prayer closet and sow the seed of God's Word.

Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

You can't be born again without faith, and that faith comes through the seed of God's Word.

PLANT THE SEED (*Nuggets – praying for the lost*)

Many Christians are praying for people to be born again, but they're not praying about the planting of the seed.

They're not praying for someone to come across their path and preach the Gospel to these people. (Matt. 9:38.)

They aren't asking the Holy Spirit to bring back to their memory the words God has already spoken to them.

(John 14:26.) They're just thinking that they can pray somebody into the kingdom. That violates the power and authority God gave us when He told us to go preach the Gospel. The angel didn't tell Cornelius how to get saved; Peter—a physical human being—had to do that.

God gave the power, authority, and responsibility for preaching the Gospel to people.

You may have been praying for someone for many years, but you're frustrated and wondering, Why isn't God saving this person? It may be because you aren't praying right. Are you asking God to save them as if there were something He could do? He's already done His part to provide salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lord commissioned us to preach the Gospel. If that person hasn't received salvation, it's either because they aren't hearing the true Gospel, or they're choosing to reject it. It's not God who isn't saving that individual.

There are ways you can pray to speed things up and enable the Holy Spirit to minister to this person more, but just praying and asking God, "Please save them" is useless. That's not how the Word teaches us to do it.

"I'm just going to pray in my closet and believe that You're going to do a miracle." If this is you, then you're just spitting in the wind. It isn't going to work because that's not how the kingdom operates.

I'm speaking this truth in love. If we ask God to save someone, but we don't do what He commanded us to do—which is preach the Gospel and be a witness—then it isn't going to happen. People must be born again through the Word of God. Prayer doesn't cause people to be born again. Prayer may help once you've already shared the Gospel, but it's not a substitute for doing what God has told us to do. People don't get born again just through prayer; they get born again through hearing the truth. Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

GOD LOVES PEOPLE

I pray. I spend a lot of time just fellowshiping and communing with the Lord. The vast majority of my prayer life is worshiping God, thanking the Lord, and asking Him for wisdom and instruction. As far as my ministry to others, I ask God to help me speak His Word with clarity and boldness. I pray that He would give me revelation knowledge, and better ways of communicating it to others.

However, I don't spend any time asking God to "move" and save people. I don't pray, "Oh, Lord. Please touch their hearts and cause them to be born again." That's because I know that God loves them more than I do. I'm convinced that He wants to touch their lives and see them born again.....The Lord knows that as people receive the truth into their heart, it will make them free.

Chapter 13 - How To Pray For The Lost (PH Library "Prayer" Section)

Chapter 14 - How Does Revival Come?

THE POWER OF GOD

When Jesus gave power and authority to the church, it came with responsibility. We need to use our authority and preach God's Word. We need to speak the truth to the people the Lord has put in our lives. As they receive that truth into their hearts, their lives will be changed. Many people have rejected the preaching they've heard because it wasn't the true Gospel. It was just **powerless religion and lifeless tradition**. It was just **condemnation and judgment**. That's not the message of the Gospel. We need to preach the good news of salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the power of God. (Rom. 1:16.)

The book of Romans is the apostle Paul's masterpiece on the grace of God. In it, he clearly reveals what is the Gospel—this powerful good news message we are to preach.

Chapter 15 - Believe And Receive

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, it's our responsibility to boldly preach the Gospel and faithfully teach God's Word.

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!".... So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:13-15,17

SILENCE

Imagine that you've given me your Bible. It's a gift, and it's in my possession right now. What would you do if I turned to you and asked, "May I please borrow your Bible? I'd like to look up a scripture. I really need to hear from God, and I believe He's speaking to me. Would you please give me your Bible?" I could beg. I could plead. I could even try to condemn you, saying, "If you were really a Christian, you'd share your Bible with me." What would you do? You've already given it to me.

How do you respond to someone who is asking you to give them something they've already got? How do you answer somebody who is begging you to do something you've already done for them? If I was the one being asked those questions, I'm not sure how I'd respond. Probably, I'd just look at them dumbfounded. I wouldn't say anything.

If someone is asking for something they already have, how does a person respond to that? Probably in silence. Sounds a lot like the way God has responded to all of our begging and pleading for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The truth is, **God poured out His Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, and He's never withdrawn Him since.** (Acts 2:38-39.) The Lord has never become so ticked off that He just said, "Alright, Holy Spirit. Come on back. No more revival. No more manifestations." God didn't cause the church to go through the Dark Ages. He didn't will that there be a period of time where truth would be so bound up that very few would ever see it. God didn't just all of a sudden—"sovereignly"—reach down and touch Martin Luther. He didn't just decide to pour out His Spirit upon the reformers to do something "new" because, after all, God was tired of a thousand years worth of deadness in the earth. No, the problem wasn't God's giving—it was our believing and receiving.

Oral Roberts—and many others—began proclaiming the Word of God concerning healing. As people believed that Word and received healing, a revival broke out. Some people think, Well, God just sovereignly moved. No, the Lord

has always desired for us to receive healings, manifest miracles, and experience revival ever since He walked on this earth.

Jesus Himself said: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. John 14:12

We can debate what the "greater works" are, but what are you going to do with "the works that I do shall he do also"? God always intended for His church to operate in the supernatural. It's not God that just skipped from around 200 A.D. until 1940. No, it's people who quit appropriating His power. Christians got into unbelief. They stopped operating in faith. Finally, somebody broke through this barrier and started believing again. Then they preached and proclaimed God's Word. When they took their authority and used it, healing manifested. Yet, the whole counsel of God has always been available to those who would believe.

God doesn't just move for a decade in this and then move for a decade in that. "Ten years ago He moved in healing. Now He's forgotten healing, and is moving in righteousness. This next decade He's going to work on marriages. There's a new wave coming!" Nonsense. That's just man's attempt to justify our powerlessness.

WORK ON YOUR RECEIVER

The Lord is today all that He ever was and all that He'll ever be. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

He wants to move in and through your life in miracles, healings, deliverance, and prosperity. Everything that God is, is now available to you through His Word. You don't have to beg and plead, and then just passively sit back and wait to see what God will do. The Bible calls that **unbelief**.

Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6

God honors those who honor Him. (see 1 Sam. 1; 2:20—21.) Believe that God is. He's a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Pray, "Father, I am seeking You. Your Word tells me that You have provided all these things. By faith, I receive. Thank You, Lord!" As you seek Him and continue building yourself up in faith, the power of God will manifest and you'll operate in all the revival you want. You're the one who determines how much revival you have— not God.

You don't have to pray and just passively wait, saying, "I've been praying twenty years for revival and we haven't got it yet. I don't know why God hasn't done it." That's just as wrong as someone saying, "I've been praying twenty years for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but God hasn't given it to me yet." No, God has already given; you just haven't received it yet. It's not God's giver that's having the problem—it's your receiver. You need to work on your receiving, not God's giving.

Chapter 16 - God Has Given You Power

This power and authority God gave us came with responsibility.

(Example of a lady trying to get pregnant without having sex....) Didn't anybody tell her the facts of life! Don't they understand how things work? Yet this is exactly what many Christians are doing in other areas of life. They are asking God for healing, but they aren't doing what the Word says. God's Word says to speak to your mountain.

"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

That's one of God's laws. Yet, people aren't doing what the Word says and they wonder why hasn't God healed me yet? That's just as foolish as a woman who prays constantly to get pregnant without having any relationship with a man, and then when nothing happens, says, "Why hasn't God given me a child yet?" God gave us power and authority in this area.

WE MUST COOPERATE

If you want the results, then you have to do the right things to cooperate with those laws of how to conceive and birth children. Most people understand this, and they would ridicule someone who thinks they can just pray for a child to appear. God doesn't just supernaturally drop children out of heaven. That's not how they come.

Just praying and asking God to supernaturally drop healing, salvation, or revival from heaven is not how they come. There are spiritual laws that we must use our authority as human beings to cooperate with.

If we don't step out in faith to cooperate with God in these areas, they won't come to pass. This is so simple that you'd have to have somebody help you to misunderstand it. Yet, we've had a lot of help. I've talked to many people who have asked, "If God is really God, then He could have healed this person. Why did He let them die?"

God isn't like that. He doesn't just say, "Alright, you have power to heal. You go out and heal the sick." Then—if we aren't doing it because we don't know how or because we're more dominated by unbelief than faith—God doesn't just look down and say, "These folks are never going to get the job done. Since they're not believing My Word or doing it the way I said, I'm just going to heal this person anyway." That would violate His own integrity.

God told us, "we have the power. We are to go out. We are to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead." (Matt. 10:8.) If we don't do our part, God isn't going to step in and do what He's told us to do. No amount of begging or pleading will change that situation. We in the body of Christ need to discover what God has given to us. We need to find out what's under our authority and start using it the way God intended. Let's take our responsibility and lay aside our unbelief.

Let's reject all these religious doctrines that absolve us of our responsibility and say, "Whatever will be, will be. It's just up to God who gets saved and healed. He does all things sovereignly." Let's stop backing out of our responsibility and placing the blame on God. He's not the one failing—it's us.

Chapter 17 - The Devil Will Flee From You

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

God has given us power and authority over the devil. Then [Jesus] called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. Luke 9:1

God gave us power and authority over all devils—and all means all. There are no demons excluded from this. I meet people constantly who say, "Well, the devil is doing this to me, and the devil is doing that." If you know that the devil is your problem, then you can solve that problem by believing God's Word and exercising your authority instead of going around saying, "Oh, God. Please get the devil off my back. Oh, Lord. The devil is 'trying to cause me to do this."

You aren't going to get freed from Satan's harassment by praying and asking God to remove the devil. That power and authority has been given to you.

This verse doesn't say that he will flee from God. He'll flee from you. It's God's power, but that power is in you. God Himself isn't going to come down and make the devil flee from you. You have to resist the devil.

SATAN IS A COWARD

Resist means "to actively fight against." Resistance is active. You have to stir yourself up and get mad in the godly sense: the godly use of anger is to be mad at the devil, mad at sickness, mad at disease, and mad at poverty. You have to stir yourself up. You can't just tolerate it. As long as you can tolerate something, you will. But when you get to the place where you say, "I've had it. Enough is enough. This is it," and you rise up with godly anger and faith to exercise your authority, a positive spiritual dynamic is released. When you get sick and tired of being sick and tired and you put your foot down and resist the devil, he flees from you.

At heart, Satan is a coward. He really is. He's just a bully—intimidating, yelling, and threatening. At heart, a bully doesn't really want to fight. They just want to intimidate and control. If they realize that you're going to stand up and fight every time they come around and try to do something to you, they'll back down. Even if they win the fight, they don't want to put forth that much effort. That's the way Satan is.

When you get angry and resist the devil, he's just like a bully. The moment he knows that it's going to cost him something—that you're going to stand there toe-to-toe in the name of Jesus and go at it with him—Satan will flee from you. But you must resist!

"DEAR DEVIL..."

Saying, "Dear devil, please leave me alone" is not resisting.we instructed her that she needed to address the devil and take back the place she had given him. We told her she needed to do this by speaking directly to Satan and renouncing him.

You don't resist the devil by saying, "Dear devil, please leave me alone." You must resist the devil. God gave you power and authority and you have to activate it by stirring yourself up, becoming violently resolved (Matt. 11:12), and just putting your spiritual foot down by saying, "Satan, get out of my life!"

God isn't going to rebuke the devil for you. You have to stand up and resist him. And if you resist the devil, he will flee from you. God gave you this authority, and you can't beg Him to do what He's told you to do. It won't work.

TWO SIDES OF THE COIN

God told you to resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Many Christians know that it's the devil trying to destroy their life today. He's trying to kill you with sickness and disease, or he's stealing your prosperity from you. You know what's happening isn't God's will, but you're praying, "Oh Lord, please solve this. Please do something." You aren't taking your authority. If you are dealing with demonic opposition against you, then you have to step up to the plate, take the authority God has given you, and command the devil to flee.

There are two sides to this coin—submitting to God and resisting the devil. You can't just go around binding and rebuking anything you want.

These truths concerning authority will only work for you when you're submitted to God. When you are seeking Him with your whole heart and you perceive the devil hindering you, then you can take your authority and command those things to change.

When you are submitted to God, then you can resist the devil—actively fight against him—and he will flee from you.

We'd praise God, sing songs about the blood of Jesus, and read Scripture. We didn't know what we were doing, but we literally just beat the devil out of this woman—not with our hands, but by singing about the blood and speaking against the devil. We just stayed in there until we saw this woman delivered of demons.

I said, "In the name of Jesus, I command you all to shut up and come out of him!" Instantly, power was released

and this guy lay on the floor just like he was dead.I thought, If it's as simple as commanding the demons to come out in Jesus' name, why did I go through all this other stuff?

I have authority over the devil and if the person is willing to cooperate, I can go in and command those demons to leave and they will obey me.

I can't ask God to cast the devil out because that's what He has told me to do. I have to stand up, take my authority, and be confident that when I speak it's going to work. I have to have faith in God's Word—that I do have authority over all devils and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1.)

SIMPLE ADJUSTMENTS, BIG DIFFERENCE

Since God has given you this power and authority, you also have the responsibility to exercise it. You can't go back to God and beg Him to do what He has commanded you to do. You must take your authority and use it.

**There is no problem with God. Prayer works. It's just that wrong prayer doesn't work.
You must pray, speak, and act in line with the authority that God has given you.**

Speak to your problems and command God's Word into manifestation. Pray the Word of God across people's paths who need to be born again. Stop begging the Lord for an outpouring of His Spirit. Do what the Word says, and you'll see His power manifest. Then you'll have all the revival you can handle.

Chapter 18 - Law Enforcement

All authority can do is enforce law. In the natural realm, we call policemen "law enforcement officers." They only have authority to enforce what's already been established as a law. Police officers don't go out and make up the law. They aren't absolute dictators who can do whatever they want. They are limited. All they can do is enforce laws that are already in effect. It's the same way in the spiritual realm.

Every born-again believer has this supernatural, God-given power. Still, there are spiritual laws governing how it works. Like a police officer, all we can do is enforce the law that's already in effect. We can't use God's power in a selfish way because there isn't any law where God promises to give you what you're lusting for. Instead, we need to learn what the laws of God's kingdom are and then recognize that our authority is simply enforcing these spiritual laws.

In the spiritual realm, there are demons who are constantly trying to oppose us, inflict their evil will upon us, and prevent us from experiencing the fullness of God's provision. We must enforce the spiritual laws of God's kingdom that have been established.

A LEGAL, BINDING CONTRACT

Most people don't see the kingdom of God as operating under law. Instead, they see it as being directly under the Lord, and they think He often changes His moods. They'll say things like, "You never know what God is going to do," and "You can't put God in a box." God is definitely bigger than—and outside of—the little "box" you've tried to contain Him in, but He has also established spiritual laws that even He will not break.

Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. Psalm 138:2

Although many scriptures reveal the power of the name of Jesus, God has magnified His Word even above His name. The name of Jesus is powerful because He never breaks His Word. When God says something, it becomes a legal, binding contract.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that

every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil. 2:9-11 NKJV

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Psalm 89:34

When God speaks something out of His mouth, His Word is a covenant. It's a contract He will not break.

Jesus upholds "all things by the word of his power" (Heb. 1:3). In other words, our entire universe is held together by the integrity and power of God's Word. If He were to ever break a promise or otherwise violate His Word, this whole world, the universe, and you and I would all self-destruct. It's God's integrity that holds everything together.

THE LAW OF FAITH

In order to effectively use your authority, you must know what His laws are.

A police officer does have authority, but that authority ends at the end of the law. If there isn't a law prescribing what they're trying to enforce, then they can't do it.

It's the same in the spiritual realm. You can't just pick and choose according to your own selfish whims. You must know what the laws are that govern the kingdom of God, and then abide by them. If you try to enforce something outside of those laws, it won't work. You can't just use your God-given authority to do your own thing.

Romans 3 speaks of "the law of faith." Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Romans 3:27

Faith has a law. There is a law of faith.

LAW OR PHENOMENON?

If you are ever going to have an efficient, effective, powerful relationship with God, you must break out of this mindset that God is inconsistent. You must get out of this thinking that says, "Sometimes God wills to do this and sometimes He wills to do that. You never know what kind of mood God is in. He might heal this one, but not this other. He may want them to suffer that way the rest of their life." That's not how God is and it isn't the way His kingdom operates.

God Himself is orderly. He created laws—both natural and spiritual. God Himself is consistent and predictable because He operates by His own spiritual laws.

You need to find out what His spiritual laws are. Then once you do, take your authority as a believer and enforce these laws. If you're ignorant of God's Word, then you won't be very effective in releasing your authority because Satan will just talk you out of it.

IGNORANT OF WHAT'S BEEN PROVIDED

(Story of man on ship across Atlantic only ate his own cheese and crackers when the ticket provided access to the banquet room...) So many Christians are the same way. They are ignorant of the abundant life God has given us.

Consequently, they live without enjoying many of the **salvation benefits** Jesus died on the cross to provide.

Because they are unaware of what the Word says, Satan has them convinced, "You aren't really going to prosper. You'll just have barely enough to get by."

Are you aware of what the Word promises you concerning prosperity? Deuteronomy 28:8 says that God has commanded His blessing upon all the work of your hands. Psalm 35:27 reveals that God delights in the prosperity of His servants. If you don't know these spiritual laws, you won't enforce them.

You won't demand Satan to quit stealing from you and to turn loose of your God-given provision. You won't experience what's rightfully yours in Christ. So in order for you to use your authority and experience God's

blessings, you need to know what the spiritual laws are and what has been provided for you.

THIS CONFIDENCE WE HAVE

"I believe that God can heal, but I don't believe that you can heal." Of course it's God's power and not mine, but He has given me the authority to use it.

Healing is a law—something He's already done. Through the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, God has already healed every person who will ever be healed. By the stripes Jesus took across His back two thousand years ago, we were—past tense—healed. (1 Pet. 2:24.) God isn't healing people right now. He did His part a long time ago. The law was passed, and now healing belongs to us. Still, it's up to us as believers to know what God's will is and command it to come to pass.

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. 1 John 5:14,15 NKJV

This confidence that we have, if we ask anything according to His will, we know that He hears us, and if we know that He hears us, then we know we have these petitions. The whole thing hinges on "What is God's will?"

Some people say, "Well, you never know what God's will is." That kind of thought undermines this whole principle. If you think that God just sometimes wills for a person to be saved, healed, or prospered, and sometimes doesn't, then you don't know what God's will is.

**If you think God is totally unpredictable, then you'll never use
your authority effectively because you aren't sure what the laws are.**

NO EXCEPTIONS

The law isn't sometimes in effect, and other times not. The law is constant—it's the same all the time for everybody.

It's the same in the spiritual realm. There are no exceptions. The Word doesn't just work for some people but not for others. It's not that God just likes some people and causes His power to work for them, but others He doesn't. That's not it at all. God has established laws, and we need to learn how to cooperate with them.

Remember, we can be confident that we will receive anything we ask according to His will. How can we know God's will?

God's Word reveals His will.

Beloved, I wish [will, want, desire] above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2

God's wish, will, and desire is that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul (your mind, will, and emotions) prospers. This is a law of God. He wants you to prosper and be healthy. God wants you to be a world overcomer. (1 John 5:5.)

GOOD GOD, BAD DEVIL

John 10:10 reveals both God's will and Satan's will very clearly. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

If something is life and good, it's God. But if something is bad—stealing, killing, and destroying—it's the devil. Good things come from God and bad things come from the devil.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1:17

You have God-given rights and privileges. He has established His will for us, but it's up to you to claim what God has done for you. You must press the issue. You have to take your authority and enforce those spiritual laws that have been made for your benefit. Ignorance of the spiritual laws will keep you from pressing charges. It will prevent you from keeping Satan out of the picture. The devil just runs wild when you think you don't have any authority or power.

Many Christians just don't know what is rightfully theirs. Thinking they have to be sick, poor, and discouraged, they say, "This is just the way that it is. I can't do anything about it." They don't know that Jesus Christ has redeemed us from these things.

CONSTANT AND UNIVERSAL (*summary*)

In the same way that the physical world operates under natural laws, God has created His kingdom to operate under spiritual laws. These laws are constant and universal, so it's to your benefit to learn what they are and then cooperate with them.

You can't just pick and choose, saying, "Since I have authority as a believer, I'm going to command that I get this house or that car. It's under my power and authority, so I command it and say it's so." No, you have to cooperate with the laws of God. As a matter of fact, there are laws of God that specifically tell you not to covet your neighbor's house, car, or wife. God doesn't have a law that promises you can use His power for selfish purposes to claim, "This person will die so I can marry their mate." That's not going to work because the Lord hasn't provided it for you. There aren't any spiritual laws in the kingdom of God that work selfishly.

Chapter 19 - How The Power Flows

"WHO TOUCHED ME?"

Most people think that when you approach God for healing (or anything else) that He evaluates you to see if you're worthy. They think that once you make your petition, God measures how worthy you are—whether you've been good enough, moral enough, paid your tithes, fasted long enough, have enough other people praying for you, and if your situation is desperate enough. Then, based on His personal evaluation, He either releases His power and you get healed, or He retains His power and says, "Nope, you haven't prayed enough, you aren't holy enough, you haven't fasted enough, and/or you have this sin in your life and until you deal with it I won't heal you." People tend to view God this way, that He's up there in heaven evaluating us and then, depending on His evaluation, He either releases His power or not.

These verses in Mark 5 (*woman with the issue of blood*) completely kill this misconception. Jesus didn't know who this woman was. He didn't see her coming. She touched the hem of His garment. He perceived the outflow of power, but then asked, "Who touched Me?" Jesus honestly didn't know who had touched Him. Therefore, He didn't evaluate her to see if she was worthy or not. This shows that the power of God flows under law.

When you tap into these spiritual laws, the power of God just flows. The Lord doesn't size up one person, saying, "You're worthy. I'm going to release My power to you," and then looks over another, saying, "No, you aren't worthy."

It's not like that at all. There are laws that govern how the power of God works. When you cooperate with those laws and put them into effect, the power flows. If you don't, the power doesn't flow. It's nothing about God loving

one person more than another. It's just a matter of law. God established His kingdom to operate under spiritual laws. As believers, we need to find out what those laws are and cooperate with them.

Electricity has been around since God created the earth. It's always been here in the form of thunderstorms and static electricity. People could have used electricity thousands of years ago if they would have understood the laws that governed it. God didn't just "create" electricity a few hundred years ago, and "allowed" people to start using it. No, electricity always was available to be harnessed for our use. Our ignorance of those laws kept us from being benefited by it.

GOD DIDN'T SHUT OFF THE POWER

It's the same in the spiritual realm. It wasn't God who let healing, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and other supernatural aspects of our faith just "pass away" for more than a thousand years. That's not what happened. God didn't shut off the power. People entered the Dark Ages because they didn't retain the knowledge of the things of God.

The early New Testament church operated strongly in the power of God. Then years later and for whatever reason, the church at large came to this place of believing that God's miracles and supernatural power passed away with the apostles. Then, in the early 1900s, the power of the Holy Spirit began to manifest again in places like Azusa Street. There was an influx of healings, deliverance, speaking in tongues, and miracles that have continued to snowball worldwide up until this present day.

It wasn't God who turned the power off after the first 200 years of Christianity and then turned it back on again 1,700 years later. It's not that He operates in cycles, and now we're in a "wave" or a "move" of God. That's not how it works any more than it was God who kept people from using electricity, airplanes, and cars a thousand years ago. All the laws were here, but people's ignorance kept them from taking advantage of these laws.

It's not God who isn't healing or blessing you. It's not the Lord who has "willed" that you suffer. God has created laws, but you need to discover what they are. As you learn how to cooperate with and enforce these laws, you'll see God's provision for you manifest.

You might be thinking, I disagree. That puts all the responsibility on me. You're saying that it's up to me to take hold of what God has provided. Yes, that's exactly what I'm saying. It's not God who hasn't healed, prospered, or delivered you. It's our own ignorance that keeps us in these bondages. God has already done His part. The Word clearly reveals that the Lord has already healed us, but we have yet to take advantage of it. (1 Pet. 2:24.)

UNBELIEF HINDERS RECEIVING

Maybe you haven't received your healing. You know of other people who have. Why haven't you been healed? One reason could be that you don't understand that God has already done His part. You aren't taking your authority and enforcing spiritual laws. You're ignorant of what God has already said and done, so you're passively going to Him asking, "God, will You please heal me, if it be Your will? Lord, will You set me free and move in my life?" You can say that many different ways, but the Bible calls it "unbelief." If you are asking God to do those things, then you aren't believing the Word.

When God said, "By whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Pet. 2:24), He put your healing into the past tense as an already accomplished reality. He's already done it. Therefore, you ought to believe the Word and say, "I know it's already done. He put the same power on the inside of me that raised Jesus from the dead. (Eph. 1:18-20.) I take my authority and now I speak to my problem and command these things to happen." But instead of taking your authority, you're passively just going to God and saying, "God, will You please heal me, if it be Your will?" That's unbelief.

Passively approaching God and pleading with Him is the reason you aren't receiving. You're ignorant of God's spiritual laws.

WORDS

This woman with the issue of blood said: If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole. Mark 5:28

Although there are many different spiritual laws, one of them that governs whether you receive from God or not is the power of your words.

A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Proverbs 18:20,21
Although many different scriptures reveal the importance of our words (see Matt. 12:34-37; James 3; Mark 11), this verse clearly reveals that both death and life are in the power of the tongue.

When we're trying to receive a healing from the Lord, many of us ignore this law and say, "I've heard people talk about this name it and claim it, blab it and grab it group who tell people they can have what they say. They say you're supposed to say you're healed when you don't feel healed. Well, I just don't believe in that stuff."

So when somebody asks, "How are you?" the person they ask says, "Well, I'm dying. I only have a week to live. The doctor told me it's terrible. I feel so bad." This individual is releasing death with their mouth through their negative speech. Yet, they'll go to the Lord in "prayer" and say, "Oh, God. Heal me, if it be Your will." Then when they don't see a physical healing manifest, they get upset with God as if He failed. There are laws that govern how to receive healing. One of them is you will have what you say. (Mark 11:23.)

You can't speak death out of your mouth and expect to receive life. It doesn't work that way. You might say, "I just don't believe that." Fine. That's just like a person saying, "I just don't believe that copper is a better conductor of electricity than wood. I'm going to wire my house with wood, not copper."

When they plug the electricity into the connection of wood, I guarantee the power isn't going to flow. It won't run your lights, appliances, or air conditioning. You may not like this, but it's how God established these laws.

WOOD OR COPPER?

Faith flows through words. Words release either death or life, but your ignorance of this law doesn't mean that the law is going to change. You can declare, "I can say whatever I want to and it doesn't make any difference." That's not true. It's not how the spiritual laws of the kingdom operate any more than wood is a better conductor of electricity than copper. It's not up to you to make the laws. You just need to discover what they are and then enforce them.

This woman in Mark 5 started putting some of the spiritual laws of God into effect when she said, "If I may but touch the hem of His garment, I shall be made whole." When she did, the power of God began to flow. Jesus didn't size her up and evaluate her worthiness. God's power flows when we cooperate with the spiritual laws of His kingdom. Electricity isn't personal when it kills someone. There are just laws at work governing the flow of power. Either you can cooperate and use electricity to your advantage, or those same laws will kill you.

It's the same way in the kingdom of God. There are many people who pray for healing because they don't understand the spiritual laws that govern it. When they don't see healing manifest, they get mad at God saying, "Lord, if You wanted to, You could have healed this person." No, God has set up the kingdom to operate under laws, and He can't just violate them.

Gravity is always working. The same law that will help you if you cooperate with it, will also kill you if you violate it. It's the same way in the spiritual realm.

Chapter 20 - Cooperate With God

Some people don't like these truths at all. It's comforting to them to feel that God is the One who willed for this
The Believer's Authority – Andrew Wommack Book Notes

person to die and that one to fail, this person to have a nervous breakdown and that marriage to break up. They find comfort in this mentality because it takes all responsibility away from them and they're able to say, "Whatever will be, will be." I understand that these truths I'm sharing will unsettle some people, but it's the truth that will set them free. (John 8:32.)

(a healing that didn't manifest)although it took me almost four years to learn enough of God's Word to figure out what had happened, I finally realized that we had violated many spiritual laws and done many things wrong.

GOD'S MESSENGER BOY?

At that time in my life, I was under the false teaching that says, "God puts tragedy in your life to perfect you. He'll bless you with sickness and disease because it's through your hardships that you are made better." This is absolutely untrue, but back then I didn't understand enough of the Word to know any better. So I believed it, and accepted it.

Those tragedies and negative things you've experienced weren't God's will—it was your fault, or the devil, or someone else.

Many people don't want to accept this responsibility. They'd rather blame God. I understand how you feel because I've been there. Yet, I accepted responsibility. I realized that we did so many things wrong. We violated God's Word and opened up a door for the devil through false teaching and wrong believing. I accepted my responsibility, and I've changed. I've believed the truth, and the truth has set me free.

But Jesus, said unto them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house. Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them." Mark 6:4,5 NKJV

Notice how Jesus could do no mighty work there. It's not that He wouldn't do it—He couldn't.

When many people pray and ask for something and it doesn't come to pass, they think it was God that chose not to do it. God is not free to move independent of us. He has to have a believer— knowing what the laws are and taking their authority —to flow through. We must cooperate with God. If you pray and don't see something come to pass, you need to evaluate: Have you cooperated with God's laws? Is what you prayed for something He's promised? If you're praying for something that isn't revealed in the Word— stop. It's not good for you and God hasn't provided it.

When something, like healing, is promised to you in the Word, take your place of authority as a believer and say, "This is a law of God, so I command my body to respond. In the name of Jesus, I am commanding what God has already done to manifest." But you have to know what has been promised.

Mark 6:5 says that Jesus could do no mighty work. It's not that He wouldn't do it, He couldn't do it. God Himself will not violate our free will. He won't make you receive. He has provided—generated— the power, but you must cooperate and flip the switch. You must learn how to receive what God has already done.

YOUR FREE WILL

It isn't the Lord who is letting people die and go to hell. People are choosing to go to hell because God gave them a free choice. Regardless, He's doing everything He can to keep that from coming to pass.

No one who is condemned to hell on Judgment Day will be able to put their finger in Jesus' face and say, "It's not fair. You didn't give me a chance!" God has put obstacles and barriers in front of every person who is headed to hell. They've had to climb over their own conscience that has convicted them and told them they were wrong and should repent. God used other people to be a witness to them in some way during their lifetime. There has been obstacle after obstacle. God is faithful to deal with every person who has ever lived, trying to turn them from their

destructive ways. But they choose to reject His drawing and ignore Him, so no one will be able to accuse God. He's not the one sending people to hell. They'll know that it was absolutely their choice.

It's not God who is letting people be sick. He's already provided for the healing of every single person. The problem is we're ignorant of His provision and His laws governing how to receive it.

Just as Jesus could do no mighty work in His own hometown because of the unbelief of the people there, unbelief prevents God from doing what He wants to do in people's lives today. (Matt. 13:58.) It wasn't Christ's unbelief or lack of willingness, but their unbelief that hindered His power. Our unbelief stops God from doing His will.

God will not move in your life without your cooperation. You must be in agreement with Him. That's one of His laws. Your free will is something that the Lord will not violate. You may desire the right end results, but you won't receive them if you disobey every single law along the way. You may wish to enjoy good health, but if you're committing sexual immorality shacking up with anybody and everybody, through those actions you are putting a law into effect, the law of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6:7-8), and faith for good health is dead without accompanying works (James 2:17). You can't just pray for something, and then act in a contrary way. That's not how the kingdom works.

You can't yield to and serve the devil, giving him total access to you, and reap the benefits of a godly life. It's not because God won't flow, or that He's looking at you as being unworthy. We're all unworthy in that sense. God doesn't move in our lives because we deserve it. However, in order to see His provision—His will—manifest, you do have to cooperate with Him.

Chapter 21 - As You Think

You need to learn what God's laws are and then cooperate with them. You can't watch television programs that minister depression and then operate in joy. You can't take in all of the (bad) news without strengthening unbelief. If you want a pure heart, you can't watch movies that are full of adultery and fornication. You're going to have to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, virtuous, praiseworthy, and of good report. (Phil. 4:8.) Yet people misunderstand these laws.

Your life moves in the direction of your dominant thoughts. As he thinketh in his heart, so is he. Proverbs 23:7

You will reap emotions based on those things on which you focus your attention.

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:6

That's a law of God. The fact is you can't experience God's peace if you're constantly meditating on things that are contrary to peace—hatred, strife, and ungodliness. You can't just pray and ask for peace. You must learn to keep your thoughts centered on God and His Word.

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Isaiah 26:3

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Your emotions will follow what you think. That's a law of God. So if you're praying for peace but aren't focused on God, you're just spitting in the wind. It's not going to work. Desiring the things of God is part of the process, but it's not all there is to it.

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord. 2 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace are multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord—not through prayer. It isn't a matter of you just pleading with God. The laws of God say that you must think on the right things to receive the right results.

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful [full of care] for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

As you keep your mind stayed upon the Lord, the peace of God will keep your heart and mind. The next verse continues about our thoughts, saying: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

In other words, this is a command to keep your mind stayed on the Lord and His Word. (Isa. 26:3.) These are laws of God. This is how His kingdom works.

THE GOS-PILL

God made you so that your physical and emotional health follows the way you think. If you're thinking on depressing things, you'll be depressed. If you're thinking on the Lord and His Word, you'll be full of life, joy, and peace.

God's Word is...Life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Proverbs 4:22

The Word of God brings health. "He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." Psalm 107:20

God's prescription for health is His Word. Take it in daily doses, just like medicine. Many people are praying for health, but they're violating the Great Physician's instructions. They aren't taking their medicine.

What if the medical doctor you saw about your condition prescribed to you a method of treatment—taking a certain pill each day—yet you didn't take them. Then, you get upset at the doctor about your treatment, saying, "It's no good. It didn't work." Actually, since you didn't take the pills, you have no right to criticize the doctor. You didn't cooperate with the prescribed treatment. The medical doctor gave you a treatment, but you didn't follow it.

God has given us a treatment. He's prescribed to us the Gos-pill (Gospel). He sent His Word to heal us and deliver us from all our destructions. (Ps. 107:20.) God's Word is health to all our flesh and life to those who find it. (Prov. 4:22.) This is the Great Physician's prescription.

EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY ABOVE

In the kingdom of God, there are laws governing faith and healing. Yet, we continue to violate these laws. Then we pray for healing and wonder why we aren't receiving. That's ignorance gone to seed!

Please don't take this as condemnation. I'm not trying to condemn anyone. I just want to stop people from condemning God. They say, "It's God's will that so and so died, this business didn't work, that marriage broke up, my children are rebellious," and on and on they go. Why do they put the blame on God? Many have the mindset, "Because I prayed and asked for something and it didn't come to pass." They just totally ignore the fact that God can't do everything He wants to do.

There are laws that govern how His kingdom operates. If we violate those laws, we're actually empowering the devil to come in and steal, kill, and destroy. We need to cooperate with God's laws to receive His abundant life.

Most people think that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, but that's not true. You must read the entire verse to get the true meaning: Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that **works in us**. Ephesians 3:20

That last phrase puts a limitation on the first one. God isn't free to move in your life independent of you. He has set it up to where He has to flow through people. He doesn't control your life without your consent or agreement. There has to be power working on the inside of you—specifically the power of faith. You have to stir yourself up and make that faith come alive.

Many people just plop themselves down in front of the television. They become discouraged and depressed listening to all of the bad news. They spend virtually no time with God and no time in His Word. Then they just throw a prayer out, and if it doesn't come to pass, "Well then, God failed."

It is absolutely wrong for us to condemn God. It isn't God who is failing to be good, or failing to answer people's prayers. It's us who fail to understand how to receive. We don't realize that there are laws that govern even God's operation. He's not going to resist the devil for you. God isn't going to do what He told you to do. (James 4:7.) He commanded you to go heal the sick. (Matt. 10:8.) He equipped you, but then He told you to go lay hands on the sick, and they would recover. (Mark 16:18.)

**God has generated the power and placed it on the inside of you—
the very same power that raised Christ from the dead. (Eph. 1:18-20.)**

Many of us are violating every instruction and admonition in the Word of God and then throwing a prayer out. If it doesn't work, then God failed. That's not true. God is faithful, faithful, faithful!

I'M THE PROBLEM—NOT GOD

I've had bad things happen in my life. People who were close to me died—even after I prayed for their healing. However, in most of these cases, I can see that I am the one who missed it. In some situations, I still don't understand exactly why things worked out the way that they have, but I've come to this firm conviction that God is always faithful. He never fails. If bad things happen somehow, I failed to understand and cooperate with the laws of God.

I find comfort in knowing that I'm the problem—not God. This is one of the great benefits in understanding the authority of the believer. Yet most people are just the opposite. They can't handle taking responsibility for failure in their lives. Yes, this understanding puts responsibility on us, but it also explains why we don't always see things work. God doesn't always have people who will cooperate with His laws.

**The release of God's power in your life is directly proportional
to how you believe. It's not proportional to your holiness.**

All of us fail and come short in different ways. The issue is faith. You get what you believe. If you believe that God has already healed you and you begin to exercise your authority, you'll see that healing manifest. But if you believe God can heal but He hasn't done it yet, then that healing won't come to pass. Just because you don't like how the kingdom works, doesn't mean that it changes the laws. This is just how God is.

Chapter 22 - Honor God

In the natural realm, people understand that there are laws and sometimes problems arise and not everything works out the way it's expected. Yet when it comes to the things of God, people just expect them to work with ease, completely problem free. They don't realize that there are spiritual laws that govern the kingdom of God. It's not that the Lord has a hard time doing things—it's us. We are dealing with things. So there may be a problem in

you receiving through me—not because God is a problem, but because I don't know everything and you don't either.

"If it's God, then they'd just be healed." That's someone who doesn't understand that there are spiritual laws and we're just barely beginning to scratch the surface of understanding how things work. It can take time, not because God has problems, but because I'm having a problem or the person receiving is having a problem. None of us understand everything yet.

FAITH COMES BY HEARING

Many people who are trying to believe and receive from God aren't getting into His Word. **Faith comes through the Word of God.** If you want to increase and release your faith, you need to increase your **revelation knowledge** of God's Word. That's how simple it is, but there are people who violate this law all the time. They're just expecting to get what they've asked for because they're in a desperate situation. They don't know the first thing about believing God. They don't study the Word. They just sit in front of the television watching all kinds of junk, wondering why their faith isn't increasing.

Both faith and unbelief come by hearing. If you listen to all of the negativity that's on television and radio instead of seeking God, you'll be full of unbelief and you won't receive.

That's just a law of God. (See Matt. 6:33.) Some people don't like that and say, "That just doesn't fit my lifestyle." Maybe you ought to change your lifestyle to fit the Word.

I'm amazed at some of the people who come to me wanting God to intervene in their lives. Just in talking to them, it's obvious they haven't spent an hour in the Word in a year. They don't pray or seek God. They haven't been attending church, studying the Word, or listening to Bible teachings. They're living their lives totally for themselves, bound by the discouragement and despair that comes from keeping their mind on evil things. Yet, they want all of the benefits that come from keeping their mind stayed on God. I get upset when people criticize and slander God as if He's the One who failed. The Lord isn't failing. We're the ones who have failed to understand and cooperate with His laws.

SPEAK AND ACT

How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? John 5:44 NKJV

In other words, being a "man-pleaser" will hinder your faith. It'll keep you from believing. Jesus said, "You can't believe if you are seeking the honor that comes from other people instead of from God." If you're worried about what everybody else is going to say, it'll stop you from receiving.

FOCUS ON THE LORD

The fear of man bringeth a snare. Proverbs 29:25

That's a law of God. If you are afraid of other people and what they're going to say, it'll hinder your faith. It'll keep you from receiving what you're believing for. You must come to the place in your heart where you say: Let God be true, but every man a liar. Romans 3:4

Chapter 23 - No New Testament Model

Satan isn't using a superhuman, angelic power and authority. He's using mankind's God-given power and authority that we yielded to him when we obeyed him and disobeyed God. So it's actually nothing but a human power and authority that is being used against us.

The devil can't do anything against us without our consent and cooperation.

Understanding these truths radically changes our view of spiritual warfare. We recognize that **the devil is a defeated foe. Jesus completely stripped him of all power and authority through the cross. However, the warfare we face today is in enforcing the Lord's victory. It's fighting against the wiles of the devil—his deception, lies, trickery, cunningness, and craftiness.** (Eph. 6:11.)

All the warfare scriptures in the New Testament reveal that the battle is in our mind.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Notice what these weapons accomplish: They cast down strongholds, imaginations, every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bring every thought captive. All of this has to do with your thinking.

The battlefield is your mind. Satan is fighting us with thoughts, and we counter him with the thoughts God gives us.

"SPIRITUAL WARFARE"

God's Word teaches that the Lord in all of His power and glory indwells each believer. You don't need your prayers to get through the atmosphere, above the ceiling, or even above your nose. The reason you bow your head to pray is so that you can look at God— He lives right there inside you.

These popular, but erroneous, concepts concerning "spiritual warfare" simply don't take into account the New Testament believer being God-possessed. He dwells on the inside of us. Therefore, we don't have to deal with principalities and powers blocking our prayers from getting to God. The way these demons fight us is through our thoughts. The spiritual warfare in the Christian life is in your mind.

BATTLE FOR THE MIND

It's not all the demons hovering over our city that make a bunch of crime and murders happen.

Why are there lots of homicides in certain places? It's because of the demonic activity in the minds of people, not in the heavenlies. They have lost the battle for their mind and have given themselves over to Satan. They are watching and listening to all kinds of hatred, violence, and murder on television, movies, and video games. Since our society as a whole no longer supports and reinforces godly moral values, we're allowing these things to happen.

Yes, there are demonic powers in the air. Scripture plainly reveals this. But the way we deal with them is by coming against the **unrenewed minds** of people. Preach and teach the truth of God's Word to people. You can't just control demonic powers in the heavenlies through your prayers, and therefore indirectly control other people and make them not be bad because you are binding a certain demonic power. That's not the model Scripture presents. The way the Bible teaches us to do it is to go in and tell people the truth. As they believe and obey the truth, they are set free and come out from under the control of these demonic influences that are around us.

There are zero—not just a few, not one, but zero—New Testament precedents for the "spiritual warfare" and intercessory battles that are being promoted in the body of Christ today. Jesus never sent His disciples out to do "spiritual warfare" before He came into a place. He did send them out at times to announce His coming, but this was mainly just publicity.

Paul never called upon or encouraged the believers to do "spiritual warfare" as it's being promoted today. He's the one through whom the Holy Spirit wrote 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and Ephesians 6:11. Second Corinthians 10 reveals that our weapons are for taking every thought captive to Christ. Ephesians 6:11 tells us to stand against the wiles of the devil. The wrestling mentioned in the very next verse takes place in our thoughts. (Eph. 6:12.)

INFLUENCED THROUGH THOUGHTS

Satan has touched individuals who control the media. Both Christians and non-Christians alike are watching the same ungodly media. Therefore, the devil is exercising influence through the thoughts he is planting in us. Satan has to flow through physical things to control the way you think (Rom. 8:6; Prov. 23:7; Isa. 26:3).

Romans 12:2 says, "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed." How? By "spiritual warfare" and binding demons? No, "By the **renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Demons influence us through thoughts, but they can't just give those thoughts directly. They have to influence a person, and then that person yields to Satan. He begins to educate them, putting his lies and deception in their life, so they can go out and influence other people. The reason we see such a dominance of ungodly perspectives and principles today is that—as a whole—the news media, television, radio, and the movie industry are controlled by people who are under the influence of Satan. They are demonic in their attitudes and thoughts.

Satan is gaining control and exerting influence because he's fighting for people's minds while the church is in their prayer closet trying to bind some demonic power. There is zero scriptural precedent for that. It's not the way they approached this in the Bible.

A few years ago, over 20,000 people traveled to Ephesus to do "spiritual warfare" and "bind" these demonic powers. Neither Jesus, Peter, nor Paul ever did that. They didn't encourage it. They never gathered people together to bind all the demonic powers in an area. They put their effort into preaching the Gospel and sharing God's Word. They prayed like the early believers in Acts 4.

Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. Acts 4:29,30

Then the place was shaken by the power of the Holy Spirit, and they went out boldly sharing the Gospel, (v. 31.) They saw their world changed—not through "spiritual warfare" and "intercession," but through the preaching of the Gospel.

DECLAW SATAN

Every believer ought to pray. It's an important part of an intimate relationship with God. I'm not against prayer, but there isn't any such thing as a "ministry of intercession." We're all supposed to pray, but we're all supposed to go out and do something too. Some people are using "intercession" as a cop-out to keep from sharing the Word of God.

The devil doesn't mind you praying as long as you're into this "spiritual warfare" and "intercession" stuff. Satan himself has inspired much of it. He has you out there fighting a ghost figure. It's as if the devil is projecting a hologram and causing you to see an enemy coming in a certain area.

Satan has the body of Christ busy fighting battles and tearing things down that don't even exist. Sure Satan exists and his power exists, but he's not this all-powerful force that the intercessors have made him out to be.

Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Satan doesn't have the power to control people. He's using nothing but the same human power and authority that were given to mankind. Therefore, he can't do anything to you without your consent and cooperation. Yes, we have an enemy who would like to destroy mankind as a whole, and each of us individually. How do we deal with this? Do we go directly to the devil and bind him? No. We deal with our thoughts. Satan can only influence us and gain our consent and cooperation through our thoughts. That's the reason Jesus said:

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

The only power Satan has is in lies and deception. That's the reason the truth makes you free. Once you know the truth, deception no longer has any power. It's declawed. The church's strength is in preaching the Gospel and sharing God's Word.

DEMONS WERE PRESENT

We do need to pray so we can be sensitive to God, yield to Him, hear clearly, and be bold to speak, but we don't need to do fifteen to twenty hours worth of "spiritual warfare" to prepare things before. Just go in and preach the Gospel. The Word of God will change the atmosphere. As you preach the truth, the truth will cause demons to flee.

Jesus didn't do "spiritual warfare" the way it's being promoted today. It's been given a status and a position that it never should have had. There's a lot of weirdness going on in the body of Christ nowadays in the name of "spiritual warfare."

If Jesus couldn't keep Satan out of His last supper with His disciples, then you can't keep the devil out of your church or city by your "spiritual warfare."

There is no New Testament model for this "spiritual warfare" and "intercession" belief and practice. Some of this is being taught from Scripture, but they're using Old Testament scriptures—and there's a huge difference between the way things were done in the Old Testament and the way they are done in the New Testament.

Chapter 24 - One Mediator (*Old Test vs. New Test*)

God was opposed to man because of our sin, so under the Old Covenant, Moses served as a mediator. He said, "God, repent. Turn from Your fierce wrath," and God did. However, if Moses were to pray that way today on this side of the cross, he'd be antichrist.

Antichrist means against or instead of Christ. If Moses were to plead with God to turn from His fierce wrath today, he'd be acting against Jesus' mediation. By thinking, what Christ did is not enough; I need to add to it, he'd be trying to take Jesus' place. It was appropriate for Moses to pray the way he did under the Old Covenant because Jesus hadn't come yet. But now that Jesus has come and we're under the New Covenant, there's only one mediator between God and man—the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Tim. 2:5.)

That's why you're wrong to "intercede," begging and pleading with God for His mercy today. God's mercy has already been poured out to us through the Lord Jesus Christ. He's no longer angry with us over sin.

The New Testament is clear. Jesus bore the wrath of God for our sin. That's why God's not mad at you—He isn't even in a bad mood!

A MAJOR DIFFERENCE

Jesus has already satisfied God's anger and secured His mercy for these people and places.

Since God's wrath toward sin has been appeased through the sacrifice of Christ, does that mean we don't have any problems? Of course not! Through sin and unbelief, we're in the process of destroying ourselves. We've opened up doors to the devil and he's taking full advantage of them.

It's very appropriate to pray, "Father, I thank You that Jesus has already secured Your mercy and grace on our behalf. Thank You that You aren't out to destroy our city and country. However, we're giving place to the devil. We're about to destroy ourselves. So Father, please give me wisdom and boldness to share Your Word and demonstrate Your power to others."

(THE WAR IS OVER)

There is a major difference between the Old and New Covenants. In the Old Testament, people like Moses pled with God, saying, "Lord, turn from Your fierce wrath." But in the New Testament, there's only one mediator between God and man, Christ Jesus. He has forever satisfied the demands and wrath of God. (John 10:10.) Yes, our city needs to change. Yes, our country needs to repent and turn to God. But it's not so we won't be judged. Since God has already placed upon His Son the judgment our sins deserved, we don't have to be judged.

If we don't seek God, there will be plenty of problems. But that's because we're yielding ourselves to Satan, and he's going to steal, kill, and destroy whomever, whenever, and wherever he can.

APOLOGIZE TO WHOM?

"If God were to judge our country, He'd have to apologize to Jesus." Why? The reason is that Christ bore our punishment, judgment, and separation so that we wouldn't have to. God has already placed His wrath upon His own Son at the cross, so He's not about to judge us.

Our country is perilously close to being destroyed—not because of God's judgment, but because of Satan's inroads. When you yield yourself to the devil through sin, you become his defenseless servant.

Remember, he comes for no other purpose but to steal, kill, and destroy. It's foolish to yield to Satan. We need to submit ourselves to God.

Chapter 25 - The Battle Is In Your Mind

Concerning the believer's authority, we need to recognize that Satan has already been dealt with by God. Since Jesus endured God's wrath at the cross, He isn't pouring it out upon us today. Our job is to stand in faith and enforce what the Lord has already done through His death, burial, and resurrection. One way we do this is by telling people the truth.

The battle is in your mind. Satan isn't controlling people through some demonic power. He's controlling them through lies and deceptions.

By telling the truth, lies are exposed and people are set free. So much of this "spiritual warfare" and "intercession" teaching denies the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. That's not smart.

Jesus is the New Testament Intercessor who ended all Old Covenant intercession. There's now no need to beg for mercy or to tell God to repent. New Testament believers praise God for what He's already done and offer themselves as a vessel for the Lord to work through.

The real focus needs to be on the way we think. Don't just pray for someone and wait on God to touch that person without human intervention. God flows through people. He uses us. We must preach the Gospel.

You can't just pray and get a person saved, healed, or anything. You must speak God's Word. Faith for salvation, healing, and everything else comes by hearing the Word of God.

A MUCH BETTER JOB

When Jesus died, He forever satisfied the wrath of God. God placed the punishment for our rebellion and sins upon Jesus.

As an individual, you may feel like you deserve the wrath of God. You don't doubt that God exists. You just don't think He'll do anything for you because you know you aren't living life the way you should. God is speaking to you right now, saying, "Jesus has already borne your punishment. He's already suffered your pain. I'm not the one bringing tragedy into your life."

You might be thinking, but I have all kinds of problems. Surely, God is judging me. **No, you yielded yourself to Satan and he comes to steal, kill, and destroy.** (John 10:10.) So yes, your life may be a mess—but it's not because God's wrath is upon you and He's judging you.

God placed His wrath over your sins upon Jesus, and all you must do is humble yourself and receive the forgiveness He offers as a free gift. You don't have to beg and plead with the Lord to save you. He's already done it. He's already dealt with your sin through the atoning sacrifice of His Son.

POWERFUL PROOF

You don't need to plead with God to turn His heart toward us. His heart is already toward us because He loves us. **This country is in the process of being destroyed because of our own wickedness and yielding to Satan. However, God wants to redeem this country and see us wholeheartedly turn back to Him.** He needs Christians to come out of their prayer closets and stop begging Him for what Jesus has already provided. He needs believers to stand up in faith and start taking this good news to others: "God isn't mad. He's not even in a bad mood. God isn't ticked off. He loves you and wants you to be free." Tell people the truth because it's the truth that will set them free. (John 8:32.)

(EVANGELISM NUGGETS - DONE)

It's not up to God whether the lost get saved or not. He's already made the atonement and paid for their sins. He's extended forgiveness and abundant life, but they aren't receiving. He's sent the Holy Spirit to deal with people and convict them, but they're resisting Him. One of the biggest reasons people aren't making the right choice is because they aren't hearing the good news of the Gospel. They're being lied to by the devil.

God always backs up His truth with power. (Mark 16:20.) We need to believe the Word and trust the Holy Spirit to demonstrate that power. Jesus had to have miracles to validate what He was saying. He told the religious Jews that if they couldn't believe because of His words, then to believe because of His miracles. (John 10:38.) If Jesus needed to have proof for people to believe that He was sent from God and speaking the truth, then we do too. We need to start sharing God's Word and demonstrating His supernatural power. Then people will turn to the Lord.

SHARE THE TRUTH

Some of the doctrines that are held most dear in the body of Christ today have been established by the devil. (1 Tim. 4:1.) These lies have been rendering us ineffective.

When the truth comes to people, it begins to tear down the lies, deceptions, and strongholds of the devil. Faith can't rise in someone's heart unless you share the truth with them. God told Jeremiah: "Because you speak this word, Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, And this people wood, And it shall devour them..... "Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Jeremiah 5:14; 23:29

This is the reason we must speak the Word. Somehow or another, we've gotten away from this. We've been diverted and distracted, putting so much of our energy into begging God to do what He's already done. That's ineffective. We've been in prayer closets binding Satan and commanding him to let people go, thinking that if we

pray hard enough people will get born again. That's not true. The Word says that people must be born again by the incorruptible seed of God's Word. (1 Pet. 1:23.)

Chapter 26 - Fight To Win!

Satan doesn't have the power to make me do anything. This old saying, "The devil made me do it" is absolutely wrong. Satan can't make you do anything. All he can do is lie to you. Then, if you believe his lie, you empower him to accomplish his will. But he can't do anything to you without your consent and cooperation. This is the reason the battle isn't against demonic powers directly. Satan has been stripped. His only power is deception.

That's how he came against Adam and Eve. Satan didn't come in some intimidating animal like a tiger, bear, or mammoth. He chose the most subtle, cunning, crafty animal and came against them with words—deception. Satan chose the snake because he knew he had no power to force Eve into doing anything. He used words to deceive her.

If Eve would have evaluated those words and refused to allow those ungodly thoughts to influence her, she wouldn't have been tempted. If she would have refused to listen to or think anything that countered what God had said, she wouldn't have committed that sin and plunged the whole human race under the authority and dominion of the devil. This all happened through words, and it's still happening today. Satan is fighting us with words and thoughts.

CHOOSE WISELY

The battle is right between your ears. It's not out there somewhere in the heavenly places. It's in your head. Every word you hear either releases life or death. Words that are based on and are in line with the Word of God release life. Words that are inconsistent with what God says minister death.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Proverbs 18:21

It's either life or death, one or the other. What are you listening to? What are you saying?

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. Matthew 12:36,37

Every word you speak and every word you hear are either producing life or death.

Everything you listen to on radio, television, or movies is ministering either life or death. If you disagree with these truths from God's Word, you're deceived. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." 1 Corinthians 15:33

I'm not suggesting that you move into a monastery and take a vow of silence. I'm encouraging you to recognize life and death, and to exercise more self-control in what you're choosing. Every television and radio I've ever seen had an On/Off knob and multiple stations to choose from. You don't have to sit in front of the set and just passively take whatever is offered to you. Choose wisely.

You need to recognize that Satan is fighting you with negative words. You can't change the fact that every word you hear is either releasing death or life, but you can change whether you listen to it or not. You don't have to swallow it and believe it. You can get to where you're constantly listening to words that minister life, but the choice is up to you.

RENEW YOUR MIND

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord. 2 Peter 1:2

It's through the knowledge of God that grace and peace are multiplied unto us. Satan knows this, which is why he battles us in our mind.

Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2

Metamorphoo is the Greek word rendered "transformed." It's where we get the English word "metamorphosis." If you want to change from being something creepy, crawly, and earthbound into something beautiful that can fly, then you need to **renew your mind**.

Many people are trying to take a shortcut. They keep their mind in the gutter, listening to all the things of the world. They allow the sewage of this world to flow through them, but they want the results that God produces. They think, If I just pray and ask, I can receive. There's more to it than just praying and believing. You must also cooperate with God's spiritual laws. God operates through us when we get our heart and mind stayed upon Him. However, Satan hinders God through our thoughts.

WORD-MINDED

To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:6

If you want to experience life and peace, then you need to become spiritually minded. Jesus said: The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63

Being spiritually minded is being Word-minded. It's thinking on what God has to say about your situation instead of what the world has to say. If you are Word-minded, you'll have life and peace. Grace and peace will be multiplied to you as you continually think on the knowledge of God. You can't think negatively—adopting the mindset of the world—and then experience the life, grace, and peace of God. It doesn't work that way.

If you swallow in all of the fear, doubt, and unbelief in the evening news, you'll be in turmoil. But if you listen to and go by the Word of God, you'll have life, grace, and peace.

Through God's Word, I know I'm protected. "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, says the Lord." Isaiah 54:17

There are many times when I talk back to the television and radio. We'll be listening to the news, and they'll say, "It's flu season." I'll declare, "There is no season where the Word of God doesn't work. By His stripes, I have been healed. I'm not getting the flu!" This is what it means to condemn the words that come against us. Even if many people around me are affected, I'll be safe and sound.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Psalm 91:7,8

In addition to protection, God's Word promises prosperity, healing, and deliverance. If you will keep your mind fixed on God, these promises will work for you. Remind yourself of how God protected, prospered, healed, and delivered other people in the Word. Keep those thoughts in the forefront of your thinking, and you'll have peace. But if you allow your mind to go the way the world is thinking—fear, doubt, and unbelief—you'll have all those things instead. It really is this simple.

THE ANTIDOTE TO ANY PROBLEM

Grace and peace come through the way you think. Think properly, and you'll have grace, joy, life, and peace. These

don't come by prayer, but through the knowledge of God.

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue. 2 Peter 1:3

All things that pertain to life and godliness come through the knowledge of God. It's not "some things" or "a few things," but "all things." This means that if you are sick in your body, you have a **knowledge problem**. If you're poor, you have a **knowledge problem**. If you're depressed, you have a **knowledge problem**.

The antidote to any problem is the knowledge of God.

Most people don't believe that. They think that if you have an emotional problem, you go take a pill for it. "This problem has nothing to do with me and my choices. I don't have any responsibility whatsoever. It's just the way my hormones are—my chemistry. It's what so-and-so did to me." All of these excuses are wrong in light of God's Word. You need to accept responsibility, go to the Bible, and start thinking according to the Word. The key is how you think.

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Isaiah 26:3

By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:4

Through the knowledge of God, we are given exceedingly great and precious promises. The Word of God is the knowledge of God. It's God's thoughts. These promises are the knowledge of God. We become partakers of God's divine nature and escape the corruption that is in the world through lust by the knowledge of God—not through **begging for it in prayer or pleading for God to move**. You must get your thinking straightened out. (Prov. 23:7.)

If you think on things that provide you with temptation, then an opportunity to sin will come. But if you refuse to think on things that gender temptation, you won't be tempted. That's good news!

You can't be tempted by what you don't think.

Our culture has convinced us that we need to be "informed" about all of the junk, rottenness, and perversion going on out in the world. God's Word teaches us otherwise. "I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil." Romans 16:19

We are to be simple—ignorant—of evil. The Lord doesn't want us to be well versed in these things. The original temptation Adam and Eve fell for was the desire to know more—to know good and evil. God had already given them all the knowledge they needed. Everything He told them was good. God doesn't want us to know evil.

Yet, today we feel like we need to know all kinds of evil—what everyone else is doing. By doing so, you open yourself up to temptation. We need to win the battle for our mind. We need to quit exposing ourselves to all of the junk that Satan is offering through this world, and get to where all we do is think on God's Word. If the Word of God is all we meditate on, then God's Word is all we'll be tempted with. That's the way it works.

YOU CAN WIN

Are you someone who has to fight temptation tooth and nail? Are you holding on with white knuckles, yet you can't understand why it's so hard to live for God? If so, most likely the reason is that you allow so much junk to be planted in you. You're trying to rebuke lust, sexual addiction, and pornography by doing "spiritual warfare" against these demons, yet you're sitting there listening to and watching this garbage every day on television, which encourages sin.

The sad thing is that most Christians allow this stuff into their home. They expose their children to it (through television and other media), and then wonder why they're having problems. They're doing "spiritual warfare" and "intercession" so that their kids will grow up to be godly people, but then they just allow Satan to deposit his perversion and unbelief in them. The devil loves it when parents use the television as a babysitter so they don't have to pay any attention to their kids.

We've allowed things into our lives and then wondered, Why am I so tempted? Why is the Christian life so hard to live? It's hard because Satan comes at us through the way we think. He can do nothing to you without your consent and cooperation. We need to start being selective about what we let into our eyes, ears, and hearts.

Your life will go in the direction of your dominant thoughts. Don't let the junk of this world fill your mind. Set your heart to seek the Lord and meditate on His Word. The battle truly is in your mind. You can win this fight, but you must fight to win!

CONCLUSION

Now that you realize the spiritual dynamics behind what's happening in the physical realm, you recognize that we're truly in a spiritual battle! You understand the spiritual significance of your choices, words, and actions. And you recognize that the battlefield is in your mind. Whom you yield to—God or Satan—is whom you empower to work in and through your life. (Rom. 6:16.) Therefore, submit to God, resist the devil—and he will flee from you! (James 4:7.)

I pray this newfound awareness will motivate you to meditate daily on the truths of God's Word. Let them **penetrate your heart and renew your mind**. Then you'll find yourself thinking God's thoughts, speaking His Word, and acting in faith. You'll discover more of God's laws and how to cooperate with them.

As you take responsibility to exercise your God-given authority, you'll enjoy more and more of the abundant life Jesus died and resurrected to provide.

Book is 238 pages