

Life in the Red Letters – 4

“Praying Prayers that Bind the Enemy”

We are studying the red-letter teachings of Jesus regarding prayer. Today we will get some insight from Christ Jesus concerning how to deal with the spiritual forces of the enemy.

We need to know how to deal with demonic oppression and/or demonic interference.

The apostle Paul identifies our enemy well in Ephesians 6:10-12, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Who is Satan?

How does he operate?

How do we fight against the enemy?

Who is Satan?

- 1) Short answer: Satan is a spirit being who opposes God and seeks to frustrate His plans and lead His people into rebellion.
- 2) His names reveal how he operates in the world and against God’s people:
 - a) The Adversary: The Hebrew word for *Satan* is a literal translation of “Adversary.” The word *Devil* comes from the Greek translation of this Hebrew word.

1Peter 5:8 – “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

Note: Lions are always looking for easy prey. The weak and/or immature are most often attacked first.
 - b) The Accuser:
 - i) Job 1:6 NLT – “One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them.”
 - ii) Revelation 12:10 – “And I heard a loud voice in Heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of His

Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

c) The Prince (or ruler) of the Power of the Air:

- i) Ephesians 2:1,2 – “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.”
- ii) Notice what Satan says to Christ in the wilderness testing concerning his power. Luke 4:5,6 – “And the devil took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, **6** and said to Him, ‘To You I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.’”

Satan’s authority was delivered to him via Adam’s sin. He did not have power over mankind until Adam gave it away.

However, the good news is, we have a second Adam who came to deliver us from Satan’s authority and control.

d) The god of this World:

- i) 2 Corinthians 4:4 – “In their case, the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

Satan is quite busy deceiving those who are under his control. This is why most people cannot see Christ Jesus or believe the good news of the cross.

- ii) He is the god of his angels also: Matthew 25:41 – “Then He will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

How Does He Operate?

- 1) He operates in the spiritual realm controlling the systems of unbelievers.

Eph. 6:12 – “... spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”

- 2) The Adversary works in four ways attempting to frustrate God’s plans and lead God’s people into rebellion.

- a) Deception - In the Garden of Eden, the serpent deceived Eve.

- b) Desires – In the wilderness, Satan tried to use Jesus’ desires against Him. His desire for food; His desire for power; His desire for things.
 - i) Desire for love can be turned to lust.
 - ii) Desire for things can be turned to greed.
 - iii) Desire for success in life can be turned into a controlling spirit.
- c) Disasters – Just as Satan attacked Job, the spiritual forces of the enemy are always looking for opportunities to bring calamity upon our lives.
- d) Discouragement – If you lose your joy and confidence with God, you will lose your strength. The joy of the Lord is your strength.

Bottom line is control! Satan and his spiritual forces of evil are seeking every chance to exert control over your life.

How do we Fight Against the Enemy?

1) Understanding our Authority

Luke 10:19 – “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.”

Mark 3:14-15 – “And He appointed twelve (whom He also named apostles) so that they might be with Him and He might send them out to preach **15** and have authority to cast out demons.”

- a) When Jesus called the Twelve, He called them so that they might do three things.
 - i) “be with Him.”
 - ii) “to preach”
 - iii) “cast out demons”

Dealing with the devil is part of our calling!

- b) We have authority to bind and loose.

Matthew 16:13-19 – “Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ **14** And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ **15** He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ **16** Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ **17** And Jesus

answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in Heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **19** I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

i) Keys are important!

(1) Keys are symbolic of authority.

(2) Keys bring with it a measure of responsibility.

(3) Keys give us the power to unlock things!

ii) Binding and Loosing

(1) Jesus has given to the church collectively, authority in the spiritual realm to permit and/or to release Kingdom things through prayer.

Read Matthew 18:18-20 – “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. **19** Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in Heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them.”

(2) There is authority in agreement! When we come into agreement with Heaven and with one another, we come into incredible authority!

2) Using His Name

Mark 16:17,18 – “And these signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; **18** they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

a) These **signs** belong to every generation. According to Jesus, casting out demons, speaking in tongues, supernatural protection and healing ministries should be a normal part of the believer's life.

b) Jesus refers to power being released in prayers prayed in His name 10 times in the Scripture.

i) “In the name of Jesus” is not a formula to be repeated.

- ii) Praying in the name of Jesus means to believe and stand in the authority of Christ and not your own authority.

Acts 3:6 – “But Peter said, ‘I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!’”

3) Unrelentless in our Prayer Life

Mark 9:25-29 – “And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, ‘You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.’ **26** And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, ‘He is dead.’ **27** But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. **28** And when he had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, ‘Why could we not cast it out?’ **29** And he said to them, ‘This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.’”

- a) There are degrees of difficulty when dealing with demonic opposition.
- b) The answer to difficult demonic opposition? Intensified and unrelenting prayer!
 - i) A prayed-up life
 - ii) A prayed-up life that is filled with faith
 - iii) A prayed-up life that is able to use the authority in the Name of Jesus