

HOW TO HELP YOUR PASTOR SUCCEED

Session 8:

Engaging in Spiritual Warfare

Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)

Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit..

Spiritual warfare is simply
enforcing the victory Christ
won for us on the cross.

Read Acts 4:24-31

**There are levels to Spiritual
Warfare**

How did the Early Church

Enforce Christ's Victory

- Recognized God's Sovereignty. Acts 4:24;28
- Acknowledge the opposition. Acts 4:25b-27
- Asked and Received. Acts 4:29-31

Level 1: Lower Ranking Demons

Comparable to privates or corporals in the U.S. Army

This level of demon harasses:

- **The church**
- **Tries to put up obstacles to the gospel**
- **Makes people physically or mentally ill.**
- **Goes from one generation to another.**

So whose responsibility is it to

ENFORCE Christ's Victory?

- Our Pastor
- Our Leaders
- Our Member



Acts 20:17(NIV)

17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.

Acts 20:28-31(NIV)

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God,[a] which he bought with his own blood.[b] 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

Acts 20:28-31(NIV)

30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

3 Ways to ENFORCE Christ's

Victory in our Lives.

- Check yourself. Psalm 139:23-24
- Be watchful. 1 Peter 5:8
- Check others Acts 20:30

Level 2: Higher Ranking Demons

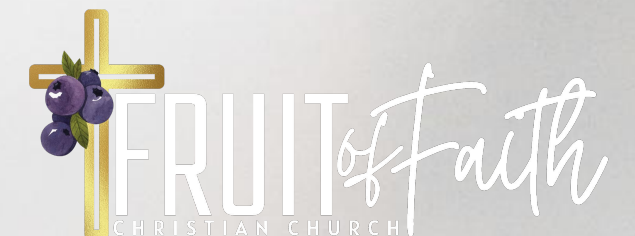
Involves religions, the occult, and satanism.

- **Obsession** - Spirits that follow upon certain people to outwardly trouble them at various times of the day.
- **Possession** - Spirits that enter inwardly into a person to trouble them.

Can a believer be possessed?

Matthew 17:14-18(NIV)

14 When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. 15 “Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said. “He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. 16 I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.”



Matthew 17:14-18

17 “You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.” 18 Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment.

Believers have been filled by the Holy Spirit, and he will not allow a demon to possess HIS dwelling.

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ~1 Corinthians 3:16(NIV)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ~1 Corinthians 6:19(NIV)



What happens when a believer rejects the faith? Can they become demon possessed?

4 For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— 6 and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

There is PROTECTION in GOD.

We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. 1 John 5:18(NIV)

**Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with his
feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
Psalm 91:3-4(NIV)**

Level 3: Strategic Level

The generals and officers in Satan's Army

- Gain strongholds over families, businesses, neighborhoods, cities, tribes, cultures, and nations.

“They put roots down in a city and guarded like a junkyard dog.”

Monster in Lansing
Read pages 102-109

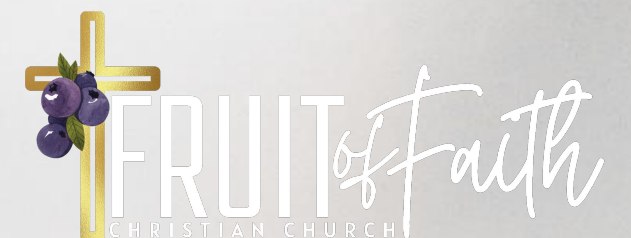


Identifying Stronghold

Spiritually, a stronghold represents a mental or emotional barrier, a fixed mindset or pattern of thinking that hinders spiritual growth and keeps one captive to negative influences.

We know the devil has set up a stronghold when situations or circumstances do not make sense.

James 1:6-8(NIV)



Identifying Stronghold

- Hinders the work of God in your life.
James 1:6-8(NIV)
- Fear arises.

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7(NIV)

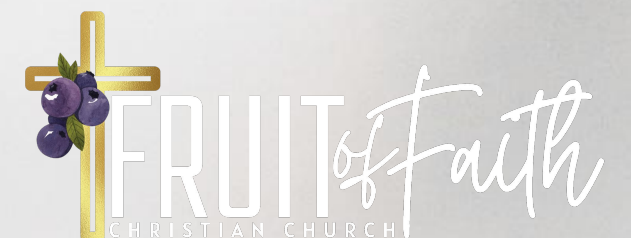
Believing God's Word Breaks

3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. ~ 2 Corinthians 10:3-5(NIV)

Everything Is NOT Spiritual

Warfare

Even as believers, we will face hardships - sometimes even because of our faith! Jesus promised this, and the Church has always experienced this reality. Not every hardship in life is spiritual warfare. As they say, "don't look for a demon under every rock."



Everything Is NOT Spiritual

Obedience

Warfare

Disobedience

- Strengthening our Faith.

James 1:2-4

- Believing more in yourself than in God.

Romans 12:3

- Confirming we are in God's Will.

John 15:18-19

- Choosing what you want over what God wants for you.

Romans 1:28

- Be MORE like CHRIST.

Galatians 2:20

- Consequence of sin.

Romans 6:23



The Believers Authority

Christians are encouraged to remember that they have authority over demons through Jesus Christ, who has triumphed over the powers of darkness. As it says in Ephesians 6:10-12, believers are to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" and "put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes".



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Session 7:

ENFORCING CHRIST'S VICTORY