

A Warrior's Notes

Gaining and Maintaining Victory

““And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.”—**Mark 9:29**

“Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself... and the last state of that man is worse than the first.”—**Matthew 12:45**

These two verses teach one powerful spiritual principle: Victory gained must be victory maintained.

In **Mark 9:29**, Jesus reveals that some battles are only won through deep spiritual dependence—prayer and fasting.

In **Matthew 12:45**, Jesus warns that deliverance without devotion leads to disaster. A cleaned-out life that is not filled with Christ becomes a target for greater bondage.

Prayer and fasting are not just for breaking chains — they are for keeping chains broken. A heart that is emptied but not filled will be re-entered by something worse.

King Saul (**1 Samuel 10–16**).

Saul was:

Anointed by God

Given a new heart

Empowered by the Spirit.

Yet Saul stopped seeking God. He replaced prayer with pride, and obedience with self-will.

1 Samuel 16:14 – “But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.”

Like **Matthew 12:45**, Saul was once clean, but because he failed to maintain a prayer-filled, obedient life, something darker moved in. Deliverance was real — but devotion was missing.

Judas Iscariot (**Luke 22:3; John 13:27**).

Judas walked with Jesus. He preached. He witnessed miracles. But he never prayed with surrender. He never fasted in repentance. His heart remained empty.

Luke 22:3 – “Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot...”

Judas was around holiness but not filled with holiness — and the enemy found the door open.

Just like **Matthew 12:45**: The last state became worse than the first. Many people want deliverance without discipline.. They want freedom without filling. They want power without prayer. But Jesus said: “This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” And He also said: A swept house without God becomes a haunted house.