

Spiritual Warfare 5 Jim Logan: The Believer's Legal Position and Authority in Christ

The Believer's Legal Position in Christ — Sermon Recap

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Sermon Overview

- Speaker: Pastor Jim Logan
 - Focus: Understanding the believer's legal position and authority in Christ—especially in relation to spiritual warfare, the Cross, and daily discipleship.
 - Tone and method: A Scripture-rooted Bible study with pastoral anecdotes and practical applications for modern American culture.
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Opening Aim: Why Knowing Our Position Matters

- Aim:
 - Believers who do not know their identity and authority in Christ can be unnecessarily harassed by the forces of darkness.
 - Merely saying words is insufficient; authority must be rooted in God's truth and our position in Christ.
 - God is gracious and often acts for His people, but believers must learn and apply biblical authority.
 - Personal Context:
 - The pastor recounts a pivotal encounter with a demonized missionary that led him to seek formal training.
 - He insisted on taking a counseling course on demonic oppression at Moody Bible Institute (taught by Dr. Fred Dickason) out of pastoral responsibility to help missionaries and students.
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Exposure to Spiritual Realities and Pastoral Caution

- Training Experience:
 - Heard recordings of demons speaking through individuals—missionaries, their children, and Bible college students.
 - Pastoral concern: Playing such recordings can inadvertently instill fear; teaching should not glorify the enemy.
- Scripture Emphasis:
 - Highlighted scripture: **2 Timothy 1:7** — “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”
 - Insight: “Fear” is described as a spirit; God’s Spirit produces power, love, and soundness of mind.
 - Application: Testimonies and stories should nurture confidence in God, not fear.
- Household Disturbances:
 - Poltergeist activity noted as spirits tied to locations (unexplained movement of objects).
 - Counsel: Such disturbances can be addressed through understanding and exercising authority in Christ.

Victory in God’s Power

- Highlighted scripture: **Ephesians 3:20** — “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”
 - Theology:
 - God is able.
 - God acts (able to do).
 - God exceeds (“exceedingly, abundantly, above”).
 - Ground of victory: The power that works in us (the Holy Spirit).
 - Application: Spiritual warfare is faced with confidence in God’s indwelling power, not human techniques.

- Ongoing Ministry:
 - In nearly every Bible college, students sought prayer for demonic issues.
 - The pastor provided diligent follow-up (calls, materials) for up to a year.
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Crisis of Confidence and Team Support

- After Moody exposure, the pastor felt overwhelmed and resolved to avoid deliverance ministry.
 - A worker from New York arrived exhibiting signs of demonic oppression, forcing a choice to walk in faith.
 - The pastor sought help from his wife (unavailable) and then from a colleague trained in parapsychology who had taken the same course.
 - Colleague's testimony:
 - Academic parapsychology background; experienced "leaving the body" in class.
 - A symbolic image (rose with thorns) prompted reflection on Christ's crown of thorns, leading to conversion and missionary service—example of God drawing people from occult contexts.
 - Simple Prayer of Authority:
 - The pastor prayed simply: "Lord Jesus, this guy's full of demons. Would You please tell them to go?" Then commanded: "Would you guys please go?"
 - Outcome: The demons left; the pastor's confidence was renewed.
 - Admonition from colleague: "If you're not more assertive, you're not going to make it in this." Authority requires assertive, Christ-rooted engagement.
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Positional Truth and the Cross: Identity, Authority, Discipleship

Positional Truth: Knowing Who You Are Shapes How You Live

- Teaching tool: A CEF chart used internationally to help leaders integrate their "Christian world" and the "spirit world."
- Application:

- Shift from fear to faith by personally engaging Scripture—write, memorize, and apply positional truths to renew your mind and resist the enemy.

Discipleship: Denying Self and Following Christ

- Highlighted scripture: **Luke 9:23** — “If any will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”
 - Context:
 - Universal call from creature-centeredness (self-centered) to Christ-centeredness.
 - Two crosses: “His cross” (Jesus’ finished work) and “my cross” (daily surrender).
- Highlighted scripture: **Galatians 2:20** — “I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.”
 - Application:
 - Daily choice: Deny self, take up your cross, follow Jesus.
 - Habit: Rehearse “Dead to self, alive to Christ.”
 - Address anger: “Dead men have no rights.” Yield retained rights to the Holy Spirit.
 - Realistic struggle: Sanctification is ongoing; discern sources (flesh, world system, demonic pressure).

Freedom Through the Cross: Sin and Satan Defeated

- Highlighted scripture: **Hebrews 2:14–15** — Through death, Jesus destroyed the one who had the power of death (the devil) and delivered those enslaved by fear of death.
 - Teaching:
 - At the Cross: The sin question was settled and Satan’s power broken.
 - Application:
 - Ground counseling and self-care in the Cross’s victory.
 - Equip believers to help others find freedom—body-life ministry, not just specialized centers.

Gethsemane and the Sifting of Believers

- Highlighted scriptures:
 - **Luke 22:3** — “Then entered Satan into Judas...”
 - **Luke 22:31-32** — “Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not...”
 - **Luke 22:53** — “This is your hour, and the power of darkness.”
 - Context:
 - Luke 22 reveals intense demonic activity (Judas, Peter’s sifting, power of darkness during Jesus’ arrest).
 - Application:
 - Comfort and vigilance: Jesus intercedes for believers so their faith will not fail.
 - Honesty: Faith can falter when God does not explain His ways; trust His intercession and strengthen others after trials.
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The Hidden Victory: Demons Misread the Cross

- Highlighted scripture: **1 Corinthians 2:8** (see vv. 6-8) — “Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”
 - Teaching:
 - “Princes of this world” understood as demonic powers.
 - The enemy miscalculated; the Cross is their undoing.
 - Application:
 - Confidence: Do not be intimidated by a defeated foe.
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The Triumph at the Cross: Threefold Defeat of Demonic Powers

- Highlighted scripture: **Colossians 2:13-15** — Forgiveness of trespasses; legal demands nailed to the Cross; Jesus “spoiled principalities and powers,” “made a show of them openly,” and “triumphed over them in it.”
- Teaching:

- Two aspects of Jesus' death:
 - Forgiveness of all trespasses; legal debts removed.
 - Direct action against the spirit world.
 - Threefold Result:
 - a. Spoiled principalities and powers (depowered the enemy).
 - b. Publicly displayed their defeat.
 - c. Triumphed over them at the Cross.
 - Application:
 - Allegiance shift: Fear no longer belongs to defeated powers; allegiance is to Christ.
 - Daily stance: Know your identity in the crucified and risen Christ; refuse fear and stand in His victory.
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Do Not Give Ground: Practical Warfare

- Highlighted scripture: **Ephesians 4:27** — “Neither give place to the devil.”
 - Teaching:
 - The enemy seeks footholds (“beachheads”) to expand control; the battle is over ground (areas of life and obedience).
 - Application:
 - Identify and reclaim ground:
 - Recognize patterns of compromise or fear.
 - Renounce and resist; reassert Christ's Lordship.
 - Community practice:
 - Every believer should be able to help another believer find freedom; this is core body-life.
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Made Alive and Seated with Christ: Ephesians Foundations

Our Past and Present in Ephesians 2:1-6

- Highlighted scripture: **Ephesians 2:1-3** — “And you hath He made alive... ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air...”
 - Who God Is:
 - The One who makes the spiritually dead alive; rich in mercy and great in love.
 - Who We Were:
 - Dead in trespasses and sins; under the influence of the “prince of the power of the air.”
 - Application:
 - Recognize spiritual battle in evangelism, especially among vulnerable populations.
 - Engage through prayer, not mere verbal correction.
- Practical Examples of Prayer in Warfare:
 - Inner-city classroom (Philadelphia): An assistant prayed against spiritual forces; order was restored without confrontation.
 - Summer missionary teams: One shared the gospel while the other prayed; more children responded to Christ.
 - Navigator bar witness: Listener’s receptivity tracked with intercessory prayer—illustrating spiritual blinding and the power of prayer.
- Highlighted scripture: **Ephesians 2:4-6** — “But God... hath made us alive together with Christ... raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”
 - Who God Is:
 - Rich in mercy and great in love; unites believers to Christ’s life, resurrection, and enthronement.
 - Who We Are:
 - Alive in Christ, raised with Him, and seated with Him in the heavenly places.
 - Application:
 - Live from our seated position: the spiritual realm is “under our feet.”

- Exercise God-given authority over spiritual forces in evangelism, discipleship, counseling, and daily obedience.

Paul's Prayer and Christ's Exaltation: Ephesians 1:15–23

- Highlighted scripture: **Ephesians 1:15–19** — Paul prays believers would receive “the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him... that ye may know... the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe...”
 - Context:
 - Ephesus steeped in demonic religion (Artemis/Diana), paralleling modern occult/New Age.
 - Who God Is:
 - Grants wisdom and revelation by the Holy Spirit; enlightens believers to know Him, their calling, inheritance, and His power.
 - Who We Are:
 - Heirs with a rich inheritance; called to stand in the light and know God's power toward believers.
 - Application:
 - Pray for deeper knowledge of God to stand firm in cultural darkness.
 - Seek enlightened understanding to discern unseen spiritual dynamics.
 - Pursue awareness of our birthright in Christ to live victoriously.
 - Highlighted scripture: **Ephesians 1:20–23** — God raised Christ, seated Him far above all principalities and powers; “put all things under His feet” and made Him head over all to the Church.
 - Who God Is:
 - The Sovereign Who decisively defeated the spiritual realm and enthroned Christ above it.
 - Who We Are:
 - Members of Christ's body; we share in His victory.
 - Application:
 - Jesus is seated because the work is finished; the spirit world is under His feet—and, as His body, under ours.
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Positional Authority: Broader New Testament Witness

- Highlighted scripture: **1 Peter 3:22** — Jesus is at the right hand of God; angels, authorities, and powers are made subject to Him.
 - Application:
 - Rest in Christ's supremacy while ministering; the demonic realm is subordinated to Jesus.
- Highlighted scripture: **1 Corinthians 6:2-3** — "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world... we shall judge angels?"
 - Application:
 - Do not be intimidated by the demonic; their end is judgment.
 - Encourage believers under oppression: their future authority will be exercised over the very spirits that assailed them.
- Highlighted scripture: **Philippians 2:9-11** — The Father highly exalted Jesus; every knee bows, every tongue confesses Jesus Christ is Lord.
 - Application:
 - Expect spiritual agitation at Jesus' name, but be assured: every power must bow to Him.
 - Use the name of Jesus properly and reverently in prayer and ministry.

Recommended Resource and Context

- Clinton E. Arnold on Ephesians (Cambridge Press):
 - Focuses on "power" language in Ephesians; extensive annotations and historical-religious background on Ephesus.
 - Arnold's journey from skepticism to the acknowledgment of demons.
 - Useful for pastors and seminary students; parallels to New Age practices in American culture.

Examples and Pastoral Illustrations

- Youth discipleship:

- Resistance to surrender (music, dating) often impedes growth: “When I hold on, I lose; when I give it to Him, I gain.”
 - Humor and honesty: Anecdote from a Christian high school on “spiritual dating.”
 - “Dead men have no rights” as a practical lens for anger management.
 - Sanctification is ongoing—not solved by a one-time altar moment.
 - Ministry pattern:
 - Regular prayer for afflicted students at Bible colleges with dedicated long-term follow-up.
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Who God Is and How He Responds to Humans

- God is able, acts, and exceeds human limitations (**Ephesians 3:20**).
 - God grants His Spirit characterized by power, love, and a sound mind (**2 Timothy 1:7**).
 - God calls universally to follow Him through self-denial and cross-bearing (**Luke 9:23**).
 - God intercedes for believers during seasons of sifting (**Luke 22:31–32**).
 - God, through the Son’s Cross, decisively judged sin and broke the devil’s power (**Hebrews 2:14–15, Colossians 2:13–15**).
 - God raised and enthroned Jesus far above all spiritual entities and placed all things under His feet (**Ephesians 1:20–23**).
 - God makes believers alive, raises and seats them with Christ (**Ephesians 2:4–6**).
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Who You Are in Christ and How You Are to Live

- Identity:
 - Crucified with Christ; alive to God (**Galatians 2:20, cf. Romans 6**).
 - Forgiven of all trespasses; legal debts nailed to the Cross (**Colossians 2:13–14**).
 - United to the risen, enthroned Christ; seated with Him (**Ephesians 2:6**).
 - Future co-judges with Christ over the world and angels (**1 Corinthians 6:2–3**).
- Daily Practice:
 - Deny self; take up your cross daily; follow Jesus (**Luke 9:23**).

- Relinquish “rights” that fuel anger; yield to the Spirit’s control (“Dead men have no rights”).
- Refuse fear; recognize it as spiritual attack; receive God’s Spirit of power, love, sound mind (**2 Timothy 1:7**).
- Do not give ground; identify and reclaim footholds given to the enemy (**Ephesians 4:27**).
- Pair proclamation with intercession in evangelism and counseling (Ephesians prayer model).
- Help others walk into freedom; freedom ministry is body-life for every believer.

Key Points

1. Believers must know their legal position and authority in Christ to withstand the forces of darkness.
2. Fear can be a spiritual attack; God replaces it with His Spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (**2 Timothy 1:7**).
3. God’s ability and power at work in believers far exceed human capacity (**Ephesians 3:20**).
4. Deliverance ministry should be grounded in Scripture, exercised with assertive confidence in Christ, and handled pastorally without glorifying the enemy.
5. Training and community support matter; pastoral responsibility includes equipping, prayer, and follow-up.
6. Jesus calls believers from creature-centeredness to Christ-centeredness (**Luke 9:23**).
7. At the Cross, sin and Satan were decisively judged (**Hebrews 2:14–15**).
8. Luke 22 reveals active demonic opposition and Jesus’ intercession during sifting (**Luke 22:3, Luke 22:31–32, Luke 22:53**).
9. Demons misread the Cross; had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory (**1 Corinthians 2:8**).
10. **Colossians 2:13–15** shows a threefold defeat of demonic powers: spoiled, publicly shamed, and triumphed over at the Cross.
11. Believers must not give the devil a foothold; identify and reclaim ground (**Ephesians 4:27**).

12. Believers are made alive, raised, and seated with Christ; the spirit world is under our feet (**Ephesians 2:1–6, Ephesians 1:20–23**).
 13. Freedom ministry is for the whole church body; every believer can help another believer find freedom.
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Scriptures Cited

- 2 Timothy 1:7
 - Ephesians 3:20
 - Luke 9:23
 - Galatians 2:20
 - Hebrews 2:14–15
 - Luke 22:3
 - Luke 22:31–32
 - Luke 22:53
 - 1 Corinthians 2:6–8
 - Colossians 2:13–15
 - Ephesians 4:27
 - Ephesians 2:1–6
 - Ephesians 1:15–23
 - 1 Peter 3:22
 - 1 Corinthians 6:2–3
 - Philippians 2:9–11
 - Romans 6 (referenced for resurrection union)
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Suggested Next Steps (For Congregational Practice)

- Engage a blank positional truth chart; fill in and memorize scriptures to cement identity and authority in Christ.
- Practice daily declarations: “Dead to self; alive to Christ.”
- Inventory “ground” given to the enemy (habits, fears, resentments). Renounce and reclaim through prayer with Scripture.
- Go in pairs for ministry: one shares, one prays against spiritual blinding and opposition.
- Participate in body-life freedom ministry: humbly seek help and offer help, guiding one another into Christ’s freedom through the Word and prayer.

Closing Prayer Emphasis

- Gratitude for being “in Christ” (a phrase used frequently in Ephesians before spiritual wrestling is addressed).
 - Affirmation: In Christ, all forces of darkness are under our feet because He is enthroned above all principalities and powers.
 - Petition: For daily sufficiency, grace, wisdom, and power to choose rightly and walk in victory in American culture today.
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Recommended Resource

- Clinton E. Arnold, scholarly work on Ephesians (Cambridge Press).
 - Focus: “Power” language; historical-religious background of Ephesus; parallels to modern occult/New Age.
 - Takeaway: Helps modern believers understand spiritual power dynamics and live from Christ’s superior authority.