

Spiritual Warfare 4 Jim Logan: Principalities and Powers

Spiritual Warfare: Standing in Christ's Finished Work

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Introduction & Ministry Update

The pastor began by providing an update on his current ministry. He is now freelancing with the International Center of Biblical Counseling, founded by Mark Bubeck, author of "The Adversary." The center's primary focus is not just counseling but training pastors and prayer groups within local churches to handle spiritual warfare. The goal is to equip the body of Christ to stand against spiritual attacks, rather than relying on a few specialized counselors who are overwhelmed with requests (sometimes 40-60 per week).

God's Promises for Victory

Before continuing the series on the Armor of God, the pastor shared two key promises from scripture.

- **Promise 1: Victory is Given Through Christ.**
 - **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:57 - "But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - **Context:** This promise emphasizes that our victory is not earned but is a gift secured by Jesus's work at Calvary. This is a foundational truth for spiritual warfare.
 - **Application:** We do not fight *for* victory; we fight *from* a position of victory that has already been won for us in Christ.

- **Promise 2: God Always Causes Us to Triumph.**
 - **Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV) - "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ..."

- **Context:** This reinforces the first promise, highlighting the consistent and perpetual nature of our triumph in Christ.
- **Application:** In every situation, regardless of how it feels, we can “always triumph” because our identity and standing are in Jesus.

A Note on Spiritual Warfare: The pastor noted the surprising lack of teaching on spiritual warfare he experienced throughout his years in Bible college and church attendance. He never heard a single message on **Ephesians 6**. This ignorance left him unprepared for the reality of the spiritual battles Christians face.

Review: The Armor of God (Part 1)

A brief review of the pieces of armor covered in the previous session:

- **The Belt of Truth:** Every attack from the enemy contains a lie. Therefore, we must gird ourselves with God’s truth to counteract Satan’s deception.
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness:** This refers to the imputed righteousness of Christ—His perfect righteousness credited to us. It protects our heart, as the accuser (Satan) can find no fault in Christ’s righteousness.

The Power of the Breastplate of Righteousness: A Personal Account

The pastor shared a powerful and unsettling personal story to illustrate the enemy’s hatred for the “breastplate of righteousness.”

- **The Situation:** He took on a marriage counseling case, which is outside his usual focus on demonic counseling. The couple was preparing for seminary. He admitted he was not as spiritually prepared as he normally would be, not having prayed for specific spiritual protection for the session.
- **The Trigger:** The wife repeatedly expressed feeling unworthy of being a pastor’s wife because of her immoral past. Near the end of the session, the pastor sought to encourage her by saying, “You know what? You need is the **breastplate of righteousness**. That’s God’s imputed righteousness that will cover your heart and mind.”
- **The Attack:** At the mention of the breastplate of righteousness, the woman screamed “No!”, physically attacked the pastor, and fell to the floor writhing. A demonic voice spoke through her, saying, “She’s dirty, she’s dirty, she’s not righteous, she’s ours.”
- **The Aftermath & Lesson:** The experience was so shocking that a spirit of fear overtook the pastor for days. He felt overwhelmed and wanted to quit his ministry. He realized later that he was not resisting the spirit of fear as he should have.
- **God’s Intervention:** Days later, while still under a “cloud of heaviness” and fear, he reluctantly agreed to speak with a missionary. During their conversation,

this man also became manifested by spirits. However, instead of feeling fear, the pastor was filled with compassion. He reached out and grabbed the man's hand to pray for him. The moment he acted in love, the spirit of fear that had plagued him completely left and has not returned. This illustrates that acting in love and focusing on others can be a powerful weapon against fear.

The Armor of God (Part 2): Ephesians 6

The Shield of Faith

- **Description:** The Roman shield was not a small, round shield. It was large (approx. 4 ft. by 3 ft.), made of a wooden frame covered in leather. The leather was often wetted to "quench the fiery darts" of the enemy.
- **Unique Function:** These shields were designed to interlock. Soldiers could form a protective wall by locking shields together. They could also create a "roof" over their heads as they advanced on a city, protecting them from projectiles.
- **Application:** A teenager pointed out a powerful application: this is why we need prayer partners. When we are under attack, a prayer partner can "lock their shield with your shield," providing double the protection. We can stand with others in prayer, strengthening their defense against the enemy.

The Helmet of Salvation: Guarding the Mind with Hope

- **Clarification:** This piece of armor is not about getting saved, as Paul is writing to believers. The helmet's purpose is to protect the head—a critical area for a soldier. It is described as "the helmet of the hope of salvation" or "the hope of deliverance."
- **What This Teaches Us:**
 - **About God:** God provides specific, practical protection for every area of our lives, including our minds. He wants to guard our thoughts and He specializes in impossible and seemingly hopeless situations.
 - **About Who We Are:** We are soldiers in a spiritual battle who need to be fully equipped.
 - **How We Are to Live:** We must intentionally "put on" the helmet of hope to resist despair and trust God's intervention in "impossible" circumstances. The enemy's primary attack is to convince believers that their situation is "hopeless." When hopelessness governs the mind, discouragement, depression, and resignation follow. We must wear the helmet to protect our minds from the enemy's attacks, such as doubt, fear, and accusation.
- **Illustrative Anecdote: Mary "Was a Good Woman"**

- The pastor recalls his first sermon in Bible school, at Christmas, on Mary, mother of Jesus. Nervous and repetitive, he kept saying, “Mary was a good woman.”
- **Application from Mary’s story:** When the angel announced God’s plan, Mary initially perceived it as impossible. God’s response: He specializes in impossible and seemingly hopeless situations.

The Sword of the Spirit: Rhema vs. Logos

- The pastor stresses the importance of the “sword of the Spirit,” distinguishing Spirit-empowered “rhema” words from mere “logos” (general content).
- **Key Assertion:** Scripture not empowered by the Holy Spirit is “only words.” The effective weapon is the Word of God as empowered by the Spirit.
- **Practical Resource:** A guide developed by Bill Gothard for teenagers—“How to Get a Rhema from the Word of God.” The pastor offers to mail it upon request.

Misuse of Scripture and Spiritual Power

- The pastor critiques superstitious practices (e.g., placing an open Bible on a shaking bed after seeing “The Exorcist,” sliding a Bible under the bed, or treating Scripture like a talisman).
- **Warning:** Demons can quote Scripture accurately. Victory requires a right relationship with the Holy Spirit, not merely recitation of verses.

Right Relationship with the Holy Spirit

- **Scriptural Grounding:**
 - “Grieve not the Holy Spirit” — **Ephesians 4**. This context provides ethical instructions and relational holiness as prerequisites to spiritual warfare.
 - “Be filled with the Spirit” — **Ephesians 5**. This context describes Spirit-filled living—wisdom, worship, submission—as the environment for effective battle.
- **Principle:** You cannot fight spiritual battles in the flesh or while grieving/quenching the Spirit. The Spirit must empower the Word in your mouth for it to be effective against darkness.
- **Who God Is:** He is not a talisman to be manipulated, but a living Lord who works through relationship and obedience.

The Full Armor and an Additional Weapon: All Prayer

- The pastor corrects a common omission: There are two offensive weapons—

- The sword of the Spirit, and
- “All prayer” (supplication in the Spirit).
- **Call to Action:** Pray in harmony with the Holy Spirit, especially when confronting entrenched temptations.

Prayer Targets: Turning Attack into Counterattack

- **Context:** Men struggling with out-of-control lust (and other areas like anger) have found “prayer targets” effective.
- **Method:**
 - i. When attacked, first “quench” with the shield of faith and relevant Scripture.
 - ii. Then aggressively counterattack with assigned prayer targets.
- **Three Prayer Targets:**
 - i. **An Unsaved Person:** (e.g., your father) whose salvation would “do great damage” to Satan’s kingdom. Pray for the binding of the enemy, and that the light of the gospel shines into their heart.
 - ii. **A Backslidden Believer:** Pray specifically for their restoration and bold witness that harms Satan’s interests.
 - iii. **A Faithful Believer:** Pray for empowerment and boldness (as Paul requested), that their ministry would do significant damage to Satan’s kingdom.
- **Who We Are in Christ:** We are commissioned to participate in God’s victory by praying for salvation, restoration, and bold witness that harms the enemy’s kingdom. We can shift from perpetual defense to proactive spiritual offense.
- **Testimony of Fruit:** The pastor noted documented victories as men consistently turned attacks into targeted intercession. He gave an example from leaders in Africa who rejoiced, “We can attack Satan!”

Understanding Principalities and Powers: The Opposition

The sermon next established the reality of a hierarchy within the demonic realm. Not all demonic spirits are equal; some possess greater power and authority. The primary goal of these “ruling spirits” is to rule and extend the kingdom of darkness.

- **Scriptural References for Hierarchical Demonic Beings:**
 - **Romans 8:38–39:** Assurance—nothing in the ranks of spiritual beings can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

- **Ephesians 6:10–12:** Our struggle is against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness, and spiritual wickedness.
- **Colossians 1:16:** Christ’s supremacy—He created all thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities.
- **Colossians 2:15:** Christ’s victory—He disarmed rulers and authorities, triumphing over them at the cross.
- **Emphasis:** We stand against spiritual forces behind individuals and organizations, not merely human agents.
- **Exhortation:** “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may stand against the wiles of the devil.” After doing all to stand—keep standing (noted from Phillips’ rendering).
- **Example:** The pastor recounts witnessing a manifestation where one demonic spirit demonstrated power over another. He also shared a story from a Multnomah graduate about a region experiencing upheaval when a more powerful, previously unseen demon arrived, showing territorial dynamics.

1. Rulers of the Darkness of This World: Influencing Human Leaders

This section addresses a category of spiritual beings whose focus is to influence human leaders and structures of authority.

- **Belief:** Every worldly ruler has a ruling spirit assigned to them to influence their decisions, and every Christian leader has a spirit assigned to wear them out and cause discouragement.
- **The Enemy’s Twofold Attack on Authority Structures:**
 - **Attack on Leaders:** Tempting leaders to rule poorly or abdicate their role.
 - **Attack on Followers:** Tempting those under authority to rebel.
- **Our Response to Authority:**
 - **Who God Is:** God is the author of all authority structures, and He has established them for our protection.
 - **How We Are to Live:**
 - Rebellion is equated with the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23), voluntarily opening oneself to demonic influence. Stepping out from under God-ordained authority makes us vulnerable.
 - Instead of criticizing leadership, God commands us to pray for them. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 calls us to pray for all those in authority so that we may live peaceable and quiet lives.

- A Spirit-filled Christian should bring observed flaws to the Lord in prayer, not share them with others and cause division.
- **Application for Today's Culture:** If we spent as much time praying for our leaders as we do criticizing them, circumstances might change dramatically. The pastor gave two examples of this principle in action in the US:
 - A prominent lawyer shared how American liberties are being eroded by the Supreme Court refusing to hear cases, letting lower court decisions stand.
 - A national lawyer's association meeting focused on "How to sue church leaders and missions," showing how systems are used to attack the church.

2. Principalities: Rulers of Geographical Locations

This section defines "principalities" as demonic spirits appointed to rule over a specific geographical location, each with a strategy to hold its people in spiritual darkness.

- **Scriptural Context: Daniel, chapter 10,** provides a clear example. An angel was hindered for 21 days by the "prince of Persia" and mentioned the "prince of Greece" would also come, showing a battle against geographically-assigned demonic rulers.
- **The Influence of Principalities:**
 - **Who God Is:** God is more powerful than any principality, but He calls on us to engage in the spiritual battle.
 - **Who We Are & How We Are to Live:**
 - Demonic spirits primarily "influence" our thoughts, decisions, and lifestyle.
 - Living in a location under a powerful principality without resisting it can lead to being influenced and oppressed by it. This unseen pressure is a significant reason many Christians are spiritually defeated.
 - We must identify the principalities over our areas and actively pray against their influence.
- **Example (Molokai):** The pastor shared his experience of feeling overwhelming spiritual oppression ("a fog") upon arriving on the Hawaiian island of Molokai, an area steeped in perversion. The feeling lifted when he flew to Maui, illustrating that different islands had different ruling spirits and distinct spiritual atmospheres.

3. Powers: Specific Sinful Influences in Cities and Cultures

- **Definition:** “Powers” are specific sinful influences that dominate areas and individuals.
- **Identifying Powers:**
 - **United States:** The suggested principality is **Materialism**. If Christians do not actively stand against it, they will be influenced by it.
 - **42nd Street, New York City:** Palpable fear and oppression.
 - **San Francisco:** Perversion as a noticeable power.
 - **Hispanic communities in Los Angeles:** Violence as a dominant power.
- **Application:** Christians must practice discernment, stand, pray, and live against identified powers to avoid being influenced. Those ministering to people trapped in specific sins must be especially vigilant in prayer to protect themselves and their families.

4. Spirits of Wickedness in High Places: Religious Spirits

- **From Ephesians 6:12:** “Spiritual wickedness in high places” is interpreted as religious spirits promoting false religions.
- **Application:** Strategic prayer can confront religious deception, opening doors for the gospel.

Testimonies of Victory

Testimony: Government Invitation and New Zealand Mission

- **Background:** A minister felt led by a rhema from Scripture (“from the rising of the sun to the setting thereof,” likely **Psalm 113:3** or **Malachi 1:11**) to go to New Zealand, which was considered spiritually resistant (~5% Christian).
- **Intercession:** High school students and staff prayed against the principality over New Zealand.
- **Events:** He received a government invitation. Three arenas booked solid, Parliament requested a session, and the Chief of Police arranged mandatory seminars for every officer.
- **Application:** God opens doors at governmental levels when His people intercede, and spiritual resistance can be broken through prayer and obedience.

Case Study: Navajo Reservation — Authority of Jesus Over Curses

- **Story:** Pastor Williams, ministering among the Navajo, fell mysteriously ill only within reservation boundaries. Hearing chanting one night, he declared, “In the

name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command this curse to go back to the one who sent it.”

- **Outcome:** He was healed the next morning. The local witch doctor, who sent the curse, succumbed to the same illness and died.
- **Principle:** The authority of Jesus breaks localized spiritual attacks and curses. Believers should exercise this authority in prayer.

Case Study: Nigeria — Praying Against a Mosque Leader’s Stronghold

- **Story:** A female missionary in a Muslim region began targeted intercession against a feared mosque leader involved in witchcraft. She prayed for the binding of principalities, against the powers in his life, and for his salvation.
- **Events:** Mysterious fires burned “from the top down” on the leader’s property, skipping Christian homes. Geologists found no natural cause.
- **Outcome:** The leader concluded, “There is a power here greater than Allah,” sought instruction, and was led to Christ. He renounced witchcraft, and three people he had cursed were set free. This led to multiple other conversions.
- **Principle:** Persistent, specific intercession can dismantle entrenched spiritual systems and bring influential leaders to Christ.

Final Encouragement & Key Points

The sermon concludes by emphasizing our identity and calling in spiritual warfare.

- **Who God Is:** He is sovereign over nations, powerful enough to break principalities, and present through the Holy Spirit to make believers victorious. He responds to specific, faith-filled prayer.
 - **Who We Are in Christ:** We are indwelt by the Greater One (1 John 4:4), called to be intercessors, and equipped with God’s armor (Ephesians 6:13–18). We are authorized to stand and resist through Christ’s finished work.
 - **How We Are to Live:** We are to be “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10), wrestle against spiritual forces, appropriate the armor daily, pray at all times, and stand against cultural powers.
1. Principalities and powers influence regions and cultures; believers must stand and pray against them (Ephesians 6:12).
 2. God opens strategic doors—even at government levels—when His people intercede (New Zealand testimony).
 3. Powers manifest tangibly in cities; Christians must resist to avoid being influenced (materialism, perversion, violence).
 4. Religious spirits propagate false systems; targeted intercession can free leaders and transform communities (Nigeria case).

5. The authority of Jesus overcomes curses and localized oppression (Navajo case).
6. The armor of God and persistent prayer are essential for sustained victory (**Ephesians 6:10–18; 1 John 4:4**).

Expect trembling in the enemy's camp and marvelous works of God when believers intercede in faith.