

# Less Than Conquerors?

## I. Introduction

- A. Authority
  1. Satan is a usurper
  2. He is in fear of our being subject to the authority of Christ.
- B. The Greatest Demand
  1. Obedience
  2. When we overthrow God's authority, we overthrow God!
  3. We can lead others only after we have known God's authority and obedience.

## II. We Are At War

- A. There is a raging battle around us.
- B. This is not of our choosing. We were born into it.
- C. It will be difficult to be Christian in the later days. [2 Timothy 3:1]
- D. The fall of Satan (Day Star) was due to pride and vanity
- E. Jesus exposed the enemy and drew him into open conflict.
- F. For a being that habitually lives in darkness, the coming of light can be torture, not blessing.
- G. Unavoidable collision: Unhindered power of the Holy Spirit manifested in a sinless life versus the power of Satan.
- H. Christ robbed the dominions and powers of their prey.

## III. The Victor

- A. Don't enter the battle without a firm confidence in the efficacy of the death of Christ.
- B. Jesus reveals his complete authority over unseen forces of evil.
- C. We should want to be "captives in Christ's triumphal procession."  
[2 Corinthians 2:14]
- D. Opposition is within and without in the early church, but the triumphal procession grew!
- E. Important Scriptures:
  1. 1 Timothy 6:12 "Fight the good fight of the faith."
  2. 1 Peter 9:12 "Resist him firm in your faith."
- F. Here is the process: detection, then expulsion. Remember, ultimately the demons are subject to us. Look at Luke 10: 17-21.

## IV. Satan's Tactics

- A. Satan is indigenous:
  1. With the simple people he uses the "roaring lion approach."
  2. With the intelligent, cultured people he uses the "angel of light approach."
- B. Revelation must lead to action. His immense power is vulnerable only to the authority of a Christian who believes in the power of the name of Jesus Christ.
- C. Don't look for demons, but if you find them, tread on them!

- D. We cast out demons on the basis of the name of Jesus and our quality of life.
- E. We need to have a passion for righteousness and a hatred of evil.
- F. We have authorization to deal with Satan if we are true Christians, born of the Spirit.

#### V. In the Name

- A. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. [Colossians 3:17]
- B. Names mean the entire person: attributes, personality, and power. (Let us not become so familiar with the mighty name of Jesus that we lose the sense of awe and wonder that surrounds it!)
- C. Remember the example of a bank check with a signature.

#### VI. The Armor of God

- A. It's not our armor, but God's armor.
- B. By putting on the armor we are putting on Christ.
- C. The Armor:
  - 1. The belt of truth. The form of attack is lies and errors. Satan is always casting doubt on my confession. He is the "father of lies" and the "accuser of the brethren."
  - 2. The breastplate of righteousness. The form of attack is evil and sinful desires. He will bombard our minds with evil thoughts; he will try to influence our motives and sway our wills.
  - 3. The sandals of the gospel of peace. The form of attack is an easy and lazy life. "Leave me alone," he says. "and I will leave you alone." We dare not negotiate with Satan. The early Christians would not have been persecuted had they stopped their evangelism.
  - 4. The shield of faith. The form of attack is unbelief. This is where our faith needs to be placed---firmly in the promises of God. This is not our puny faith, but God's strong faith.
  - 5. The helmet of salvation. The form of attack is calamity and accident. Satan will stop at nothing to destroy the work of God. He will make Christians ill. He will make them turn away from their call. If Jesus was attacked, we should expect that we will be attacked, too. He survived to finish the work the Father gave him to do, so we should expect that we will survive by his grace as well. [Hebrews 11:7]

#### VII. Defeating the Enemy

- A. Three forms of attack:
  - 1. The frontal assault. This covers the common experiences of temptation. It may be brief, after which the enemy retreats, or sustained pressure, which can be called oppression.
  - 2. The siege or blockade. A bondage is like the siege or blockade, where the enemy breaks through and surrounds an area. A part of our life is brought under the enemy's control. He prevents this area from functioning properly.

3. The invasion and occupation. This is where the enemy actually occupies a part of our life. It is no longer under our control at all.
- B. The counter measures:
1. Resistance. Assaults, temptations, etc. are commonly experienced by all Christians and the way to deal with them is by resistance. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." With a sustained attack the resistance must be kept up.
  2. Loosening. A bondage is some habit or way of life or wrong relationship which has got a hold on a person and even a firm resistance is insufficient to shake him free from it. The answer here is loosening. This normally needs to be done with the help of another Christian.
  3. Casting out. This third kind of attack or influence is less common. Here the person is completely under the control of an evil spirit in some area of his or her life. The way to deal with it is casting out. This has to be done by other Christians who take authority over the enemy and throw him from his position of occupation.

## VIII. After Care

### A. Fill the vacuum.

1. With the exit of an evil spirit there is a vacuum according to the gospels. [Matthew 12:44]
2. We must see to it that the enemy finds the door locked and bolted when he returns, and the Lord himself in full possession of his servant.

### B. Don't be fooled!

1. When you stop ringing church bells, although you are no longer pulling on the ropes they will continue to sound for a little while longer. This is like the after effects of the enemy's invasion.
2. We may be tempted to believe the devil is still active and we are still in bondage. But, faith tells us this is not so, even if our feelings tell us otherwise.

### C. Spiritual fruit

- Ultimately we need to lead disciplined lives.
- We can't afford to be slack or self indulgent.
- We need to be other-centered.
- We want to live lives of self control.
- We need wholehearted worship for Jesus.
- We need complete dedication and unreserved love for our Lord.

## IX. Finally

So the battle is won and the enemy is defeated. That is what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for mankind, and to him be all the glory!