

SATAN'S DEMISE AT CALVARY

PART TWO

If we believe that Satan's power was broken at Calvary, why then are so many Christian home and the private affairs of God's children in such chaos? Christian homes should be ruled in such a way as to bring glory to His name and in accomplishing this, you must apply the victory of the Cross to all Satan's hold and control in your life. You must claim that he has been conquered by Christ at Calvary. This only will assure that Satan may legitimately be cast out.

Charles H. Usher offers this thought – *The weakness of the Church in dealing with these satanic evils is due to her lack of experimental knowledge of Satan's overthrow at the Cross; hence she has no remedy to offer. When she does enter into the experimental knowledge of the overthrow of Satan, she will then be in a position to receive the authority spoken of in **Luke 10:18-19**, where Jesus says: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power [authority] to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*

The battle is for the bodies and souls of men and women on earth. It is a battle that will be daily fought until the return of the Lord Jesus. It is called the *Battle of Spiritual Warfare!*

Isaiah 41:10 – *Fear not, I am with you, I will strengthen you. I will help you...*

The objective of spiritual warfare is **2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)**, which says, "*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.*"

Colossians 2:8 (NIV) says, "*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.*"

Excerpts from the *Spiritual Warfare Training Manual*

TRUTHS OF THIS SPIRITUAL BATTLE:

- Satan hates you. It is not a love/hate relationship. It is pure hatred for the believer.
- The battle is mostly in the area of our soul (mind, will and emotions).
- This battle is not a new or recent revelation.
- Spiritual warfare began in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3)
- Jesus' birth was important as it represented Satan's power of control broken.

- We live in Satan's domain (earth) and he is out to destroy us.
- It is a daily battle between you and your enemy, Satan, and the powers of darkness
- A believer is neutralized by sin. Mental-attitude sins (fear, worry, Pride, unforgiveness, mental-adultery, guilt feelings, bitterness, desires for revenge, hatred, emotionalism, etc.) are behind all sin.
- As long as mental-attitude sin is taking place, the Word of God is being ignored.
- Satan's only advantage over us is our inconsistency!
- Satan attempts to change the focus of the believer – off Jesus –onto self, things and people.
- Satan tries to keep you from knowing your identity (who you are) in Christ.
- Satan tries to prevent and stop Christian service, potential, dreams and relationships.
- Satan seeks to frustrate the will of God for the believer.
- When did it start? From birth, as you entered into the world. It intensified, as you became a Christian.

This is the heart of spiritual warfare. We will see that a great test of our faith is the conflict with the powers of darkness that we must deal with on a daily basis. We will learn that the weapons Christ gives us are able to tear down Satan's strongholds and replace them with fortresses of truth! We are given tools and told how to apply them through the Word of God and through the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Although the Bible is not always clear, seemingly fuzzy even, in some areas, it is specific in the outline of who our enemy is, who our allies are and what we should do to walk in victory and freedom. The enemy would like to tell us that his forces against us will prove too much for us to contend with, but according to the Word, God gave us as his disciples, power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases (Luke 9:1). Coming to grips with the presence of satanic power can have a paralyzing effect upon the spirit and heart, and you must remember that this power has not been withdrawn. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and His promises we can stand upon today. Don't allow unbelief to creep in and hinder or stop the flow of God's power from working through you; adjust to present day conditions. Don't let doubt hinder the moving of the Holy Spirit.

In spiritual warfare one of the tactics that Satan will throw at you is fear. It can come in the form of unbelief, doubt, and fear of failure. Remember that *Perfect love casts out fear*. Therefore, guard your heart against the spirit of fear; Satan knows you will be powerless to hurt his kingdom if you fall prey to fear—if you yield to fear. Instead, chose to be obedient to Hebrews 10:22 – *let us draw near with a true*

heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. This indicates a heart full of faith that will draw near to God in boldness and favor. A Christian must have a conscience that is attuned with the Holy Spirit and not dulled by evil. In Jesus, nothing is impossible to you when you are in right standing with the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit.

Saints, in the Bible, God took great care to expose the devil and reveal his schemes to us. We need to take equal care, time and consideration in acknowledging those portions of biblical truth about our enemy—the father of lies—Satan. We need to recognize the enemy, in order to overcome him. We are daily in a battle whether we like it or not. Our choice is to be prepared if we want to be victorious Christians.

There is a close relationship between spirit and heart, therefore, pray. Prayer keeps the heart and spirit attuned to God. It is our spiritual exercise and when practiced daily, grows strong and we are equipped for the conflict with satanic power. Saints, be knowledgeable—study and learn all you can in order to effectively wage spiritual warfare against Satan and his powers of darkness. For we, in God, through His power and authority, have the upper hand

I WILL SING THE WONDROUS STORY - (verses 1-5)

I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me. How He left His home in glory, for the cross of Calvary. I was lost, but Jesus found me. Found the sheep that went astray. Threw His loving arms around me, drew me back into the way. I was bruised but Jesus healed me. Faint was I from many a fall, sight was gone, and fears possessed me, but he free me from the fall. Soon he'll come the Lord of Glory, come the church His bride to claim, and complete the wondrous story, come Lord Jesus come again. He will keep me till the river rolls its waters at my feet; then He'll bear me safely over, where the loved ones I shall meet.

Chorus: Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me. Sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.