

**6 - Kingdom Warfare**  
**Pastor Joe Oakley - March 16, 2025**

We are in a sermon series called Seize the Kingdom of God. Last week Pastor Deborah preached a message called Kingdom Prayer. Her text was found in the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:10.

***Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.***

Jesus teaches us here that God's kingdom comes on earth when His will is done on earth. For that to happen we must pray kingdom prayers. But before we can pray for God's kingdom to come on earth, we must pray for God's kingdom to come to our individual lives. If you want His kingdom to come in your life then you must submit to the will of God the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Only then can we pray for the will of God to be done on the earth.

**Pastor Deb taught us that kingdom prayers accomplish the will of God through binding and loosing, through praying the Word and through praying in the Spirit.** Those are three keys to kingdom warfare - which is what I'm preaching on today.

You must know how to bind the enemy and set captives free, how to pray the word and use the word when the enemy tempts you like Jesus did and how to pray in the Spirit. That's a big part of spiritual warfare. After listing our spiritual armor - Ephesians 6:17-18 says:

***Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.***

Having your armor on is not enough! You must also wage spiritual warfare all the time with all kinds of prayer. If we're not praying, we're not in the battle! We're like troops dressed up in armor, carrying their weapons, but staying on their base playing war games. Prayer is where the action is. Satan would rather we do anything else, including reading the Bible, than pray. It's the thing he fights the hardest because it does him the most harm.

**Knowing how to use the keys of the kingdom to advance God's kingdom by taking authority over the enemy is vitally important because we are all in a spiritual battle. It's the battle of the ages between light and darkness - between truth and deception - between love and hate - and between life and death.**

Jesus came to earth to save us from sin, to save us from ourselves, to save us from the world and to save us from Satan.

Adam and Eve's original sin opened the door to Satan on this planet. This world is not as God created it to be.

**When God created this world – everything was good!**

**Before the fall, the earth was full of blessing. Sin let in a curse.**

**Before the fall, the earth was full of life and health. Sin let in sickness and death.**

**Before the fall, the earth was full of joy and peace. Sin let in hatred and depression.**

**Before the fall, the earth was full of life. Sin let in death.**

**Before the fall, Adam and Eve had dominion. Sin gave that dominion to the devil.**

How do I know this? By what Satan said when he tempted Jesus in Luke 4:5-7

***Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."***

Now wait a minute. The only way you can give something away is if it is yours in the first place! Did God give Satan dominion over the earth? NO WAY! Genesis 1 says that when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them dominion over the earth. Verses 27-28 say:

***God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."***

So, Adam and Eve had dominion - authority - over all the earth. But when they gave into Satan's temptation and sinned, they handed dominion of this planet over to Satan. When Satan told Jesus that authority over worldly kingdoms had been delivered to him - the word delivered means "surrendered - to give your power to someone else."

**Obviously, God did not surrender this planet to Satan, man did. God did not open the door to Satan, man did. The good news is that Jesus died to close that door.**

1 John 3:8 says:

***The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.***

Jesus came to destroy the destroyer. He won the victory over Satan at the cross, but it's up to us to enforce that victory. Destroy means "to break up" or "Undo." Jesus came to break Satan's power and undo his evil works. What are the works of the devil that Jesus destroyed? During His ministry, Jesus destroyed the works of Satan by healing the sick, casting out demons, and forgiving people's sins. In John 10:10, Jesus said,

***The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.***

Pastor Deb taught us last week that anything that steals, kills or destroys the abundant life that Christ came to give is a work of the devil. And Jesus gave all believers the keys to the kingdom which represent authority over the enemy. Jesus said in Luke 10:19

***I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy.***

The word authority in the original Greek is exousia – which means the right to exercise influence and rule over others. The word power is dunamis – which means strength or force.

**Get it out of your head that you need to be stronger than the enemy!  
Demons have power – but you have authority over their power and authority trumps power every time!**

It's like when there's a traffic accident and a policeman has to stop traffic. He does not have the strength to physically stop a vehicle. But he has the authority to stop every vehicle. The issue is not how powerful the vehicle is – the issue is how much authority the policeman has. He can stop vehicles in the name of the law and we can stop Satan in the name of Jesus!!

You see, the issue in spiritual warfare is not how much power Satan and demons have. That's irrelevant! **God has given us authority over all the power of the enemy! Not just over some power – but over all the power of the enemy! Are you exercising your authority over the enemy in the name of Jesus?**

I submit to you that many believers are not – either because of spiritual ignorance – they just don't know how to take authority over the enemy – or because of spiritual passivity.

I want to help you by expanding the way you see spiritual warfare. **We usually see it as a power encounter with demons, but most the time spiritual warfare is a truth encounter!** Deception is Satan's main tool. That's why Ephesians 6:14 tells us the first piece of spiritual armor:  
***Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.***

Spiritual warfare is not just about having God's power, but knowing God's truth! Jesus said in John 8:31-32

***If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***

**We must know the truth in God's word – and then do like Jesus did when Satan tempted Him – speak the word of truth.**

Satan's main tools are deception, temptation and accusation. When you experience those things you can know that the kingdom of darkness is at work. That's why we must do kingdom warfare!

Many of you know when the devil is speaking to you - tempting you, accusing you, trying to deceive you. Yet you do nothing about it! But **there is no place for passivity in kingdom warfare!** Colossians 1:13-14 says:

***God has rescued us from the power of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of His Son, whom He loves. His Son paid the price to free us, which means that our sins are forgiven.***

Christ has brought us into His kingdom, but the enemy keeps trying to make us think we are still in the kingdom of darkness. You must seize the kingdom of God through kingdom warfare. Jesus did this! There are many examples in the Bible of Jesus binding evil spirits and loosing those they held captive. Remember - one of the meanings of bind is to forbid and loose means to allow. Luke 4:33-35 says:

***In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are — the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down and came out without injuring him.***

Notice Jesus first rebuked the demon and refused to allow him to speak. The biblical Greek word for rebuke means to forbid - which means bind. After binding the demon Jesus loosed the man from bondage to it. This is one of many examples of binding and loosing in Jesus' ministry.

And we have been given the authority to bind and loose in Jesus' name! As we see here - Jesus did not allow demons to speak. And we need to develop discernment to know when the enemy is speaking to us and then forbid him to speak! James 4:7 says:

***Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.***

Some people get the first part right – they submit to God – but they don’t go on and resist the enemy. I’ve heard people teach - “all you need to do is submit to God and the enemy will flee.” Well – sorry – but that’s not what it says. It does say submit to God – but it goes on to say resist the enemy and he will flee. To me that means **if you submit to God but don’t resist the enemy, he will not flee.**

I’ve actually heard people say, “I’m tired of fighting. I hope the devil just leaves me alone.” Oh really? Does the Bible say, “Hope the devil goes away and he will”? “If you’re tired of fighting, the devil will leave you alone?” NO – the Bible says, “Resist the devil and he will flee.” **We must stop being passive and start fighting the fight of faith.**

I’ve had people come to me for counseling in the past and they would be all down and depressed. I’d want to get to the root of their problem and when I’d ask them about it – they’d answer – “Well – the devil’s been lying to me and it’s got me down.”

I’d ask – “So you’re depressed because the devil’s been lying to you?” “Yes – he’s telling me all these lies and it’s got me down.” So I’d try again with a different emphasis – “So the DEVIL’s been lying to you?” And they would say yes. So I finally ask them point blank, “If you know it’s the devil talking, why in the world are you listening?”

**Here’s a hint – if you know the Devil is speaking, don’t believe what he says! Don’t buy what he’s selling.** But that’s how passive some Christians are. They don’t even fight when they know it’s the devil attacking them. It’s like they expect God to do something, but He already did something! He sent His Son to destroy the works of the devil on the cross! Colossians 2:13-15 says:

***And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us.***

***And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.***

Jesus defeated Satan at the cross. Everything Satan can use against us was nailed to that cross. The blood of Christ paid the price for all of our sins! Satan has been disarmed and we’ve been given armor and weapons! We have the advantage! Now it’s up to us to enforce the victory that Christ already won. **We don’t fight FOR victory - we fight FROM the place of victory!!**

I’ve heard some people teaching an error that says – you can get to the place in your Christian life where you are so holy or so mature or so full of faith that the

devil will stop attacking you. Oh really? Show me that in the Bible. There are only two examples of people without sin in the Bible. The first example is Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden before they sinned. The second example is the last Adam - Jesus Christ - who never sinned. In both of these examples – they were attacked by Satan!

Adam and Eve were overcome by Satan but Jesus overcame Satan. Even after that, Luke 4:13 says:

***When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left Him until a more opportune and favorable time.***

All of us need to stay on the alert because Satan is always looking for an opportune time to attack. We must live our lives on alert to the attacks of the enemy.

Many Christians today have a wrong view of the devil. They see him as a sleeping dog—and if we'll just tiptoe around and not bother him—then the devil won't bother us. But that isn't true. The Bible doesn't say he's a sleeping dog — 1 Peter 5:8-9 says

***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith...***

So, be on guard all the time. Being on guard means being ready to fight! Being ready to fight requires having God's armor and God's weapons. The Bible teaches us to put on the "full armor of God."

Here's the question I want you to be thinking about – do you know how to put your spiritual armor on? Do you know how to put on the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness? Not symbolically, but actually?

This is vitally important! One missing piece can be a disaster. A missing piece leaves a weak spot in your defense. The enemy never attacks a strength; he always goes for the weakest link. If you put on body armor, but you have no helmet – your head is vulnerable. If you put on a helmet, but no breastplate – your heart is vulnerable. If you have armor, but no sword – you cannot fight back. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 says:

***For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.***

God has given us spiritual armor to defend against Satan. God has given us weapons to defeat Satan – weapons that are mighty. And God has given us the authority to act in His name to cast out demons, tear down strongholds, and bring down everything that tries to exalt itself against God. Don't be naive, you are in a spiritual war whether you like it or not! But God has given us what it takes to overcome the enemy.

We have the blood of Christ, the name of Jesus and the word of God. So, when we face a demonic attack, we must identify our enemy by name like Jesus did with Legion. It can be a stronghold of anger or fear or lust or addiction. We need to identify that spirit and then overcome through binding and loosing.

Let's say you were attacked by a spirit of fear. Not all fear is demonic – but when anger has a strong hold on us and torments us – it can be a demonic stronghold. At times like that – we need to name that demon and bind it out loud in the name of Jesus and then speak the word of God.

I mean literally say out loud – “In the name of Jesus I take authority over a spirit of fear. God's word says that He has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. So I bind fear in the name of Jesus and refuse to allow it to control my life. Fear, be gone in Jesus name.”

And I loose into my life the power of God, the love of God and the mind of Christ. The Bible says when we submit to God and resist the devil– he must flee! The Bible says greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world. The Bible says we can overcome all the attacks of the evil one.

You do not have to fear Satan! He's the one who fears spirit-filled Christians who are alert, armed for battle and who know the authority they have in Jesus' name. Demons tremble at the sound of that name and when we submit to God and resist the enemy, he must flee.

So I'm putting Satan on notice. This church is ready for kingdom warfare. We're putting our armor on. We're picking our weapons up. We're sharpening our swords and we're coming after you because we have the promise of God that when we wage kingdom warfare the gates of hell cannot prevail against us!

**It's interesting that the names of the Holy Spirit show what He does and everything He does counteracts the works of the devil. Greater is the Spirit of God in us than the spirit that is in the world!**

- The Holy Spirit is greater than an unclean spirit.
- The Spirit of truth is greater than the spirit of deception and lies.
- The Comforter is greater than the spirit of heaviness.
- The Spirit of wisdom is greater than the spirit of confusion.

- The Spirit of grace is greater than a spirit of condemnation.
- The Spirit of life is greater than a spirit of infirmity and death.
- The Spirit of the Father is greater than an orphan spirit.
- The Spirit of the fear of the Lord is greater than a spirit of fear!
- The Spirit of joy and gladness is greater than a spirit of depression.

So, when we wage kingdom warfare in the name of Jesus, with the truth of God's word, in the power of the Holy Spirit – we can be free indeed!