

## ENFORCE THE DEVIL'S DEFEAT

- A. Introduction: God made men to reign on this earth as His under rulers. When God made men He gave men authority. Authority is delegated power. Authority is permission to act for another, in their name, backed by their power. Gen 1:26; Ps 8:4-6; Rev 5:10; etc.
1. When Adam sinned he turned his God-given authority over to the devil. Luke 4:6; II Cor 4:4; etc.
    - a. Jesus came to earth to break the power of the devil over the human race and restore to man his God-given authority. Gen 3:15; Heb 2:14; Col 2:14,15
    - b. Through His death, burial, and resurrection Jesus regained man's lost authority and dominion. Jesus went to the Cross as our substitute. He went to the Cross for us and as us.
      1. When Jesus rose from the dead, defeated the devil, and broke his hold on humanity, we defeated the devil through and with our Substitute. And, when He was raised up to the right hand of the Father, we were raised to that same position of authority. Eph 1:19-2:6
      2. Col 1:13--[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of (Amp) the darkness and gloom of Satan's kingdom (Taylor) and has reestablished us in (Phillips) the kingdom of the Son of his love (ASV).
    - c. When we are born again our God-given authority is restored to us and we are now authorized to reign as kings in life by Christ Jesus. Rom 5:17
  2. All of this brings up a question: If the devil is a defeated foe, why do we have trouble with him? Why is he still able to harm people? Consider these points.
    - a. Remember what we've already said about the devil and his works. (Each point is a whole lesson.)
      1. The hardships and suffering of life are here because of sin (beginning with Adam's sin) and are ultimately traceable back to Satan as the first rebel in the universe.
      2. The devil and his demons are actively at work influencing the hearts and minds of men to keep them blinded to the reality of God and His kingdom and to motivate them to continue to act in ways that are contrary to God.
    - b. John 12:31--At the Cross the devil was judged but he is not yet subjugated. The devil's authority over the human race was broken but he has not yet been removed from human contact.
      1. At the return of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord -- including the devil. And he will be permanently removed from human contact. Rev 20:10
      2. Right now, the devil still has some time left on this earth, and he goes about seeking people to devour. I Pet 5:8--Devour means to drink down or gulp down.
    - c. I Pet 5:9 tells Christians to resist the devil. To resist means to stand against: Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset] rooted, established, strong, immovable and determined. (Amp)
      1. Because of the Cross and the new birth we now have authority to stand against the devil and his works in the name and the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.
      2. We don't battle the devil because we already defeated him and his works through and with our Substitute. We must enforce his defeat in our lives. That is what we want to talk about today.
- B. The same epistle that so clearly states how we were raised up with Christ and hold the same position of authority Jesus has -- far above all principality and power -- also tells us how to enforce the devil's defeat.
1. In Eph 6:11-17 we are told to put on the whole armor of God. God's armor is His word. Ps 91:4--His faithful promises are your armor. (Living Bible)
    - a. v14-17 lists pieces of armor which we need. At the time this epistle was written the areas where the gospel was spreading was under the control of the Roman Empire.
      1. Everyone to whom the epistle was written would have been familiar with Roman armor and how effective it was. The Roman army was unbeatable for many years.

2. We could do entire lessons on what each piece looked like and how it worked, but the point for our discussion is this: Each piece represents specific categories of information from the word of God which we need if we are going to effectively enforce the devil's defeat.
  - b. The armor enables us to stand against the wiles of the devil. Nowhere does the Bible tell us to beware of the power of the devil. His power was broken at the Cross. Rather we are told to beware his wiles or mental strategies -- the deceits of the devil (Amp); the cunning (Knox), the devices (NEB), the schemes (NASB) of the devil. v11
    1. When Jesus was on earth He told us that the devil comes to steal the word so it doesn't take root and produce results in us and in our lives. Mark 4:14-20
    2. The devil knows that if you know who you are and what you have because of the Cross and the new birth there is NO STOPPING you. His only power over you is the lie -- to convince you to believe and act on a lie: you aren't..., you can't..., God won't, etc.
  - c. We don't "battle" the devil. We wrestle or struggle with the devil (v12). The word wrestle comes from a word that means to vibrate. The devil tries to shake us or sway us off of God's word through circumstance, thoughts, lies, etc..
  - d. v13--Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger] (Amp), in the day when evil attacks you (Williams), and having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. (Amp)
    1. The word withstand means to set oneself against and is translated resist in I Pet 5:9. In other words, you recognize the lies of the enemy in your situation and stand against them or resist them with the truth of God's word.
    2. And having done all is literally having overcome all. Once you have recognized the devil's lies and resisted them with the truth, you have overcome. Then, you stand in the power and authority of the Lord until the devil and his works backs down.
2. All the pieces of armor listed in Eph 6 (except the sword) are defensive. They protect you from the lies of the devil. The sword is the one offensive piece of armor -- the one we attack with. The number one way we enforce His defeat is with our mouth, specifically with the word of God in our mouths.
  - a. In Eph 6:17 the word of God is called the sword of the Spirit. In the Greek it is MACHAIRA, the deadliest of all the Roman swords. It was sharp on both sides and pointed at the tip.
  - b. Other scriptures refer to the word of God as a two-edged sword (Heb 4:12; Rev 1:16; 2:12). The Greek is made up of two words: DI which means two and STOMOS which means mouth. A two-edged sword is literally a two-mouthed sword.
    1. In order for the full power of the word of God to impact our lives, two mouths must speak it. God has already spoken His word. We must now add our mouth to it.
    2. When we speak the word of God, when His word comes out of our mouth, it becomes a two-edged sword, the deadliest piece of Roman armor.
  - c. Jesus is our example. When Jesus met the devil in the wilderness He met the devil with the word of God: It is written (Matt 4:1-11). The written word of God became a two-edged sword (two-mouth) when Jesus spoke it. God spoke it, then Jesus spoke it and banished the devil.
3. When Jesus was on earth He showed us how authority works and how men with authority live.
  - a. Jesus spoke the words of His Father and issued commands in the name of His Father because He was authorized by His Father to destroy the works of the devil. I John 3:8; Mark 1:25; 4:39; 5:41
  - b. Jesus believed that what He said would come to pass because He knew His Father works according to His word and His Father in Him would do the works by His power. John 14:9-11
  - c. Jesus said that those who believe on Him are to do the works He did in the same way that He did them. John 14:12-14
    1. Jesus said that when we speak His words, when we issue commands in His name, as His authorized representative, He will do the work. He will bring His word to pass.
    2. Mark 11:22-24--Jesus said that when we issue commands in His name we must believe that

what we say will come to pass.

- d. When you understand how authority works and you issue a word of command, when you speak His word, you accept what Jesus said: That His power goes to work to bring to pass what you have said. You resist the devil and his works and he and them must flee.

C. We use our authority to enforce the devil's defeat. Authority is exercised through words (Matt 8:9). Authority is expressed through faith which is expressed through words (II Cor 4:13). Authority speaks and believes that what it says will come to pass.

1. Some have misunderstood faith and authority to mean: Just say the right words, don't say the wrong words, and this will work for you. Or, they repeat words because someone else used them and it worked for them. Acts 19:13-17
  - a. But, it is not the words themselves that produce results. Words that release power produce results.
  - b. It is not a formula, a magic charm, or a parrot-like imitation. It is a view of reality which is expressed through words. Your words must express, must be in agreement with, reality as it truly is according to God.
2. In John 11 Jesus' friend Lazarus died and Jesus used His authority to raise him from the dead. Let's consider how Jesus talked and acted in the situation.
  - a. When Jesus got the news that His friend was sick Jesus looked past the problem and spoke the answer. v4--The end of this sickness is not death (Knox), the end of it is the glory of God (Moffatt).
    1. Jesus knew He was authorized destroy the works of the devil and set captives free (Isa 61:1; Luke 4:18). There is no greater captivity than death, the last enemy (I Cor 15:26).
    2. Jesus had precedent from the word of God for prophets (which He was) to raise people from the dead. II Kings 4; etc.
  - b. v6-8,16--Jesus waited two days, then said to His disciples: Let's go back to Judea. The disciples were concerned because the Jews had recently tried to stone Jesus there (John 10:31).
    1. This all occurred near the end of Jesus' ministry. They have already seen tremendous works of God done through Jesus' ministry, had teaching about God's care, protection, and provision of His people, yet their expectation was: We're going to die!
    2. Their picture of reality did not go past what they could see and feel and what they could reason about what they could see and feel.
  - c. v9,10--Jesus' answer was: I'm walking in the light. In fact, I am the Light (John 8:12). I walk according to reality as it truly is. If you want to follow me you must walk in the light, too.
  - d. Then Jesus spoke by faith not sight. v11--Lazarus is asleep, but I will wake him out of his sleep.
    1. You can talk about things by faith or sight. Sight talks only about what it sees and feels. Faith looks past what it sees to the invisible power, protection, and provision of God.
    2. Jesus saw reality as it truly is: This is a temporary condition subject to change by the power of God which I am authorized to exercise in my Father's name to bring Him glory.
  - e. The disciples thought Jesus meant Lazarus was actually sleeping so Jesus said: He's dead. v14
    1. That is an amazing statement. For many of us, that would be considered a "bad confession". Jesus just made a "bad confession" and said the word "dead".
    2. It isn't the words themselves. It is what the words express. Jesus was talking according to sight for the sake of His disciples, but unlike the disciples, He knew what He could "see" (Lazarus dead) was not the end of the story. His picture of reality was different than theirs.
3. Then, when Jesus got to Bethany, Martha and Mary were no better than the disciples. Martha and Mary were both half-mad at Jesus. They blamed Him for what happened to their brother. v21,32
  - a. If you don't know that trouble is NEVER from God you will not be able to exercise authority

effectively. Authority is based on confidence that God will back you -- do what He said He'd do.

- b. Then, Martha spoke empty words. She made the right "religious" statements: v22--Jesus, I know God will give you what you ask. v24--I know my brother will rise in the resurrection of the dead at the end of time. v27--I believe you are the Christ.
  1. But, we find out that she has no expectation of present help from Jesus. When Jesus says "roll the stone away", Martha says: He stinks (v39). She's totally focused on sense information.
  2. The faith that activates the power of God to change things is different from sincerity or depth of commitment to the Lord. It believes it has the answer before the answer can be seen.
- c. The crowd was no help. v37--They said: This is too big for God. If Jesus would have gotten here while Lazarus was still alive, there would be hope. But not now.
- d. v35--Jesus wept, but not because He was sorry Lazarus died. That makes no sense. Jesus was about to raise Lazarus from the dead. He wept because of the unbelief expressed by everyone.
4. v40--Jesus then uttered the key to faith that exercises authority, the kind of faith that activates power. If you believe you will see. The believing comes before the seeing.
  - a. That agrees with what Jesus said in Mark 11 where Jesus said we can speak words that must be obeyed. v24--So I tell you, whatever you pray for and ask, believe you have got it, and you shall have it (Moffatt); If you believe that you have received it, it shall be yours (Weymouth)
  - b. Jesus demonstrated how a man with authority carries out the work of His Father and destroys the works of the devil. He knew His Father heard Him and would back His words. v41,42
    1. He didn't ask the Father to do something for Him. He issued a command in the name of His Father. He did what He was authorized to do. v43
    2. Jesus expected what He said to come to pass. How do we know? There was no moment of anxiety as He waited for a man bound head-to-toe with grave clothes, a man with his face covered, to come out of the tomb (v44). There was no hint of surprise at the outcome. Why? Jesus expected his Father to keep His word and back Him with His power. John 14:9-11
  - c. Am I saying we should go out and try to raise the dead? Actually, no. Let's work on getting sickness out of our bodies first, then we'll tackle that. We are trying to help you see some things about how to look at your situation by faith and how to talk about it by faith so you can exercise authority effectively and enforce the devil's defeat.
- D. Conclusion: We do have an enemy we must resist in the name of, in the power and authority of, the Lord. Always face Satan (and the circumstances he brings) as a defeated foe.
  1. We have trouble with this because: We parrot information. We don't have full knowledge or armor so we are vulnerable to the wiles of the devil. We waver. You must set your feet and take your stand.
  2. Speak the word of God in, to, and about your situation. Resist the devil steadfast in faith. Stand your ground confidently because God watches over His word to bring it to pass.