

## Kingdom Challenging Powers

**Preamble** - Blessed to bless (Our Posture in Life)

Speaking to Abraham, "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **Genesis 12.2**

- I bless you and you live to bless others
- It's always God's way - we are to overflow his goodness to the world around us

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." **Jeremiah 29.7**

- Begin with Prayer
- Listen to others
- Eat with someone
- Serve others
- Share your story

**Introduction - There is a Struggle**

- But we must remember that we are in a conflict, a struggle between two kingdoms
- Kingdom of light and kingdom of darkness
- You're in the midst of a battle whether you want to be or not

From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. **Matthew 11.12**

- The Clash of Kingdoms is a reality

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **Ephesians 6:12**

- It's a spiritual battle not a physical

**Authority in Christ**

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. **Colossians 2:15**

- The cross is where our authority comes from

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go ..... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28.18 & 20**

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, **Ephesians 3:10**

- We the Church are called to enforce and establish the kingdom of God
- Go and Bless the world

## **Paul and Barnabas Challenge Spiritual Powers**

In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. [9] He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed [10] and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. [11] When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" [12] Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. [13] The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. [14] But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: [15] "Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. [16] In the past, he let all nations go their own way. [17] Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." [18] Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. [19] Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. [20] But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. [21] They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, [22] strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. [23] Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. **Acts 14:8-23**

## **Spiritual Warfare**

Spiritual warfare is about co-operating with the Holy Spirit to see the kingdom of God, the kingdom of light

### **1. Prayer**

- Prayer lifestyle - your street, your work, or another place in the earth
- Name of Jesus
  - We have to use the name of Jesus
    - In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. **John 16.23,24**
- The Word of God
  - For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. **Hebrews 4.12**

- Proclaiming the Word over situations
  - Declare the word to God
  - Declare the Word to the enemy
  - Declare the Word of God to your own soul
- Praise and worship
 

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. **Psalm 8.2**

    - Proclaiming the supremacy of God
    - Building a throne for him to inhabit
    - Psalm 145
  - Praying in Tongues
    - Build yourself up in the faith
      - Paul the Apostle 'I pray in tongues more than all of you.' **1 Corinthians 14.18**
    - And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. **Ephesians 6.18**
  - Fasting
    - 'This type does not come out but by prayer and Fasting' **Mark 9.29**
  - Actively addressing tormenting spirits
  - Intercessory prayer in community
    - A renewed commitment to our Prayer Hub
    - It's a God ordained way to war against the enemy and establish the Kingdom
2. **Presence** - an incarnational lifestyle of compassion - including some going into "difficult" situations deliberately to cross cultural and social boundaries

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; [7] rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death---even death on a cross! **Philippians 2:6-8**

- Jesus came to us and became one of us
  - Paul and Barnabas went to the people they wanted to reach
- Simply showing up and being present challenges the spiritual powers
  - Loving people - Compassion
  - An Obedient Life - Wow, we underestimate the power of a faithful, obedient life
  - Actively serving in the kingdom
  - Perseverance with confidence

### 3. **Proclamation** - Speaking up

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? **Romans 10:14**

Speak the good news

Speak your story and what Christ has done for you

Speak up for others

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. [9] Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. **Proverbs 31:8-9**

- Speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves

### **Conclusion**

- Don't be surprised by opposition
- Godly response to threats and power is to walk in a Kingdom lifestyle
- May the lamb that was slain receive the reward of his suffering