

Spiritual Offensive!

James 4:7-10; Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-17

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Case Study: Possible demonic infiltration
- No need to PANIC or to be AFRAID.
 - 1 Timothy 1:7-- *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*
 - 1 John 4:4 -- *"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."*
- The need for a healthy respect for Satan and his demonic forces.
 - Jude 9 -- *"in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you.'"*

Steps to take in Spiritual Offensive!

A. CHECK Your Relationship with the Living God

1. Uses James 4:7-10 as a CHECKLIST

- James 4:7-10-- *"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."*
 - a. *Am I in submission to the Living God?*
 - b. *Am I resisting satan in my daily life?*
 - c. *Am I drawing near to God through the practicing of the spiritual disciplines?*
 - d. *Is there unconfessed sin in my life?*
 - e. *Am I serious about living for God and doing spiritual warfare?*
 - f. *Am I humbly waiting on the Lord?*

2. We need to do spiritual battle with Lord's strength, dressed in spiritual armor.

- Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-17 -- *"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."*

3. We need to "take the plank out of our own eyes" so that "we will see clearly" to help another deal with sin in their lives.

- Matthew 7:3-5 -- *"And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."*

B. CLAIM by Faith the Authority that You have “in Christ.”

1. **Jesus Christ, by virtue of his death, resurrection, and ascension has been given all authority over the spirit realm.**
 - a. His death disarmed the spirit powers
 - Colossians 2:15 -- *“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”*
 - b. His resurrection destroyed Satan’s bondage over mankind, which is the fear of death-
 - Hebrews 2:14-15 -- *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*
 - c. His ascension to heaven restored Jesus Christ to His place of power
 - 1 Peter 3:22 -- *“(Jesus Christ) has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers have been made subject to Him.”*
 - Philippians 2:9-11-- *“has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and those under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*
 - d. Jesus Christ today has “all authority”
 - Matthew 28:18 -- *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”*
2. **Jesus Christ gave authority to His disciples over the demonic realm.**
 - Matthew 10:1 -- *“Now when He had called His disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.”*
3. **But is this for us today or was the authority only given to the early apostles?**
 - a. Some would argue that since there are no commands in the NT epistles to exorcise demons, nor detailed instructions on how to do it, that it is not for today, but for the early church apostles.
 - b. But the same could be said of water baptism. There are no commands in the epistles to be baptized and yet most would agree that baptism is a legitimate practice for today.
 - c. By virtue of our being “in Christ”, we now have authority to use the name of Jesus in our spiritual warfare.
 - Colossians 2:10 -- *“are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”*
 - d. Reminder of “who I am in Christ” – see Doctrinal Affirmation

C. COMMAND the Demons in the Name of Jesus to Depart.

1. **Direct and Indirect Command**
 - a. Direct Command-- speaking directly to the demon
 - b. Indirect Command-- speaking to God about the demon.
2. **Invoking the “name of Jesus” is not a magic formula. It is Jesus who ultimately casts out demons and sets a person free**
 - Acts 19:13-16 -- *“Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, ‘We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.’ Also there were seven sons of Sceva. A Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?’” Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”*

Doctrinal Affirmation

I recognize that there is only one, true and living God (Ex. 20:2-3), who exists as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that he is worthy of all honor, praise, and glory as the creator, sustainer, and beginning and end of all things. (Rev. 4:11; 5:9, 10; Isa. 43:1,7,21)

I recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn. 1:1, 14). I believe that he came to destroy the works of Satan (1 Jn. 3:8), that He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public display of them, having triumphed over them (Col. 2:15).

I believe that God has proven His love for me because when I was still a sinner, Christ died for me (Rom. 5:8). I believe that he has delivered me from the domain of darkness and transferred me to His kingdom, and in Him I have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13,14).

I believe that I am now a child of God (1 Jn. 3:1-3) and that I am seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:6). I believe that I am saved by the grace of God through faith, that it was a gift and not the result of any work on my part (Eph. 2:8-9).

I choose to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might (Eph. 6:10). I put no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3) for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh (2 Cor. 10:4). I put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20), and I resolve to stand firm in my faith and resist the evil one.

I believe that apart from Christ I can do nothing (Jn. 15:5), so I declare myself dependent on Him. I choose to abide in Christ in order to bear much fruit and to glorify God (Jn. 15:8). I announce to Satan that Jesus Christ is my Lord (1 Cor. 12:3), and I reject any counterfeit gifts or works of Satan in my life.

I believe that the truth will set me free (Jn 8:32) and that walking in the light is the only path of fellowship (1 Jn 1:7). Therefore, I stand against Satan's deception by taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). I declare that the Bible is the only authoritative standard (2 Tim. 3:15-16). I choose to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

I choose to present my body as an instrument of righteousness, a living and holy sacrifice, and I renew my mind by the living Word of God in order that I might prove that the will of God is good, acceptable, and perfect (Rom 6:1-3; 12:1-2). I put off the old self with its evil practices and put on the new self (Col. 3:9-10), and I declare myself to be a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

I ask my heavenly Father to fill me with His Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), lead me into all truth (Jn 16:13), and empower my life that I may live above sin and not carry out the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). I crucify the flesh and choose to walk by the Spirit. (Gal. 5:24).

I renounce all selfish goals and choose the ultimate goal of love (1 Tim. 1:5). I choose to obey the two greatest commandments-- to Love the Lord my God with all of my heart, soul, and mind and to Love my neighbor as myself (Matt. 22:37-39).

I believe that Jesus Christ has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18) and that he is the head over all rule and authority (Col. 2:10). I believe that Satan and his demons are subject to me in Christ, since I am a member of Christ's body (Eph. 1:19-23). Therefore, I obey the command to submit to God and to resist the devil (James 4:7), and I command Satan and his demonic forces in the Name of Christ to leave my presence.