

Judy's Teaching Notes
Wednesday, May 9, 2007
Overcoming Spiritual Darkness

At end of prayer, be sure and ask that all spirits not of Jesus of Nazareth leave the room, take dominion over airspace, room, church and church land. After prayer, have people stand and do "As One" statement (WE ARE STANDING AS ONE WITH GOD) to start meeting.

What is spiritual darkness? In 1 Samuel 2:9 it says "He protects the lives of his faithful people, but the wicked disappear in darkness; a man does not triumph by his own strength." Spiritual darkness is the activity of satan's world. Sin in our life can open the legal door for torment by satan.

Certainly, we can look at the "lost" people in the world and see the darkness in their lives. They do not seem accountable to God in any way. If one is a "born again" believer, can spiritual darkness be in their life? Definitely, if sin has been allowed and not addressed or repented of to God.

I. Jesus' Encounters with Demons

In Matthew 4:24 The news about Jesus spread all through Syria, so that people brought to him all those who were sick, suffering from all kinds of diseases and disorders; people with **demons**, and epileptics, and paralytics...question group as to what happened? **Jesus healed them all.**

In Matthew 8:16 When evening came, people brought to Jesus many who had **demons** in them. Jesus drove out the evil spirits with a word and **healed all** who were sick.

Mark 1:39 So he (**Jesus**) traveled all over Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and driving out **demons.**

So there are many parables in the Bible about how Jesus handled illnesses and demons, and those parables have given us instruction all through time and for today on how we are to handle them also.

Any questions?

II. Our Authority Through Jesus

Mark 3:15 Jesus says to the twelve apostles...and you will have **authority** to drive out **demons.**

Mark 16:17 **Believers** will be given the power to perform **miracles;** they will drive out **demons** in my name (**Jesus**); they will speak in strange tongues.

Luke 9:1 Jesus called the twelve disciples together and gave them **power** and **authority** to drive out all demons and to cure diseases. (Mark 3:15 uses the word **apostles** – and in Luke 9:1 it says **disciples...would think that in God’s leadership hierarchy the twelve were apostles, but ALL BELIEVERS are called to be disciples.**)

Any Questions?

III. Spiritual Strongholds

What is a holy stronghold? It is a beachhead (position of force) established by the truth of the Word so the Holy Spirit can forge us into new places. Psalm 27:1 says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; I will fear no one. The Lord protects me from all danger; I will never be afraid.”

What is an unholy stronghold? In John 8:34 Jesus said to them, “I am telling you the truth: everyone who sins is a slave of sin.” When we stay in sin and believe the lies of darkness, satan’s beachheads are established. A mindset is your belief, even though the mindset is not in God’s Word. It opens the door for trauma; the strongman is the ruler of the stronghold (Matt. 12:29). If left alone, they can become demonic.

When we truly accept Jesus as our savior and begin our walk with Him, our spirit is joined with Holy Spirit. We have spirit, soul and body. As new “born again” believers, our spirit and heart are changed immediately (2 Cor 5:17)...we begin to see the kingdom. We answer Holy Spirit’s invitation!

Becoming a believer gives us a Principle of Position (Coll. 2:8, 9, 10 and Rev. 1:6) which is to believe what scripture says about us, to operate in the Word, and to behave in the Word.

YOUR POSITION IS YOUR GIFT FROM GOD! LET YOUR CONDITION (old sin nature) COME UP TO YOUR POSITION!!!

As we believe what God says about us, we move from glory to glory...out of a lie into a truth. Your “positional truth” means that you:

**Operate in the Word
Believe the Word
Behave the Word**

After initial salvation our soul and body will begin a transition from our old sin nature. Satan wants to continue to control your body and soul in hopes of

gaining control of your spirit. (In Luke 4:6,7) The devil tried to do this with Jesus during His earthly life. Satan offered total control of the world if Jesus would only bow to him.

Many times in the transition of soul and body, a believer continues to make provision for their sin...they smoke and they continue to buy cigarettes. They drink and they continue to buy alcohol...they are into porn...they continue to buy the magazines, or they continue to go onto porn websites. Their vices are still in control of their soul and body. (Eddie's story about the pastor with the 5th of whiskey in his desk drawer)

So, can a "born again" believer have a demon? The answer is yes and no! They cannot in their spirit which is joined with Holy Spirit. But if their sin has become a "stronghold," then the door has been opened for spiritual torment, meaning the demon or dark spirit can come and go in the soul and body...not dwell, but come and go! The fruit of their life will be dimmed by darkness.

I encourage you to look at your life on a regular basis asking Holy Spirit to show you the areas needing to be cleansed...it is very simple to do if you are not already doing it, and we will do an exercise on it at the end of class.

Let's look at characteristics of demons:

- **They are an unseen spirit of unknown origin assigned to harm human beings.**
- **There are weak and strong demons.**
- **They have a brain; they are able to think.**
- **They travel.**
- **They must have a body to rest and they can tell whether it is inhabited by other demons.**
- **They are highly intelligent. They search and research.**
- **They are able to see, speak, and have a memory (they never forget).**
- **They know how to plan and attack, and prefer to work in teams.**
- **They are attracted by sight, by smell and by sound. (Candles and perfume are okay, but not incense Hosea 11:2. Certain drum beats call the occult together.)**
- **They will bring up your past. TELL THEM ABOUT YOUR FUTURE AND THEY WILL SHUT UP!**
- **After being cast out, they look for a way to come back and bring their friends.**

Let's look at two terms: Iniquities and infirmities. Iniquity is wickedness, sinful, abominable, evil and ungodliness. Infirmity is illness, complaint, disease, sickness, not strong but weak.

Anything that does not align with God is a stronghold. Where a person has hopelessness, there is a stronghold present. There are seven levels of strongholds in life with Levels 1-3 being foundational, pre-birth issues:

1. Sin, sickness and iniquity of forefathers (up to 4 generations).
2. Sin, sickness and iniquities of parents.
3. Experiences in the womb and at birth.
4. Preschool-Elementary issues with fear, sexual abuse, loss of a parent through death or divorce, or paranoia.
5. Preteen-Teen-Young Adult issues of drug/alcohol addiction, depression, fantasies, fornication/lush/perversion, or unbelief.
6. Adult issues with sickness or disease, unholy alliances/soul ties, unforgiveness, or occult involvement.
7. Adult issues with poverty, adultery, cult involvement, lies, or victimization.

Reminder.....Let's say it together - LET YOUR CONDITION COME UP TO YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST!

Discipline yourself to NOT walk out the LIES of satan. The strongholds in our life must be broken off of us before we can break them off of someone else.

Satan works on our forefathers' contracts until someone in the family "cuts them off." So let's do that right now....please repeat after me....Holy Father, I command in the name of Jesus that all generational strongholds and curses are cast out of my family, purged and cleansed by the blood of Jesus. I give thanks and praise to Jesus, Holy Spirit and Father God.

A huge stronghold in our lives is the inability to forgive others. Taking offense exposes your life to the torment of devils as they will not leave as long as we do not forgive others.

To dismantle strongholds, you must:

1. Identify the stronghold.
2. Repent and renounce the stronghold; then make restitution.
3. Bind the strongman from activity in your life; cast out.
4. Glorify God!

IV. Personal Deliverance

Prayer: Holy Father, let our condition come up to our position in Christ!

For anyone with a repetitive stronghold, I urge you to study 1 John 4:4 “But you belong to God, my children, and have defeated the false prophets, because the spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit in those who belong to the world.”

The spirit who is in you is more powerful than anything in the world...WOW

In 1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out all fear. So then, love has not been made perfect in anyone who is afraid, because fear has to do with punishment.”

In Isaiah 41:9-14 I brought you from the ends of earth; I called you from its farthest corners and said to you, “You are my servant.” I did not reject you, but chose you. Do not be afraid, I am with you! I am your God...let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you. Those who are angry with you will know the shame of defeat. Those who fight against you will die and will disappear from the earth. I am the Lord, your God; I strengthen you and tell you “Do not be afraid; I will help you.”

We should not just look like we are going to heaven, but we should look like we are coming from heaven!

Blessings cancel curses.....so in the name of Jesus I ask God to bless you and make His face shine upon you and your life. Amen!

Activation: Have all get quiet, put everything down, and close their eyes. We are going to ask Holy Spirit to run a video in our mind showing us anything that needs to be addressed for forgiveness or repentance. We will take one thing at a time, so we will spend a couple of minutes with the Lord...then I’ll ask that you (to yourself) forgive anyone that might be in the video....renounce and repent of anything that is in the video....then I’ll ask Holy Spirit to show you another video and we’ll do the same steps.