

TAKING TERRITORY

Heart for Victory





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A: CONTEXT

1. WARFARE IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS

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 [Epiourainios].

Ephesians 6:12

2. WESTERN MINDSET

The church in the West needs to wake up to the reality of the 'warfare worldview'. This is a significant part of the Biblical worldview.

Read Ephesians we are blessed (1:3), raised with Christ (1:20; 26), the vehicle of the revelation of His wisdom (3:10) and fight (6:12) **IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS**

3. RESTORATION - sozo Luke 19:10

*"For the Son of Man came to find and **restore** the lost." (Message)*

*"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save **that which** was lost. (NASB & NKJV)*

*"... for man's Son came to seek, and make safe **that thing that perished**" (Wycliffe Bible)*

4. FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

Galatians 5:1

5. REAL IDENTITY

... your life is now hidden with Christ in God"

Colossians 3:3

6. WHOLENESS IN ALL AREAS — RELATIONSHIPS

7. CONTENDING FOR WHAT IS ALREADY OURS IN CHRIST

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained."

Philippians 3.12-16



8. ADVANCING THE KINGDOM IN OUTREACH, MISSION & EVANGELISM

"Years ago we did not know how to loose people that were bound by the devil Often our prayers cannot be answered until we are able to speak with authority and loose the one whom Satan has bound ... The Lord shows us Matthew 12.29 that we must first 'bind the strong man' before we can 'spoil his goods.' I can never tell you what this power has meant in our ministry in the last few years"
Carrie Judd Montgomery (CMA)

"God's children who have entered into His victory by the cross, also know something of what it is to bind the strong one. His cross is the force that sets us free to spoil the house of the strong one and rescue souls."
G. Campbell Morgan

"All too often attempts are made to brush by the strongman to get to the work of the Lord. No Christian workers are more vulnerable to this than the materialistic, secularistic, technological and spiritually insensitive missionaries from the western world ... [the] relationship of binding and loosing to evangelism and missions ... [demonstrates] that this 'brushing by' is a grave, grave error in kingdom work — and that binding the strong man is a first' work.

K. Neil Foster **Binding & Loosing**

B: FOUNDATIONS

1. AUTHORITY

Engaging in warrior prayer is pointless and powerless without a full understanding and assimilation of our authority — individual and corporate — in the heavenly realms. This authority is completely founded and grounded on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Warrior Prayer is thoroughly Christological. The presence of the person of Jesus by His Spirit and His work at Calvary that brought victory over sin, death and the devil give authority to all who are in Christ. He dwells within us so He works within and through us — we stand in His / our authority as victors and overcomers. This authority flows from our identity in Christ.

In fact, without due recognition and reliance on these biblical truths then it is not just powerless but potentially dangerous and damaging.

- **'In Christ' believers have authority over the enemy**

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."
Luke 10:19

- **Recognise that we live in a battle zone** Ephesians 6:12
- **God has given us a role and authority, it changes our prayer life**

"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

- **Moving from**

"God please will you ,, to "In the name of Jesus I declare



2. REVELATION

This is the main area where our theology changed - understanding & practice transformed.

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.***" Matthew 16:18-19

*"... **whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.**"*

(NASB)

*"**and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven.**"*

(Amplified Bible)

"The perfect passive participle, here referring to a state of having been already forbidden [or permitted]."

Charles B. Williams, The New Testament: A

Translation

No longer twisting God's arm

- **The Lord reveals enemy held territory**
- **Engaging spiritual discernment — discerning the spirits**

3. HEARING WELL

"... .. his sheep follow him because they know his voice."

John 10:4

Warrior Prayer involves asking God for Revelation. Once we know what's going on in the heavenly realms, we can exert our authority and bring about change far more effectively.

We need to learn to listen (stop first!!!), and discern



C: BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING AND EXAMPLES

1. DAVID — the great warrior

1 Samuel 23:2, 3; 30:8; 2 Samuel 2:1; 5:19, 23

- **VICTORY**

BUT

*But David **thought to himself**, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand." So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Moch king of Gath. David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal. When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him. Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?" So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since. David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.* 1 Samuel 27:1-7

- thought to himself rather than enquired of the Lord — let alone counsel
- result = immediate relief — Saul calls off the chase — but David is now camped with the enemy and set against his own people

There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again—it leads straight to hell. Sure, those people appear to be having a good time, but all that laughter will end in heartbreak. Proverbs 14:12-13 (Msg)

- David becomes the enemies servant 1Sam 27:5 but he goes on to lie to him (v8-15)
- story goes on with much more bloodshed but now with no permission from the Lord
- Duplicity for 16 months — no Psalms from this period!!!!
- Turns on his own people but no one trusts him but Amalakites have destroyed Ziklag and then his own men turn on him
- Only then does he remember how it works!!!

*And suddenly David was in even worse trouble. There was talk among the men, bitter over the loss of their families, of stoning him. David strengthened himself with trust in his God. He ordered Abiathar the priest, son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the Ephod **so I can consult God.**" Abiathar brought it to David. **Then David prayed to God**, "Shall I go after these raiders? Can I catch them?" The answer came, "Go after them! Yes, you'll catch them! Yes, you'll make the rescue!"*

1 Samuel 30:6-8



2. JOSHUA

- Joshua 1— the promise made (re-stated) by the Lord
- Joshua 2 — the Lord's preparations — Rahab

"Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."

Joshua 3:54

*"Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as **commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.**" Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "**What message does my Lord have for his servant?**" The commander of the LORD'S army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.*

Joshua 5:13-15

- Joshua 6 — direct revelation — obedience and victory

3. GIDEON

"When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

Judges 6:12

- Despite Gideon's doubt there was a heart of obedience
- He acted in obedience and with fearless courage
- Judges 7 — sifting of the army so he faced the battle with the right number of soldiers — God's plan!
- Revelation even came to the enemy!

"Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed." His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands." When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands."

Judges 7:13-15

- Victory came in obedience to the revelation and guidance



4. NEHEMIAH

- did not heed the scoffers but sticks to his revelation

When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates- Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.

Nehemiah 6:1-4

5. JESUS

- discerned the voice of Satan in Peter's mouth

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Matthew 9:24

- Jesus was on the offensive from His baptism onward

6. THE CHURCH IN ACTS

- Peter's release from Prison Acts 12
- Paul's vision of the Man of Macedonia

"Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:6-10



E: PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICE

1. RIGHT HEART

- worship & repentance
 - regaining the focus - Warrior Prayer begins in focussing on God, not on the natural realm, nor our own anger/frustration/fears. Worship centres us upon God and enables prayer to be a partnership (the Divine-Human co-operative)
 - intimacy of relationship — praying with God not to God
 - declaration of victory
 - alignment in His presence

"Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4

- rooting out religion - Worship prevents prayer being a dry, technical, ritualistic duty. It becomes partnering with God, in growing the family business.

2. REVELATION

- primacy of the Spirit
 - pointing us to the CinC — Jesus
 - hearing, understanding and implementing orders from High Command
- Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. John 5:19*
- accuracy not scattergun — avoiding friendly fire!

3. RIGHT QUESTIONS

Two Basic Questions and two key aims
Building God's People — Kingdom
Plundering Hades.

? What are the enemy's schemes at work here? What is coming against us? We need to know what and who we're battling against.

The revelation received here, becomes the content of our *binding*,

? What is your design, Lord? What is your desire for?

For a person/church/situation/business... Content for loosing faith *declarations*.

We are both **Aggressive** (in *binding* the enemy's schemes) and **Progressive** (Building the kingdom and *loosing* God's design).



a. DEFENSIVE WARFARE — binding- combating the enemy's scheme

i) Repentance (Recognise — repent — realign)

*Let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I **confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.***

Nehemiah 1:6

- We identify with the sin and rebellion in the situation and don't blame someone else
- We show commitment to the person/church.
- We identify with their struggle.
- We do not take a superior/proud/self righteous position

This is same approach as 'Freedom Prayer'. Sin gives 'topos' to the enemy. Repentance brings situations back under the Lordship of Jesus.

Where this is not directly possible, for example praying for an unsaved person, we repent to clear topos out of our own lives, so that we can clearly have authority to plunder from the enemy's camp, confident of the victory we have in Christ.

We cannot take authority in areas where we haven't already submitted

ii) Binding with authority

- This is our task — now get on with it
- **We Bind:** with authority we forbid/tie up the enemy's work.
- Rather than simply asking God to sort out the mess for us, we realise our authority in the war and the significance of our will and voice. This is one area where we move from 'widows' to 'warriors'.

He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'"

Ezekiel

37:3-4

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground."

Exodus 14:15-16



He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Luke 17:6

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Matthew

16:19

b. OFFENSIVE WAREFARE — loosing - building Christ's Kingdom

We fight like Christ and in His power and authority

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

Romans 12:21

We Loose: declare God's Word in to the situation by faith. Release God's power through declarations of faith spoken with confidence in our authority and commission from Christ to establish His Kingdom and Rule.

- taking back the plunder
- faith declarations — speaking out has power
- ownership
- church building

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I **will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

Matthew

16:18

F: SCOPE OF WARRIOR PRAYER

1. Individual

- relational and engaged

2. Corporate

- role of Captain and Overseer
- all engaged

3. Where to apply these principles in ministry?

EVERYWHERE — WE OPERATE IN TWO REALMS!



G: TESTIMONY

Personal to All Saints:

Men's Early Morning Prayer Meeting

Village Hall—the man in the green jacket Finance Meeting

Corporate Worship — Sunday

Evangelism — Alpha

Funeral & Baptism Visits

Pastoral Meetings — especially discipline

Being an Angel

