



Power Over the Enemy

July 2013

THE INSIDE RUNNING

When we talk about having power and authority over a spiritual enemy, I sense a disconnect with a growing segment of Christians. Anything negative has been sanitised out. In this scenario, hell is not a real place and Satan is not a real being. Salvation is simply moving into the love of God without repentance or turning from sin. At salvation you get total authority over everything, nothing bad can affect you ever again, and all is well in the playground of life.

To me this actually seems disempowering because it robs you of answers when the storms of life hit. Many of these storms can involve personal choices, relationships with other people, health and finances. Some of them involve a supernatural component where you are being spiritually oppressed by the enemy. If the existence of evil is denied then there are no answers for breaking free from it. As Mike Connell so clearly points out, we are in a battleground, not a playground. We are in a spiritual battle for the salvation of loved ones, health, strength, and for our very integrity.

It's time to use spiritual solutions to spiritual problems, and to be the agents of transformation that Jesus called us to be.

Blessings



John

John Subritzky

by Mike Connell

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ you are enlisted in a spiritual warfare that rages daily for the hearts, minds, lives and destinies of people. Every believer must learn how to put on the armour of God, how to stand in faith, how to fight, and how to win (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Whenever we seek to advance the kingdom, whether it's in our own life, or in the lives of others, there is always some form of resistance. You have to understand that, learn to recognise it, and learn to stand up and assert the authority God gave you. You have authority over all the power of the enemy, so whatever lies in front of you in your mission for the Lord, you have authority. God gives you power to deal with it. It's your choice whether you believe that, or whether you're intimidated - it's too big and too hard.

Look at the apostles, and what happened to them in Acts chapter 13. Apostles always face spiritual opposition of some kind. When we seek to advance the kingdom, there's always challenges. That's part of the deal. In verse 4 they were sent out by the Holy Ghost. There's the word "apostolos".

"They were commissioned and sent forth by the Holy Spirit and they went to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. Then they went down to Salamis, and they preached the

word of God in the synagogues of the Jews, and had John as their assistant."

At Paphos there was the site of a temple to the god Estarta, which is a New Testament version of Jezebel. It's a controlling, witchcraft spirit.

"When they'd gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, son of Jesus. [Jesus was a popular name in those days] and he was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul, and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer, for that was his name, withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith."

So, there is a Roman proconsul. That means he's the ruler over the island, and wherever you get governance of any kind, witchcraft spirits will always seek to attach to them, to try and control that person, so whether it's in the home or the family, whether it's in



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> governance in the community, there'll always be people who have controlling spirits seeking to try and dominate.

Of course, when we face demonic opposition or demonic resistance in advancing the kingdom, we find it usually comes in the form of accusations, of pressures and difficulties, or of overwhelming accusing spirits that tell you you're not good enough, and who do you think you are anyway?

The Holy Spirit says: you can do it, I'm with you, you've got what it takes, we're on a great journey together. God is a great encourager. The Holy Spirit is a great encouraging Spirit, and when you are sent on a journey, remember, the One who sent you is with you always. So if God has sent

you to do something He says, I'm with you, we're going to do this together. I didn't send you there to do it on your own. You can't do it without me, and I'm not going to do it without you, we're on a journey

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together, so don't be agitated or surprised or frightened if any difficulties come.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

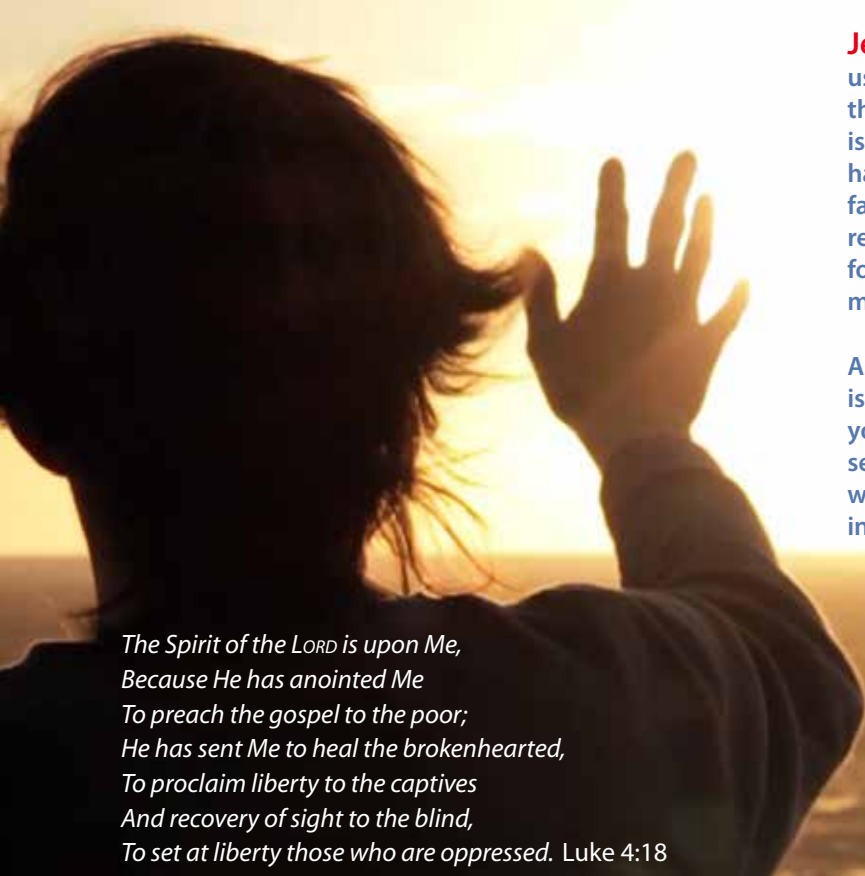
Luke 4:1

Jesus was "led up by the Spirit" into the wilderness for a time of testing. It was the

Father's plan that Jesus would experience spiritual warfare prior to moving in the power of the Spirit (verse 18) and impacting the world. The key focus of each temptation was to undermine Jesus' confidence in the word of God that defined His identity and position of favour as a Son (Matthew 3:17).

No great advancement of the Kingdom of God takes place without the training and experience that comes from testing or proving how we will stand in the face of conflict and opposition. Training in spiritual warfare takes place in secret in our inner personal life, but the fruit of our inner victories has great external consequences in our life and relationships.

What is on trial is our faith in the word and character of God. What is at stake is the release of God's blessing and favour.



*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed. Luke 4:18*

Jesus is calling us to freedom. The call that He has given us is to go and do likewise in His name. Promise Keepers is at the forefront of the battle for men's souls. Transforming lives is at the centre of our calling and mission. Promise Keepers has been seeing men saved and set free for 20 years. We have faced many challenges over the years as we have focused on reaching more men for Christ. By prayer, perseverance and a focus on the goal, we are seeing God use this ministry to help men experience major breakthroughs and find real freedom.

As we are about to open the new Event season, *The Call*, it is an ideal time for you to reflect on how this Event can help you to experience more of God's anointing on your life, to be set free from oppression or to be healed. *The Call Men's Event* will be an excellent opportunity to come into a new freedom in Christ.

The Call is also a place to bring friends who need to find freedom. We know that transformed men are catalysts for transforming the world. You may be the only person who can bring that man to transformation by inviting him to come with you to *The Call*.

We want you and your friends to join us this year for this special Event - where we can all answer the call!

THE CALL

Men's Events 2013 - book now!

0800 PROMISE (77 66 47)

Christchurch 23-24 August

Wellington 13-14 September

Auckland 4-5 October



**PROMISE
#6**

A Promise Keeper is committed to reaching beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate the power of biblical unity.

Next Issue: MARRIAGE