

**A Call to Prayer – Pam Yates 06.02.22**  
**Session 5 – Spiritual Warfare**

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

*1 Peter 5 v 8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

We are living in the days that only the prophets spoke about. The evidence is all around us. The enemy knows his days are short, but the good news is, that Jesus has already won the victory, through His sacrificial death on the cross. But Jesus, is requiring His church to rise up out of the ashes, to be His army, overcoming evil with good. Taking possession of the victory, unleashing the spoken word into the world. *Rev 12 v 11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

When we become a Christian, we immediately have an enemy, who will do everything to permeate our thought life, attack our family, try to cause division and accusation in the church. However, keeping our eyes firmly anchored on Jesus, we will be under His covering and protection, so there is nothing to fear. Satan was once an archangel in heaven, but he got too big for his boots, by becoming proud, so God cast him out of heaven with a third of the angels. These, are at present operating on the earth as evil spirits without bodily form. Their role, to thwart God's plans until Jesus returns. Individuals, cities, nations, can be affected.

However JESUS is our SAVIOUR < our DELIVERER < our REDEEMER < PROVIDER and the KING of all KINGS ! Who has defeated the powers of darkness through His precious blood. When Jesus returns, the second time, prior to this( the rapture), on His return to earth, satan will be bound for 1,000 years, and we shall reign in Christ. *Revelation 20 1-6* So we can conclude, the conflict is cosmic, it involves heaven and earth. It is not in the realm of the senses. We do not fight the flesh, but through the spirit, by revelation of the Holy Spirit and the spoken Word of God.

**WHAT ARE THE WEAPONS** *Ephesians 6 13- 18 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all stand.*

All the armour is protective, except the *Sword of the Spirit which is living and doesn't return void. Ish 55 v 11* and attacks. The *belt of truth* protects us from the enemies lies & deception. *John 3 19-21 The breastplate of righteousness* – our covenant relationship with Christ *Ish 59 v 17 The gospel of peace*-His peace guarantees are safety, and guards are hearts. *Phil 4 v 7 Col 3 v 15*  
*The shield of faith* – enables us to share with others *1 John 5 v 4 The helmet of salvation* – renews and protects are minds from unrighteous thoughts & words.

**WHAT ARE STRONGHOLDS** -2 Cor 10 v 3-5 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

Paul depicts a stronghold an entrenched pattern of thought, ideology, value or behaviour contrary to the word and the will of God.

In an individual – unforgiveness, pride, rebellion, immorality, ungodly inheritance, religious spirit, denying the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the church – *Ephesians 4 v 25- 31* Paul lists at least 7 sins that Christians commit against other Christians! Lying, anger, stealing, unholy talk, grieving the Holy Spirit, unforgiveness and bitterness. They so grievously grieve God, they can cause Him to withdraw His favour and blessing from a church. The remedy-repentance is the key, turning away from the sin that so easily ensnares us. *Verses 31 & 32* of this chapter also gives us the answer.

**Binding & Loosing** *Matthew 16 v19 And 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.*

To loose a person or a building into serving God, from being controlled by an ungodly spirit, involves binding the freedom of it's action, loosing bondages, sicknesses, fears, sins etc, and releasing their God given potential into serving Jesus. To operate on this level of warfare, one must be mature in the faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Everything Jesus did was in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Luke 4 v 18a The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.*

*Colossians 4 v 6 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing on the cross.*

**FASTING** Some strongholds are only removed by fasting. Fasting helps to express, to deepen, and to confirm the resolution, that we are ready to sacrifice everything, to attain, to seek, the kingdom of God. *Ezra 10 v 6 Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and to the room of Eliashib. While he was there, he ate no food and drank no water, because he continued to mourn over the unfaithfulness of the exiles. Joel 2 v 12 Even now declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.*

**Prayer**

Father we praise and thank you that You are the Alpha & the Omega, the Beginning and the End. You are Omnipresent(everywhere) Omniscient (( know everything) and Omnipotent ( can do anything). Help us to trust you for Your word says that *No weapon that is formed against us will prosper, and every tongue that rises in judgement thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from me, saith the LORD. Ish 54 v 17*

AMEN