

## **Is Spiritual Warfare Still Necessary?**

### **Acts 13:8**

**Is Spiritual warfare still necessary? Yes! Does God's Word show that adversity against His people is constantly on-going? Yes!**

**The following is just one example. Acts 13: 4 to 12 - "So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister. And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord." Praise the Lord! Another victory for the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**But this is nothing new. God warned us in the Old Testament what was going on. Ezekiel 13: 17 to 23 NKJV - Likewise, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own heart; prophesy against them, "and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves and make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of My people, and keep yourselves alive? "And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies?" 'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds. "I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. "Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his**

wicked way to save his life. "Therefore you shall no longer envision futility nor practice divination; for I will deliver My people out of your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.

Lying, hunting for souls, extreme depression, and pre-mature death are some of their tactics. Notice that God will not tolerate it, and He will deliver His people. The struggle for the soul is especially important. A while ago, on an Art Bell radio show, a caller was recounting how he was lifted out of bed and spun around in the air. Being terrified, he called on the Lord to help him. When he was returned to his bed, he thought that it was only a dream, until he realised that his feet were on the pillow.

Now don't get overcome by fear. 2 Timothy 1: 7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 Peter 5: 8 & 9 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

As for the devil's scare tactics in such things like the new exorcist movie, just ignore them. If he was as powerful as he claims to be, all of humanity would have been wiped out a long time ago.

And Our Lord God is not powerless to intervene. 2 Peter 3: 9 & 10 - The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

In that exorcist movie, apparently the demon has the upper hand. This can happen if the exorcist is not a born-again believer using Our Lord Jesus Christ's commands. Luke 10: 19 & 20 - Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

There is a similar example in Acts 19: 13 to 20 - Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was

known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: & they counted the price of them, & found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

A while ago, I came across a modern example. World Weekly News, April 10, 1990 - Attempt to Force Satan out of girl's body backfires, when Priest Burst into Flames during Exorcism - Holy man's horrible death rocks Vatican! A Catholic priest exploded in flames when a demon-possessed schoolgirl attacked him with balls of white-hot energy that shot from the palms of her hands! The death of Father Luis Ponce stunned church officials who called the holy man "one of the premier exorcists of this century or any other." "We knew Father Ponce was in for a fight but never expected anything like this" said a Vatican spokesman who requested anonymity.

The world knows what is going on, even when many Christians pretend that nothing is happening.

**Tales of Witchcraft Abound in Zimbabwe - 16 September 2010**

"When she came to barter with rural folk the trouble started. One of our neighbours requested sugar on credit and she refused. Before the end of the day she was bleeding from the nose, mouth and ears." In Zimbabwe, witchcraft is still common in rural areas. Hardly a week passes without a local report or newspaper story on the practice. For example, police recently cornered a man at the Mbare Mbare bus terminal, after they discovered a live cobra snake in his luggage. He told officers the reptile was one of his witching tools.

About two weeks later, some women were discovered wandering naked in the early hours of the morning near Highfield. After being confronted by locals, they claimed they'd "flown" from a rural location during one of several night time escapades. But they said something went wrong and the spell wore off, before they could return to their original location.

Four years ago, the government proclaimed that supernatural powers do exist. But it says it still prohibits the use of magic if it harms someone.

David Nyemba, 77, from Mazhambe village believes he was bewitched by his aunt while he was employed as a driver in the city three years ago. He says a turning point came in his life when he quit his job in order to return to village life: "I was the darling of the company management," he says, "and I did not realize I could have some hidden enemies." "My aunt pretended to like me and gave me money to spend. My instinct told me to refuse, but I went against my better judgement and spent it. I was demoted

**and harassed constantly by my superiors which never used to happen. I got the answers after visiting a traditional healer."**

**That's in Africa, what about over here? How about in the UK, with those twins from the US? The adoptive mother there is a self professing witch who will do anything to be able to keep those children.**

**The twisted internet baby buyer Judith Kilshaw has pledged to cast a black magic spell to have her twin girls returned from social services, and will use the hardest forms of black magic to get her twins back and to get her own back on those people who have ruined their lives, she seethed. She would never hurt animals but would hurt other human beings. This could go as far as ruining their lives, political career and business. She doesn't care. She has only used mild forms of black magic...until now.**

**What about the Harry Potter craze? How many unsuspecting children are being drawn into witchcraft by it. In Toronto, the author had a public reading of her works for many thousands of children who were helped to attend, by their schools. The February 2001, Readers Digest cover had a picture of her with the title, "The Woman who bewitched the world". Obviously the world knows what is going on. The Calvary Contender - Still think Harry Potter is harmless? Some evangelicals have commended Harry Potter, who "fights evil with spells and flying brooms," as harmless fantasy. But in Britain, The Pagan Society claims it gets over 100 calls a month from children wanting to become witches.**

**Deuteronomy 18: 9 to 14 NKJV - When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.**

**The Harry Potter series is but the next step to desensitize and manipulate children to accept the occult as harmless ecstasy.**

**So there's a lot of spiritual activity going on. Some of it might even be good. Hopefully, you have believers praying for you, your family, business and church etc. And we are commanded to pray for our leaders.**

**1 Timothy 2: 1 to 6 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, & giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, & for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet & peaceable life in**

**all godliness & honesty. For this is good & acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

**How can we have a peaceable life, if we don't pray for them? And how should we pray? This website has resources on spiritual warfare posted. Don't bother with Wikipedia; their entry is so superficial, that no-one could get any help from it.**

**A while ago, a UK paper admitted that deliverance was a valid treatment for schizophrenia. The Guardian, Feb. 15/2001 had an article entitled, "Exorcists in demand to purge Mexico's demons". Pastor Alvarez, one of Mexico's foremost exorcists, says demonic presence is on the increase and his services are in ever more demand.**

**So spiritual warfare is still needed. Then, who's our enemy?**

**Zechariah 3: 2 - And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?**

**Jude 1: 9 - Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.**

**Matthew 16: 22 & 23 - Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, & said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**

**Yes satan and his demons are our adversaries; not people!**

**Ephesians 6: 12 - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

**Even when it seems that we are being overwhelmed, all is not lost.**

**2 Kings 6: 13 to 18 And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. & it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, & chariots, & a great host: & they came by night, & compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? & he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, & said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; & he saw: & behold, the mountain was full of horses & chariots of fire round about Elisha. And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed**

**unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.**

**Acts 13: 6 to 12 - And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.**

**Praise the Lord! Another victory for Our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**It is important that our spiritual warfare prayers are directed at the correct target; that's the demons, and not the people. I have seen too many casualties due to friendly fire. I call this "Christian fragging". And when curses are sent back, they should go back to the original sending demons, and not the people. Win Worley wrote about the dangers of misguided spiritual warfare. One article is "Psychic Prayer Equals Witchcraft".**

**Now, we know who is our enemy. And we know who is to be targeted. But what about the weaponry? 2 Corinthians 10: 2 to 6 - But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.**

**The enemy will hit back, and hard. Have you counted the cost, and are willing to endure to the end? How's your protection?**

**Revelation 12: 11 - And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

**The shed Blood of Jesus Christ is very important for us. For without it, there is no forgiveness of sins. 1 John 1: 7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

**Revelation 12: 11 - And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

**That's so important, that it's worth repeating twice. What else is in our battle gear? Ephesians 6: 10 to 18 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places . Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;.**

**Take time and study what these are about. Especially learn the Word of God. Our Lord Jesus used it to combat the devil in the wilderness.**

**Matthew 4: 4 - But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**

**Is the Word of God very effective? Hebrews 4: 12 - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

**What strategy will be used? Matthew 16: 19 - And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

**Mark 3: 27 - No man can enter into a strong man's house, & spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.**

**Luke 10: 17 to 21 - And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.**

**And we have a secret weapon. It is so secret, that most Christians don't have it. Matthew 12: 28 - But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.**

**Luke 24: 49 - & behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**

**Acts 2: 1 to 4 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. When you study the lives of the important people in the Bible, you will see that their great works were done, when they allowed the Holy Spirit to work through them.**

**Zechariah 4: 6 - Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

**With that kind of power, authority, armour, weapons; with the Word of God; with the Blood of Jesus; with Jesus Christ as Our Lord and Saviour; and with the Holy Spirit as our Comforter and powerhouse; how can we lose?**

**So how does the devil get so many Christians, to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory?**

**He uses the same trick that he gave to Baalam, and he had God's people trip themselves up. Numbers 31: 16 - Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.**

**Revelation 2: 14 - But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**

**Many years later, those two areas were still causing problems. Acts 15: 20 - But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.**

**If you are able to get hold of the original, "War on the Saints", you will see how the devil quashed the Welsh revival; by using passivity.**

**Our Lord Jesus even told the disciples what was affecting them.**

**Mark 16: 14 - Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.**

**Hardness of heart (unforgiveness) causes a lot of trouble in our relations**



**with others, especially our families. And unbelief causes trouble in our relationship with God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). How far does it go? How many don't accept the Lord's commands which followed?**

**Mark 16: 15 to 18 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. If preaching salvation is still in order, then all the rest is. Failure to fully comply is a sign of unbelief etc.**

**Now the disciples took their correction, and it showed. Mark 16: 19 & 20 - So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**

**Amazing! Obeying God gets results. I don't know any church to-day that has the same results, unless they are doing all the same works. But how do you get rid of those problems? Only a cruel taskmaster would make his people walk them out in faith, without helping them. In order to get full freedom from the oppression, the legal ground has to be removed.**

**People need to be born again. Romans 10: 9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

**Personal sins need to be confessed. 1 John 1: 9 & 10 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

**Sins of the fathers do have an adverse affect for many generations, unless confessed. Daniel 9: 16 - O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.**

**The occult is another major. Kurt E Koch's, "Occult ABC", has many accounts of believers in trouble because of occult activity.**

**Unforgiveness is a major block with God.**

**Matthew 6: 14 & 15 - For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

**A sincere attitude towards God is required. Christ Jesus didn't shed His**

**Blood on Calvary's cross for people to play religious games.**

**Romans 6: 1 to 4 - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Newness of life is not evident in many churches.**

**Doing daily warfare prayers continues to take away the legal ground the demons have for staying. 100 years ago, War on the Saints, stressed the importance of removing the demon's grounds.**

**Just as you attract mosquitoes and black flies when out in the country; the devil sends attacks, like curses etc. The closer we walk with Our Lord Jesus, the quicker we will be able to get free from them, or else get sustaining Grace to bear them.**

**The more we know of God's Word, the more of His Promises we can use.**

**Numbers 22: 12 - And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed. As born-again believers, we are blessed of God, the devil's attacks can be stopped.**

**Isaiah 37: 33-35 - Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.**

**When Paul had problems, he sought the Lord's help. 2 Corinthians 12: 7 to 10 - And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

**Now Peter had some rough times. Luke 22: 31 & 32 - And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**

**The devil knows how to afflict people, so they will run away from Our Lord Jesus. And Christ Jesus is still interceding for His people, in bringing back**

**His lost sheep. And that's where the Body Ministry comes in, as believers minister to each other.**

**John 13: 34 & 35 - A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

**And so if we want fullness in Christ Jesus, engaging in godly spiritual warfare is a necessity. By using our spiritual authority, we can bind the demons causing trouble for us, our families, homes, jobs, churches, nations etc. We can loose the spirits of the Lord into us.**

**By doing it God's Way, we go from being spiritually passive to being active.  
2 Timothy 1: 7 - For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**

**And may the Grace, Mercy, and Peace of God Our Father, and Christ Jesus be with you.**

**Pastor T. John Franklin**

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