



The Missionary and Spiritual Warfare

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1. PREAMBLE

According to Robert L Plummer, “Ancient thinkers often portrayed life or their work as a battle. Thus, everyone would understand when Paul speaks of fighting the good fight (1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7). Ancient philosophers also spoke of waging war against the passions (Rom. 7:23; 8:6). We all know that humanity is at enmity with God and can be reconciled in peace with him only through Christ (Rom. 5:1, 10-11; Col. 1:20-22)”, (2012:108).

As Christians and ministers of the Gospel, we are engaged in a spiritual war. This war can become very intense when the servants of God attempt to take the gospel of Christ to people who are bound by Satan. The Christian is opposed by the demons of Satan in many different ways (Eph. 6: 12-13). Sometimes the opposition comes in the form of negative thoughts and discouragement, temptation, severe health, family or emotional problems, great political and economic trouble in the country, or in crime, violence or war. There are two other strong enemies which the Christian must face in his spiritual life. Perhaps the most discouraging enemy is right within himself. First, it is the weakness and corruption of his own sinful nature. The Apostle Paul said, ‘I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature . . . the evil I do not want to do-this I keep on doing’ (Rom. 7:18-19, NIV). Second, the Christian is daily surrounded by the corrupt values of the present world system which encourages pride, selfishness, greed, and lust, (1996:202).

We are aware that before Jesus began His earthly ministry, He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11, NIV). Having withstood, Jesus can help us resist Satan when he tempts us (Hebrews 4:15-16). Therefore, because Christ defeated Satan at the Cross, we who acknowledge Him as Savior and Lord have been delivered from Satan’s power (Col. 1:13), (2002:240). Rebellion by Satan and his angels has produced a kingdom set up in opposition to God, into which he tries to draw all human beings. He has had some measure of success due to his causing sin to enter into the world. As Christians, our fight is against the evil forces of darkness (Eph. 6:12) and our main adversary is Satan, (1988:159).

At present the whole world system is in his grip (1 John 5:10). He is the ultimate source of sin, sickness, and death. He has a kingdom of demons (Matt. 12:24-28) made up of evil spirits (Luke 11:24-26) or fallen angels (Matt. 25:41) who are intelligent, active, dwell on earth and in heavenly supernatural realms (Eph. 6:11-12). Remember, the devil or Satan is not equal with God or even effective against God. He is not all-knowing or all-powerful, (1988:160).

Lois K fuller stresses:

A missionary may know everything about learning the customs, culture and language of the people, and still fail in his missionary work. This is because the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 4:4 that the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers so that they cannot understand the gospel. In the parable of the Sower, Jesus also said that when the Word of God comes to somebody and he does not understand it, the devil snatches the Word out of his heart so he cannot believe (Matt. 13:19; Mk. 4:15). This shows us that even if we learn all the language and culture of the people, and make excellent plans for evangelizing them, if we cannot stop Satan from deceiving them, we will not have good results in our work, (1996:53).

2. DEFINITION OF “SPIRITUAL WARFARE”

There following are definitions of both the word “warfare” and “spiritual warfare”. First, warfare is an act of waging war, in armed battle: that is guerrilla warfare. Second, it is a struggle or conflict: verbal warfare between the two candidates, (1992:776). In biblical terms, spiritual warfare essentially encompasses Satan’s rebellion against God and the manifestations of that rebellion in the created order. In practical terms, spiritual warfare refers to the ongoing conflict between humanity and Satan framed in light of the kingdom of God. Therefore, it is cast as an ongoing conflict in creation. To understand this conflict, we must understand three sets of protagonists: ‘God and his hosts’, Satan and his hosts,’ and ‘humanity’. Spiritual warfare, then, is most explicitly the struggles of these sets of spiritual hosts and humanity, all under the sovereign control of God. This conflict ranges from the more mundane (e.g., struggle with temptation) to the more exotic (e.g., demonic confrontations and angelic battles). Our struggle is against spiritual powers, and as in any battle against living enemies, we are to be aware of their *modus operandi*, (2001:369-370). But in the context of this topic, the spiritual warfare is a battle or fight between what is godly and ungodly, the right and what is wrong, a desire to do what is good against what is evil. It is a fight the devil engages against the church and God’s ministers that are engaged in preaching and teaching the word of God in the quest to deliver those that are under the bondage of sin and Satan.

3. THE ORIGIN OF DEMONS

According to Elmer L Towns:

The two Greek words are translated similarly in the New Testament but their meanings are slightly different. The word *diabolos* are translated “devil” and refers to the devil himself. Another word, *diamon*, is usually translated “devils” in the King James Version but might be better translated “demons.” The Bible makes a very real distinction between a single devil and many demons. Whenever we read of “devils” in the Bible, we are reading about demons. Therefore, it appears most likely that demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God in heaven and were cast out of the presence of God. When it comes to identifying demons, the question that should be asked is “Where do demons come from”? At least four suggestions are mentioned here to help explain the origin of demons. First, from the Spirits of the dead (Luke 16:23; Rev. 20:11, 14), (1983:348). Charles C Ryrie affirms, they are the Spirit of wicked deceased people, (1999:180). Second, from the children of angels (Gen. 6:4), (1983:349). Also, Ryrie stresses that, these children are the disembodied Spirits of a Pre-Adamic race, (1999:180). Third, from Pre-Adamic spirit (Gen. 1:2). Fourth, from the fallen angels (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12:4), (1983:348-349). Ryrie agrees with Elmer, (1999:181).

4. THE WORK OF DEMONS

It is very important for every missionary and believer to have a clear understanding of the demons. There is nothing hidden in the Bible about the nature of our battle as children of God. The church is engaged in a spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:12). Therefore, it is for the good of believers to know and understand not only Satan but his messengers (demons), (1983:347). I want to mention few activities identified in the Bible in which demons may be involved. Sometimes they demons are seen as responsible for causing physical diseases and mental sufferings in people, even though, some mental diseases or disorders may not be attributed to demons (1 Cor. 11:30; Matt. 9:32-33; 12:22; Mark 5:4-5; Luke 9:37-42). The temptation of sexual immorality, both the fornication and adultery are attributed to demons (Lev. 18; Deut. 18). Also, demons are the originators and promoters of false doctrines that are taught by different heretical religious groups (1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:2, 14; 1 John 2:18). Finally, the Bible teaches that some people can be possessed by demons, (Matt. 4:24; 12:22; Mark 5:15-18; Luke 8:36; John 10:21; Eph. 5:18; Acts 5:3). This is possible when the relationship of the individual is not consistent in walking with God, (1983:355-358).

Charles C Ryrie alludes:

In general, demons act as Satan’s emissaries to promote his purpose and to thwart the plan of God. Though Satan experiences creaturely limitations, demons extend his power and activities greatly. In fact, at times it may seem that Satan enjoys omniscience and omnipresence, though in actuality he does not. It is just that the demons extend Satan’s activities so much that one might think Satan himself is doing it all (Eph. 6:11-12), (1999:187).

In *the Mission of an Evangelist*, we see how Satan is at work to multiply sin in every sphere of life. We are told in the Scriptures that; Satan is a liar and a deceiver who stands against the truth of God. But the assurance believers have is that, wherever the Church is alive, a dynamic group of God's people doing what God has called them to do, evil is rolled back. This is the reason why as missionaries, we want to multiply the Church in every people group and nation, (2001:379). Millard J Erikson affirms:

As Satan's subjects, demons carry out his work in the world. It may therefore be assumed that they engage in all the forms of temptation and deception he employs. They inflict disease: dumbness (Mark 9:17), deafness and dumbness (Mark 9:25), blindness and deafness (Matt. 12:22), convulsions (Mark 1:26; 9:20; Luke 9:39), paralysis or lameness (Acts 8:7). And, most particularly, they oppose the spiritual progress of God's people (Eph. 6:12), (1998:473).

5. HOW THE DEVIL ATTACK CHRISTIANS

We should not be ignorant of Satan's evil schemes (2 Cor. 2:11). We must be aware that the devil is constantly out to destroy Christians (1 Peter 5:8). He is clever and cunning in his tactics (Eph. 6:11; Gen. 3:1-6) and he will try anything at any time to pull us down. He is not a gentleman, in fact, he usually waits until we are tired and discouraged and our guard is down before he attacks us (Matt 4: 2-3). The main battle field is in our mind: he accuses (Zach. 3:1), he deceives (2 Cor. 11:4), he tempts (1 Thess. 3:5); he lies (John 8:44); he inspires evil thoughts, confusion, doubt, fear, unbelief, laziness, complacency, despair, and discouragement etc.; and he appeals to our fleshly desires (Gal. 5:17). Satan also seeks entry into people's lives through their involvement with cults, drugs, idolatry, witchcraft or any other occult practices. Satan also uses his fallen angels, called demons, to trouble people (Luke 13:10-16), (1988:159).

We will never fully appreciate the proclamation of the Word of God, or the ministry of prayer and praise, or the importance of living holy lives until we understand that we are in a spiritual battle. God's Word tells us, "The whole world is in the power of the evil one" (1 John 5:19). The apostle Paul says, "We are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers" (Eph. 6:12). We are aware how Satan is working to multiply sin in every sphere of life. He is a deceiver who stands against the truth of God. But wherever the Church is alive, a dynamic group of God's people doing what God has called them to do, evil is rolled back. That is why we want to multiply the Church in every people group and nation. The church's task is to liberate the people from Satan's power. It's to deliver captives, to make the blind to see, to release those who are in bondage. We are to declare God's glory; God deserves the worship and praise of every human being. We must model that commitment to God's glory; we have no message if we don't live it, (2001:379).

First, we reveal God's truth so that people understand. "Thus, saith the Lord." Second, we expose Satan's deeds of darkness by forcing his corruption into light through the truth of God's Word. Third, we resist the devil's schemes. Prayer is essential. It is also essential that we ourselves stand in truth; otherwise, we cannot stand against the onslaughts of the enemy. Fourth, we overcome the devil's way of influencing our characters. Sometimes we justify things culturally when the Word of God has already said it is sin. We are to recognize sin in our own lives and stand against the enemy. Fifth, we examine our effectiveness and ask why we are not accomplishing what God has gifted us and called us to do. All over the world syncretism is rife. People practice the old religion along with Christian things. Satan has a hold over people. They must come out of the dominion of Satan, receive forgiveness and become part of the Church of Jesus Christ, an inheritance with the saints. In Acts 26:18, the apostle Paul says, "My task is to open eyes." He says, "I have to help people realize that there is a Kingdom of light and there is a kingdom of darkness." We do have weapons "mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Cor. 10:4, KJV). People are being delivered today, (2001:379).

6. HOW CHRISTIANS CAN OVERCOME SATAN'S ATTACK

One of the chief difficulties of living for God today is not the social pressures or inconvenience of life; it is the spiritual battle in which we are engaged. It is clear that our enemies are demons. Apostle Paul observed, "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" (Eph. 6:12). All the phrases mentioned above refers to demons and their activities. Part of the work of

demons, particularly as it relates to the Christian life, is doing battle with Christians on the spiritual level. This condition is the reason behind the apostolic imperative, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11). Without spiritual help from God, the Christian is unable to win the battle against demons, (1983:357).

Therefore, in this spiritual warfare, the need to use physical weapons is not necessary. The reason why physical weapons are useless in a spiritual war is because the real enemies are not people of flesh and blood, but spiritual powers of wickedness (evil angels) (Eph. 6:12), (1996:212).

1. Our strategy for warfare
 - a.) Recognize the devil's activities (2 Cor. 2:11)
 - b.) Reject his advances (Eph. 4:27)
 - c.) Resist his attacks (James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8-9)
 - d.) Recognize where God is at work and do as God wants you to do in that situation

Jesus said that in His name His disciples will drive out demons (Mark 16:16-17) as part of their work for Him.

2. Our armor for defense

The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin as long as we confess any sin to God and receive His forgiveness (1 John 1:7-9). If we live in the good of this provision of God, Satan will not be able to get a foothold into our life (Eph. 4:27). We need to know where we stand in God. The blood of Jesus enables us to live in victory over Satan (Revelation 12:10-12; Col. 2:15). We also need to put on the full armor of God in order to stand our ground, whatever the enemy throws at us (Eph. 6:10-18). Putting on this armor is like putting on the Lord Jesus (Romans 13:14). We will then be abiding in Christ and staying close in Him always. Jesus knows what we go through because, although He is God, He became a man and was tempted in every way as we are, yet without sinning (Heb. 4:15). When Satan came to Him to tempt Him, He was able to stand and overcome. He did this, not I His authority as God, but as a man in the power of the Holy Spirit. As disciples of Jesus, we have this same power available to us (Phil. 4:13; Acts 10:38). The armor of God is divided into a number of items. We need to run through these in our minds to make sure that we are living as we should in Christ, in the victory available to us and so not have any point where the enemy can come and attack us successfully, (1988:161).

- a.) Are we living with the **belt of truth** on? Do we live in the truth and in God's reality? (Jesus is the truth, dwelling in us and inspiring us to live truthful lives, John 14:6)
- b.) Have we put on the **breastplate of righteousness**? Are we living righteously before God as we should? (Jesus is our righteousness which should inspire us to righteous living, 1 Cor. 5:21)
- c.) Are our **feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**? Are we fulfilling the great commission of Jesus to go and make disciples of all nations? (Jesus is the Prince of peace and it is His gospel we carry, Isaiah 9:6)
- d.) Have we taken up the **shield of faith**? Are we living a life of faith, trusting in God and knowing our victory over the enemy and our flesh life? (Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith, Hebrews 12:2)
- e.) Have we put on the **helmet of salvation**? Do we know that we are born again and are children of God? (Jesus is the captain and author of our salvation, Heb. 2:10)
- f.) Have we taken up the **sword of the Spirit**? Do we know the Word of God and what it says about who we are in Christ? (Jesus is the living Word and He has given us His Word to be an active weapon in our mouths, Hebrews 4: 12; John 1:14)
- g.) Do we **pray in the Spirit on all occasions**? Are we open to the Holy Spirit's leading and prompting and do we know how to pray effectively? Jesus gives us access to our heavenly Father and we can therefore present things to Him in Jesus' name, Hebrews 4:16; John 14:27).

Remember that we must be self-controlled and alert (1 Peter 5:8) and we must live lives submitted to God (James 4:7). Also, we must not give Satan an opportunity to get foothold in our lives, (Eph. 4:27).

- h.) For such spiritual attacks, the minister is given spiritual weapons of warfare in the New Testament. These weapons can be used against the direct attacks of demons. Three of these weapons are the promises of the word of God, prayer and faith. According to the promises of the word of God, Christians have authority to cast out demons by the power of the Holy Spirit. By prayer and by faith in the promises of God, the attacks of the devil can be overcome, (1996:216).

3. Our weapons for attack

When Satan has a grip on someone's life, or comes against us as disciples of Jesus, then we have the authority in God to not only defend ourselves but to go on the offensive against Satan. We can use:

- a.) The name of Jesus, (Acts 16:18; Phil. 2:9-10)
- b.) The Word of God, (1 John 2:14; Eph. 6:17)
- c.) The power of the Holy Spirit, (Acts 10:38).

4. Our assurance of victory

“Thanks be to God. He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 15:57).

- a.) Everything is placed under the feet of Jesus Christ because He rules over all for God (Eph. 1:21-23) and He gives us His authority as believers (Matt. 10:1; Rom. 16:20; Luke 10:19; Matt. 28:18-20)
- b.) Those born of God are kept safe, (1 John 5:18; Rom. 8:37-39)
- c.) He who is in us (Christ Jesus) is greater than he who is in the world (Satan) (John 4:4)
- d.) There is overcoming power in the blood of Jesus and in our testimony of Him (Revelation 12:1).

Jesus promised, “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” (John 14:12), (1996:162).

- e.) When we resist the devil, with a life submitted to God, he will flee from us (James 4:7). Therefore, when we submit to God and resist the devil, Psalm 34:14 encourages us to ‘turn from evil’. We must obey the word of God. Only then can we resist Satan with God's authority. When we submit ourselves to God, Satan loses the basis of his power over us, which is our sin and rebellion against God, (1996:208). Without submission to the Lord, a Christian will be unprotected from Satan's attacks. On the other hand, when we submit to God and his word, we have the delegated authority of Christ to stand against Satan and his demons (Luke 10:19; Eph. 6:11-18), (1996:208).
- f.) We must learn to trust in the finished work of Christ. Satan is a defeated foe: “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 12:11), (2002:240). Their genuine expression of faith in Christ, (2001:370).
- g.) Our testimony (the way believers live for Christ and bear witness to the work of his grace in their lives), (2001:370).
- h.) When there is lack of fear in the face of death, (2001:370).
- i.) To penetrate this world of darkness, remember that Satan is not all-powerful. His kingdom is impressive, but limited. Realize that he has taken people captive and they need to be set free. Know that there should be no arrogance in coming against demonic powers. Jesus disarmed principalities and powers. On the Cross, God was reconciled to us and we to Him; we received forgiveness, our transgressions were paid for; Satan was defeated. If we stay focused on the Cross and the resurrection, then we have a message to proclaim.

- j.) Our weapons of warfare are God's truth (we live it; we proclaim it), the ministry of the Holy Spirit-directed prayer and praise, walking in a worshipful attitude every day, knowing that God takes sin seriously, and where there is no holiness of life there is no victory against the powers of darkness. God has given us weapons to the pulling down of strongholds. God will triumph, (2002:379-380).
- 5. Submit to God (James 4:7-8) in two ways:
 - a. Resist the devil:
 - i.) Have a psychological mind-set against him: "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself" (Daniel 1:8). "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature" (Romans 13:14, NIV)
 - ii.) Put Satan in his place. When Satan spoke to Jesus through Peter to try to divert Him from His eternal purpose, Jesus rebuked him: "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" (Matt. 16:23, NIV)
 - iii.) Use Scripture. When Satan tempted Jesus (Matt. 4:1-11), Jesus answered devastatingly with three pertinent Scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 6:13. A strong argument for familiarity with Scripture is to be able to resist Satan.
 - b. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). Intimate, daily devotional time with the Lord, using His Word and seeking His presence and strength through prayer, will help us resist Satan and result in his feeling: "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11). (2002:241).
 - i.) The Christian must not take lightly the designs and works of Satan: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12).
 - ii.) The Christian must believe Satan to be a defeated foe: "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Jesus Christ emerged victorious over Satan through His incarnation, death on the cross, and resurrection: "In as much then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).
 - iii.) Satan will have no power or influence over the Christian who submits constantly to the domination of Christ, to the authority and illumination of the Word of God, to the discipline of prayer, and to involvement with a dynamic group of Christian believers. This is what is meant by putting on the "whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11), (2002:239).

7. HOW TO LEAD A VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE

Robert L Plummer has observed that Paul's images of spiritual warfare tend to be more practical than some imagine. Most involve protective armor; Paul is saying we are more protected by our right relationship with God and with one another. The expression, "armor of God" (Eph. 6:11) could refer simply to "armor from God" or "divine armor." Paul may imply that spiritual warriors are carrying on God's own mission, functioning as his divinely protected representatives. And in this context, Paul is simply saying, we dare not wage our battle in our own strength, but by depending on God (Eph. 6:10). Therefore, the way to advance the Kingdom of God, however, is by humble recognition that God does the most important work and deserves the real credit, (2012:110-111). Below are additional steps how believers could lead a victorious Christian life.

- a.) By knowing and living in our authority and position in Jesus. We have been redeemed out of Satan's hand. We stand in the total victory of Jesus (Revelation 12: 11)
- b.) Be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit and walk in the Spirit, not after the lusts of the flesh (Eph. 5:18; 1 John 2:15-17)
- c.) Stay away from occult practices. If you have already dabbled in these, then renounce them and ask God to forgive you for each thing you have done that has dishonored God
- d.) Keep the sinful nature crucified (Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:11)

- e.) Wear garment of praise (Isaiah 61:3)
- f.) Fellowship with other Christians regularly (Heb. 10:25; 1 John 1:7)
- g.) Cut any association with those who would draw you back into sinful or occult activities (2 Thess. 3:6; 1 Cor. 5:9; Eph. 5:11)
- h.) Actively resist Satan and whatever he tries to get you to do, i.e., reject his influence (James 4:7; Col. 3:8)
- i.) Wear the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18), (1988:162-163).

The believers are warned to be on guard against and to also be able to resist the attacks that will come from the devil and his demons. But if believers refuse to adhere to this warning, one can be exposed to the control by Satan and his demons. Thus, an individual may bear the responsibility for what eventuates in demon possession by giving in to preceding satanic attacks, (1999:190).

8. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH TO HER MEMBERS

The task before the Church is to liberate people from Satan's power. It is to deliver the captives, to make the blind to see, to release those who are in bondage. The Church is to declare the glory of God to man because God deserves the worship and praise of every human being. As a Church, we will have no message if we do not live it out.

First, the Church is to reveal God's truth so that people can understand, "Thus saith the Lord." Second, the Church must expose Satan's deeds of darkness by forcing his corruption into light through the truth of God's Word. Third, the Church must teach believers how they can resist the devil's schemes. Prayer is essential. It is also essential that we ourselves stand in the truth; otherwise, we cannot stand against the onslaughts of the enemy. Fourth, the Church should help members know that, they can overcome the devil's way of influencing their characters. Some times we justify things culturally when the Word of God has already said it is sin. We are to recognize sin in our own lives and stand against the enemy. Fifth, we need to examine our effectiveness and ask why we are not accomplishing what God has gifted us and called us to do.

All over the world syncretism is rife. People practice the old religion along with Christian things. Satan has a hold over people. They must come out of the dominion of Satan, receive forgiveness and become part of the Church of Jesus Christ, an inheritance with the saints. In Acts 26:18, the apostle Paul says, "My task is to open eyes." He says, "I have to help people realize that there is a Kingdom of light and there is a Kingdom of darkness." But we do have weapons "mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Cor. 10:4, KJV), (2001:379).

9. SUMMARY

The believers in Christ are reminded of this fact, our weapons of warfare are God's truth, we must live it and we must proclaim it. We need to know that where there is no holiness of life, there is no victory against the powers of darkness. The weapons to pull down the strongholds of Satan are given to us by God. Believers should be comforted in the fact that, whatever Satan or demons can do to a believer, and whether from without or within as their base of operation, their control cannot be permanent and eternal. John clearly declares that the evil one cannot "touch" the one who is born of God (1 John 5:18). The word "touch" here involves the purpose of harming-Satan cannot harm the believer. Satan can never hang on to the believer with the purpose of harming him or her, for that believer belongs eternally and irrevocably to God. Satan or demons may afflict and even control for a time, but never permanently or eternally.

Charles C Ryrie has advised all believers to treat demon molestation as they would resist temptation or fight against the activities of their flesh. We are advised to examine ourselves to see if there are any areas of rebellion against the law or will of God, confess any and all known sin, rely on the power of the indwelling Spirit who is greater than Satan (1 John 4:4), and use all the armor of God (Eph. 6:13-18). The children of God are commanded to resist and not to bind the devil or send them into the abyss. Paul reminds believers that our struggle is against the powers of darkness. Therefore, we must be alert (1Pet. 5:8), be clothed in God's armor, and use all the things that contribute to healthy spirituality (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 10:5; Phil. 4:8). Finally, as believers, we must not conclude that all problems are initiated by demons, not all physical illness, not all emotional problems, not all sins

come or are caused by Satan. Some of these challenges arises naturally, some come from the flesh. Casting out demons would do no good in such instances, but fighting the good fight of faith will benefit in all things, (1999:192). Above all else, for a missionary or pastor to survive in any field, we must take seriously in our life's prayer, God's Word, faith and trust in God, maintain spiritual integrity, love holiness and shun evil. For the fact that Jesus went to the Cross, died and was risen, his resurrection did the following for the believers;

- a.) Jesus disarmed Satan and all his followers and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross (Col. 2:15)
- b.) Jesus even took the power of death away from Satan and freed those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death (Heb. 2:14-15; Rev. 1:18)
- c.) Satan is still, for this moment, the prince of this world (John 14:30) but we who are in Christ Jesus have authority over Satan because Satan is under Christ's feet (Eph. 1:18-23) and we are in Christ (Col. 3:3). Satan's time is short. His destiny is decided (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12: 9-12).

We, as disciples of Jesus, need to live as Jesus did, overcoming the enemy and living in victory in every area of our lives, (1999:163-164).

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