

Spiritual Warfare

Walking in the Authority that Christ has given to believers as members of His Body

**An understanding of three levels of
Spiritual Warfare:
Individual level
Local Church level
International level**

Paul Galligan

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Introduction

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Walking in the authority that Christ has given

Jesus gave His disciples authority

When our Lord Jesus first commissioned the apostles He gave them authority to *“heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons”* Matt.10:8. This was in the context of telling them to *“preach, saying ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand’”* v.7. Jesus, in coming to this earth, manifested the kingdom of heaven [called kingdom of God in gospel of Luke and elsewhere in the New Testament] and His ministry was characterised by the casting out of devils. The most dramatic occasion was the deliverance of the Gadarene demoniac (Lu.8:26-39). This man after he had been set free and was commissioned by Jesus, *“went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him”* v.39.

Jesus’ authority over the devil

We know that Jesus was challenged by the devil from the beginning of His ministry to the very end. As soon as He was filled with the Holy Spirit at His baptism, *“He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil”* Lu.4:1-2. Jesus overcame the devil three times and *“when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time”* v.13. As Jesus came to the end of His ministry, He said, *“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in me”* Jn.14:30. Paul accredits the death of Jesus to *“the rulers of this age”* (1Cor.2:8) even though Jesus was *“delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God ... and put to death”* Acts 2:23. It was Jesus’ resurrection from the dead that heralded His full and final victory over the devil.

Throughout His ministry Jesus was confronted by demons and recognised by demons, but Jesus always exercised full authority over the demons and they had to obey Him. Referring again to the incident with the Gadarene demoniac, as Jesus crossed the lake to come to the Gadarene country, *“a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in jeopardy [danger]”* Lu.8:23. Jesus *“rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm”* v.24. It is clear that demonic forces in the Gadarene country knew Jesus was coming and they tried to destroy Him as He crossed the lake. What was Jesus’ attitude – He was asleep!

There is a deep insight in this story that reveals to us the absolute authority Jesus, the Son of God, has over all realms of the demonic and He has given that authority to His church.

In this study I intend to illustrate the warfare with the devil in **three realms**. There are clearly three levels of spiritual warfare revealed to us in the Scripture and over the years the Lord has given me experience in each level as I have grown more mature in ministry.

Three levels of Spiritual Warfare

The three levels are:

- the individual level,
- the body of believers under the eldership of a city or locality,
- the international or worldwide church under the leadership of apostles and prophets.

However these realms of spiritual warfare/opposition to the church/believers, intermesh. **The devil is totally indiscriminate in his attack on individuals, local churches and international apostolic ministries.**

It is essential for us to recognise our placement in the body of Christ and to know our standing in Christ:

- as an individual believer,
- as a member of a church fellowship
- as part of *“the whole building, being fitted together, growing into a holy temple in the Lord” Eph.2:21.*

The Scripture says *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” 1Jn.3:8.* When we come to know the word of God through being properly discipled in the word [Jesus’ command in **Matt.28:19-20**] we realise that we are able to walk in victory and freedom in Christ at every level.

CHRIST HAS DISARMED PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS

It is essential to have a growing knowledge of *“Christ in us”*. The Scripture says that Christ, who is in us, has *“disarmed principalities and powers; He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross” Col.2:15.* This statement is very powerful and absolute! According to the Scripture, the principalities and powers have been disarmed through Jesus’ death on the cross and His resurrection on the third day.

The reference to a **public spectacle** probably refers to a Roman victory procession through Rome by a conquering general or even the Emperor himself after a successful military campaign in a far off province. The conquering general and his army paraded through the streets and any prisoners were led naked and chained. The citizens of Rome could abuse them freely with jeers and throwing things at them. Such a spectacle gives us some understanding of the complete victory of Jesus over principalities and powers of darkness.

Christ is seated far above

Paul prays for us to know *“what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe” Eph.1:19.* This is *“the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenlies” v.20.* Christ has been raised and is **seated** on the throne. He is the Messiah, the one anointed and predestined to be the King who sits upon the throne of David forever.

He is seated *“far above all principality [rule] and power [authority] and might [power] and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come” v.21.* This is a reality that the church has struggled to comprehend and to apprehend. There has been much misunderstanding about spiritual warfare in the heavenly realm and many have taught and practised a confrontational approach to principalities and powers by the church, wrongly interpreting the **wrestling** that Paul refers to in **Ephesians 6:12**. The Scriptures never instruct us to go looking to fight with the principalities and powers

and those who practice such things will come to grief even as the sons of Sceva came to grief in **Acts 19** because they did not understand their authority in Christ.

The church is seated with Christ

Christ has been given to the church as *“head over all”*; God has *“put all things under His feet”* **Eph.1:22**. Christ has been raised **far above**; He is **seated** and the church is *“His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”* v.23. May the truth of these words become known and real to us.

In **Colossians 3:1-3**, Paul gives us the key to realising our position in Christ, *“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”* The church is the body of Christ and the church has been *“raised up together, and made to sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus”* **Eph.2:6**.

If Christ is seated far above and the church is His body and if we are seated with Him then what is our position in terms of principalities and powers? The answer to this is only found in the word. Our position in Christ is according to what is written and as we **set our mind** on these things, our life will be **hidden** in Christ.

***THE KEY TO VICTORY IS KNOWING THAT WE ARE SEATED
WITH CHRIST IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES
FAR ABOVE ALL PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS***

FIRST LEVEL OF WARFARE

THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL – BELIEVERS

This is the realm of authority given by Jesus to every born again believer in **Mark 16:17** *“These signs will follow those who believe; in My name they will cast out demons”*. If a believer is troubled by a demon or confronted by a demon, the believer has the authority to resist that demon and command it to leave.

If there is a demon inhabiting a human being then the believer has authority from Jesus to command that demon to leave in the name of Jesus.

The casting out of a demon is not always simple or straightforward but there is no doubt that Jesus has given this authority to every believer. Please be aware that this authority is given to us fully when we are empowered by the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus was training the disciples He gave them authority over the enemy (**Lu.10:17-20**), but when the disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 1:8,2:4**), then the authority of the Messiah was in them.

Authority in the Name of Jesus

There is authority in the name of Jesus to cast out demons.

A testimony: When I was coming to Christ but before I was born again, I was reading the Gospels and a friend came to visit me who was very depressed. He stayed in our house but after a few days I realised an evil spirit was in our house because of him. I knew I needed to get him out of the house. In so doing, it came to me to get my friend to speak the name of Jesus Christ and when he did, the demon left immediately. I knew because peace had returned to us and we returned to the house and my friend was no longer depressed. Even as an unsaved person, the Spirit of God was able to lead me, because I had been reading the word, to see my friend set free in the name of Jesus. Soon after that experience I was born again and ever since I have witnessed demons flee in the name of JESUS.

SUBMISSION IS THE KEY TO VICTORY

God assures us in His word that we have victory over the devil, but that victory comes to the person:

- who is submitted to God and
- who is rightly submitted in the body of Christ.

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” Ja.4:7. A believer will not be able to resist the devil unless the believer is rightly submitted to God. Many make the mistake of trying to drive the devil away when their life is not in submission to God. **Submission to God means walking in obedience through faith in the word**. Peter also tells us to be submissive that we might receive grace from God, humbling ourselves *“under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1Pet.5:6)*.

As we grow in the Lord, **submission becomes an integral part of our life**. Submission is first to God and we come into submission to Him through faith in His word. However our authority grows as we grow in submission, and submission to God is in the context of being a member of the body.

“Younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility” 1Pet.5:5a. Submission in the body is firstly to elders, both those who are our elders in the natural and those who are our elders in the Lord.

Secondly everyone of us, whether we are an elder or a young Christian, is to submit to one another. Paul confirms this in **Ephesians 5:21** where he is speaking of the Spirit filled life, *“submitting to one another in the fear of God.”*

It is interesting to note that it is in the context of mutual submission that wives are then told to *“submit to their own husbands, as to the Lord” v.22*. The devil would have little opportunity to interfere in a marriage where the husband is submitted into the body of Christ properly because the wife would then be able to submit to him as to the Lord and the devil would have to flee from them.

Prayerful, Steadfast in the Faith

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” 1Pet.5:8-9. To come under attack from the devil and to be tested and tried by him, is something that everyone experiences and it will cause suffering. But the word of God promises us that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us. In this case our resistance is based upon being **sober** and **vigilant** and our **standing in the faith**. Being sober and vigilant speaks of a **prayerful life** and a truly prayerful life means going back to the Scriptures for guidance.

Standing in the faith is illustrated by the first converts on the day of Pentecost who *“continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42)*. *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” Rom.10:17*. As we hear the word and believe it we are empowered to resist the devil.

Perseverance in Suffering

Peter goes on to promise us that *“the God of all grace who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, will perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you” 1Pet.5:10*. Suffering for the faith and experiencing trials that are caused by the devil coming against us are unavoidable and necessary for our growth in Christ and for us to be able to come to maturity and experience the glory of God in Christ Jesus. However the devil is able to be resisted and has to flee from us. The real suffering is actually overcoming self and the flesh.

The Experience of Jesus

When our Lord Jesus came into the fullness of sonship at His baptism, receiving the Spirit without measure, the first step in His ministry was to be led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (**Matt.4:1**). This confrontation was on a **personal level** for Jesus. Jesus had victory over the devil by taking up *“the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God” (Eph.6:17)*. The Greek word ‘*rhema*’ is the word in this verse and also is the word used in **Matt.4:4** *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [Gr. rhema] that proceeds from the mouth of God.”*

Jesus demonstrated perfectly the use of **the sword of the spirit** by responding three times with the *rhema* word, which was quickened to Him. The devil was deceitfully quoting from the ‘*logos*’, the written word, but by the Spirit, Jesus brought the ‘*rhema*’ [quickened] word, which gave Him the victory over the devil. He was resisting the devil by submitting to God and standing steadfast in the faith. We could also say that He was using the ‘*shield of faith*’ (**Eph.6:16**) to *“quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”*

Jesus passed through a time of suffering even as the apostle Peter warns us that we will all experience suffering because of the attack of the devil. At the end of His ordeal *“angels came and ministered to Him” Matt.4:11*.

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL – YOUNG MEN: MINISTERS IN TRAINING

“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name’” Luke 10:17. Here we see that the trainee evangelists or witnesses raised up by Jesus, going out in the authority of Jesus, had authority over devils. In **v19** Jesus said to those disciples, *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”* Jesus is speaking to the seventy witnesses that He had appointed and sent out (**v1**), after giving them some basic training and clear guidelines for the conduct of the ministry they were to exercise (**v2-12**).

The devil cannot harm you

The authority Jesus gave to the ones He was sending out in ministry was complete to the extent that the devil could not **hurt** them in retribution. Sometimes people say, ‘I must be doing something right because the devil is giving me a hard time.’ No, wrong statement! Jesus said if you are doing something for Him, then He gives you authority over all the power of the devil and he cannot hurt you. If we are being hurt by the devil it is because we have not learnt to overcome.

Overcoming the wicked one

The further authority Jesus gave to the seventy who are **ministers-in-training** was to overcome, or tread upon, all the power of Satan. This authority is not just to cast out a demon but authority to **overcome all the power of the devil** when that power comes against those who are disciples, ‘young men’ who are beginning to function in ministry. Young men are ones who are able to overcome the wicked one because the word of God abides in them. John writes to young men saying, *“You are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one” 1Jn.2:14.*

By the word of God abiding in you

There comes a time when the disciple begins to minister. The disciple is ready to minister when the word of God has come to abide in the disciple. Strength comes from knowing the word and that strength then enables the disciple to begin to minister because they know the victory over the devil. The key to overcoming the devil is to have the **word of God abiding in you.**

The testimony of Philip

When Philip, a disciple who had been ordained as a deacon (**Acts 6**), went to Samaria, he was able to preach *“the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ”* (**Acts 8:12**) and exercise great authority, *“for unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed” v.7.* Philip’s testimony was that he was a man of *“good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom” Acts 6:3.* He was appointed to ‘wait on tables’ but because he had been a diligent disciple with the apostles, he was then able to go out in powerful ministry, not only casting out devils from people but actually overcoming *“all the power of the enemy”* in the city of Samaria.

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL – BINDING THE STRONG MAN

In **Matthew 12:29** Jesus says *“how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man”*. What does it mean to bind the strong man?

Who is the strong man?

Jesus healed a demon-possessed man, who was blind and mute (**v.22**). The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out the demon by the power of the devil. Jesus told the Pharisees that a house divided against itself is not able to stand (**v.25**). Jesus is referring to a demonic spirit in a **house**. This **house is the individual’s life**, not a principality in the heavenlies.

When a person is possessed by a demon, they need to be delivered of that demon. Jesus clearly says that we do this by **‘binding the strongman’** [evil spirit] first and then **with the person’s agreement**, we cast it out. The strong man spoken of is a demonic strong man on a human level, not in a heavenly realm. This is deliverance of an individual. Jesus set the man free from a deaf and mute spirit. He said, in effect, that He had bound the strongman and plundered his goods by setting the man free.

Cleansing and filling the house

In **Matthew 12:43-45** Jesus speaks of an unclean spirit that has been cast out of an individual. Such a spirit goes to a dry place; it is not for us to decree where the unclean spirit goes. The ‘house’ from which the spirit has come, refers to the individual from which the spirit has been cast out.

When a spirit is cast out of a person, that person must be lead to full salvation, including water baptism, according to the Scriptural pattern and filled with the Holy Spirit, so that they no longer have an empty house.

Can a Christian have a demon?

A person who is saved can have a demon; they may not have fully turned from evil, or there may be a part of their life that is still in bondage. For example a person who gave themselves to sexual lust including pornography before they were saved, may find it impossible to overcome because a demon has entered them in the past and has not automatically left at the point of salvation. The person needs to repent, humble themselves before God, confess their sin, and remove the demon or have the demon removed, and be filled with the Spirit of Christ.

STEPS IN CASTING OUT A DEMON

The following steps come from experience and are offered as a guide to help both the minister and the individual who is troubled by the demonic to know how to become free or help to deliver another person.

Casting out demons is successful when the minister [or believer] knows their authority and standing in Christ. There is no need to shout at demons but rather speak with authority in Christ. I have spoken in whispers to demons on occasion and they have obeyed me!

- **Establish that the victim wants to be free of the demon.** I was asked to deliver a woman once but I was unable to do so. I asked her if she wanted to be free. She indicated she did not. The lack of her agreement was the reason I could not deliver her. [That woman changed her mind and was set free at a later date.] An adult person needs to agree or purposefully seek deliverance. In the case of children, a parent or guardian can bring them for deliverance.
- **Bind the demon in the person and then communicate with the person, not the demon.** Sometimes the victim may be in a trance or overtaken in some other way by the demon. To bind the demon simply say, 'Devil I bind you in the name of Jesus'. Having bound the demon, call the person out of the trance. You need to be able to communicate with the person. **Do not** enter into communication with the demon.
- Find out the person's name and ask them if they want to be free. Then **ask them to confess Jesus, the name above every name!** At this point the demon may resist and try to prevent the person speaking. The demon needs to be effectively bound and not entertained. Simply command the demon to be quiet even as Jesus did.
- **Lead the person in a prayer of command in Jesus name, agreeing together that the demon must depart.** You can tell when the demon is gone by the peace that comes; sometimes it will be a 'sigh' from the person or some other sign, not necessarily audible, but you will know [discern] that the demon is gone. On some occasions the person will retch even quite violently to expel the demon.
- **Make sure the person is a believer, that they have received Christ into their life. If not, lead them to Christ. Then pray for them to be filled with Holy Spirit** – the house that has been cleansed [swept clean] must be filled with God. Otherwise the demon will return with seven more demons worse than itself. Water baptism is also essential if the person has not been baptised as a believer.

SPHERE OF AUTHORITY

There are specific spheres of authority that each individual needs to be aware of.

- Firstly each individual has all **authority over their own life**. This means that one does not have to put up with spiritual attack and we should address any spiritual attack, knowing our standing in the authority of Christ in the individual level of warfare.
- Secondly, a person who is a parent has **authority over their family**. There is an order of headship set by God but both mother and father have great spiritual authority to protect their children, bringing them up in the freedom of Christ.
- Thirdly, individual authority includes **authority over personal and family finances, over the family home and any family property**; if the family has a business, authority in that business to stand and to withstand any attack of the enemy.
- Fourthly, an example of the sphere of individual authority is illustrated in the context of a school: **an individual teacher has authority in their own classroom** to resist and not allow devilish activity, but does not have authority over the whole school. **The principal of the school has authority over the whole school**, but in some areas will also be subject to the school board or the Department of Education that has appointed the principal.
- Finally, we need to **stand under the right authority to be able to exercise authority** in the sphere of our own responsibility. When the church comes into proper apostolic order, then the local church will be able to stand against the demonic, not only to withstand but to overcome, and the individual believer will know their authority and be able to live and walk in the freedom of Christ.

INDIVIDUAL WARFARE – TAKING EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE

Warfare in the Mind

There is a powerful passage in **2 Corinthians 10:3-6** concerning warfare. This passage of Scripture is speaking of individual warfare. It is primarily talking about warfare in our minds. **These Scriptures are not referring to demonic strongholds in the heavenlies**, except that there are demonic forces at work to deceive people in terms of what they believe.

However the warfare that Paul speaks of and instructs us in, is in the context not of the demonic realm but in the realm of the mind, that is, thoughts, imaginations, arguments, beliefs and the attitudes that come from those beliefs. People's beliefs often end up being very strong, aggressive expressions that lead to all kinds of wrong behaviour and interpersonal problems.

Walking in the spirit

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh” v3. We are by nature children of the flesh; that is our condition, but once we are the Spirit-born children of God, we now have the very Spirit of God at work in us. Consequently we no longer need to be governed by fleshly principles and such principles are of no avail when it comes to the renewal of the mind.

We have ***“died with Christ from the basic principles of the world”*** which Paul says are ***“according to the commandments and doctrines of men”*** and are ***“self-imposed religion”*** (Col.2:20-23). Before we were saved we were ***“in bondage under the elements of the world”*** Gal.4:3. Once we are saved we are to ***“live according to the Spirit”*** by setting our ***“minds on the things of the Spirit”*** Rom.8:5.

The renewal of the mind

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds”v4. The Spirit of Christ gives us weapons and imparts to us the power to effectively overcome the fleshly principles that govern our life by nature. He gives us spiritual weapons: the spiritual ability to be transformed through the renewing of our minds.

Identifying strongholds

A stronghold is a **set of beliefs and thought patterns** in our lives that have been firmly established often from birth, by the environmental and cultural circumstances that we grew up in. We are to pull down such strongholds in our own thinking with the wisdom and power of God.

These strongholds can be **deep things that have been bred into us since birth**, such as racial strongholds between fair and dark skinned people groups. They can be cultural, national, tribal, religious [Catholic and Protestant in Northern Ireland], denominational, or inter-faith beliefs [Islam and Christianity worldwide].

People take such **strong beliefs and practices** for granted and do not even question their validity. We have grown up with such attitudes and beliefs. People act, and have even killed, out of such strongholds.

These **strongholds are in the lives of believers** and Paul says that we have the power of God in us to pull down such strongholds. We need to re-examine our hearts and our thinking and become obedient to the gospel.

The word of God – a powerful weapon

It is the word of God that is *“quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword”* and is able to pierce *“even to the division of soul and spirit ... and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* Heb.4:12. There is no other power or agent in the universe that is able to do this. Therefore the most powerful weapon that God has given us is the word of God, the Bible, the ‘Logos’ of God. There is no substitute to regular committed Bible Study and committed discipleship wherein the teacher teaches the word to the believers. It is very important for the believer to learn Scriptures off by heart, thus wielding this **two-edged sword**.

It is by receiving the word of God in ‘spirit and truth’ and coming to know *“the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness”*, that we are *renewed in the spirit of our mind”* Eph.4:23-24. Our mind is renewed by the word of God as we offer *“our bodies, a living sacrifice”* (Rom.12:2), setting our minds *“on things above”* (Col.3:2).

Casting down arguments - 2Cor.10:5

Arguments refer to our own belief systems or opinions about things, for example, the teaching of evolution in modern society or various doctrines of end-time events in the church. People who believe wrong doctrine want to argue about everything.

These are arguments in our minds and again Paul is saying we have the power to pull them down. That power is the Spirit-empowered word, coupled with all kinds of prayers in the Spirit (Eph.6:18). *“Receive with meekness the implanted [engrafted] word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves”* Ja.1:21-22. Some want to argue about the Bible and what it says but the Bible needs to become real to us, the word that we receive that saves us.

The true worship of God

“Every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God” 2Cor.10:5. A ‘high thing’ can refer to our own pride and prideful things, opinions, attitudes. In the Old Testament, after the reign of King David, there is continual reference to the ‘high places’. When reforming kings were on the throne they destroyed idol worship in the high places but often the worship of YAHWEH continued in the high places, whereas the word of the LORD had made it very clear that the worship of YAHWEH was to be in the place of His presence [the Tabernacle and then the Temple].

God’s people are similar today in that each group, each denomination, worships in their own way, in their own place and scant regard is given to the clear teaching and practice concerning the church of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. It is only as the apostolic doctrine is restored and adhered to, that there will be a pulling down of the high places and the people of God will return to the true worship of the Father in Spirit and in truth (Jn.4:23-24).

Ruling our own mind

“Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” 2Cor.10:5.

‘Every thought’ that is, things that we set our minds on; this is a contrivance of the mind which can act as a trigger, or a device of the mind to which we react in a specific way. It is something that triggers a person to have a certain response and that response makes the person act/react in a wrong way, leading to strife and condemnation.

A thought is not a demon that needs to be cast out. These Scriptures refer to people thinking and acting out of wrong mindsets. Paul says that each one of us has the power to pull

these things down and to bring them into captivity to the obedience of Christ. We are to take every thought captive.

In other words, through being spiritual people, we are meant to rule over our minds, learning to judge ourselves by the spirit-man within us. We are to recognise that our thoughts are in the realm of the soul. Do not be ruled by the soul. **1Corinthians 2:10-16** teaches us that *“the spirit of the man which is in him knows the things of the man”* and because we have received the Spirit of God we may *“know the things that have been given freely to us by God.”* The spiritual man is able to judge all things, *“yet he himself is judged by no one.”*

Obedience is faith in action

“And being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” **2Cor.10:6**. The object is for our obedience to be fulfilled in Christ and when we come to this place of full submission to Him we will be able to help others come out of their disobedience. Our very words and demeanour will demonstrate and reflect the fullness of Christ within us.

Obedience has to do with *“how we hear”*! It is Strong's #5218 *‘hupakoe’*, literally *to hear under*. The word signifies attentive hearing, to listen with compliant submission, assent and agreement. In the New Testament it is used for obedience in general, for obedience to God's commands, and for Christ's obedience.

We must humbly receive the word as the word of God, a word that has ultimate authority and we must be willing to obey the word that we hear - that is **faith in action**. Remember faith comes by hearing the word (**Rom.10:17**).

God has given us His word and His Spirit to enable us to be born again *“through the word of God which lives and abides forever”*(**1Pet.1:23**). That word grows in us bringing us into a mature relationship and walk with God in the Spirit. This is the walk of victory but the key to victory is **‘our obedience’**.

THE KEY TO VICTORY IS OUR OBEDIENCE

Chapter Two

SECOND LEVEL OF WARFARE

The true nature of the church

The second level of warfare is the warfare that comes against the local church, the body of believers of a city or a locality functioning with an eldership. In the biblical situation, the church is always referred to **geographically**: a city - the church at Ephesus, the church at Corinth, a region - the churches of Galatia. The church of a city met in many house meetings, fellowships. For example in **Romans 16** Paul greets five such fellowships in the Roman church: the church that is in the house of Priscilla and Aquila (**v5**), the household of Aristobulus (**v10**), the household of Narcissus (**v11**), the brethren who are with Asyncritus (**v14**) and all the saints with Philologus (**v15**).

In writing to Philippi, Paul addresses the saints, with the bishops and deacons (**1:1**). There are two things: the saints with the bishops [overseers] who are the elders and there are many house-based fellowships. This is a snapshot of the New Testament church. How different it is today with the church being identified by denominations and church buildings.

Scripturally:

- each believer is a member of the body of Christ (**1Cor.12:18**) placed in the body by God Himself through baptism.
- a normal biblical fellowship was led by an elder(s) who had been appointed by an apostle (**Acts 14:23 & Titus 1:5**).
- the local church in the Scripture refers to the body of believers in a given geographical location led by elders who have been appointed by apostles.

Therefore the second level of warfare scripturally is against such a church. The conglomerate and divided nature of the contemporary church is far removed from the scriptural pattern and issues of warfare have been outworked in a 'sub-normal' church situation. In seeking to address the nature of spiritual warfare and to come to know the authority of the believer and the authority of the local church in Christ, we can only examine the scriptural testimony and learn from there.

Warfare against Principalities and Powers

In **Ephesians 6:12** Paul introduces us to spiritual warfare of a more cosmic nature. ***"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."*** No longer are we talking about demons who possess or harass human beings on the earth; we are now talking about the powers of the devil in the heavenly places. Because the nature of the enemy is now that of princes and powers and rulers, the warfare is on a corporate level, that of the local church. The local church in proper Biblical order has apostolic authority delegated from Christ through the apostle to the elders. This authority gives the local church the standing they need to withstand the attack of the enemy.

The placement of the Church

In **Ephesians 1** the Scripture clearly says that God has ***"seated Christ at His right hand in heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, ... And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him head over all to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."*** 20-23.

Then the Scripture says God has ***“raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” Eph.2:6***. We learn from these verses that the church has been placed in Christ Jesus in the heavenly places far above all principality and power. As we accept this revelation and come to know the reality of where the church is placed, our attitude and approach to spiritual warfare in the heavenlies is vastly changed.

It is the mature church that is able to put on the Spiritual Armour

Notice that the teaching on spiritual armour and the revelation of whom we struggle against in the heavenly realm [second heavens – where the demonic rulers are] is in **chapter six of Ephesians**. To fully comprehend and apprehend the authority and resultant protection and offensive warfare through the word and prayer, the saints, including the ministers, need to be fully instructed in the deep and awesome teachings of chapters **one to five of Ephesians**. Then and only then is the church in a position to effectively stand against the attacks of principalities and powers. Unfortunately many have made the mistake of teaching ‘spiritual armour’ to Sunday school children while the adult church is ignorant of the deep and powerfully establishing teaching of **Ephesians 1-5**.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF EPHESIANS

Chapter one: the heavenly blessings, including ***“adoption as sons”***, the prayer for revelation and enlightenment, and the awesome statement of where Christ is in His ascension ***“far above all principality and power”***.

Chapter two: by faith we are seated with Him in heavenly places (**v6**). We are His workmanship, (**v10**). We have been brought near by the blood of Christ; we are part of one new man, Jew and Gentile together and we are being built into the house of God.

Chapter three: Paul reveals deep insights into the mystery and in **verse 10** declares that it is when the church walks in the knowledge of the mystery that there will be victory over principalities and powers.
Paul prays another powerful prayer for us.

Chapter four: the oneness of the Lord and His body, (**v4-6**); the revelation of the five-fold ministries bringing the church to perfection in love; the nature of the new man.

Chapter five: walking in love, light and wisdom; the revelation of the mystery of Christ and His church.

Chapter six: **v1-9** right order in the family and the work place.

When the church is walking in the light of revelation and obedience to the word of God taught in **Ephesians**, then the church will effectively ***“stand”*** against the attacks of the evil one.

HOW TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL – Eph.6:10-12

“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” v10. The exhortation is to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might, not to fight with spiritual powers, or to fight the devil, but to be strong in the Lord and to know the empowerment of the Spirit within (Eph.3:16). There is a well-known verse often quoted in Pentecostal/Charismatic circles, ***“It is not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit says YAHWEH of Hosts” Zech.4:6.*** Despite quoting this verse, many have then taught and practised a form of spiritual warfare very much based on human effort and knowledge.

By putting on the whole armour of God

In verse 11 Paul tells us to ***“put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*** We are to stand against the devil, knowing that he is scheming against us all the time. The context of Paul’s instruction is to the church as a body, not as a group of individuals. We need to put on the whole armour of God. Many local fellowships/churches are gathering places for believers but God is interested in His people **assembling in order**. As individual believers gathered we may only be a heap of lively stones. It is only when we are assembled [the stones built into a wall] that the local body can function and perform that which Christ intends and ordains. The church that is truly assembled is the church that will know how to put on the whole armour of God and be able to stand because that church has been brought to maturity through the functioning of the five-fold ministry gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher (Eph.4:11-14).

There is the wrestling

There is a wrestling at a supernatural, demonic level. There is a battle against powers in the heavenlies. We are on the earth and it is when these powers try to interfere with us on the earth as we seek to fulfil the Great Commission that we have a wrestling. These powers are able to influence individuals, governments and leaders. When Christians start to rise up and the church is formed into a functioning body there is a wrestling with these powers. This can be manifest through false religions becoming militant against Christians and the Gospel, through governments and authorities legislating and decreeing anti-Christian laws and rules, and through the spirit [power] of Jezebel who is attacking the churches by continually infiltrating the church (Rev.2:20-26).

But we are able to stand

However in verse 11 we are told to ‘stand’ not to wrestle, bind or provoke. Verse 13 then says ***“Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”*** We are to ‘withstand’, that is to stand your ground because something is coming against you. When the attack comes you can withstand the powers of the devil, because you have already learnt to stand. Paul exhorts us again in verse 14 to ‘stand’.

This teaching is to enable us to **stand and withstand** any attack of the devil. This is no longer talking about individual warfare but fellowship warfare involving the local church of the city or the town and the elders and saints together in that city. We are not told to fight with the powers, but to stand against the powers. Jesus proclaimed in **Matthew 16:18** ***“I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”***

Our job is to function in ministry for the building up of the body of Christ until we all come to maturity. As we function in this clearly God-given ministry, the enemy will attack but we are instructed in these verses and in many other places in the word of how to withstand the attack of the enemy.

A REVIEW OF THE ARMOUR – Eph.6:14-17

Verses 14-17 list the six pieces of armour and verse 18 tells us that the seventh aspect of ‘standing’ is in prayer: prayer for all the saints! All kinds of prayer in the Spirit! It is a corporate activity and action: **PRAYER**

The Belt of Truth

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth” v14. What is the truth? Jesus said *“Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth” Jn.17:17.* The first way to stand is to be girded with the truth of the word. But what does it mean to ‘gird your waist’ or to put on the belt of truth? If the word is the truth then we cannot literally wear a belt of truth. We must consider: how does the word operate to gird our loins/waist to stand against the devil?

Peter says, *“Gird up the loins of our mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” 1 Pet.1:13.* We need to have the truth of the word in our minds and in our thoughts. The promise of the New Covenant is that God said in **Jeremiah 31:33**, *“I will put My law in their minds and write My law on their hearts.”* Read, study and come to understand the word of God so that it is in your mind. The mind must be comprehensively taught in the word of God. This is the work of discipleship and is basic to the fulfilment of the Great Commission (**Matt.28:19-20**).

There is much teaching in the New Testament concerning the mind and our thoughts. We are to be *“renewed in the spirit of our minds” Eph.4:24*; we are to be *“transformed by the renewing of our minds” Rom.12:2*; and we are to *“set our minds on things above” Col.3:2*. The very word repentance means ‘a change of mind’.

If the belt of truth is to gird up our minds, **why does the Scripture tell us that it is a belt that goes around our loins?** Because the ancients believed that the mind was resident in the lower part of the body. They did not consider the mind to be based in the head as modern man does. The ancients did not major on ‘head’ knowledge but rather on a ‘deep knowing’. The word in the Old Testament translated ‘mind’ and sometimes ‘heart’ is literally ‘kidneys’. That is why that Paul says to gird the waist with the belt of truth.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

“Having put on the breastplate of righteousness” v.14. The breastplate literally protects that part of the body where the heart is. It is a breastplate of **righteousness**. What is ‘righteousness’ and how do we ‘put it on’? Righteousness is imputed to us when we come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and faith comes by hearing the word (**Rom.10:17**). The breastplate is protecting our heart and it is *“with the heart that one believes unto righteousness” (Rom.10:8-10)*. Righteousness comes by believing the word in your heart. The word goes from the mind to the heart, bringing forth righteousness. If we are walking in righteousness then the devil cannot accuse us of anything.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

“And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace” v15. The shoes refer to our ‘walk’. Once you have the word of truth in your mind and you are believing it in your heart, then you are able to walk in the knowledge of the word. This walk is upon the pathway of peace, and peace is a given characteristic of the kingdom of God in the Holy Spirit (**Rom.14:17**).

The Scripture says, *“You will keep in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You” Isa.26:3.*

The gospel is called *“the gospel of peace”* and *“how beautiful are the feet of those who preach it”* (Rom.10:15).

Having girded our minds with the truth and believing the truth in our heart, we are able to go forth preaching that gospel of peace. The shoes enable us to stand and to withstand the attacks of the devil, and again it is the word! Preaching the word!

God promises this peace to all those who continually bring their *“requests”* to Him, *“by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving”* (Phil.4:6). This peace is then a guard upon the mind and the heart, as it were, sealing the word that the mind and heart have believed.

The Shield of Faith

“Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one” v16. Faith is said to be a shield and *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God”* Rom.10:17. This is the ‘*rhema*’ word, the quickened word (Matt.4:4).

Once we have begun to learn the word in our minds, believe the word in our hearts and are walking in the truth of the word, the next part of the armour is to receive that quickened word in the moment of attack or trouble. It is the word of faith that comes into our heart and understanding so that we are able to use that word to extinguish the fiery darts of the devil that are coming against us. These darts can be in the form of doubts, hurtful things that have been said to us or about us and such like.

Remember it is *“our faith that has overcome the world”* 1Jn.5:4.

Helmet of salvation

“Take up the helmet of salvation” v17. A helmet covers the head, which represents our decision-making faculty, the place of authority.

From the previous pieces of armour we can say that our mind is filled with the word and our heart is believing the word. Now we can make Godly decisions, which is the faculty of the will.

When we are in the battle we need to be able to make Godly decisions having our mind, will and emotions all immersed in the truth of the word of God. We are seeking the Lord’s will for every decision; we are at war, but being totally led by the Lord, submitting our decisions to the will of the Lord, being led by the Spirit.

Sword of the Spirit

“And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” v17. This is the ‘*rhema*’ word of God; Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 give good examples of spiritual warfare using the sword of the Spirit. Jesus used the ‘quickened word’, the *“sword of the Spirit”* to overcome the devil. Notice that the devil’s temptations were in words.

Much of the battle occurs in our minds when words/thoughts and imaginations are negative, accusative, condemnatory and discouraging. It is to gain victory in this battle in the mind that we need *“the word of Christ that is to dwell richly in us”* (Col.3:16); that we need to hear *“the word of faith which we preach; the word that is near, in our mouth and in our heart”* Rom.10:8.

When John saw Jesus in the midst of the seven lampstands *“out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword”*(Rev.1:16). When Jesus wrote to the church at Pergamos, He spoke as *“He who has the sharp two-edged sword”* (Rev.2:12). The two major problems in Pergamos were to do with doctrine: *“the doctrine of Balaam”* (v14) and *“the doctrine of the*

Nicolaitans” (v15). It is the word of God *“which is sharper than any two-edged sword”* (Heb.4:12) that brings the true doctrine, the very truth of the word of God.

In 2 Thessalonians, the *“lawless one”* will be consumed *“with the breath of His mouth and destroyed with the brightness of the Lord’s coming”* (2:8). However before that one is destroyed many will have received *“strong delusion that they should believe the lie”* (v11). The battle is with **the word**: the truth or a lie. The sword of the spirit is the word of God!

Prayer for all the saints v18

Lastly we are told to pray *“always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”*. We are commanded to be in constant prayer for all the saints so that as a body we will be able to stand and withstand the devil. This prayer can be both individual and corporate prayer, but it must be Spirit-led prayer. Supplication includes identifying with the needs of others and coming before the throne of grace on their behalf.

Prayer is often not included as part of the armour. However it is number seven and in the context of the other six aspects of the armour, perhaps the most important and effective.

THE SPIRITUAL ARMOUR IN SUMMARY

- **Belt of truth** – think on the word of God
- **Breastplate of righteousness** – meditate on the truth of the word of God
- **Shoes of the gospel of peace** – walk in the truth of the word of God
- **Shield of faith** – believe the truth of the word of God
- **Helmet of salvation** – protected by the truth of the word of God
- **Sword of the spirit** – speak the truth of the word of God
- **Prayer** – pray the truth of the word of God

The Strategic Role of the Apostle

In verse 19 Paul requests prayer for himself *“and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.”* For us to be successful in this warfare that we are in, and to go forward, we need to pray for the apostle or the elder appointed by the apostle who has the responsibility of bringing forth the word.

Paul knows that he needs to speak boldly, so that the saints will receive the word and grow up in Christ and be able to stand and withstand the attacks of the devil in the evil day. Without apostolic teaching, *“the whole counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27), the local fellowships will not be successful in withstanding the attacks of the devil and will be deceived and sidetracked by his schemes without even being aware of it.

The Power of Preaching the Gospel

In Acts 8 Philip, an ordained deacon, had gone to Samaria to preach the gospel and there were powerful results. This city had been under the control of a sorcerer who had exercised power in that city (v10). Philip came alone, preaching the gospel; the people witnessed miracles, healings and deliverance (v6-7), and many believed. Here we see **the preaching of the gospel with signs and wonders overcoming the powers**. One man, discipled, trained and sent out by the apostles was able to preach with signs and wonders and affect a whole city. There was a greater power with the man of God. He simply preached the kingdom of God and even the sorcerer became subject to his word and was baptised (v13).

We must Know our Authority in Christ

In Acts 19 we read of Paul in Ephesus. In verse 13 some local exorcists heard Paul dealing with the devil in the name of Jesus and so thought they could do this also. But when they were confronted by the devil, he asked them *“Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?”* (v.15). They tried to cast out devils in the name of Jesus whom Paul preached; they had no authority of their own and so were attacked themselves by the devil.

The effect of this was that the whole city came under the fear of God and the name of Jesus was magnified, and the *“word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed”* (v17-20).

Paul was preaching the word, reasoning daily; the result was that the demonic realms were overcome. The city got into an uproar. The demonic powers had overstepped the mark by attacking some Jewish exorcists, but **the name of Jesus was magnified**, and the people came out of occultism and turned to the Lord. There is no evidence of binding of the powers, only the preaching and teaching of the word of God.

***THE KEY TO VICTORY IS TO BE TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP
UNDER ELDERS APPOINTED BY APOSTLES;
THEN THE LOCAL CHURCH HAS AUTHORITY
TO STAND AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS.***

Chapter Three

FILLING THE ALL IN ALL

“His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, far above all principality [rule] and power [authority] and might [power] and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body the fullness of Him who fills the all in all” Ephesians 1:19b-23.

How can the church fill the ‘all in all’ as the body of Christ and how is this related to the description that Paul gives us, stating that Christ is seated ‘far above’ all the demonic rulers and powers? To help us understand the spiritual warfare that we are confronted with, we need to understand that there are three heavens referred to in the Scriptures.

1. **The first heavens:** the sun, moon and stars created by God, (**Genesis 1:14-16**). This is where we live in the natural realm and this is where the church [people of God] is, on the earth.

➤ **The light in the first heavens** is the natural light of the sun, moon and stars.

2. **The second heavens:** is the invisible heavens that are inhabited by *“thrones or dominions or principalities or powers”* (**Col.1:16**). This is where the wrestling referred to in **Ephesians 6:12** takes place. The demonic powers seek to destroy the church and diminish the influence of the Gospel among men on the earth. It is the church, the body of Messiah, that is to be used by God to make known the manifold wisdom of God *“to the principalities and powers in the heavenlies”* (**Eph.3:10**). It is in this realm of the heavens that Satan operates. He is referred to as *“the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience”* (**Eph.2:2**).

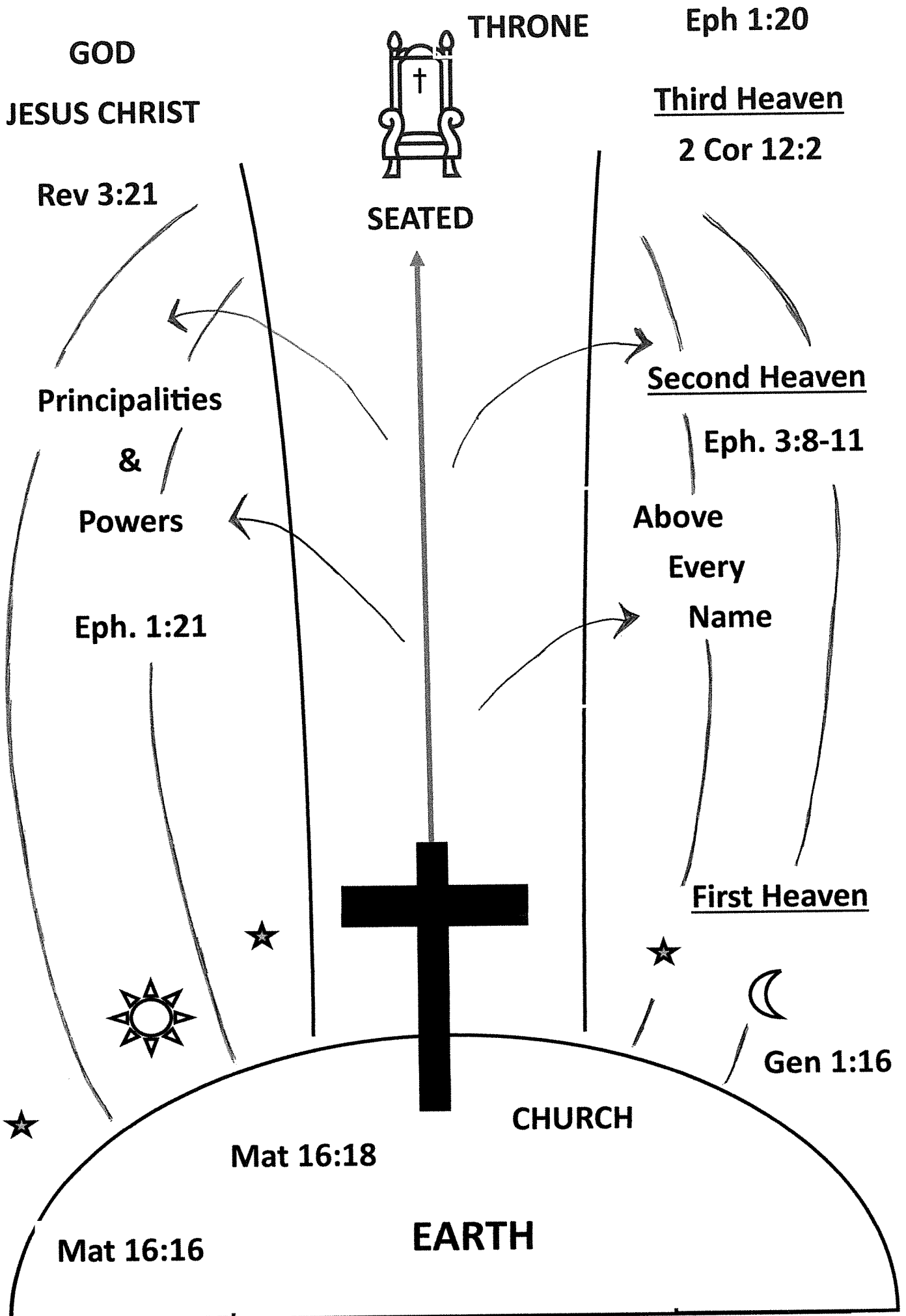
It is from the second heavens, the demonic realm of rulers and authorities, that all false religions are spread in the earth, deceiving great multitudes of people in the earth. These religions that have names that they call upon all operate out of demonic power and specifically from the false prophet himself (**Rev.16:13**).

➤ **The light in the second heavens** is meant to be the church pushing back the darkness of these evil powers.

3. **The third heavens:** refers to the uncreated realm where God’s eternal throne is. Paul speaks of this saying, *“Such a one was caught up to the third heavens ... into Paradise”* (**2Cor.12:2&4**). This is the realm of the uncreated tabernacle referred to in **Hebrews 9:11**, *“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.”* The writer explains this further in **Hebrews 9:24**, *“For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”*

Jesus is seated on the Father’s throne according to **Revelation 3:21**, and Jesus promises the overcomers: *“I will grant to sit with Me on My throne”*. This is the reward for those who overcome, to sit on the throne with Jesus; to rule and reign with Jesus, now.

➤ **The light in the third heavens** is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb (**Rev.21:22-23**).



The position of the Church

The church we know is in the earth, but that same church has been raised up with Christ *“and made to sit in the heavenly places in Christ”* (Eph.2:6). Where is Christ? He has been raised up, and *“seated at His right hand”* (Eph.1:20); He has been raised up and seated *“far above all principality and power ...”* (Eph.1:21). From this we see that the church is on earth and in heaven – in the third heavens, seated with Christ. **This is the position of the church!**

As we come to understand the position of the church in reality, our perspective on spiritual warfare changes radically. It is not for the church to go out waging war against the demonic powers. This has been the practice of some, but it is not the practice of Jesus and the apostles in the New Testament. It is not an issue of spiritual mapping! It is not a plan to hold prayer meetings in strategic places. The commission is to preach Christ and the kingdom of God: this is the way of warfare! As the church comes to realise that we are positioned with Christ ‘far above’ the principalities and powers, our perspective on spiritual warfare changes to one of enforcing the victory already won.

The name of Jesus is above all

As Paul declares in **Philippians 2**, in explaining the mystery of godliness [God was manifest in the flesh, 1Tim.3:16], God has *“highly exalted Him [Jesus] and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on the earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus the Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Phil.2:5-11).

Jesus the Head of the church is above all, ruling and reigning from His throne in the third heavens. **Philippians** teaches us that because of His voluntary submission to the will of God, *“making Himself of no reputation”* (Phil.2:7), Jesus has been exalted to the highest place and has been given the name which is above every name.

In the quote above, Paul again talks of three realms, but he is not including the third heavens in this statement. He refers to:

- *“those in heaven”* – this refers to the demonic rulers in the second heavens
- *“those on the earth”* – this refers to human beings
- *“those under the earth”* – this refers to the demons of hell

Jesus has all authority in every realm, and He has delegated that authority to His church through His name.

The church in maturity

It is as the church grows to maturity according to the Scriptural pattern that the church will be able to manifest and make known *“the manifold wisdom of God ... to the principalities and powers in the heavenlies”* (Eph.3:10). This is how the church will *“fill the all in all”* (Eph.1:23). This is how the demonic powers in the heavenlies will be overcome and brought into submission to the eternal purpose of God. It is through the preaching and teaching of Jesus the Christ! (Acts 5:42). It is through preaching Christ! (Acts 8:5). It is through *“the foolishness of the message preached”* (1 Cor.1:21) that God’s eternal purpose in providing salvation for human kind is revealed.

WHAT DOES THIS CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

The only foundation is Jesus Christ

It is built on the only foundation, Jesus Christ. *“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ”* 1Cor.3:11. The revelation of Jesus the

Messiah, the Son of God is the foundation of the church (**Matt.16:18**). This is the “**Rock**” on which the church is built “*and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*” (v.18).

Apostles and prophets make known the mystery of Christ

Then the Scripture says that the church, the household of God has been built on the foundation of apostles and prophets (**Eph.2:20**). **Ephesians 3:5** says that the knowledge of the mystery of Christ “*which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets*”. The apostles and prophets are to make known the revelation of the mystery to the church (**Eph.3:3-4, 8-9**)

It is time to check the foundations of the church. Is the church built on the revelation of Jesus the Messiah? Has the church received the ministries of apostles and prophets to properly found the church in the knowledge of the mysteries of Christ? Unless the foundation is properly laid the church will not be able to withstand the attacks of the evil one (**Eph.6:11-13**).

The Cornerstone

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the house of God, but He is also the **chief cornerstone**. “*Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole body being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord*” **Eph.2:20b-21**. The cornerstone in a building is that which holds the building together, tying it into the foundation, and from which the whole building takes its shape and is “*being fitted together*”. This issue of Jesus being the cornerstone [this word is literally ‘corner’ as found in the KJV] is very important. The references to the cornerstone from the Old Testament are quoted in the New, very powerfully: [**Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14; 1Peter 2:4-8**].

1 Peter 2:4-5 shows a picture of the church being built. Jesus is the Living Stone and the people of God are living stones “*being built up a spiritual house*”. We are built into Christ Jesus, the Cornerstone; we are built upon the foundation rock of Christ Jesus, and we are being built up into the head who is Christ Jesus (**Col.1:18; Eph.4:15**).

The ministry of the evangelist

Once the apostles and prophets have laid the foundation, making known the mystery of Jesus the Christ, then the ministry of the evangelist can properly function, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God and seeing people born again because they have heard the preaching of who Christ is. The evangelist goes out into the world to preach the gospel (**Mark 16:15**). Those who believe and are baptised (**Mk.16:16**) become members of the body of Christ (**1Cor.12:13 & 18**).

The ministry of the pastor

The evangelist brings the new believers to the pastor who looks after them, feeding the milk of the word of God to them so that they can grow (**1Pet.2:2**). The pastor is to ground the new believers in the word of God and especially teaching the foundational principles of Christ mentioned in **Hebrews 6:1-2**. If the new believers have not been baptised, then the pastor will attend to this. Also, the pastor will make sure that the Holy Spirit has been imparted to the new believers [see the example of Paul in **Acts 19:1-6**, and the record in **Acts 8:5-17**]. The ‘living stones’ are now being built into the Cornerstone.

The ministry of the teacher

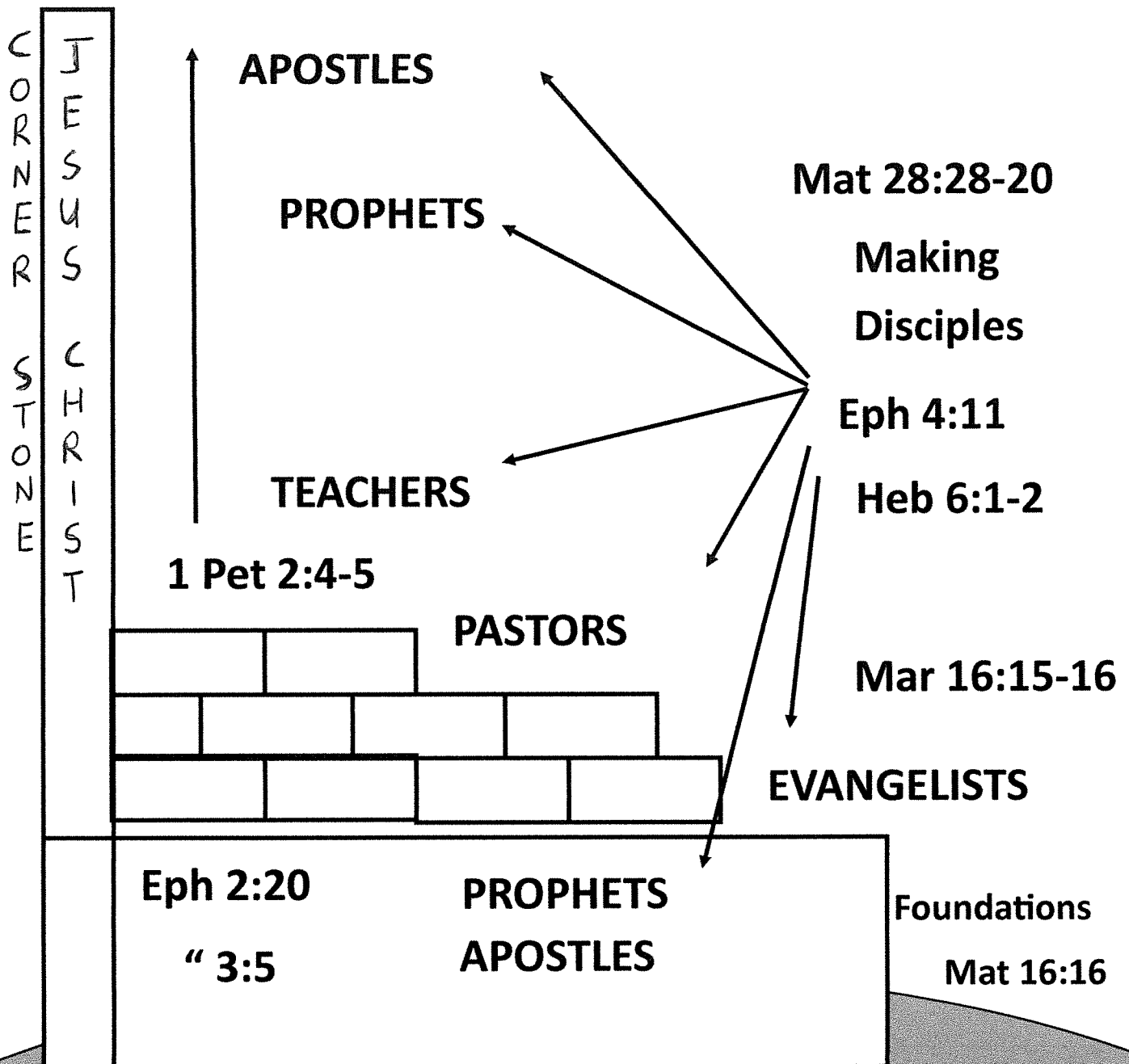
The teacher has a special role in teaching the word of God, making disciples of all the new believers (**Matt.28:19-20**). The pastor should have begun this work, but it is the primary responsibility of the teachers to make disciples. The teacher, the pastor and the evangelist all need to be trained by apostles and be fully conversant in the apostles’ doctrine.

GOD/CHRIST

THRONE/HEAD

JESUS THE CHRIST

Maturity



ROCK JESUS CHRIST 1 Cor 3:11

Paul was exercising the ministry of the teacher in the church at Antioch (**Acts 11:25-26**) before he was called and sent out by the Holy Spirit as an apostle (**Acts 13:1-4**).

The ministry of apostles and prophets

We have already noted the essential role of apostles and prophets in founding the church on the revelation of Jesus Christ. Once the church has been properly founded and begins to do the work of discipleship in every local assembly, then the apostles and prophets need to be actively involved in bringing apostolic and prophetic revelation and teaching so that the whole church can grow to maturity. This is the purpose of Jesus giving us the five ministries mentioned in **Ephesians 4:11**.

The function of all the ministries is to do the work of the particular ministry, equipping [perfecting] setting the church in order to function, and building up [growing] the church until *“we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* (**Eph.4:12-13**). The church is to *“grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ”* (**Eph.4:15b**). This can never happen without apostles and prophets doing the work of their particular ministry.

HOW DOES THIS CHURCH FILL THE ALL IN ALL?

The kingdom of God is to come on the earth

The teaching of the New Testament is clear: the kingdom of God is to come on the earth [see the Lord's Prayer **Matt.6:10**]; Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed King. He has come and He has received the nations as His inheritance (**Ps.2:7-8**). Out of His authority, which is complete in heaven and on earth (**Matt.28:18**), Jesus authorizes His church to *“Go and make disciples of all nations”* (**Matt.28:19**). If we obey Jesus' command to make disciples, *“teaching them to observe all things”* that Jesus commanded, then every believer becomes a disciple and is well taught in the word, well able to *“teach others”* (**2Tim.2:2**).

The problem is that when ministers and believers are not disciplined in the word, they come up with novel ways of doing Spiritual warfare, not appreciating that the victory has already been won, and that the preaching of the gospel of Jesus the anointed King [Christ/Messiah] and the kingdom of God, is the God-given means of seeing the kingdom of God established and functioning in the earth.

God has a plan

How do the principalities and powers who inhabit the second heavens come into submission to this glorious gospel? How are principalities and powers overcome? Paul declares in **Ephesians 3:10** that it is through the church that the *“manifold wisdom of God is made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenlies”*. This is *“according to the eternal purpose which He [God] accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (v.11).

God has a plan and His plan has already been put in place in Christ Jesus. His plan is His eternal purpose: why did God create? Why was it necessary for Jesus the Son of God to come on the earth? How will the victory of the Anointed King [Christ] be manifest in the earth? The Scripture makes it clear: God is raising up His church to be the vehicle through which His kingdom is preached and in whom the victory is manifest. It is through a mature church! It is the church that we have described briefly in this teaching.

It is through the church

It is the maturing church:

- the five ministries are fully functioning
- the whole church is growing up into maturity in Christ,
- which is built upon the foundation of Christ,
- being fitted together into the Cornerstone, which is Christ,
- and growing up in all things into the Head, who is Christ,

This is the church that will fill the all in all!

The powers in the heavens cannot withstand such a church

As the church grows to maturity, because the work of the ministry is being done, those entities which are in the second heavens [that which is between the church on earth and Jesus on the throne of God in heaven], will come to know *“the manifold wisdom of God through the church”* (Eph.3:10) and the principalities and rulers will be brought into submission to the word of God. The light of the gospel penetrates the darkness of that realm, and as a result cities, regions and nations are released to receive the word of the gospel.

There is a wrestling

There is a wrestling when this is happening (Eph.6:12), but the principalities and powers cannot withstand the church that is heralding the gospel and manifesting the behaviour of sons of the kingdom. The authority of Jesus Christ will be made known through the church. This is a picture of how the church which is the body of Messiah, *“fills all in all”* (Eph.1:23).

Conclusion

The simple answer to what is a very complex and deep issue – the issue of spiritual warfare – is to know and understand that it is God’s will for His church to be raised up in the earth to fill the demonic heavens that surround the earth with the knowledge of His manifold wisdom.

Up until this time, much of the spiritual warfare practiced by the church has been based upon man’s ideas [even visions and dreams] and it has been operating out of a straw house. It is time for all of us to return to the Word and to see that God’s pattern for the building of the church, the house of God (1Tim.3:15), is clearly portrayed in the Scripture.

God’s purpose will surely come to pass!

Chapter Four

THIRD LEVEL OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The Church is led by Apostles

This is the international worldwide level of warfare. This is the church that is led and overseen by apostles who are helped by prophets. The local church [the church of the locality] that we looked at in the second level is led by elders appointed by apostles. But **the international church is led by apostles who carry the governmental authority of Christ** and the anointing that is given in the gift of the apostle is the 'prince anointing' of Christ Himself. Therefore, it is when the apostles are in their rightful place in the church of Jesus Christ that the church has the authority over principalities and powers and the authority to resist and stand against the attacks of Satan even through the satanic worldwide powers as represented by the dragon, the beast and the false prophet.

DEALING WITH PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS

In the second level of warfare we shared that the local church standing in apostolic authority is able to withstand the attacks of the enemy by appropriating effectively the spiritual armour of **Ephesians 6**. However, there is a further aspect than just being able to withstand the attacks of the principalities and powers and that is rendering them powerless and seeing them fully displaced in the heavenly realm by the maturing church of Jesus the Messiah.

Ephesians tells us that *"the church is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all"* (1:23). The church is **the fullness** of Christ and the church will fill the all in all, that is, the universe and especially referring to the heavenly realm presently occupied by principalities and powers.

The revelation of the mystery

In **Ephesians 3:1-13**, Paul is teaching on the revelation of the mystery, giving some deep insights into the true nature of the mature church. The mature church is the church that has received the knowledge of the mystery which Paul tells us is only known by the mature (1Cor.2:6-7). This knowledge of the mystery is made known to the saints; *"to them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"* Col.1:27. Paul tells us that the whole exercise of our ministry is to bring every saint into that knowledge, into that revelation, into that wisdom by preaching, teaching and warning every man to *"present every man perfect in Christ Jesus"* (v.28).

We need apostles and prophets

Paul firstly tells us that this revelation of the mystery was made known to him (Eph.3:3), that it was a special dispensation of grace that enabled him to understand and preach this mystery (v.2), and that this mystery *"has been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets"* (v.5). This is why it is essential for apostles and prophets to be restored and to become the leadership ministries bringing the whole church to maturity. Maturity only comes to the church as the knowledge of the mystery is revealed and known.

There is one body of Christ

An essential part of the mystery is *"that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel"* Eph.3:6. One of the

historical failures of the church and therefore a victory of the devil has been the ‘anti-Semitic’ attitude that developed in Christendom whereby Christian nations and Christian groups began to be hostile towards and actively discriminate against and persecute Jewish people. This is because the devil has known, but the carnal church has not known, that the body of Christ that will rise in glory and oneness and perfection in the earth is made up of both Jew and Gentile: **“one new man from the two” (Eph.2:15b)**. This is one of the great fruits of Jesus dying on the cross and as we return to apostolic Christianity this essential part of the mystery will become basic to the maturing of the church: Jew and Gentile coming together in common faith in Messiah Jesus and inheriting together the promised blessing of Abraham (**Gal.3:26-29**).

The riches of Messiah

Then Paul brings an even greater revelation that through the preaching **“of the unsearchable riches of Christ [Messiah] among the Gentiles” (Eph.3:9)** all would come to **“see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ” (v.9)**. Why is the preaching of Christ’s riches only among the Gentiles? Because the Jews by inheritance and by teaching and by their heritage as the people of God, had an enhanced understanding and expectation of Messiah [Christ] coming and once a true Jew is converted to know Jesus the Messiah, then they bring with them the riches of the Old Testament word and teaching of Moses and the Prophets and they understand innately by the Spirit the fulfilment in Christ of all that was given to them in type and shadow.

Displacing principalities and powers

The ultimate result of the church coming to know the mystery is that this mystery is revealed in the saints in a depth of fellowship which is the reality of sonship whereby **“the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YAHWEH as the waters cover the sea” Hab.2:14**. As this knowledge is preached and known by the saints, God’s intention is that **“the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which God accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” Eph.3:10-11**.

It becomes clear through this awesome teaching of **Ephesians 3** that when the church comes to know the mystery in a mature way and receives sonship – the very **“Spirit of His Son”** into our hearts (**Gal.4:6**) - that **the principalities and powers ‘lose their power and authority’**. They are displaced from their place in the heavenlies. They no longer will have authority to rule nations, regions, cities and localities but the church bringing forth the knowledge of Messiah – the riches of His glory – will fill the earth with that knowledge of Messiah, YAHWEH.

THE WORLD POWERS OF SATAN

There are three world powers and they are mentioned in **Revelation 16:13-14** *“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”* The dragon, the beast and the false prophet together form the triumvirate of evil on the earth.

The dragon

“The dragon gave him his power, his throne and great authority” Rev.13:2. People *“worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast”* v4. The dragon is the same one who was cast out of heaven, *“called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world”* Rev.12:9.

The dragon is committed to death and destruction. The international manifestation of terrorism in recent years throughout the world is the manifestation of the dragon causing death and destruction through indiscriminate acts of terror. The Rwandan genocide of 1994 and the brutal killings of civilians, both before and after that crisis, in warfare in various places also clearly illustrate the devil’s goal of death and destruction. The Twentieth Century with two great world wars was the ultimate display of the dragon’s hatred of mankind. The devil used a beast, specifically Hitler in the Second World War to release death and destruction on a massive scale.

The beast

Revelation 13:1 speaks of the *“beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.”* This beast was worshiped (v4). He was given authority for a short limited time (v5). He spoke blasphemy *“against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven”* (v6). *“It was granted him to make war with the saints and to overcome them”* (v7). He was given authority over everybody and was worshiped by all except those *“whose names have been written in the Book of Life”* (v7-8).

The Beast is given authority to war against the saints and has authority for a season to overcome the saints. The beast is manifest through human government and is always seeking to establish anti-christ rules and systems, thereby causing persecution of the church.

An example of this beast at work is seen in the laws passed in India outlawing conversion to Christianity. As a result pastors have been imprisoned. Another clear manifestation of this beast at work is the imposition of Sharia Law by fundamentalist Muslims when they gain control of government in any region or country.

In the Twentieth Century we witnessed the rise of major anti-Christ governments in Germany and in Russia. While Hitler’s Third Reich was short lived, countless millions lost their lives and the Nazi system, wherever it was imposed, was directly opposed to everything right and just.

In Russia, communism under Stalin lasted much longer than Nazism and affected many nations in Eastern Europe and right across central and north Asia, imposing on them a Godless oppressive system that sought to destroy all Christian and traditional roots of society.

The false prophet

“Another beast came out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon” Rev.13:11. This beast is identified as the **False Prophet** (Rev.16:13,19:20). The False Prophet *“causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast,*

v12; He performs great signs, v13; He deceives those who dwell on the earth, v.14; He causes all to receive a mark” v16.

The False Prophet [the second beast] manifests in all the world religions. This second beast also manifests in the many forms of religion that bind so many people, who claim to be Christians, into traditions and church dogmas and divisive beliefs that effectively disempower the church. The power of Jezebel is a manifestation of the second beast (**Rev.13:11**) in relentless attacks upon the church, by infiltrating the ranks of the church.

All the major world religions have manifest a ferment and a rising up of fundamentalism and extremism in recent decades. There has also been the flourishing and multiplication of all sorts of cults and false religions.

THESE POWERS ARE INTERNATIONAL NOT TERRITORIAL

These are the international powers of the devil. These powers are not limited to a territory or area or country. They cannot be bound or destroyed by an individual or even by the corporate local church. We know that the beast and the false prophet will be **“cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone”** (**Rev.19:20**) and the devil [dragon] will be bound with a great chain and **“cast into the bottomless pit and shut up for a thousand years”** (**Rev.20:1-3**). However in the meantime the church must be equipped to stand and withstand the attack and oppression, persecution and tribulation brought about by these world powers of evil and to demonstrate and manifest the victory of Messiah in the earth.

He must reign

It is only as we come to understand in maturity the mystery of the church:

- what is the church?
- where it is seated?
- that it is the body of Messiah who is already reigning as king, **“for He must reign till He has put all His enemies under His feet”** **1Cor.15:25**,

that the enemies of Messiah will be overcome by the church. Christ is waiting on His throne until that happens. Only then can He be released from heaven (**Acts 3:21**) and be fully manifest in His *parousia*, His coming.

An open heavens

From the time of Jesus' baptism, and except for three days from His death to His resurrection, **the heavens have been open and can never be closed**. It is sin that historically cut man off from God and thereby allowed the enemy to rule and reign in the earth through his powers whether they be local, regional, national or international.

Because Jesus was the sinless Son of God the heavens opened over Him at His baptism (**Matt.3:16-17**, **Lu.3:21-22**) and He received the fullness of the Spirit of God. He was also openly acknowledged as the Son of the Father. And then since the cross and resurrection, the blood of Jesus has been upon the Mercy Seat in heaven (**Heb.9:11-14,24, 10:19-22**). The heavens are forever open and can never be closed again because of the testimony of the blood of Christ being upon the eternal Mercy Seat.

Direct access

However between God's heaven, the third heavens (**2Cor.12:2**), there is a second heavens where the principalities and powers (**Col.1:16**) and Satan, **“the prince of the power of the air”** now dwell and have dominion in darkness over the sons of disobedience (**Eph.2:2**). We as sons of the kingdom live on the earth under the beautiful first heavens [sun,

moon & stars] but have direct access to God through the blood and by the Spirit (Eph.2:13,18).

Because we are seated in that Third heavens in Christ, the devil and his powers can never cut us off from God as was possible in the Old Testament times – remember Daniel had to wait for twenty-one days for the angel Gabriel to bring him the message from God (Dan.10:13). **This is of ultimate strategic importance.** If we do not believe this, we are misled to battle with and try to bind powers in the second heavens. We also blame them for all sorts of things that are happening when in fact we the church are not exercising authority and dominion as Christ has commissioned us.

It is time to receive the Spirit of sonship

It is important to note that it was not until Jesus came to maturity in His earthly life that He was able to inherit the fullness of the Spirit of sonship and walk under an open heavens, fully led by the Spirit, fully cognisant [knowing] of His Father's will.

Therefore it is only as the church comes to maturity corporately at the end of the age that we also will be able to inherit the fullness of the Spirit of sonship and walk under an open heavens fully led by His Spirit and cognisant of His will.

The church is commissioned to reach nations

Only when apostles and prophets are leading national and international churches, properly set in order, will the church once again rise to be an international force and Godly power that will turn nations, cities, and people groups to the Lord Jesus Christ. Even then, the Scripture tells us that the beast will have authority to overcome the saints for a season and kill some of them. This is prophesied in **Daniel 7:21** and **Revelation 13:7**. It is in the face of this beastly power that the **“patience and faith of the saints”** (Rev.13:10) will be manifest and the victory of the saints will be paramount even through martyrdom. The saints will inherit the kingdom (Lu.12:32) and the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Rev.11:15)

THE APOSTOLIC COMPANY

In the times of restoration in which we are privileged to live, God has ordained the formation of apostolic companies around the world. An apostolic company is:

- a body of saints who have been called together in commitment
- to see the kingdom of God established on earth among the nations.
- these saints have been called out of institutions and organisations into a walk of clear obedience to Christ and the word of God.
- in these companies all the ministries and gifts that God has given in the New Testament find their place and full expression.
- these companies stretch across nations; are led by an apostle[s];
- are characterised by all the company members having a clear understanding of the call of God and a powerful revelation of sonship.

The first apostolic company

The first example of an apostolic company is the 120 believers in the upper room in Acts 1. This company was **an elect group of disciples in one accord, continuing in prayer and supplication**; it was to this company that God sent His Spirit.

The apostles that Jesus had trained were **ready and prepared to receive the fullness of the Spirit of sonship** and were able to minister on a level comparable to Jesus.

The experience of **Acts 2** for the apostolic company in the Upper Room was vastly different to the experience of the new converts [3000] who were baptised that day and received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The experience of the 120 was far different to the infilling of the Spirit that the Gentiles received in the house of Cornelius (**Acts 10**) or any of the other infillings [baptisms] of the Holy Spirit in the book of **Acts**.

The Pentecostal revival that began in the early twentieth century and has continued since was the restoration of the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was not the restoration of the fullness of the Spirit of sonship. The Spirit of sonship is being restored today!

It is time for maturity, not time for Pentecost. Finally Pentecost is one of the foundations but sonship is the means by which the mature church reaches the destination, which is **the glory of Christ revealed in His saints in the earth**.

God is raising apostolic companies

Apostolic companies are the vanguard that God is raising up in these days to demonstrate to His people the victory He has given us over the devil and Satan. As apostolic companies begin to function in the fullness of Messiah's authority in the earth then a multitude of believers will flock to embrace the apostolic and the church will finally come to her destination: to rule and reign with Jesus the Messiah in Zion.

The apostolic company is a pattern for the church

In mid 2001 the Lord instructed us to form an apostolic company and over the years He has enlightened us as to the understanding and practice of apostolic company. The apostolic company is raised up by the Lord to become a *"pattern"* people.

Paul refers to this in **Philippians 3:15-17** where he speaks of those who *"are mature"* as having the *"same mind"* and walking *"by the same rule"*. Earlier in **1 Corinthians 2:6-16**, Paul refers to the *"wisdom of God in a mystery"* which is for the mature to receive and this wisdom *"God ordained before the ages for our glory"*.

God has always intended for the church to come to maturity and it is essential for the church to come to maturity to be able to receive the revelation of the mystery and begin to experience and walk in the glory of the Lord.

In these last days the concept of **'church'** has become very confused with many referring to a building or a denomination or an institution as the church. Therefore God is specifically raising apostolic companies to model New Testament church.

Notice that Paul says *"we have the mind of Christ"* (**1Cor.2:16**)! It is a plural reality! No one member of the body will ever have *"the mind of Christ"* on their own but it is a corporate reality.

It is as a company [corporate body] that the church will overcome Satan.

THREE IMPORTANT WEAPONS Rev. 12:11

The devil and his angels were cast down

The Scripture tells us that the devil was overcome by Michael and his angels and *“he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him”* (Rev.12:7-9).

The kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ have come

Then the Scripture says that a loud voice was heard in heaven saying *“Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down”* v10.

Question: according to this Scripture when was Satan **cast down**?

Answer: he was cast down when the **kingdom of God** was established along with and by the power of His Christ.

Question: when did that happen?

Answer: when Christ rose from the dead.

Christ was raised by *“the working of His mighty power”* when He was *“raised from the dead and seated at His right hand in the heavenly places”* (Eph.1:19-20). It was through the cross that Jesus *“disarmed principalities and powers”* (Col.2:15). Satan was defeated and lost all standing in the heavenly places at the cross.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the church has been raised and *“made to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (by grace we have been saved)”* Eph.2:5-6. As a result the church, while placed in the earth but seated in the heavenlies, is able to overcome the accuser of the brethren who is now in the earth realm accusing us.

The three weapons

There are three weapons or ways that the church is able to overcome Satan and all of these ways are in the context of the corporate body. *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death”* Rev.12:11.

By the Blood of the Lamb

In teaching from Rev.12:11, it has become clear that the victory over Satan, the accuser of the brethren, is only possible as a corporate [plural] body of believers, properly joined together, overcome him. The Scripture says *‘they overcame him’*. It is as the saints are joined together in apostolic company - a pattern people who are committed to walking in maturity - that *“the blood of the Lamb”* works to give the saints the victory.

How does the blood of the Lamb work?

1John 1:7 tells us, *“if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”* Brethren, it is essential that we walk together in the light of Jesus Christ, being led by His Spirit in the light of His word, being in open, respectful and loving fellowship and submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.

According to Ephesians 5:18-21 a submitted life to the brethren in the fear of God, is a sign of the Spirit filled life. Therefore whenever difficulties, disagreements, misunderstandings or any other problem arise between brethren, we must keep very short accounts and be reconciled quickly to one another in the fear of Christ.

This is how the ***“blood of Jesus Christ”*** works in the body: whenever a problem [sin] arises it is to be dealt with immediately by repentance and confession, allowing the blood of Christ to cleanse. Thus the relationships in the body are restored in the short term, allowing true fellowship and enabling the saints to walk in the light together.

While there is vital need for each individual saint to walk in the light of Jesus Christ, it is the corporate experience and expression that God is looking for – the church walking in maturity – and it is the corporate expression that will overcome the accuser of the brethren, providing for all the members in the fellowship to be walking in victory.

By the Word of Their Testimony

Secondly they overcame the accuser of the brethren ***“by the word of their testimony”***. Notice again it is a corporate confession, ***‘their testimony’***. This takes us again to **Philippians 3:15-17** which reveals the corporate nature of the mature church: ***“as many as are mature, have this mind ... Let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.”*** Let us ***“be a pattern people”***! God is raising a corporate people – the apostolic company:

- who will be a pattern people
- who will be of ***“one heart and one soul”***
- who will hold ***“all things in common”***
- who will give ***“witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power.”***
- ***“And great grace will be upon them all”*** (Acts 4:32-33).

Such a people hold a corporate testimony!

Confession

In the Spirit Filled Life Bible the Kingdom Dynamics underneath **Romans 10:9** comments on the word ***‘confess’***, which is from the Greek *‘homologeō’*; it has the connotation of *‘a binding public declaration by which a legal relation is contractually established’*. Literally this word means *‘to speak the same word’*. **Hebrews 3:1** stresses the importance of having a confession of Jesus our Apostle [this confession has been missing from the church for 1800 years].

The word of their testimony

This is the apostolic confession of:

- ***“the faith once and for all delivered to the saints”*** Jude 3
- it is the testimony of the **knowledge of the mystery** (Eph. 3:2-5)
- the **fellowship of the mystery** (Eph. 3:8-11)
- the reality of **adoption as sons** (Eph. 1:5)

It is to the company, the church corporate, that God gives ***“the mind of Christ”*** (1 Cor. 2:16).

So the word of our testimony is our understanding and confession of who we are:

- **the body of Christ**
- **the elect of God**
- **the saints** who are called to **the high calling** [attaining to the resurrection of the dead, Phil 3:11] and **purpose of God** which He has already accomplished in Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:11) and is now bringing to pass in the last days church.

This testimony is ***“the manifold wisdom of God”*** which will ***“be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenlies”*** (Eph. 3:10). Can you now see how the corporate church walks in victory, overcoming the accuser of the brethren? It is the church that has come to maturity, having received the deeper wisdom of God’s word.

Loving not their own Lives to the Death

Thirdly they overcame him *"loving not their own lives to the death"*. This is the outworking of 1 John 3:16 *"by this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."* Loving not our lives to the death speaks of our commitment to the fellowship, to the apostolic company and our appreciation of our placement in the body of Christ, *"we were bought with a price."* The ultimate price is martyrdom, and martyrdom is not only 'dying for the faith' but it is also laying our lives down for our friends.

In recent times the Lord has made it clear to us that He wants us **'to give our heart to Him and to one another'**. This is the nature of apostolic company. I have given my heart to my brethren. My brethren have given their hearts. As the reality of **'loving not our own lives to the death'** becomes known to us, the committed relationships that we enjoy become a powerful bulwark against the enemy's attack, which mostly comes through accusations.

Full victory is available to the church of Jesus Christ now. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has accomplished the predetermined will of God and now the church *"which is His body"*, is now seated *"together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus"*, that *"in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus"* Eph.2:6-7.

AN IMPORTANT WARNING

An important warning and instruction to bring to the church at this time is as follows: **there are no directions in the New Testament nor authorisation for the church or individual members or groups to go about seeking 'to bind' and 'pull down' principalities and powers in the heavenly realm over cities, regions, states or nations.**

Much of the teaching that has been popularised in books and in other ways instructing the church to 'wage war' and 'spiritually map' localities **is not Biblical teaching** at all. There is no evidence in the Gospels or in the Epistles wherein Jesus or the apostles teach us or model for us such action and such forms of spiritual warfare. People have had all sorts of ideas and practised forms of spiritual warfare that seem good at the time and seem to be confirmed in the Spirit but are not confirmed in the word of God. It is time for the church to return fully to the apostles doctrine, to the clear testimony of Scripture.

As a result of wrong teaching **many have trespassed in areas of spiritual warfare.** There have been many attempts to bind principalities and powers. Time and energy has been devoted to searching for knowledge about satanic strongholds and hidden roots of evil etc. in the lives of individuals, in the history of cities, regions and nations. Many churches and individuals have suffered loss and problems such as sickness, including paralysis, insanity and even premature death. Some churches and some pastors have been destroyed because they have stepped out of the will of God and trespassed into enemy territory.

We have been immature, not exercising our spiritual senses *"to discern good and evil"* (Heb.5:14). We have need to be taught again the elementary principles of Christ (Heb.5:12-6:3)

We have been ignorant of the **mystery** and the awesome revelation that it is through the *“preaching of the unsearchable riches of Christ, and the making of all to see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hidden in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now to the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be made known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Eph.3:8-11*

CONCLUSION

This manual is an introductory and summary study of spiritual warfare and the authority that Christ has given to the believers as members of His body the church.

We have outlined briefly the individual realm of authority, the local church [set in apostolic order] realm of authority, and the international realm wherein only the church that is walking in the revelation of the mystery and authority of sonship, led by properly functioning apostles and prophets, can effectively stand and withstand the attack of the devil. If we trespass outside of our realm of authority we can suffer unnecessary attack and experience destruction in our lives, in our church, or even on a national and international level.

On the other hand, if we come to know by revelation and submission to God:

- the awesomeness of His authority and power and
- that through Christ – the ruling Messiah – He has given that authority and power to the church,

we will experience great victory and begin to walk in the realm of the *“manifestation of the sons of God”* (Rom.8:19).

We will walk in the revelation of the mystery of Christ and His church and know the revelation of the church being seated with Him in the heavenly places.

We will come to understand the mandate given to us through the Great Commission which in reality is the New Testament means of fulfilling the original Creation Mandate of **Genesis 1:28**

“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill [replenish] the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth’”

*THE ULTIMATE VICTORY IS THE CORPORATE CHURCH
OVERCOMING AND INHERITING ALL THINGS
AS GOD’S SON*

Chapter Five

WALKING IN VICTORY

Many of us who are saved, who know we are born again of the Spirit of God, find ourselves **not living in victory**. This is a perennial challenge for the believer. The word of God says that we have the victory through Jesus and that we are able to live and walk in that victory. I am writing this to bring an exhortation to us, to be more firmly established in the word of God, being willing to *“let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”* Col.3:16.

JESUS HAS DESTROYED THE DEVIL

The word of God says *“Inasmuch 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, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”* Heb.2:14-15.

The one who is the source of our problems has been dealt with. The devil has been defeated! Yes, he *“walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* (1Pet.5:8), but Jesus has destroyed him, that is, taken his authority from him – Jesus said *“I have the keys of hell [Hades] and death”* (Rev.1:18).

Because Jesus has defeated the devil, we are able to resist the devil by submitting to God and *“he will flee from you”* (Jam.4:7). Because Jesus has destroyed *“the works of the devil”* (1Jn.3:8b), we are able to *“resist him, steadfast in the faith”* (1Pet.5:9).

The victory is by faith

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1Jn.5:4-5.

But surely it is not that simple? Or is it! The problem we have had, is that we have not believed it is that simple! The Bible says the victory is by faith. It is as simple as believing in Jesus, that He is the Son of God! That He is God manifest in the flesh and that through His death and resurrection He has overcome the devil and destroyed him who is the source of all our problems.

The disciples that Jesus sent out in **Luke chapter 10** came back rejoicing, saying *“Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name”* v.17. Those disciples experienced the authority of the name of Jesus.

No believer today needs to be harassed by demons. As James says *“submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you”* (Ja.4:7).

The problem is disobedience

Why do believers not walk in victory? It is because we are not obedient to the word of God as it is written. We do not actually believe the word.

The Scripture says we *“once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience”* Eph.2:2.

This led to our being deceived and conducting ourselves *“in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just*

as the others” Eph.2:3. So many of us still face problems with **the desires of the mind** – we get caught in unrighteous mindsets and we become bound by our thoughts.

The Scripture says *“Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you: he who practices righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous” 1Jn.3:6-7.* Remember that righteousness is by faith and faith comes by believing the word of God (**Rom.10:17**).

Victory over principalities and powers

In recent decades in Christianity, there has been some emphasis on spiritual warfare and some have ill-advisedly gone out doing battle with principalities and powers.

The good news is that the principalities and powers have also been fully defeated by Jesus. The Scripture says, *“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” Col.2:15.* J.P.Green translates this verse as ‘having stripped the rulers and the authorities, He made a show (of them) in public, triumphing (over) them in it.’ The ‘it’ is the **cross**.

As surely as the devil is a defeated foe over whom we have full victory, so also the principalities and powers, the rulers of this present darkness and the hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (**Eph.6:12**) have been defeated by Jesus at the cross. They have been publically defeated. Yet they will try and convince whom-so-ever will believe them, that they are not defeated and that they still hold authority and power over nations, states and cities.

The believers who believe according to the word of God as it is written, are no longer deceived by the devil; they are no longer subject to the powers and authorities that he has set in place.

Christ is seated far above

When the mighty power of God *“worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,”* Jesus ascended to the place of ultimate authority. He is seated *“far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one that is to come” Eph.1:20-21.*

- God *“has put all things under His feet”.*
- God *“gave Him to be head over all things to the church”.*
- The **church** [that is us] *“is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all” v.22-23.*

God forgave our sins and made us alive in Christ through the new birth. This was because of His great love *“with which He loved us” (Eph.2:1-4).*

Did you know that it was because of God’s great love for you that He saved you. He says *“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you” Jer.31:3.*

He saved us by grace and *“made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph.2:5-6).*

Let these simple truths of the New Testament Scriptures become the ‘bread and butter’ of your faith and let your faith in the word of God become the mainstay of your life.

Don't focus on the devil

Sometimes when people have a problem, they want to blame the devil and they want to find out 'which spirit is oppressing me?' or 'which power am I battling with?' Both questions are wrong! We are to resist the devil, but first we are to submit to God.

Jesus told us to pray to the Father, asking Him to *"deliver us from the evil one"* (Lu.11:4). We are able to *"resist him, steadfast in the faith"* (1Pet.5:9).

- Don't be scared of the devil;
- but let the Lord Jesus be your fear and your dread!
- Don't listen to conspiracy theories!
- But let the word of God be the plumbline of your judgement.

The word of Testimony

"Do not say, a conspiracy, concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.

The LORD of Hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread.

He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence to both houses of Israel" {in other words, to those who believe the conspiracies; those who give credence to spirits and powers will stumble; and have difficulty finding God!}

Because people believe the conspiracies, *"many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken, be snared and taken.*

Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples". The testimony and the law are both referring to the word of God: we are to have a testimony! And we are to know what the word teaches!

"And I will wait on the LORD, who hides His face from the house of Jacob; and I will hope in Him. Here am I and the children whom the LORD has given me!" {see this quoted in Heb.2:13}.

We are for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of Hosts who dwells in Mt Zion" Isa.8:12-18.

The people who fear God, that is, who believe His word, will be as signs and wonders in Israel. Such a people will stand out even among God's people. They will be people living and walking in victory. Brethren, there is victory! It is by faith and we can walk by faith in victory.

Chapter Six

TESTIMONIES OF WARFARE AT THE THREE LEVELS

Over the years as a minister of Jesus Christ I have come to personally know by experience the reality of the three levels of warfare that I have been teaching on in this manual. I have learnt that there are dangers at each level that we need to be aware of so that we can be wise and discerning and suffer no harm.

EXPERIENCE AT THE FIRST LEVEL OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

As a young minister in the early 1980's, a sister came to me and said the Lord had shown her that there was a demon in her life and she asked me to cast it out. I was confident of my authority in Christ to do this and so **in response to her request and her total willingness to confess and be free, I simply commanded the demon to leave her life.** There was some small manifestation as the demon left and the sister experienced immediate freedom, knowing that the demon had gone.

Jesus said *"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you"* Matt.12:28. Any time that I have personally cast a demon out of a person there has been an experience of the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the authority of the kingdom of God has been manifest.

This experience in the early 1980's was very powerful, and I went away rejoicing. As I drove home from our church centre that afternoon immediately after the deliverance, a very strange and disturbing incident happened on the road: without any warning a driver coming from the opposite direction turned across in front of me and to avoid a serious head-on collision I had to brake hard. It was only because I was in a suburban area and travelling slowly that there was no contact with the other vehicle. What was disturbing was the realisation that the other driver was under the influence of the devil and it was an attempt to destroy me because of the successful deliverance that afternoon. I was initially very shaken and in a state of acute shock and knew immediately that this was a counter attack from the devil. I then repented that I had not been *"sober and vigilant"* after the successful deliverance (1Pet.5:8).

Be aware that **any time that we take ground from the enemy that he will attempt to bring retribution against us.** He will try to harm us and when we are still learning the ways of spiritual warfare there is a tendency to underestimate the power of the demonic. Jesus said, when He gave the disciples authority over all the power of the enemy, that *"nothing shall by any means harm you"* (Lu.10:19). However He did not say that the enemy would not try.

**Therefore be on your guard, especially immediately
after an incident of spiritual warfare wherein you
have done some damage to the kingdom of darkness.**

Setting a woman free in Pakistan

In September 2005 I was with a team in Pakistan and, on one evening, I was the speaker in an open gospel crusade in a large tent that had been erected for some meetings. Hundreds of people attended the night meeting and, as soon as we came on to the platform, we observed a demonized woman attracting a lot of attention in the midst of the congregation. My team saw this and began to pray and intercede and the demonic behavior ceased so I could minister. At the end of the meeting there was an altar call for the healing of the sick and the ushers began to carry the demonized woman forward. During the meeting, God had put a conviction in my heart that this woman would be set free. However, I instructed the ushers to take the woman to the back of the meeting as the demonic behavior had flared again as the demon wanted to attract attention and interrupt the healing of others.

As we left the meeting, I went straight to the demonized woman and she was set free very quickly simply by binding the devil in her, in the name of Jesus, and then getting the woman to agree with me, speaking out the name of Jesus and commanding it to leave. The demon left; we stood the woman on her feet and prayed for her to be filled with the Holy Spirit and she spoke in a heavenly language. This woman had been demonized from childhood. The people, and especially the local pastors with us, were amazed. The pastors said 'we have never seen anything like this! This is the greatest miracle we have ever seen!'

EXPERIENCE AT THE SECOND LEVEL OF WARFARE

In 1989 I was the pastor of a small church in our city, which I had planted the year before. I had received some teaching based on **Isaiah 43:5-7** about 'calling in the heirs of salvation' from the north, the south, the east and the west. In the passage of Scripture, the word of God is addressing the north saying **"Give them up!" And to the South, 'Do not keep them back!'"** (v.6). The teaching, that I received, suggested that the demonic 'strongman', a demonic power in the heavens in each of the directions, had power over the people living in that direction and that through prophetic warfare prayer, we the church could command those powers to 'give up' the people of God so that they could come to the church.

The Lord called me to a season of prayer and fasting in August/September 1989 and I was continually speaking to the power in the north of our city according to this teaching and using the verses in **Isaiah**. [Our church fellowship was based in the northern part of the city]. One day in deep prayer I suddenly realised **I was seeing into the spirit realm and saw a huge demonic throne with a ruler sitting on the throne**. I was surprised and shocked, totally out of my depth and not knowing what to do. No words were spoken and I retreated immediately from that realm.

Later that same day I drove my car down the street and was involved in a freak car accident. The accident was totally unexpected: a car came up on my right side and smashed into me. I was unhurt; the car was not seriously damaged but the Holy Spirit made known to me that **it was the demonic power making an attempt on my life**.

From that day strange things began to happen in the church fellowship. Brethren who were walking with us and ministering with us came to me and said 'We are leaving the church'. They had no particular reason or grievance; they did not intend to go to another fellowship. Then over the next few weeks a few more families left and we began to struggle. Finances became restricted and I had to go out to work to supplement my income. We were well aware that this was the work of the demonic power but we did not know how to stand.

This was because we were not in apostolic order. I was part of a Pentecostal denomination but **there was no true spiritual covering.**

From that time my ministry and that church fellowship began to fail and in October 1990 I closed the fellowship and resigned from the ministry. I was defeated; I felt I was a failure! But God did not see me as a failure and three years later brought me back into the ministry to prepare me for the awesome apostolic ministry that He had predestined for me.

Had I trespassed in this realm of spiritual warfare?

I have asked myself this question a number of times. However I have never been convinced that I was trespassing but rather believe that I was pioneering; that the Lord was giving me first hand experience so I could teach and lead others. I was certainly not set in apostolic order as I was totally ignorant of the ministry of the apostle at that time.

By twelve years later in 2001 I had been functioning in apostolic ministry and we had received another apostle at SHILOH. When he first visited us he was led of the Lord to publicly lay hands on me and declare before principalities and powers that I was an apostle of Jesus Christ. This was a very powerful declaration and I, and the witnesses present, experienced the authority and power that was being affirmed and released in me as an apostle. Previously the Lord had shown me that **the apostolic ministry carries the 'prince anointing' of Christ** and when the apostles are restored to the church the church will have authority over principalities and powers.

Soon after the visit of that apostle, we at SHILOH were led to do a three day fast to seek the Lord for His guidance for us as a ministry. He showed us that we were to go to a mountain in the north of our city and deal with that very same throne and its demonic ruler that had stood against me and brought destruction to me and the church fellowship twelve years previously. Ten of us met on the mountain early in the morning and I made strong declarations and blew the shofar [ram's horn trumpet] and then we celebrated the Lord's Supper. There was a new Christian with us and during this time he received a vision. The vision he saw was exactly the same throne that I had seen twelve years previously. He said as I proclaimed the word of God and the Lordship of Christ, the ruler upon the throne melted like wax and ran down from the throne. Then the throne exploded into many pieces and then he saw a large foot, with a shoe on, come down from heaven and grind the pieces to dust. Hallelujah!

The Lord was showing us that once the church receives the apostle and is set in apostolic order, then the church has authority to not only withstand principalities and powers but to see them displaced and even destroyed.

Ever since that experience in October 2001, I have traveled interstate within Australia and to a number of overseas nations, boldly declaring that I am an apostle of Jesus Christ and **I have known that the principalities and powers are subject to me in Jesus' name.**

EXPERIENCE AT THE THIRD LEVEL OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

In 2002 I was traveling in Kenya and Eastern Uganda and preaching in various towns. We had passed through Mauritius on the way to Kenya and in Mauritius I was provoked by the public behaviour of some Muslims. Seeing a Muslim man walking down the street two or three paces ahead of his wife, the wife with her head down and veiled, seemed to me to be

unreasonable and unacceptable behaviour, and certainly not a good advertisement of a religion.

Then in towns in East Africa, there were mosques and early in the morning we would be awakened by the amplified call to prayer. This happened in towns where over ninety percent of the townspeople were Christians. On Fridays there would be preaching all day, coming from the mosque and electronically amplified, attacking Christians and the gospel. I was further provoked by this public imposition of somebody else's religion even in a Christian dominated town.

I began to preach to the Christians to believe God for a mosque free town or at least for local Muslims to respect the Christian church and live amiably and peaceably with the Christian population, not always seeking to impose on them the Muslim religion. I did not think I was being extreme. Rather as a visitor and as a minister of the gospel, it seemed to be a very out-of-order and **extreme situation where a minority religion was loudly and publicly promoting their prayers and their teachings to a population who were not choosing that religion.**

I did not realise fully that I was challenging a worldwide power of Satan. However in the course of the trip I became very ill with malaria and was hospitalised in Dar Es Salaam. The doctor who admitted me informed me that I had a very high level of infection. I was put on a drip and for two days was very sick.

In the depth of delirium, **a messenger of Satan in the form of a fallen angel [appearance of a man] appeared to me and spoke to me.** He said something like 'You need to get out of Africa; go back to Australia. You must leave the Muslims alone and mind your own business.' These words were spoken authoritatively but I experienced no fear and when I recovered from the malarial fever and met with the team, we quickly regrouped and by the grace of God recommitted ourselves to the mission God had given us in East Africa.

In fact it has been since that time that the apostolic mission has opened up and grown very strong in Kenya, and since then has taken root in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Central Congo and Tanzania.

It was only later in 2003, that God gave me understanding that, without meaning to, **I had confronted and been confronted by a worldwide power of Satan.** Had I trespassed? Probably to the extent that I spoke out against the presence of mosques and their PA systems, I was at least unwise and disrespectful. It nearly cost me my life but God delivered me totally. Even at the time of the attack, the host brethren in East Africa believed it was a spiritual attack and the devastating effect that my sickness had on my team confirmed that it was a spiritual attack. I believe God allowed it, again, for my experience. Having survived that attack I am now wiser and more discerning in this realm of spiritual warfare and more able to give apostolic leadership to the church.

Meanwhile one of my apostolic sons who is based in West Kenya is currently having success in reaching Muslims, even Imams. His approach is one of respect and appreciation of the Muslims, peacefully sharing with them and approaching them with a reasonable knowledge of the Koran, but at the same time asking them questions about the Koran and especially what the Koran has to say about Jesus.

The power of Satan that sought to kill me is a worldwide power and the spirit behind Islam **is a very strong antichrist spirit.** While not all Muslims are necessarily deeply

influenced by this spirit, we do need to recognise the spirit we are struggling with, in seeking to reach Muslims.

The extremist fundamentalist form of Islam that is totally intolerant of any other religion and promotes the spread of Islam through violence is a clear example of the three worldwide powers of Satan all operating together. **The dragon is the instigator of terrorism** that even convinces Muslims to become suicide bombers intent on killing as many innocent people as possible.

When extremist Muslims gain political power in a state or a nation, they impose **Sharia Law** which is their form of human government. This form of government is extremely oppressive and commands extreme conformism to a very restricted religious lifestyle. **This is the expression of the beast in anti-christian government.**

Further it is the manifestation of **the work of the false prophet in that the Muslim religion is totally dependent upon the writings of one man and much of his writings are in denial of the God of the Bible and His word.**

Jesus clearly said after His resurrection ***"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth"* Matt.28:18**. The gospel was first preached in the midst of a religion [Judaism] that was hostile and many were imprisoned and some lost their lives because of their preaching and their practice of the Christian faith. Then as the apostles and disciples moved out into the Roman empire and even further afield with the gospel, whole cities and even nations were strongly impacted.

At the end of the age, apostolic Christianity is rising again and every other kingdom of this world will be confronted by the gospel and finally the gospel will be victorious as the kingdom of God is established in every nation, among every tribe and tongue.

A War of Words

The way that the enemy is overcome is by the power of God's word. When the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he used words, even words partly taken from the Bible. Jesus overcame the enemy by using words: ***"It is written!"*** Behind the effective and powerful use of the word is prayer. Peter gave us the perfect formula in **Acts6:4**, ***"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word."***

In some ways we can say that the Second World War was won by words. The words of Winston Churchill were more powerful than the words of Adolf Hitler! We understand that Churchill and Great Britain were powerfully supported by the constant intercessory prayer of a company of saints in Wales whom God gathered together with Rees Howells [up to 100] in Swansea. These prayer warriors prayed for up to 8 hours per day for the six years of the war and records were kept of the burdens and then the victories that came in the prayer room that were then outworked on the battle fields.

When we were led by the Spirit to deal with the demonic power over the north of our city in 2001, we used words! **The clear strategy given to us in the word of God is to proclaim, preach, prophesy, and declare His word! The word is the truth (Jn.17:17).**