

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER
Part III
Luke 10:19-20

Introduction: It seems to me that it is unequivocally clear that we are living in the most critical period in the history of the world. The summation of all things is coming into play. There is a great falling away as prophesied in 2nd Thessalonians 2:3, and perilous times exist at this moment. 2nd Timothy 3:1. On the positive end of the spectrum, there is a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit that has been prophesied by Joel 2:28-29 and has begun to materialize upon the earth. The clarion call to us today is for us to employ our authority and power as a Christian to influence the outcome.

I. The war over reality

- A. God has given to man the limited, yet distinct, inherent power to imagine, to define, and then to establish reality. When we line up what we believe with the Word of God, we discern the spiritual warfare around us and align our self with God's side. Ephesians 6:12.
 - 1. Notice what Matthew gives us in chapter 18:19-20. When we are in agreement, we determine the atmosphere that we are going to travel in.
 - 2. Genesis 11:6 shows us what can happen when people are in agreement. The Amplified Bible puts it this way: "... and now nothing they have imagined they can do will be impossible for them."
 - 3. Whatever a society agrees upon and establishes through consent, compromise, and constant use, will ultimately define reality to them.
 - 4. The devil wants us to accept that Christianity is divisive, hypocritical, and spiritually impotent. By believing this, we would reinforce his deceptive view of the church.
 - 5. Our agreement must coincide with God's plan for a holy, undivided, powerful church and that He is calling us to establish His kingdom on earth. Ephesians 5:27.

II. The role of angels and demons

- A. Revelation 12:7-8. Notice the phrase, "... and there was no room found for them any longer." The war against principalities involves displacement: Christ filling the territories once held by Satan.
 - 1. Ephesians 6:12 shows us that the battle rests not in physical weaponry, but in the power of agreement between mankind and the spirit realm.
- B. Principalities and powers occupy the heavenly places. The Father's purpose is to sum up all things in Christ, "... *things in the heavens and things upon the earth.*" Ephesians 1:10. Ephesians 3:10 reveals God's glorious plan. "... *Through the church,*" He is going to make known His manifold wisdom, "... *to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places!*"
 - 1. When we, the body of Christ, agree with our head Christ in heaven, the Spirit of Christ Himself displaces the powers of darkness in heavenly places.
 - 2. When the church is aggressive in its agreement with the will and Word of God, then the presence of God increases in the spiritual realm, proportionately displacing the influence of hell on earth. This will produce revival, with healings, signs, and wonders.
 - 3. When the church is passive, indifferent, or carnal, the powers of hell rule over the affairs of men. Marriages break up, crime increases, and sin becomes rampant.

III. The secret weapon against the enemy is for us to believe the Word of God.

- A. Satan is unmasked in the Scriptures as a "*liar, and the father of lies.*" John 8:44.
 - 1. The weapon that God has given us to combat the enemy is the Word of God. It is the sword of the Spirit. Ephesians 6:17.
 - a. John 6:63 says that His Words "... *are spirit, and they are life.*" The substance, or meaning, in Christ's words represents an actual reality: the living Spirit of the kingdom of God. The Word of God is truth or reality.
 - 2. Our warfare includes the "*pulling down of strongholds.*" 2nd Corinthians 10:4. That is, recognizing the lies of the devil and no longer being seduced by them. 2nd Corinthians 2:11.
- B. To be successful in our battle against Satan, we must stand on the Word.
 - 1. 2nd Corinthians 10:4-5
 - 2. 2nd Corinthians 2:14
 - 3. Luke 10:19
 - 4. 1st John 3:10

Conclusion: God has given to us the authority and power to produce the truth (reality) in our lives on earth. Our confession and our agreement with what the Word of God has taught us will produce God's will on earth. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," means that our faith will change the atmosphere and produce revival in our nation. We should not allow ourselves to be lulled to sleep thinking that there is nothing that we can do to affect change.