

Chapter 4

Spiritual Confrontation

Sound Doctrine

It is of utmost importance that you understand this next aspect of prayer. Prayer is also an act of confrontation. Sin, righteousness, and judgment are involved in prayer. These three demonstrations of the Spirit of God create a situation of confrontation in prayer.

- ❖ The Holy Spirit does not hold back concerning who He is and what He represents.
- ❖ Do not take it personally if you find yourself on the wrong side of people or circumstances when the Holy Spirit shows up to help you.
- ❖ He has already picked sides, and you must follow Him in regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment.
- ❖ The Kingdom of God is advancing, and confrontation is inevitable. Side with the Holy Spirit and you will find victory in your prayer conquests.
- ❖ God wants to answer your prayers- always. Remember that you must confront the world and the "evil one" with the truth.
- ❖ This is also the work of the Holy Spirit, even if it is seldom mentioned in the Scriptures.
- ❖ Jesus said, "If I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Luke 11:20).
- ❖ It is a sign of the times when we do not hear the full counsel of God from the Word.
- ❖ Paul warned us to be ready for this kind warfare.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU:

In the book of 2 Timothy, Paul told us what to expect:

*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from **the truth**, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, **endure afflictions**, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry (2 Timothy 4:3-5).*

If you really want to combat evil spirits, then label, pull down, and expose everything they say and do. Then, by binding and driving them out of your midst, you have done successful warfare.

I have to tell everyone concerning prayer that the most blatant, strong, and yet hidden and deceptive form of warfare that the enemy uses against us is what the military calls a *disinformation campaign*.

- ◆ Disinformation is false information deliberately and often covertly spread (for example, by the planting of rumors) in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth.
- ◆ It is helpful to remember that satan is called the father of lies because he employs lies to try to have victory over us.
- ◆ We wrestle with the lies of the enemy not only in our minds but also in our dealings with the unredeemed.
- ◆ Unfortunately, we also wrestle with the enemy's lies within the church as a whole. It is not a new mode of operation that the enemy is using.
- ◆ He used it on Eve in the Garden of Eden.
- ◆ He deceived Adam with lies also.
- ◆ The enemy lied to Adam and Eve to make them think that God had somehow excluded them from something they needed.
- ◆ He also had them questioning what God really said and meant.
- ◆ Remember that our enemy is a spirit.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU:

Paul told the Ephesians:

*Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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**. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:10-13).*

If you really want to combat evil spirits, then label, pull down, and expose everything they say and do. Then, by binding and driving them out of your midst, you have done successful warfare. Then you must educate everyone involved with the truth to bring deliverance so that the enemy cannot come back and rebuild. This is a part of prayer and must be discussed. Paul clearly defines spiritual warfare in the letter to the Corinthians:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU:

Your Relationship Will Confront Devils

DISCUSSION:

Fellowship

Paul told the Philippians that if they encountered any consolation in Christ or "fellowship of the Spirit" to fulfill his joy by "*being like-minded*" (Phil. 2:1-4). There is a fellowship of the wonderful, majestic Holy Spirit that every believer should seek to encounter.

- ◆ This will enhance your walk with God by developing this aspect of fellowship in your relationship with Him.
- ◆ Consider what influence the Holy Spirit will have on you in your everyday life.
- ◆ More importantly, consider the Holy Spirit's influence on your prayer life.
- ◆ I know that He helps me to pray when I feel that I cannot pray.
- ◆ When I sense that He wants to say something to me, sometimes He is nudging me to say something as well.
- ◆ This gives God permission to act on behalf of others, as well as me, when I speak out.
- ◆ There is a legal side to prayer because we have authority through Jesus Christ.
- ◆ God the Father knows that Jesus has given the keys of the Kingdom to each believer and to the church.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU:

This is what happens during *fellowship of the Spirit*:

1. Fellowship of the Spirit allows dialogue, or conversation, to occur.
2. Fellowship of the Spirit reveals the true intent of our hearts.
3. Fellowship of the Spirit gives utterance-a voice-to our desires.
4. Fellowship of the Spirit brings about unity in our mission and purpose.
5. Fellowship of the Spirit executes justice when our agreement is accomplished.
6. Fellowship of the Spirit will result in the commission of angels to accomplish what has been agreed upon on our behalf.
7. Fellowship of the Spirit manifests good fruit in and through us.

8. Fellowship of the Spirit advances the Kingdom of God, which is the King on the earth. Everyone who participates enjoys the spoils and benefits of that fellowship.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU:

Communion

Communion is about the love of God. It brings about intimacy, adoration, and worship. Deep secrets are revealed. You allow yourself to be vulnerable. You gain each other's strengths and absorb any weaknesses so that they are no longer issues. We can define *communion* as intimate fellowship, rapport, or communication. *Communication* is the act or process of using words, sounds, signs, or behaviors to express or exchange information or ideas, thoughts, feelings, etc. to someone else.

Paul talked about the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit toward the Corinthians (see 2 Cor. 13:14). We need to have this kind of relationship with the Holy Spirit while we are on the earth. The Spirit will start to communicate with us about our destiny that is already recorded in Heaven. We will start to walk out every intention of God for our lives. We will find ourselves influencing others to do the same. We need to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might (see Eph. 6:10).

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU:

Stop Grieving the Holy Spirit

DISCUSSION:

Last, we must not grieve the Holy Spirit by what we do and say in our life. If He is grieved, it is because we strayed from our path of destiny.

If I have grieved the Spirit of God, I have lost the edge to my communion and fellowship with Him. If I sense that the Spirit has pulled back in sorrow, I know that this will hinder my prayer life. Effective prayer that gets results occurs when the Holy Spirit is in agreement with you and you will have confidence and full assurance of faith. The apostle Paul said, "And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30 NLT). Some things to remember about the Holy Spirit and Jesus when you pray are:

1. The Spirit alone gives life to your prayers. He is the One who gives eternal life.
2. Human effort accomplishes nothing.
3. The very words that Jesus has spoken and that you repeat in prayer are Spirit and life.
4. Some do not believe Jesus's words, and that can be a hindrance to your prayers (see John 6:63-64).

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU:

STORY:

I remember, just recently, when my relationship with God had caused confrontation in the realm of the Spirit. I was praying in tongues and exercising my authority in the name of Jesus. This activity caused an amazing visitation from an angel. It occurred at the beginning of 2016, right before our spiritual parents, Dr. Jesse and Dr. Cathy Duplantis, ordained my wife and me. The devil was already contesting this ordination, even though we were not aware that it was going to happen yet. I had been praying in the Spirit for close to three days, almost continually, and had not been able to sleep. I felt such a burden to pray in the Spirit. I could not stop even though I tried. Finally, on the third night, I was lying on my bed praying quietly in the Spirit, in order to not disturb my wife, when a very loud gust of wind came from outside my house window. I could hear the trees rustling in the wind as things were blowing around outside the house. I thought, "There must be a storm coming in." Just as that thought passed through my mind, I heard a large tree branch break and fall to the ground. As it crashed, I sat up abruptly to see what was happening out my window.

As I looked out the window, which I could do without getting up from the bed, I was surprised to see that there was no wind at all and that there were no broken branches on the ground in my yard. As I looked in disbelief, I saw that the clouds were parting. The bright moon was shining through, giving light to the yard. There was no visible sign of what I was hearing. That is when I noticed an outline of a person coming toward me between the clouds in the air at a high rate of speed. The clouds were parting, giving way to him as he came and touched down, feet first on the golf course behind my house. Then, he came running toward my house.

He walked right into the house and came up from behind me and picked me up off my feet with my back resting against his chest. As he lifted me higher, I could feel his left cheek and my right cheek touching. He had put his arms through and around me. He was at least eight feet tall and had a massive build. As I was dangling in mid-air, in a bear hug, he breathed in. I could feel his chest expand. He said he had come in answer my prayers. In front of us, since he arrived, demonic forces had become visible. He said, "Where we live, on the other side, this is how we angels deal with demonic forces." I could see, in the spirit, the whole way to the city of New Orleans, which is about 20 miles away. There were three demonic entities that were sent to

attack us at our house. I could see that they were already within striking distance of our neighborhood. As he exhaled the breath of God that he had previously inhaled, the demons were sent tumbling backward. They went the entire distance back to New Orleans without even a battle ensuing! He then set me down and turned to fly away.

He was gone as fast as he had come, but the effects of the encounter have not left me. I will always remember that my prayers were heard. I know that I must continually exercise my authority as a believer. Angels will be sent to answer our prayers and assist us in an awesome, supernatural way when we exercise the authority that God has imparted to us.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU:
