

Introduction:

- I taught on Dagon and the five lords last Wednesday night.
- Tonight I want to share with you how to pull down strongholds in general.
- Spiritual warfare is that conflict being waged in the invisible, spiritual realm that is being manifested in the visible, physical realm.
- Everything we see in the visible, physical realm is caused, provoked, or at least influenced by something in the invisible, spiritual realm.
 - Therefore it affects your personal life. ie. emotions and choices Ephesians 4:25-27
 - It affects your family.
 - It affects life. Paul encouraged Timothy to be aware of the doctrines of demons. 1 Timothy 4:1
 - It affects the cultures of cities and nations.
- The first thing I want us to know is that we fight from a position of strength.

I. We Fight From The Position of Strength

- A. *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."* (Ephesians 6:12, ESV) ie. Daniel 10:12-13.
1. Daniel received victory through
 - a) Repentant heart
 - b) In the presence of God
 - c) Fasting
 - d) All three have to do with position before God.
 2. Samson, in Judges was fighting a spirit. Yes, the Philistines were his enemies. Yes, the Philistines were standing against him in the flesh. But there was a 'strong man' standing against Samson; a principality ruling through a nation. Notice the word(s) 'against' in our verse. It is used four times. It means to approach and face squarely. ie. Like in wrestling.
 - a) 'against' rulers
 - b) 'against' authorities
 - c) 'against' cosmic powers over this present darkness
 - d) 'against' spiritual forces in the heavenly places.
 3. When marriages 'go south' it is because there is a spirit at work against it. Those spirits get empowered through immaturity of believers, and believers who operate according to flesh and not the Spirit.
- B. Our position of strength is in Christ. Do not take this for granted. Pray into it until it becomes revelation to you.

1. The armor of God. *"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 firm."* (Ephesians 6:13, ESV)
 2. Ie. Some people put this on everyday. May I suggest...never take it off.
 3. Truth, righteousness, peace, shield of faith, salvation, sword of Spirit (Word) (Isaiah 59:17) Jesus wears the same armor.
 - a) He is truth - everything is connected to the truth.
 - b) We have His righteousness - protects the vital organs
 - c) His peace - allows us to fight with a clear head.
 - d) His measure of faith given
 - e) Salvation - He made the way
 - f) Word - John 6:63 His words are spirit and life.
 - g) It is all Him!!! Therefore we fight from the position of strength!!!
- C. Our weapons have supernatural power.
1. We wrestle: **Our wrestling is not** (οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ παλη [ouk estin hēmin hē palē]). "To us the wrestling is not." Παλη [Palē] is an old word from παλλω [pallō], to throw, to swing, a contest between two till one hurls the other down and holds him down.
 - a) Who has been thrown down? The devil was trounced by Jesus! Ie. When dagon fell in the Philistine temple, the head representing his authority and his arms representing his ability or power were cut off. God made it CRYSTAL CLEAR that Dagon had neither authority or power!
 - b) Who has been defeated? Death, hell and the grave!
 - c) The light drives out the darkness! John 1:5
 2. *"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,"* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, ESV)
 - a) Our weapons have divine power! They are supernatural.
 - b) The battle ends up being in our minds.
 - (1) The devil seeks to deceive us.
 - (2) The devil seeks to cause us to doubt.
 - (3) Transformation happens in the mind. *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* (Romans 12:2, ESV)
- D. It is critical to know who you are in Christ.

II. Our Walk Counts

- A. Last Wednesday when I spoke on Dagon and the five lords. I mentioned that Samson was called to be a Nazarite. The calling on his life and the instruction given to his parents was meant to equip him to face Israel's enemies (Dagon and the 5 lords.)
1. God gave them a vision of raising a deliverer.
 2. God gave them instruction of how to raise this deliverer.
- B. What is a Nazarite? IE. Samson, Samuel, John the Baptist.
1. To be separated and set apart. Consecrated to the Lord.
 2. No wine or grape products. No cutting of the hair. No contact with things dead.
 3. The vow was to live a strict and holy life style. A Nazarite lives holy to God.
 4. God was telling the family that to get victory over dagon will require a purity of heart.
- C. Scriptural Example: Israel and the Moabite women.
1. Balam could not curse the children of Israel because they were blessed by God. Finally Balam comes up with the answer: Get Israel to go among the Moabite women.
 2. Israel opened the door to their enemy. The Israelite participated in worship to the Moabites gods, took Moabite wives etc.
 - a) "Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord." (Numbers 31:16, ESV)
 - b) "While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor." (Numbers 25:1-3, ESV)
- D. A personal relationship with Jesus.
1. Practice spiritual disciplines. Word, prayer, fasting.
 - a) John 6:63 My words are Spirit and life.
 - b) The word lets me know who He is.
 - c) Prayer - living daily in communion with Him.
 2. Know who you are and where you sit.
 - a) You are a child of God - "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God," (Romans 8:16, ESV)
 - b) You are the bride of Christ
 - c) You have been made to sit together with Him in heavenly places. Ephesians 2:6

III. In Him Is All The Difference

- A. *"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."* (Psalm 23:5, ESV)
- B. Seven Kingdom Realities of Victory
1. Truth
 - a) *alétheia* is "that which has certainty and force":¹ *alétheia* is "that on which one can rely": a. as trustworthiness²
 - b) ¹⁷ *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.* John 17:17, N KJV
 - c) Holy Spirit called Spirit of truth. John 14:17, 16:13
 - d) Psalm 85:11 *Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall look down from heaven.* NLT Hell is getting hammered from both sides. Jesus sprang up out of the earth and The Throne of Righteousness and Justice preside from above. We have been raised up with Jesus and made to sit with Him in heavenly places.
 - e) Truth is opposite of lies. Lies put one in bondage but the Truth is what sets us free.
 2. Righteousness
 - a) Psalm 89:14 *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.* NLT
 - b) Proverbs 13:6 *Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, But wickedness overthrows the sinner.* NLT
 - c) When Abraham believed it was credited to him as righteousness (James 2:23). NOTE: connection between righteousness and faith.
 - d) *The Messiah as the Righteous.* The Messiah is righteous because his whole nature and action conform to God's will. He is often called "our righteousness." Applied to him are Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 9:9,
 - e) Romans 4 Abraham made righteous by faith. So are we.
 - f) Out of the heart come all the issues of life. So we make the heart good the whole man will be good. That is why it is the breastplate the condition of the guards the whole of the man.
 3. Peace -
 - a) Our Kingdom is ruled by the Prince of Peace.
 - (1) Peace has to do with confidence.
 - (2) Peace has to do with the overthrow of fear. If you know in whom you have believed you live in peace. 2 Timothy 1:12
 - b) Erine - the state of peace, the absence of war.

¹ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

² Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

- (1) Shalom - basic sense is not the narrower one of "peace" but the wider one of "well-being."³
4. Faith -
 - a) Formally in the NT, as in Greek usage, *pisteúō* denotes reliance, trust, and belief.
 - b) I John 5:4-5 *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?* NLT
 - c) 1 Peter 5:9 *Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.*
 - d) Faith was key to Abraham, Hebrews 11, Mark 11:22-24.
 5. Salvation
 - a) Sozo - to keep, to save, to free, to heal, to deliver.
 - b) Psalm 3:8 *Salvation belongs to the Lord.* Salvation is Yeshua! Deliverance!...from what ever you need saving from.
 - c) Revelation 7:10 *Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*
 6. Word
 - a) Will not return void, but accomplish what it was sent to do. Isaiah 55:11
 - b) God watches over His word to perform it. Jeremiah 1:12
 - c) We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Romans 12:1-3.
 - d) Ephesians 5:26 we are washed with the Word.
 7. Prayer
 - a) Praying all kinds of prayers all the time. Ephesians 6:18 *Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.* NLT

³ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.