

SPIRITUAL WARFARE & USING
THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM:
BINDING AND LOOSING

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Much has been said and written about Spiritual warfare in our times. There has even been times when this subject has become a rage in the charismatic sector of the Body of Christ. On one hand, an over emphasis on spiritual warfare has the potential of having a very bad effect on the Church. If spiritual warfare is not taught properly, it can be devastating, for this subject has a unique way of captivating the people's attention so completely that they eventually think of nothing else but spiritual warfare. This is a favorite trick of the devil to make believers magnify his power to a greater degree than it deserves. If this trick works, these unbalanced, devil-minded believers begin to imagine that the devil is behind everything that occurs, thus becoming paralyzed and incapable of functioning normally in any capacity of life. In this way, the enemy eliminates them from future usefulness in the Kingdom of God. Unfortunately this has been the outcome in the lives of too many people who have focused on the issue of spiritual warfare in years past.

The Lord wants us to be sober and vigilant in all areas of His Kingdom. Don't misunderstand what I am saying: I am not opposed to spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare is very real in the lives of every believer. We are commanded in Scripture to deal with and subdue the unseen invisible forces that have been marshaled against us. We have been commanded to "pull down the strongholds" of the mind [2 Corinthians 10:3-5] and we have been commanded to "cast out demons" [Mark 16:17].

The Truth is we are in a battle. **The Keys of His Kingdom** have been given unto us, as one of the tools, to be effective and victorious in spiritual warfare. These keys are not our only spiritual weapon to use in spiritual warfare. We must know what has been given to us and how to use it effectively against our enemy. YES, we have an enemy. This emphasis on spiritual warfare is good in that it causes us to become familiar with our adversary, the devil, and how he operates. Once we understand his modes of operation, we can foil his attacks against us. This is the reason Paul told the Corinthians concerning the devil and his modes of operation, "we are not ignorant of [Satan's] devices" [2 Corinthians 2:11].

Good and evil forces are marshaled against each other in the spirit realm, which is the unseen realm. The Word even says, there is mutual enmity (mutual hatred) between these Kingdoms. 'The Kingdom of His dear Son' is known, in the Bible, with many names such as: 'the Kingdom of Light', 'the Kingdom of heaven', 'the Kingdom of the Son of His love', and 'the Kingdom of God'. This Kingdom of Light which is ruled by the Trinity-Father, Son-Jesus, and Holy Spirit is opposed by the Kingdom of Darkness which is ruled by Satan.

In my own ministry, I have dealt with many demonic manifestations and demons controlling believer's minds. There are multitudes of people in the world, and even in the Church today who are held captive and hostage by the devil in their minds. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Scripture says, "For the god of this world, [Satan] has blinded the minds of them who believe not....

The Lord Jesus, by revelation, has shown me that this scripture is not only speaking about those that do not know Him, but many Christians have been blinded, by the enemy, and see not certain Truths in God's Word.

1 John 3:8 says: "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

The word 'destroyed' in this Scripture is taken from the Greek word 'luo' and it refers to "the act of untying or unloosing something." It is the exact word we use to picture a person who is untying his shoes. In fact, the word "luo" is used in this exact way in Luke 3:16, when John the Baptist says, "but one mightier than I comes, whose shoes I am not worthy "to unloose."

Thus, Jesus Christ came into the world to "untie and unloose" Satan's binding power over us. At the cross, Jesus unraveled Satan's power paying the price for sin.

Furthermore, Peter told the household of Cornelius, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him."

We know, from the above Truths and additionally when Jesus' quoted Isaiah 61:1 in Luke 4:18 - which was His entry into ministry, that setting people free from Satan's power is the primary concern of Jesus Christ. Jesus never changes and because this is His concern, it should be ours also.

In order to free people from demonic oppression, we must learn how to recognize the work of the enemy and how to overcome his attacks against the mind, for the mind is the primary area he seeks to attack. Satan's goal is to plant a stronghold of deception [a lie, which is contrary to the Truth in the Bible] in some area of an individuals mind. If he is successful, he can then begin to control and manipulate the person.

The Holy Spirit is speaking a strong message to the Body of Christ about spiritual warfare to us in these last days. Christian leaders and churches all across the nation are awakening to this reality. In light of this, we must give

heed to what the Spirit is saying to the Church and proceed with the Word of God as our guide and foundation.

As we seek to engage in spiritual warfare using the Keys of the Kingdom, we must be careful to walk in balance. For one thing, we need to realize that this subject of spiritual warfare involves more than just dealing with the enemy. Other major elements of spiritual warfare have to do with 'taking control of our minds' and 'crucifying the flesh.' We must not forget that these latter elements of spiritual warfare are just as vital as using the keys of the Kingdom.

The truth is the devil's attacks against our lives wouldn't work if our flesh didn't cooperate. If we were truly 'mortifying the flesh' [Colossians 3:5], living lives that were 'dead to sin' [Romans 6:2] as we are commanded to do in Scripture, we would not respond to demonic suggestions and to fleshly temptations. Dead men are incapable of responding to anything. Thusly, we see the power of a crucified life!

Living the crucified life is a crucial part of spiritual warfare. If I were to write this article without mentioning this truth, I would be doing my readers an injustice by giving them an unrealistic view on the subject.

A person can scream at the devil all day long, but if that person has willfully permitted some area of their mind to go unchecked and unguarded by not paying attention to Holy Spirit. If he is aware of an area of sin but has not been willing to deal with it – he has opened the door for an attack against himself. In that case, all his prayers against the devil will be to no avail because his real enemy is not the devil. Rather, it is his own carnal mind and flesh, which must be submitted to the control of Holy Spirit in order to eradicate these attacks.

The enemy's goal is to steal, kill and destroy. [John 10:10] In the below Scripture, this is illuminated further:

Mark 3.27 AMP

But no one can go into a strong man's house and ransack his household goods right and left *and* seize them as plunder unless he first binds the strong man; then indeed he may [thoroughly] plunder his house.

Jesus in this scripture is talking about us, His born-again believers being the 'strong man' because we are in Him. When we abide, dwell and live in Him, we remain clean – because we are quick when we sin to confess and receive our forgiveness. (I John 1:9) We are quick to hear the promptings of Holy Spirit and make corrections in our lives according to His direction. We are sensitive to His direction in for us. Therefore, we remain the 'strongman' and free of being ransacked and of being plundered by the enemy.

We become bound when we enter into sin, led by the enemy of our soul and flesh and don't listen to Holy Spirit's promptings to obey Him and to confess, repent and receive our forgiveness.

In other words, when we remain in sin we open ourselves up to the enemy allowing him to ransack our household goods, seize and plunder our home.

The bottom line is this: If people focus only on the devil as they pursue the subject of spiritual warfare and fail to consider other equally important areas, their emphasis on spiritual warfare can and will be damaging to them.

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

In this Scripture, we see some rules and directions of application for using the Keys of the Kingdom. We first must know what is meant by binding and loosing.

Mathew 16:19 AMP

I will give you **the keys of the kingdom of heaven;** and whatever you bind (declare to be improper and unlawful) on earth must be what is already bound (declared to be improper and unlawful) in Heaven; and whatever you loose (declare lawful) on earth must be what is already loosed (declared lawful) in Heaven.

Mathew 18-18 AMP

Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid *and* declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit *and* declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.

What we could say about Mathew 18.18 is:

**'What we Bind on earth in the name of Jesus-
Heaven will back us up, and
What we Loose on earth, in the name of Jesus-
Heaven will back us up.'**

This is the expression of all prayer—if it exists in heaven, it is to be loosed on earth. It's the praying Believer who looses heaven's expression here. Remember, The Lords Prayer"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven".... That is saying, if it exists in Heaven, it is to be loosed here on this earth. Everything that happens here is supposed to be a shadow of Heaven.

Conversely, if it is not free to exist in Heaven, it must be bound here. Through prayer we are to exercise the authority given to us,

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in Heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in Heaven."

The implication is that we can only bind or loose what has already been bound or loosed there in Heaven. Heaven is our model.

WHAT CAN I BIND?

Now the Greek word - Bind means: to tie up, imprison or already bound.

The Dictionary reads - Bind means: 'to hold or restrain as if bound or tied down; **to tie together**, make tight as with a rope or band; to be constricting or restricting.'

We can bind anything that kills, steals and destroys. John 10:10 says: "The thief comes but to steal, and for to kill and to destroy." For all these things are from the enemy. We can bind the enemies work in our lives. When we bind something in the name of Jesus, we tie it up; we restrain its influence over ourselves, or our family or an individual.

FOR EXAMPLE:

When we bind the spirit of fear in the name of Jesus, we stop its influence over an individual.

We can bind confusion over a person.

We can bind lack.

We can bind every, plan wile and strategy that the enemy has planned today.

We need to become aware of what is already bound out of Heaven.

**Thus whatever is already bound out of Heaven,
we can bind here on earth.**

**So let's think about what is already bound -
(declared to be unlawful) in Heaven.**

WHAT CAN I LOOSE?

The Word says, whatever is loosed in Heaven,
we can loose here on earth.

We can loose anything good that comes from Heaven.

John 10:10 says:"I am come that they might have life and that they might have life abundantly."

The Greek word Loose means 'to untie, to loose or release.'

The Dictionary reads that Loosed means 'not confined or restrained, readily available, moving freely, relaxed, to set free.'

FOR INSTANCE:

So with these scriptures,

We can bind lack and loose abundance or prosperity.

We can bind fear and loose peace.

We can bind confusion and loose the mind of Christ.

We can loose grace, and favor and love and joy and patience and gentleness, and goodness and faithfulness and meekness and self-control. Yes, all the fruit of the Spirit. There are many things that we may loose from Heaven unto ourselves and others.

So think about what is in Heaven that you want down here! Remember, this is God's idea and His plan. Abundant life here on this earth, just as it in Heaven. As you read the Word daily, and feed your mind and spirit, pay attention to what you are reading. Yes, even make notes, regarding what you can loose into your life that has already been loosed in Heaven.

THE UNSEEN REALM

Revelation 1:18 NKJ

I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And **I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

Keys of HADES –

In the Greek - Hades means the unseen realm; not hell

Jesus holds the keys of the Unseen or The Unseen Realm.

**The unseen realm is more commonly known
as the spirit realm.**

Jesus holds the keys of the spirit realm

Keys of DEATH mean: The Keys of Conquering death!!!

What is classified as death?

Everything that kills, steals and destroys mankind or
Everything the devil authors.

John 10:10 AMP

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

**Jesus has the keys of Conquering Death and the Unseen
Realm. Because He is in us and we are in Him,**

We have these keys!!!!

WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE KEYS-

'TO BIND AND LOOSE'

JESUS SAID SO !!!

Although spiritual warfare is real and we cannot ignore it, we must be careful to remember that the real battle with Satan was won at the Cross and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:15 AMP

[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and a public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him [Jesus] and in it [the cross].

Now this same victorious Christ, who single-handedly defeated the Devil, lives in us in the Person of the Holy Spirit! This is why the Apostle John tells us, "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." [John 4:4]

Our view of spiritual warfare must begin with this basic Truth and understanding of Jesus' already accomplished victory over Satan. We must start out with this as our foundation. The victory has already been won; there is nothing we can add to the destructive work Jesus did to Satan's domain and kingdom when He was raised from the dead.

These keys of His Kingdom are tremendously powerful keys that Jesus has given us to enforce that victory in our lives. They have been purchased for us. So it is up to us to pick them up and use them. Begin utilizing them in your prayer life.

When we pray and believe, using these keys -
and we bind something of the kingdom of darkness-
it is for the purpose of binding or stopping
the influence of it over a person's life
or from our own life.

When we bind evil spirits and their influence over people's lives, we can also ask the Father that their eyes, ears and heart be opened to the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and pray laborers into their life path. [Luke 10:2]

We must know that we have been given authority, rulership and dominion over all the kingdom of darkness to use these keys effectively. In order for us to walk victoriously; we should speak a bold command in line with the Word of God and in the name of Jesus. The bolder we are, at times, the greater results we will have. The Holy Spirit will confirm what we are saying as it agrees with the Word of God.

I look at it this way - We can bind the evil and loose the good.

Although at times - We can bind the good and loose the evil.

You will see this in the prayers below.

PRAYERS OF BINDING AND LOOSING

Prayer #1

I bind every plan, every wile and every strategy that the enemy has planned for my life or for the lives of my family this day. Your plans will not come into fruition and I loose all the goodness you Father have planned for my life this day, in Jesus name.

Prayer #2

LORD, I am standing on the truth of your WORD. You said you gave me the Keys of the Kingdom that whatever I would bind on earth would already be bound in Heaven and whatever I would loose on earth would already be loosed in Heaven.

Right now, in the Name of Jesus Christ, I bind my will to the will of God, that I will be constantly aware of His will and purposes for my life. I bind myself to the truth of God that I will not be deceived by the many subtle deceptions of the world and the devil.

I bind myself to the blood of Jesus that I will never take it for granted. I want to be constantly aware of His miracle-working power to restore and heal and keep me safe. I bind myself to the mind of Christ that I will be

aware of how Jesus would have me think in every situation I come into today. I do not want to react out of my own human, carnal thoughts when situations arise suddenly; I want to think and act as Jesus would have me think and act. I bind my feet to paths of righteousness that my steps would be steady and true all day long. I bind myself to the work of the cross in my life so that I will continue to die daily to my own selfish desires and motivations and live a crucified life and be more like Him every day.

I bind the enemy so that I may spoil his household and take back every bit of joy, peace, blessing, freedom and every material and spiritual possession that he has stolen from me. I take it back right now!! Satan, I loose your influence over every part of my body, soul and spirit. I loose, crush, smash and destroy every evil device, plan, wile and strategy you may try to bring into my sphere of influence during this day.

I confess every wrong desire, attitude and pattern of thinking I have had that is contrary to the Word of God and His will for my life. I renounce and reject and receive my forgiveness for holding onto wrong ideas, desires, behaviors and habits. Lord Jesus reveal these wrong desires, attitudes, behaviors and patterns of thinking to me for I am quick to confess and repent.

In the name of Jesus, I loose (destroy, crush, break, smash and melt, etc.) every wrong attitude, pattern of thinking, belief, idea, desire, behavior and habit I have ever learned. I loose the strongholds around them that would keep them in place and keep me from being completely surrendered to the will of God for my life. I loose all doubt and confusion from myself.

I have bound myself to the mind of Christ and I loose every wrong thought and evil imagination that will keep me from being in sweet unity with Him. I bind and loose these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who has given me the keys to do so. Thank you Lord, for the Truth.

Prayer #3

In the name of Jesus Christ, I bind my body, soul and spirit to the will and purposes of God. I bind myself to the truth of God. I bind myself to the awareness of the power of the blood of Jesus working in my life every day. I bind my mind to the mind of Christ that I can and would have the thoughts, purposes and feelings of His heart in me. I bind my feet to the paths you have ordained for me to walk, God that my steps will be strong and steady. I bind myself to the work of the cross with all its mercy, truth, love, power, and forgiveness and surrendering to Him.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I bind the enemy and I loose his hold on everything he has stolen from me. I rebuke his works and loose the power and effects of every deception, device and influence he wants to bring against me.

Lord Jesus, I confess and repent of having wrong attitudes and thoughts, I renounce them now and receive my forgiveness that You purchased at the cross for me. I loose every old wrong pattern of thinking, attitude, idea, desire, belief, habit and behavior that may still be working in me. I tear down, crush, smash and destroy every stronghold I have erected to protect them. Lord Jesus reveal to me any and all wrong desires, attitudes, behaviors and patterns of thinking to me for I am quick to confess and repent. I bind myself to the attitudes and patterns of Jesus Christ. I bind myself to the overcoming behavior and spiritual desires that line up with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Father, I loose any stronghold in my life protecting wrong feelings I have against anyone. Forgive me as I forgive those who have caused me pain, loss or grief. I loose any desire for retribution. In the name of Jesus, I loose the power and the effects of any harsh words (word curses) spoken about me, to me or by me that are contrary to the will of God. I loose any strongholds connected with them. Thank you Lord Jesus, that you have

promised whatsoever I bind and loose on earth is already bound and loosed in heaven. Amen.

SIX STEPS for BINDING and LOOSING:

A] Be bold when using the name of Jesus against anything that kills, steals and destroys.

B] Identify the evil spirit with the Word of God or ask Holy Spirit to show you what the evil spirit is [Discerning of spirits] causing the problem.

C] Bind the spirit [i.e. confusion, fear, etc.] in the name of Jesus.

[You may use the keys of binding and loosing on anyone saved or not saved]

D] Commanding it to leave is DELIVERANCE—"they will cast out demons" Mark 16:17 and not come back or return to the person or the person's home, and not follow you home, when you have permission of the person to whom you are ministering.

[Before commanding any evil spirit to leave a person, You must have the person agree with you that he or she wants it gone; and that they desire to be saved and/or Holy Spirit filled and will take steps to serve the Lord].

E] If possible, spend time with the person until he or she is free.

F] Give the person some scriptures to memorize and meditate on to take the place of bondage and wrong thinking.

G] Instruct them to submit to God in all areas of their lives and resist the spirit or fear, pain, confusion and rebellion, (etc.) in the name of Jesus. Instruct them how to resist the enemy, for when it tries to come back.

[Mathew 12:43-45; Luke 11:20-26]

To follow step D & E you must believe Mark 16:17; you must know who you are in Christ Jesus and go two by two as Jesus commanded His disciples. Bind all retaliation against you by the enemy after you are done.