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Territorial Warfare

The Garden Training Center, Inc.
An Apostolic School of Ministry



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Holy Spirit is the inspiration for the content of this book, however someone put words to it. This book was written by Brandy Helton.

This book is one of a series of books written and distributed by The Apostolic School of Ministry from The Garden Training Center, Inc. The series arises from the foundational teachings of the school of ministry, founded by Brandy Helton. Brandy wrote several sections that are included in each book such as “God’s Love” and the prayers included at the end of each book.

Many thanks to the team of writers of the series for their collaboration to make the series available to the public. The writers are: Lauren Caldwell, Jessica Doggett, Danetta Ferguson, Debra Gray, Elisa Griffith, Nancy Hadley, Robin Harmon, Brandy Helton, Grant Hill, Kevin McSpadden, and Paula Pelzel. Each have sought Holy Spirit for the words He wants to speak through them. The result is a mixture of personalities and communication strategies that convey the total message in a beautiful, diverse way.

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Encouragement and Prayer for the Reader

Beloved of God, these teachings are written to reveal Jesus Christ and His heart of love for all who call upon His name to save them.

God has sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to save all who would believe in Him and His Word.

God desires to reveal Himself and to give us His divine nature in Christ Jesus our Lord through the power of His Holy Spirit.

God is Jealous. He wants us to encounter His presence daily and walk with Him in glory – intimate communion - today, while it is called today, and forever.

It is my prayer that this teaching would so impact the readers that all would come to know and believe JESUS, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Great God and Savior, and receive the PERFECT LOVE He has for us all as we grow up into Him and mature as true sons and daughters of God.

May you grow in faith and knowledge of your God and Savior and come to know the love that He has for you. I pray for you the Apostle Paul's prayer for spiritual growth:

Ephesians 3:14-21 The Living Bible (TLB)

"14-15 When I think of the wisdom and scope of his plan, I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth— 16 that out of his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you the mighty inner strengthening of his Holy Spirit. 17 And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; 18-19 and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.

20 Now glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes. 21 May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages because of his master plan of salvation for the Church through Jesus Christ."

In Christ our Lord,
Brandy Helton
A child of God

God's Love

God's love is good news! Don't believe the lie that God is distant, unapproachable, and angry!

God is love. He is the only true, eternal God. He is perfect and holy, and He is truth. God is One. He has revealed Himself in three distinct, individual, equal persons: God the Father, God the Son – Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells the story of God's perfect love. In that love, God created the first family to live on the earth with Him. Through their deep intimate relationship with the Father, Adam and Eve were meant to fulfill all that was in God's heart on Earth just like it is in Heaven, for God's glory and purposes. Adam and Eve were chosen to walk with God, clothed in His glory presence and were perfect, as He is perfect, and they lived in His beautiful garden, the secret place called Eden. He gave them His breath, life and power to have dominion over all He created and wanted them to reproduce that LIFE replenishing the earth with it, until all the earth is filled with His glory.

Genesis 1:26-28

"26 Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our

image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill 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.’”

God created His children in His likeness. He made them spirit beings, with a soul – mind, will and emotions – and placed them in a physical body. He gave His children the choice to love Him and to walk with Him in obedience to His every word. He gave the first family the power to overcome any temptation offered to them through God’s adversary, the devil, who had rebelled against the Most High God in Heaven’s glory and was cast down to the earth. The devil, Satan, brought great darkness and chaos prior to Adam and Eve’s existence.

Adam and Eve were deceived into thinking that God was not perfect in love as Satan, the adversary, tempted them to believe that God would not keep His Word to them. Through their own will, Adam and Eve disobeyed the Father by eating from a tree that had the power to open their eyes to both good and evil. Through their choice of disobedience, they willfully gave their inheritance and authority over to the devil and his kingdom. Sin entered mankind, which produced death, eternal separation from a Holy God. Adam and Eve were banished from the dwelling and intima-

cy of perfection in the garden and were sent into the world as a fallen creation.

Father God knew He had to come Himself and save His family, and in His wisdom, He chose to send His Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us and restore fallen mankind back to relationship with Him. Through His Son, He destroyed all the works of the devil and the curse of death. Hebrews 9:22 says, *“And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”* Remission means to cancel the penalty, so according to the law there must be shedding of blood to cancel the penalty for sin. The Father cancelled the penalty for the sins of His children through the shedding of the blood of His innocent, holy Son Jesus, who was the Sent One, called and chosen to die for all, so all could live.

John 3:16-21

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may

be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Jesus was conceived by God’s Holy Spirit in the womb of a young virgin named Mary. He appeared as the second Adam, in the flesh, with the choice to walk in perfect love and obedience, full of God’s Spirit, as a man to do the will of His Father.

Jesus grew up as any male child did in the flesh but He had divine fellowship with His Father and Holy Spirit. At the appointed time, He was revealed as being sent from God to save. Jesus went around doing good and healed all who were oppressed by the devil spiritually and physically. He revealed His Father’s heart and perfect love to all who believed through His teachings, grace and miraculous power.

Salvation means eternal life, healing, deliverance, protection, peace, wholeness, and forgiveness. Salvation came to all men through the cross, where the Son of God, the perfect One, was slaughtered as a lamb, bearing all sin for all times from a fallen people. Jesus bore the wrath of God against the darkness that separated God’s family from Him. Jesus was punished for our sin and died to cleanse us from the guilt, shame and condemnation sin produces. Sin separates. Love restores.

Jesus was crucified, dead and buried, spending three days and nights in the depths of Hades, the realm of the dead fallen race. Jesus took back the keys of death and hell from that old serpent the devil, Satan, and therefore, all authority was restored back to Jesus.

Great Holy Spirit breathed LIFE into Jesus and raised Him from the dead. He appeared to His disciples, those who followed Him and obeyed His teachings. He showed them that He conquered sin, death and the grave and now, had the keys of hell and death, and would give ETERNAL LIFE to ALL who chose to believe in Him. King Jesus ascended back to the Father of glory where He ever lives to make intercession for us all, and He is coming again to the earth in power to establish His Father's Kingdom on Earth.

Jesus Christ is the head and Lord over His church, those who have made Him Lord and Savior, by believing He is the Son of the Living God and God in the flesh, who finished the work the Father gave Him to do. He not only died for our sins to save and heal us, He chose to give His authority to those He called and chose to follow Him as His disciples, His family.

Jesus has commissioned His followers to do the same works that He did while He lived on the earth.

John 14:12-14

“12 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

God loves us and desires that none should perish. He desires for His family to be with Him where He

is. These books are written to inspire all who read them and to reveal the heart of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and Holy Spirit in order that we might RECEIVE THE LOVE HE HAS FOR US and be CHANGED INTO HIS VERY LIKENESS. God desires to dwell with His family forever and ever just as He did in the beginning. How glorious it is to live in His presence and dominion, beholding His goodness, forever and ever, amen.

The book of Revelation describes the time that is coming when all things are made new according to God's heart of love:

Revelation 21:1-7

"1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.' 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' 6 And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be

My son.”

To understand what is presented in the Bible, you must start by understanding God’s love. The good news is that God loves you!

The Heart of It

Jesus has chosen to reveal His glory on the earth! He was sent by His Father to save and redeem mankind. *John 3:16* reveals the LOVE of the Father and His MOVE towards people to restore them to Himself. *“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* Salvation is offered to all. However, Jesus continues to say in *John 3:19-20*, *“19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”*

This passage of scripture is familiar to most Christians as well as to the ‘lost’. Yet, within it we see the spiritual battleground between LIGHT, DARKNESS, EVIL, AND TRUTH. God commissioned His children in *Genesis 1:28* to, *“...Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion.”* This commission is a BLESSING that empowers God’s family and kingdom purposes. Satan wars against the BLESSING, and those who walk in light. Satan wars for territory on the earth, and the souls who would dwell therein! Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and has com-

missioned His Church to do the same, taking dominion over the land. The purpose of this book is to equip and prepare the saints as they overcome evil with good, and to empower them in God's Word with spiritual awareness and supernatural knowledge as they engage in territorial warfare.

Territorial Warfare

Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

Jesus Christ demonstrated the Kingdom of Heaven on earth! He was sent to the Jewish people, however He revealed the Father's love for all. His works were absolutely amazing! Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to do those works. Jesus is the believer's example and teacher of how to minister the glorious gospel!

Matthew 4:17

“17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:23-25

“23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. 25

Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.”

Truth vs Ignorance

God wants His family to know Him and understand His Word and heart. God wants us to have spiritual knowledge and understanding. He does not want us to be ignorant. All saints must know and believe that God is TRUTH and LIGHT. God’s Word and Ways are always perfect, and the believer can trust in Him completely.

I John 1:5

“5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”

II Samuel 22:31

“31 As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.”

God loves knowledge and wants all to learn, be aware, and grow in wisdom. The Lord, Jesus, is the ONE who empowers and equips His family. He wants all His saints to mature and have dominion in the purposes and destinies He has prepared for them. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand, and Satan along with the forces of evil will choose to oppose the Kingdom and those who serve within it. Some may say, “What you don’t know can’t hurt you”, or better yet, “ignorance is bliss”! The Church must be aware of the enemy of our souls, the devil, who desires to destroy all, and his evil schemes.

II Corinthians 2:11

“11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

“Hosea 4:6 KJV

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge.”

Jesus said, *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”* John 10:10 Jesus’s Word empowered His followers and instructed them in the ways of the Kingdom of God. Jesus clearly identifies who the thief is, and his agenda to steal, kill and destroy. He empowers His followers in the TRUTH. His teachings are TRUTH. Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, who empowers the children of God!

John 16:13-14

“13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

The knowledge and truth we receive from Holy Spirit sets us free and literally empowers us to overcome Satan!

John 8:31-32 NLT

“31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Revelation 12:11

“11 And they overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

Jesus sent out his disciples to go and preach the kingdom of heaven, and heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out demons!

Matthew 10:7-8

“7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

When the disciples came back, they were overjoyed at the power and authority in which they ministered! Jesus immediately recounted the moment Satan was cast out of heaven due to his rebellion. He tried to be ‘like the Most-High God’, and no doubt, desired worship for himself.

Luke 10:18

“18 And He [Jesus] said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”

The prophet Isaiah describes this event.

Isaiah 14:12-15

“12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ 15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.”

Jesus continued informing His disciples of the authority He had given them! They had received their authority to accomplish the works of the Kingdom of Heaven through His Word. No matter what deadly or poisonous scheme they encountered from the evil one, they had power over all those evil plans, and nothing would harm them. This is truly territorial warfare that leads to victory!

Luke 10:18-19

“19 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. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

In this passage Jesus connected their authority to their eternal reward in heaven. Jesus rejoiced over their victorious testimonies! He wanted them to know the greatest JOY of serving God in His Kingdom is that their names are written in the Lamb’s Book Life!

Luke 10:21

“21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good

in Your sight.”

Revelation 3:5

*“5 “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from **the Book of Life**; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”*

Our battle is not necessarily against humanity, but rather the evil one and his forces of darkness.

Ephesians 6:12

“12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

When the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all humanity, He literally destroyed the devil’s rule of authority. Jesus paid the debt of sin and all its consequences! God chose to destroy the works of the devil through His Son, who became ‘the Lamb of God’ that would take away the sins of the world.’

Colossians 2:14, 15

“14 Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He [Jesus] has taken it out of the way, 15 having nailed it to the cross, when He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

I John 3:8

“8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has

sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

John 1:29

“29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

When Jesus was raised from the dead, scripture declares He took back the keys of hell and death. He defeated death.

Revelation 1:18

“18 I [Jesus] am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

I Corinthians 15:55, 56

“55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

When Jesus descended into the lower regions of the earth, He proclaimed Himself to be Messiah, and bore witness to His own Word! He would ascend and would release spiritual captives from eternal damnation, and the fear of death.

Ephesians 4:7-10 NLT

“7 However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. 8 That is why the Scriptures say, “When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.” 9 Notice that it says

“he ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. 10 And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.”

Hebrews 2:14-15

“14 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, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

As believers in Jesus Christ, we MUST understand the glorious Gospel and His victory over sin, hell, and the grave! We go from glory to glory, and Holy Spirit wants to empower His church to do mighty works.

John 14:12-14

“12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me [Jesus], the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

We are called to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and take dominion wherever God has placed us in this world.

Kingdom Dominion

The goal from heaven was for Holy Spirit, through

Jesus, to dwell and have the preeminence within every believer.

Colossians 1:26-27

*“26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 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.**”*

I Corinthians 6:19

“19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

God wants His family to ‘take dominion’ over their own lives, and then, through relationship with Him, this kingdom would be manifested or released to those people around them. The good news, or Gospel of the Kingdom would affect every sphere of influence His disciples, and families had. These are often referred to as the seven mountains of society. This includes, (1) the church (2) education (3) government (4) business (5) law (6) arts and (7) media. This is what Jesus meant when He called His followers ‘the salt of the earth’. The Kingdom of God should be revealed through the saints within their territories, or places of influence.

Jesus said to His followers:

Matthew 5:13-16

“13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and

trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

The church, His bride, has been given authority from Jesus Christ, the Messiah, to be witnesses and light and represent the Kingdom of God within these areas of influence. The saints are now heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, and in His name, the church would carry the anointing of Jesus as His ambassadors into the world to accomplish His mandate of reconciling man to His Father God.

Romans 8:17

“And if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”

II Corinthians 5:18-20

“18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

The Lord imparts His Kingdom vision to those He chooses. The apostle Paul speaks of his con-

version and the Lord's commission for him. He was persecuting the church until the Lord Jesus Himself confronted him on the road to Damascus. With blinding light, the Lord rebuked Paul for his sin, and brought him revelation knowledge of His Lordship.

Heavenly Vision

The apostle Paul testifies to a king in the region he was in, of his encounter with Jesus.

Acts 26:13-15

“13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ 15 So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”

Jesus told Paul plainly of the assignment He was giving him.

Acts 26:16-18

“16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may

receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

Paul explains to King Agrippa that he could only obey the KINGDOM VISION given to Him by Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:19-20

"19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."

The Apostle Paul shared in his letters to the churches, a description of the persecution and troubles he endured because of this heavenly vision! Spiritual warfare comes when the Kingdom of Heaven invades the kingdom of darkness!

II Corinthians 11:23-28

"23 Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— 28

besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”

Once while Paul preached the Gospel of Jesus, and he was stoned and drug out of the city as a dead man. How glorious that the Lord was with them, because the believers prayed for Paul and he was raised!

Acts 14:19-20

“19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. 20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.”

Paul continued in his God given assignments and was resolved to strengthen all the converts in the faith!

Acts 14:21-22

“21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

Jesus told His disciples that the enemy would resist them, and people would persecute them for their faith. Yet, He encouraged all to remain faithful and great was their reward in heaven!

Matthew 5:10-12

“10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Lord Jesus promised to never leave or forsake His disciples. Holy Spirit, the helper, would teach all who follow Christ and lead them each day in the kingdom!

John 14:16-18

“16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

Jesus taught His disciples how to pray for God’s kingdom to come to earth as it is in heaven. He established once and for all, kingdom authority in and through His church.

Matthew 16:18-19

“18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Peter Wagner gives further understanding to this scripture from His book, "Spiritual Warfare Strategy."

"The more literal translation, in my understanding, would be: "Whatever you bind on earth *will have been bound* in Heaven and whatever you loose *will have been loosed in Heaven.*" This means that an essential synchronization exists between activities on earth and activities in Heaven. And it establishes the crucial sequence: Heaven first, then earth." P. 150

How amazing to know that Christians are empowered in Holy Spirit and God's word to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth, and the powers of hell will not be able to withstand it! Prayer is powerful when believers understand the authority Jesus has given to them. We are to 'loose' in prayer, whatever is legal and permitted in heaven, and we are to 'bind' and forbid in prayer, whatever is Not legal or permitted in heaven.

Matthew 18:18 NLT

"18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

Jesus gave His disciples authority to cast demons out of people, just as He did.

Matthew 10:7-8

"7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.

Freely you have received, freely give.”

Jesus demonstrated the power of God as He set the captives free from demonic forces.

Luke 4:33-36

“33 Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, 34 saying, “Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him. 36 Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, “What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.”

Matthew 12:22-23

“22 Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

The religious leaders accused Jesus of ‘casting out demons’ by the power of Satan himself. The Kingdom of Heaven was ‘at hand’, and people’s lives were being transformed, yet they would not believe because of their own deception and religious pride.

Matthew 12:24

“24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said,

“This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

Jesus confronted their hypocrisy and explained further about the kingdom.

Matthew 12:25-27

“25 But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore, they shall be your judges.”

Peter Wagner expounds on this topic in his book, “Spiritual Warfare Strategy”:

“Beelzebub is well-known as one of the highest-ranking principalities in the invisible world of darkness. He is so powerful that some confuse him with Satan himself. Beelzebub is known as the ‘ruler of demons’ (Luke 11:15), but he rules these demons under the high command of Satan. Beelzebub is not Satan. It would be like characterizing a general in the army as the ‘ruler of soldiers,’ understanding that there is also a commander-in-chief to whom the general reports.” P. 142

Jesus boldly proclaimed that He cast out demons through Holy Spirit and His power. Heaven was overtaking evil!

Matthew 12:28

“28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

Being the great teacher that Jesus is, He explained more about how to be spiritually effective in delivering the individual from evil, sickness, or bondage. When one is demonically oppressed, there is always a ‘leader’, or ‘strong man’ over the person, and his/her spiritual ‘house’. It’s important to **first** ‘bind’ and cast out that ‘leader’ so that, you can clean the entire house. It simply means, Jesus took authority over the devil himself and those demon spirits that have the person in bondage.

Matthew 12:29

“29 Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.”

It’s important to know and believe that heaven is assisting in the work of the kingdom on the earth! God sends His angels to assist those who inherit salvation.

Hebrews 1:14

“14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”

Psalms 103:20-22

“20 Bless you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, obeying the voice of His word! 21 Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, you who serve Him, doing His will. 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of His, in all places of dominion; Bless the Lord, O my soul!”

An amazing testimony of angelic assistance with the Lord's disciples was when Peter was arrested for preaching the Gospel! The supernatural manifested on the earth as God sent His help, His angels to assist in His movement.

Acts 12:5-11

*“5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. 7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands. 8 Then the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and tie on your sandals”; and so he did. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.” 9 So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. 11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “**Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me** from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”*

Psalm 34:7

“7 The angel of the Lord encamps all around

those who fear Him, and delivers them.”

There are many angels listed in scripture who have assisted God’s people in their journey and assignments on the earth. There are some whose purpose is solely reserved to serve ‘in heaven’, and some who are sent to earth to serve His children. Yet in all things, it’s important to understand that God has created all for His glory and His purposes.

Angel Armies

One of God’s names is ***Jehovah Sabaoth***. It simply means Lord of Hosts, Lord of Angel Armies, or Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “Lord of ‘Hosts’ speaks of warfare, army, service, and angels. Jehovah Sabaoth’s army is an awesome display of His power and ability.” “Throne Room Worship – Names of God”, mini book. The Garden Apostolic Training Center, p. 30. The Garden Publishing Company.

Jesus Christ is the head of His church, and He is the head of all the angel armies. Everything was created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 1:18

“18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.”

Colossians 1:16-17

“16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created

through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”

Colossians 2:9

“9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

As we discuss the angelic and their functions, it is important to know the difference between the heavens as recorded in scripture.

- 1st heaven – This would be the sky or atmosphere above the earth, that contains all the stars, moon, and sun. (Genesis 1:14-19)
- 2nd heaven – This is known as the place where the ‘prince [Satan] of the power of the air’ dwells and where angels seem to battle. (Ephesians 2:2-3)
- 3rd heaven – This is ‘heaven’ itself, where God’s throne exists, and where Christ is seated at the Father’s right hand. (II Corinthians 12:2)

There are many angels, but we know from scripture that they have different roles and functions. All angels serve God and worship Him. We will look at some of the angels listed in the Word of God.

Psalms 148:1-2

“1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! 2 Praise Him, all His angels.”

There are **seraphim**, who seem to be very high in rank and order, who are called to worship the Lord

in His Holiness. They have access to His throne. Isaiah wrote about his encounter in heaven with the seraphim.

Isaiah 6:1-7

*“6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood **seraphim**; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said:*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!”*

4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 So I said:

“Woe is me, for I am undone!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King,

The Lord of hosts.”

*6 Then one of the **seraphim** flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said:*

“Behold, this has touched your lips;

Your iniquity is taken away,

And your sin purged.”

Out of this encounter in the 3rd heaven, Isaiah

received his commission to be a prophet! His famous quote was, “Here I am, send me!” (Isaiah 6:8) God assists His workers on the earth in taking dominion in their assigned territories.

There are the **cherubim**, who seem to guard God’s glory, and even carry His throne when He comes to the earth realm. The prophet Ezekiel writes of these angels in his account recorded in Ezekiel 10:1-13.

Ezekiel 10:1-13

*“1 And I looked, and there in the firmament that was above the head of the **cherubim**, there appeared something like a sapphire stone, having the appearance of the likeness of a throne. 2 Then He spoke to the man clothed with linen, and said, “Go in among the wheels, under the cherub, fill your hands with coals of fire from among the cherubim, and scatter them over the city.” And he went in as I watched. 3 Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the temple when the man went in, and the cloud filled the inner court. 4 Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, and paused over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord’s glory. 5 And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court, like the voice of Almighty God when He speaks. 6 Then it happened, when He commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, “Take fire from among the wheels, from among the cherubim,” that he went in and stood beside the wheels. 7 And the cherub stretched out his hand from among the cherubim to the fire that was among the cherubim,*

and took some of it and put it into the hands of the man clothed with linen, who took it and went out. 8 The cherubim appeared to have the form of a man's hand under their wings. 9 And when I looked, there were four wheels by the cherubim, one wheel by one cherub and another wheel by each other cherub; the wheels appeared to have the color of a beryl stone. 10 As for their appearance, all four looked alike—as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. 11 When they went, they went toward any of their four directions; they did not turn aside when they went, but followed in the direction the head was facing. They did not turn aside when they went. 12 And their whole body, with their back, their hands, their wings, and the wheels that the four had, were full of eyes all around. 13 As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, “Wheel.””

There are **arch angels**, who seem to be war-like and very high in rank and order. **Michael** is known to be the Prince over Israel, and the leading arch angel.

Revelation 12:7-9

*“7 And war broke out in heaven [2nd heaven]”; **Michael and his angels** fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Italics mine)*

Jude 1:9

*“9 Yet **Michael the archangel**, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!””*

Daniel 12:1

*““At that time **Michael** shall stand up, **the great prince** who stands watch over the sons of your people;”*

We read of the angel **Gabriel** bringing messages and understanding from heaven to God’s chosen!

Daniel 8:15-17

*“15 Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. 16 And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, “**Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.**” 17 So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, “Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.””*

Gabriel came to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, while he was serving in the temple.

Luke 1:11-17

*“11 Then **an angel of the Lord** appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call*

his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.'”

Zacharias, who was an old man, doubted the messenger and the Word of the Lord.

Luke 1:18-20

“18 And Zacharias said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years.” 19 And the angel answered and said to him, “**I am Gabriel**, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. 20 But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.””

This same Gabriel was sent to Mary, the mother of Jesus, before Jesus was conceived. She believed his words, even though she had no idea how this could happen since she was not married yet.

Luke 1:26-33

“26 Now in the sixth month **the angel Gabriel** was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose

name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.""

God's angels help those on earth in their missions in order to bring His kingdom to their spheres of influence and dominion. They guard and protect His servants!

Psalm 103:20-22

*"20 Bless the Lord, you **His angels**,
Who excel in strength, who do His word,
Heeding the voice of His word.
21 Bless the Lord, all you **His hosts**,
You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.
22 Bless the Lord, all His works,
In all places of His dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!"*

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane in prayer, some soldiers and Judas Iscariot, who

betrayed him, came to arrest him and take him to the Roman authorities. His disciple, Peter, pulled his sword to protect Jesus. Jesus instantly rebuked Peter, and then He explained to His disciples about the angels who could rescue and assist him in His trouble.

Matthew 26:52-53

*“52 But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more **than twelve legions of angels?**”*

If one legion equaled approximately 6,000 troops, then 12 legions would have been approximately 72,000 angels!!!!

In the book of Acts, we see the angels assisting the Lord’s servants.

In *Acts chapter 5:17-20*, the apostles were imprisoned for preaching the gospel, with signs, miracles, and wonders following.

*“17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, 18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. 19 But at night **an angel of the Lord** opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”*

In territorial warfare and dominion, it is vital for Christians to know that God’s Word is true, and

He really does minister to His chosen ones on the earth.

In Acts chapter 12, Herod, the Roman king, began to persecute and harass some of Christ's followers. He had the apostle James, the brother of John the apostle, killed with the sword. James was martyred for his faith. Herod arrested Peter with the same intent to kill him too. The church began to pray, and God responded by sending help from on high.

Acts 12:5-10

*"5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. 7 Now behold, **an angel of the Lord** stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. 8 Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." 9 So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him."*

Peter was convinced and boldly proclaimed that

the Lord had indeed intervened to rescue him supernaturally!

Acts 12:11

*“11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent **His angel** and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”*

Later in the story, the Lord reveals to us that Herod was later killed by an angel of the Lord because he exalted himself and the people began to worship him as a god.

Acts 12:20-24

*“20 Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus the king’s personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king’s country. 21 So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. 22 And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” 23 **Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God.** And he was eaten by worms and died.” 24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.”*

In Acts chapter 8, Phillip, an evangelist, was ministering to the people in Samaria.

Acts 8:5-7

“5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multi-

tudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.”

Afterwards, an angel gave instructions from the Lord to Phillip concerning his next mission.

Acts 8:26-29

*“26 Now **an angel of the Lord** spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”*

After Phillip gave the gospel, and explained the scriptures to the Ethiopian Eunuch, he baptized him in water. Afterwards, Holy Spirit decided to take Phillip elsewhere to continue preaching! Suddenly, Phillip was found in another city. This was amazing!

Acts 8:39-40

*“39 Now when they came up out of the water, the **Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away**, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in*

all the cities till he came to Caesarea.”

The apostle Paul was on a ship headed to Rome to stand before Caesar. While on the journey, a huge storm came, and the ship was breaking up, and the men and crew feared for their lives. God sent His angel to Paul with instruction. The Word of the Lord protected all on the ship!!

Acts 27:21-26

*“21 But after long abstinence from food, then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. 22 And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. 23 **For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, 24 saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ 25 Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. 26 However, we must run aground on a certain island.”***

God has released multitudes of angels to help His children establish the Kingdom of God. As you read the Bible, take note of the angelic hosts, and different angels by their names, functions, or assignments. The Lord of Hosts governs His Kingdom and He watches over all His Creation as He takes dominion and increases His government on the earth.

Satanic Hierarchy

Satan himself is known as the ‘prince of the power of the air’ and ‘the god of this age.’ He is the head over his fallen angels and their armies. They make war against God’s Kingdom, and people, and work to block, destroy, and hinder their work.

Ephesians 2:2-3

“2 in which you 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, 3 among whom also we all once conducted 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.”

II Corinthians 4:3-4

“3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

The Lord Jesus called Satan, the ‘ruler of this world’.

John 14:30

*“31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” John 12:31
“30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.”*

John 16:8-11

“8 And when He [Holy Spirit] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not

believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

Peter described the devil as a ‘roaring lion’, seeking whom he may devour. Remember, Satan’s purpose is to ‘steal, kill and destroy’.

I Peter 5:8

“8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Remember, Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and empowers His church to do the same.

I John 3:8

“8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

Through the cross, Jesus defeated all of Satan’s armies.

Colossians 2:15

“15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

In Ephesians 6, the apostle Paul explains what the believers in Christ war against. It’s not just other humans! The battle for territory is spiritual and each of these entities have a certain role, function and order in rank and order.

Ephesians 6:10-13

“10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 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. 13 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.”

Satan’s fallen angels war with him against God and His Kingdom on the earth and in the 2nd heavens.

Revelation 12:7-9

“7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon [Satan]; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

Paul described in Ephesians 6 (quoted above) through the inspiration and revelation from Holy Spirit, the structure of Satan’s army.

1. Principalities
2. Powers
3. Rulers of the darkness of this age
4. Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places

“The goal of the powers of darkness is to blind the believers through spiritual warfare, leaving them in the dark, in a weak and wounded condition.” Perry Stone, NT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 364.

The section below has been adapted from Peter Wagner’s book, “Spiritual Warfare Strategy”, pp. 206-209.

A general understanding of these four levels of the demonic structure is:

1. Principalities: These would be at the highest level, and the most powerful of Satan’s army. They would take their orders directly from Satan. Principalities can be set over nations, and regions of the earth. They are sometimes known as ‘geographical’ spirits.

- “12 Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.” Daniel 10:12-13

- “20 Then he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. 21 But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me

*against these, except Michael your prince.”
Daniel 10:20-21*

2. Powers: Powers would be under the direct command of the principalities. An example of their strategic authority would be to rule over states, regions, counties, and cities.
3. Rulers of Darkness: These authorities are ‘like’ generals who oversee the troops for special operations. They in turn would answer to the powers over them. “The rulers of darkness of this world are spirit rulers who empower individuals in dark and sinful regions of the world.” Perry Stone, NT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 364.
4. Hosts of wickedness in heavenly places: These would be like the ‘foot soldiers’ in the army and would answer directly to the rulers or generals over them. “There assignments are to work evil through human beings, motivating them to create wickedness in the earth.” Perry Stone, NT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 364.

Generally, Peter Wagner describes 3 different levels of warfare experienced by these rulers of darkness.

- Strategic Levels of Warfare can occur over nations, regions, territories, states, and cities. This level of warfare involves principalities and powers.
- Occultic Levels of Warfare can include dealing with individuals in false religions or the occult; rulers of darkness; territories or cities

ruled by evil; political spirits such as Herod; Pharisee Spirits which oppose the Anointed One – Christ and cause opposition within the church; and Satanic assignments against the church.

- Ground Level of Warfare usually works against individuals, families, through generational iniquity - reoccurring sin or infirmities, and the marketplace. This is where the ‘casting out of demons’ of people would be identified.

In these next passages of scripture, we will see examples of the spiritual battles between light and darkness; the Kingdom of God, and the works of the devil.

In Acts chapter 8, Philip was sent to Samaria to preach the gospel, and the Lord moved powerfully among them, so that souls were saved with signs, miracles and wonders following. The apostles went to Samaria to pray for all to receive the baptism of Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17

“14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

Simon, a local sorcerer saw the power of Holy Spirit when the apostles laid their hands on those who had just gotten saved. He too wanted that

‘power’, yet, since he had been working through the power of the devil, he thought he could pay money for this gift. He was quickly rebuked by Peter.

Acts 8:18-24

“18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

20 But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! 21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”

24 Then Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.”

Simon was saved as well. God can save anyone. Simon, obviously, had not ‘sold his soul’ to Satan yet.

This was spiritual warfare over one soul who had once served the devil. Peter spoke by the anointing of Holy Spirit exposing the evil intent of his heart and the spirits that had him bound. Thankfully, Simon did ask for prayer over this.

In Acts 19, the apostle Paul was ministering in

the power of Holy Spirit in such miraculous ways. He encountered the glory of God, and stirred up the local powers, rulers, and demonic spirits in the region of Ephesus.

Acts 19:11-12

“11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.”

Before reading the next part of this passage in scripture, we will read some commentary by Perry Stone who will describe the Jews who were trying to cast out demons they way Paul did.

“This passage describes traveling Jews (sons of a priest; v. 14) who practiced exorcism from city to city, using incantations, charms, and special oaths to allegedly cast out demonic spirits. By adjuring the spirit (v.13), they were binding it under an oath. They used the name “Jesus” as some magical word to expel the spirit. However, these exorcists had no covenant relationship with Christ. Evil spirits know those who are true believers and those who are false ones, as the demons knew Paul and Jesus (v.15). The possessed man went into a rage and tore the garments off these seven men, leaving them to run through the streets in humiliation and fear (v. 16).” Perry Stone, NT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 244.

Acts 19:13-17

“13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits,

saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” 14 Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” 16 Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.”

The power of the Gospel is so glorious! Revival broke out in the city and many repented of their sins, turned from the darkness and renounced their evil works!

Acts 19:18-25

“18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. 25 So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.”

As we continue in Acts 19, we see more examples of the Kingdom of heaven effecting the local powers and rulers in the region.

Acts 19:23-27

“23 And about that time there arose a great

commotion about **the Way** [name for the Christian faith; emphasis mine.] 24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. 25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”

“Conversions to Christ were bad for those in the idol making business! Demetrius was a silversmith who made small shrines, which were silver boxes with a small silver idol of the goddess Diana inside (v.24). Ephesus had a massive temple to Diana, drawing countless worshippers to the city.” Perry Stone, NT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 247.

The temple was massive and in history was noted as one of the wonders of the Roman world.

“The small shrines were purchased by locals and strangers to carry with them back to their homes. This brought great profits to the silversmiths, but their employment was now threatened because Diana’s worshippers were turning to Christ. (v. 25-26) They started a riot at the amphitheater, and Paul’s influential friends forbade him to enter the fray (v. 30-31).” Perry Stone, NT Hebraic

Study Bible, p. 247.

Acts 19:28-34

“28 Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!” 29 So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul’s travel companions. 30 And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. 31 Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. 32 Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. 34 But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, “Great is Diana of the Ephesians!””

What an uproar! Light was overtaking the darkness and territorial demonic spirits were stirring up the people and creating great confusion.

Acts 19: 35-40

“35 And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: “Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? 36 Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do

nothing rashly. 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. 38 Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. 39 But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly. 40 For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." 41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly."

This chapter truly reveals the different levels of warfare! Principalities ruling over the region and powers over the city, all the way down to the local rulers and the demon spirits that enslaved the locals! This is a classic example of the Kingdom of Heaven coming into territories where only Satan had the dominion. How glorious to see the power of Lord disrupt the powers of darkness in a pagan land.

"The Jews rejected idols and all idol worship, but in this case were trying to make peace with the townspeople. The mob praised Diana for two hours (v.34). The city clerk (v.35) who oversaw the revenue for the city wanted the business to continue and defended Diana and her shrine builders. However, he also wanted to calm in the city and refused to attack the apostles, instead suggesting that if they had broken the Roman law, to let the issue be settled in a lawful assembly (v. 38-39). His speech brought calm. (v. 41)" Perry Stone, NT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 246.

The Bible is full of supernatural stories! Our eyes must be opened by the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding to see and know how God has been involved in the story of mankind from the beginning! From the fall in the Garden of Eden, where sin first entered mankind, to the current day, the Lord has been revealing Himself to His creation and children! As believer's we need to know what the Lord's Word has to say about the glory of God, His angel armies, and the works of darkness.

What does God say about witchcraft and sorcery?

The body of Christ must be educated and trained of the reality of the enemy and his schemes and even workers who intentionally oppose the church and God's people. It is important to read the scriptures and understand the heart of God on the topic of witchcraft, sorcery, and idolatry. What the Lord declares in His Word is the truth to which the church should adhere. He has not changed in WHO HE IS or HIS stance towards evil. All sorcery and witchcraft are of the devil.

Hebrews 13:8

"8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Exodus 20:3

"3 You shall have no other gods before Me."

Exodus 20:4-6

"4 You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that

is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

The first mention in scripture of the word ‘witch’ is found in Exodus 22:18.

Exodus 22:18 KJV

“18 Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.”

The first mention of the word ‘witchcraft’ is found in Deuteronomy 18:10:

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 KJV

“10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.”

The New Living translation translates the scripture very clearly for all to understand.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 NLT

“10 For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering. And do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, 11 or

cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. 12 Any one who does these things is detestable to the LORD. It is because the other nations have done these detestable things that the LORD your God will drive them out ahead of you. 13 But you must be blameless before the LORD your God. 14 The nations you are about to displace consult sorcerers and fortune-tellers, but the LORD your God forbids you to do such things.”

God is JEALOUS! He loves His people with an ever-lasting love. He is HOLY. He is PERFECT LOVE. He hates all sin, and especially that of witchcraft as it opposes the power and workings of HOLY SPIRIT. Satan can only mimic or copy or pervert the Lord’s work and power. He is a twister and a liar. He deceives and the deception is what ‘allures’ people into some ‘false power’ or ‘false blood’ that blatantly mocks the Blood of Jesus Christ.

In reality, no one would really want to participate with such evil, yet, for the most part, witchcraft has infiltrated society in many ways that make it look fun, dramatic, adventurous. “Oh, it’s not real.” “Oh, it’s just a game.” “Oh, I am not into witchcraft, I just like the adventure.” Who in their right mind would want to see, read or hear of the horrors of evil that Satan flaunts to society? Satan wants humans to succumb to such deception so that they can’t even discern ‘good from evil’; ‘right from wrong’; or use ‘common sense’.

II Corinthians 4:3-4

“3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe,

lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

Isaiah 5:20

“20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

Witches, warlocks, and covens have infiltrated society. Some boldly confess who they are and make a living off the sorcery. Others vehemently oppose righteousness through public demonstrations. Some are planted in disguise, or ‘under cover’, as they infiltrate with evil intent to destroy, and or oppose any ‘good’ or ‘righteous work’.

Job 31:3

“Is it not destruction for the wicked, and disaster for the workers of iniquity?”

The Lord calls rebellion and stubbornness a work of witchcraft as well, in I Samuel 15, when King Saul willfully chose to disobey the Lord and to do what he wanted.

I Samuel 15:23

“23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”

More subtle forms of witchcraft are hidden behind ‘good intentions’; or willful, intentional manipulation, abuse, or control.

The apostle Paul describes the works of the ‘flesh’ in Galatians 5. Those who ‘practice such things’ shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-20

“19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Before an individual is born again, saved through Jesus Christ, all were ‘slaves of sin’ and the ‘works’ of the flesh are the fruit that manifested in our lives.

But once we are born again, we have a new nature, including new fruit of the Spirit, and Holy Spirit begins the process of sanctification, healing, and delivering us from all evil and iniquity.

I Thessalonians 5:23-24

“23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”

Galatians 5:22

“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.”

You will know them by their fruit.

Jesus plainly taught about discerning good from

evil by simply looking at the ‘fruit’ that was being produced in the lives of mankind! He warned His disciples of those who would come with an appearance of good but who were actually false and very dangerous.

Matthew 7:15-20

“15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn-bushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

Jesus went on to explain that there will even be those who have a ‘form of godliness’, but operate under a false power. These were workers of darkness in **whom He never knew!**

Matthew 7:15-23

“21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Jesus warned His disciples about deception! These deceivers would pose as being ‘good’ or

even proclaim to be Christ!

Matthew 24:4

“4 And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”

Testimony of Satanic Plants in the Church

Dr. Rebecca Brown vividly describes how Satan works to destroy the church from within.

“During my years in The Brotherhood [Satanic craft] I was carefully trained, and I in turn trained others, how to infiltrate and destroy the various Christian churches. Satan’s goal is to make every Christian church like the church of Laodicea described by our Lord Jesus Christ in Revelation 3:15-16, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth.”

Churches full of passive people who never bother to read or study their Bible, who “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof...” as so well described in II Timothy 3:5, are not a threat to Satan. We were taught a basic eight-point plan of attack that could be adapted to whatever denomination of church we were sent to. The fact that most of all high-ranking Satanists regularly attend Christian churches should not be a surprise to anyone. That is, anyone who takes the time to read God’s word. We Christians are very clear-

ly warned that Satan's attack will come from within the churches – especially in times of prosperity.” Elaine Talks, “He Came to Set the Captives Free”, Dr. Rebecca – Brown, p. 233.

Angela Greening explains how the devil targets leadership.

“Satan will always target those in positions of authority, including leaders in religion, politics, etc. Satanists desire to take over the world, so they scheme to advance and then continue up the social and political ladders of success. This is why there are many men and women, both young and old, who have infiltrated the Church and are posing as pastors, teachers, and prophets of the Body of Christ. They are in our midst, and yet they are not Christians at all, but Satanists pretending to be Christians. And they are good at what they do. They sound like believers. They look and play the part very well. This is what posers do. Like spies in a camp, they infiltrate in order to gain ground, and eventually – when the timing is right – they destroy the infrastructure of a church.” Angela Greening, “Satanism – The Truth Behind the Veil”, p. 45

The apostle Paul warned those he had been disciplining about imposters who would come into their midst in order to lead them astray. He also warned that some would arise from within to lead them away from the truth he had been teaching them.

Acts 20:25-31

“25 “And indeed, now I know that you all,

among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

Paul warned the church in Corinth of deceitful workers.

II Corinthians 11:13-15

“13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

Jude exposed these evil workers as well.

Jude 1:4

“4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our

God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Jude 1:16-19

“16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. 17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. 19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.”

Below is Rebecca Brown’s 8-point summary of how evil workers, who disguise themselves as believers in Christ, target Christian gatherings or churches.

8 Ways Satanists Attack the Church

1. Profession of faith – pretend to get saved; tears; false tongues, etc. I John 4:1-3, Luke 21:8, Matthew 7:21-23
2. Build Credibility – attends regularly, gets to know all people, knows who is strong and who is not, gives regularly until they major supporters, joins choir, etc.
3. Destroy the Prayer Base – eventually they can even lead a prayer group, become an elder, deacon, or be on board of directors.
4. Rumors, gossip, slander – destroy credibility of pastors.
5. Teach and Change Doctrines – covet teaching positions.

6. Break up family units.
7. Stop all accurate teaching about Satan – II Corinthians 2:11, Hosea 4:6, I Peter 5:8, John 3:19
8. Direct attacks by witchcraft against key members of church

Taken in summary from, “He Came to Set the Captives Free”, Dr. Rebecca Brown, pp. 233-235

It is vital that all Christians walk wisely, and even know those with whom they walk! It is so important for believers to pray regularly, read the Bible, attend gatherings to worship and be submitted under true godly authorities. It is vital for all to be filled with Holy Spirit and yield to His fullness and TRUTH.

James 4:7

“7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

I Peter 5:1-11

“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Submit to God, Resist the Devil

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. 11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Understanding the Unpardonable Sin

Jesus said all sin can be forgiven except for one. That is the blasphemy of Holy Spirit. That is to utterly renounce and curse Holy Spirit, and to associate His Power with that of the devil.

Mark 3:28-30

“28 “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; 29 but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation”— 30 because they said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Matthew 12:30-32

“30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

31 “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”

Jesus Christ was sent by His Father to save, heal, and deliver all who would believe on Him. The Father desires that none should perish, but that all would have eternal life in Him. Scripture does reveal to us that there will be people who do not repent of their sin and do not believe on the only Begotten Son of God – Jesus Christ. What does the Bible say about witchcraft? It is included with all sin of which there is no repentance! Christians must know the danger of all witchcraft, and people need to know the truth of eternal separation from God because of it.

Revelation 9:20-21

“20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.”

Revelation 21:8

“8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Revelation 22:15

“15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.”

Ultimately, God will also destroy the devil and those who rise with him to oppose God’s Kingdom and Jesus Christ.

Revelation 20:10

“10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Those whose names are NOT in the Lamb’s Book of Life, will stand before the Great White Throne Judgement of God and will be judged according to their sins.

Revelation 20:11-15

“11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of

Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Scripture is clear about the unpardonable sin. If committed, there is no forgiveness. God knows. All witchcraft, and those whose names are not in the Book of life are all eventually cast in the lake of fire if there is no REPENTANCE.

Kingdom Dominion – Heaven on Earth

God is FAITHFUL AND TRUE. HE PERFECT IN ALL HIS WAYS.

The good news is the Kingdom of Heaven will be established on earth and His Kingdom will have no end. All those who are in Jesus Christ shall reign with Him and God shall live and dwell with His family. All things shall be made new, hallelujah!

Revelation 21:1-7

“1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold,

I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.” AMEN.

The Lord Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him. (Hebrews 12:2) We are HIS JOY. What HOPE and CONFIDENT ASSURANCE the believer in Jesus Christ has for all eternity. Truly we are not just ‘living for today’! Heaven and life with God and His family is our eternal JOY. Amen!

Conclusion

God's Word is Truth! Every believer must grasp through this teaching the reality of the supernatural realm, and the clash between good and evil, as God saves, heals, and delivers souls through His Son Jesus Christ. God heals and delivers His children from evil and empowers them through Holy Spirit to help others in their journey. We must recognize the battleground in the spirit, and how God is for us not against us. We need to be confident of angelic helps, and how they assist us in taking ground or territories for God's glory. Thank God, Holy Spirit is our HELPER, who will lead us into all truth. God has clearly communicated through His Word what He thinks of sin, witchcraft and the works of the devil.

The Bible reveals how to overcome the evil in this world, and how to walk in that light. Satan and his evil workers war against the church and families who are called to bring the light and hope of the Gospel. The church must not be ignorant or naïve about Satan's tactics and must remain steadfast in what God says is good and evil so that believers are equipped to effectively pray for souls to be delivered from any and all deception that would keep them bound or walking in dark-

ness. Light always overtakes the darkness. May you be assured of God's promise written in *Romans 8:37-39*:

“37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Prayer for Salvation

If you have not made Jesus Christ your personal Lord and Savior, and you desire this with all your heart, then please, join me in prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I choose to believe with all my heart, Your love for me. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son, the Son of God, and that He is God in the flesh. I believe that You sent Him to this earth to save me. Thank You. I believe He died on the cross for my sins and He was dead and buried three days, and then rose again from the dead and that He ascended to Heaven and is now seated at Your right hand and is returning again.

Father, please forgive me for all my sin and iniquity and I choose to forgive others who have sinned against me. I give You all my heart and choose to live with You forever. I believe I have been born again according to Your Word and that I have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light. I declare I am forgiven and healed! Now, I ask for Holy Spirit to fill me. Jesus, baptize me in Holy Spirit and fullness in order that I may know You intimately and serve You all my days.

Thank You, Lord, for loving me. Amen.”

Scriptures:

John 14:6

“6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

Romans 10:8-13

“8 But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

John 3:3-8, 16-18

“3 Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ 4 Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ 5 Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said

to you, “You must be born again.” 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

“16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.’”

II Corinthians 5:17

“17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

I Corinthians 15:3-5

“3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.”

II Corinthians 5:21

“21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

Colossians 1:13-14

“13 He has delivered us from the power of dark-

ness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Luke 11:9-13

“9 So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

I Timothy 3:16

“16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

*God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.”*

Fresh Infilling of Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

“8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

If you have been born again and filled with Holy Spirit and you desire MORE and want to encounter the Lord’s presence afresh and anew, please join me in prayer:

“Father, in the name of Jesus, I thank You for loving me and I ask according to Ephesians 1:17-19, that You would give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, Jesus, and the eyes of my understanding would be enlightened; that I may know what is the hope of His calling and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power towards us who believe, according to 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 heavenly places. Amen.

Father, according to Colossians 3:9-12, I ask in Jesus name, that I would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that I would walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power. Amen.

I surrender and yield my life to the fullness of Holy Spirit; His power and anointing; the spirit of wisdom and revelation; counsel and might; the spirit of the fear of the Lord and knowledge according to Isaiah 11:2, in Jesus' name. Amen."

The Garden Training Center, Inc. The Apostolic School of Ministry

The Garden Apostolic Training Center is a place that fosters spiritual growth. The center provides training to equip believers in Jesus Christ for the work of the ministry and to be victorious and free in all areas of their lives through the supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit. For more information check out **thegardenstc.org**.

The Garden Gathering Church

The purpose of The Garden Gathering Church is to encourage believers in Jesus Christ: to fully embrace the love of God; to walk in freedom; to carry His presence and glory; and to be equipped and trained for the work of the ministry through worship, teachings, and impartation.

“It’s all about Love. When you see His eyes of Love for you, nothing else matters. That’s it. That’s all you need to know.”

-Brandy Helton

