

Notes for the Ekklēsia Meeting

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Standing Firm Against The Enemy

by Dan Trygg

“Be clear-headed/self-controlled, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. ¹¹ To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.” I Peter 5:8-11

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” James 4:7-8

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” Ephesians 6:10-13

We had had a team deliverance session with Jeff on a Thursday evening. We realized that there was at least one stubborn spirit that had not yet left. We had given it its eviction notice, however, commanding it in the name of Jesus Christ to leave. In my mind, I was convinced it would just be a matter of time, as long as we stood fast. In our experience, and in some of the books I have read on this subject, these occultic spirits are more stubborn. They do not relinquish their host easily. Those who had sought occult power had opened themselves up, and willingly yielded themselves to the suggestions of these parasites. As a result, the level of bondage is often much deeper.

I explained all of this to Jeff, and pointed out to him that **we had already broken its power base.** We had come against the lies it had used as a claim upon his life. **Jesus has taken every sin, every covenant, every curse, every charge that could be spoken against us, and removed them all by nailing them to His cross** (Col. 2:13-15). When He died, He bore *all* our sins in His body on that tree (I Pet. 2:24; Isa. 53:4-6), and *became a curse for us*, so that we could be redeemed by the payment of His life in our place (Gal. 3:13). Having completed His work of redemption, by pouring out His soul unto death on our behalf, He was placed in a borrowed tomb, and on the third day was raised in glorious victory. Since that time, **Jesus has been exalted to the highest place in the heavens, far above all other rulers, authorities, powers or dominions, and every name that could be named.** *God has put all things in subjection under His feet*, and has appointed Him as head over all (Eph. 1:21,22). *All* authority in heaven and earth has been given *to Him* (Matt. 28:18-20), and He, in turn, has given authority over all the power of the enemy *to us*. This specifically applies to demonic spirits being subject to us in His name (Lk. 10:19,20). The demons do have power, but there are limits to their power. In the end, **because we come in Jesus' name and authority, all the resources of God's kingdom are with us to back us up.** The demons may resist, for a time, but in the end they must yield to the superior power and authority of the kingdom of God.

It is important that we know our authority and insist that they obey. During our team deliverance meeting we had allowed ourselves to get distracted by interacting with the demon. We were looking for more information regarding what claims the demons may have had on Jeff. Our purpose in doing this was to remove them, so that we could insist that they leave. ***Demons are legalists. They will use anything that looks like a loophole to justify their claim on the life of their host.*** They construct elaborate arguments and accusations to convince us that they have a legal right to stay, even when commanded to go. It is like any dispute in the realm of human interaction. If someone takes something of yours, and you object or demand it back, they may refuse to give it back, or try to argue with you. If, however, you *insist*, and call the police, they will either quickly back down and give you what is yours, *or* those who enforce the law will intervene to return to you what is yours. *As long as we talked with them, we were allowing them to stay.* **When push comes to shove, the power of the Lord is greater than they are.** All demonic spirits were once angels. They had rebelled against God, and had opposed His authority. There was war in heaven, and they and their master have been defeated and driven out of heaven (Rev. 12:7-9). They were not strong enough, then, and they know that if it really comes to a showdown, they will lose, once again. Just as is true in human encounters, some demons are more bold and brazen than others. **Some will test us, and push us, and hold out against our demands until they are forced to comply.** Note what I just wrote – **they are testing us, ...our level of resolve and understanding. If we really stand firm, and continue to call upon God and oppose the suggestions and lies of the enemy, they will leave.**

Jeff continued to be harassed after we left on Thursday evening, and again on Friday. While it would come quite strongly, it was still apparent that it was losing its grip. Jeff would try to oppose it, would read

the Bible, and reached out to others for prayer support. On Saturday morning, he was baptized. He clearly confessed Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He committed himself to serving Christ for the rest of his life. We prayed over him to receive and be filled with the Holy Spirit. It was a glorious experience, and a powerful declaration of his allegiance and devotion. In spite of this, the demon refused to give up its hold. During the afternoon and evening, it manifested at times, and spoke to some of Jeff's friends who knew what had taken place. **It repeatedly referred to itself as a "king spirit", and said it was *not* going to release Jeff.**

On Tuesday, we gathered at Jeff's house again. This time, it was just John, Stan and myself. We started worshipping, and the Spirit came in a powerful way. **The demon came to the surface, and Jeff began to shake and put his head back.** We kept worshipping in song and in declarations of praise to God. Before long, we noticed John get on his knees in front of Jeff. It was obvious that the Spirit was all over him. Later, he told us that he saw Jeff sitting on a throne, a throne set up for him by Satan. He felt that in order to be free, Jeff had to get out of that throne to follow Jesus. He told that to Jeff, but Jeff said he could not move. John told him, "You are *not* alone." Then, Jeff later reported that in his mind he could see Jesus come into the throne room. He walked up to the throne, took Jeff by the hand, and led him off the throne and out of the room. *As that happened, Jeff suddenly slumped over, and the "king spirit" left. It has not been back since. Praise God!*

On Saturday evening, I talked to Jeff, and he reported that he continues to have greater and greater freedom. **There seems to be yet another spirit, however, a spirit of hatred.** It has attempted, at times, to fill Jeff's mind with feelings of hatred toward others, especially a few individuals who had hurt him deeply. **We had already addressed this issue before, so I reminded him of what we had done, and pointed out that *the demon was trying to reassert itself in his life* by bringing up these old thoughts and feelings. *He was to resist those thoughts*, and once again give those people over to the care of God. It was no longer his business to hold resentment toward them, judge them or hate them. He was to choose to release them to God, to forgive them and to even pray for them. He said that when this thing came over him, he would find himself having difficulty in speaking. It would restrain his tongue. At times, he was overcome with these thoughts and feelings of hatred toward those people, or even toward life in general. **I pointed out that the fact that he could recognize the difference indicated that these were *not* his real thoughts.** These were like episodes that would "come on him". When they were over, he would be back in his right mind. These "other thoughts" were *not* him, but an attack from some other source. **As soon as he could recognize this "other mindset", he was to reject it, and call on the Lord. He was to draw near to God, and begin to resist the devil.** He was to take a stand against these thoughts. He was to say, "No! I do not agree with these thoughts and feelings. Devil, you are a *liar!* God has plans for me, ...plans for my welfare and good, not for misery or disaster (Jer. 29:11). **I will *not* give you free reign to use my mind, or my voice. I choose to resist you,** and to fill my mind with the promises of God's Word." Most of the time, his mind was clear. These attacks were quite strong when they came, but the attacks and confusion of his mind and emotions were nowhere near as frequent as they had been a week ago. **When he was in his right mind, it was time to establish some "fire drills",** some contingency plans to follow when these things came upon him. He could write out some verses to go over in his mind, or even to say out loud, when the attacks came. He could call out to God, and even tell his girlfriend or call on others for prayer support. The point is, **he needed to develop a strategy to follow, so he knew what to do when the warfare started again.****

If you read the three passages at the top of this sheet, you will notice that all of them tell us to "resist" the spiritual forces of evil. **The word, "resist" is literally to "stand on the opposite side" or to "stand in opposition to" what the enemy is doing.** We are to know our authority, know what the truth is, call upon God for help when we recognize the opposition lining up against us (Psa. 91:1f – Spiritual 911 call), and *then* take our stand in opposition to the lie. **We are to stand firm against the schemes, lies, plots or suggestions of the enemy.** We are to cover ourselves with the armor of Christ's righteousness and salvation, so that the enemy cannot wound us, and get ready to fight. **The word for "sword" is descriptive of a short sword, used in close hand-to-hand combat.** We *will* experience this, if we are walking with Christ! **This implies that we are going to "get-down-and-dirty" in the skirmishes with the enemy. At times, these struggles will be intense.** Jeff has been experiencing that, at the present time, ...as the enemy who had exerted so much influence over him tries to reassert itself in his life. With each day, Jeff is learning how to fight the fight of faith, ...how to do battle, ...how to get the victory in his own thoughts. Right now, the battleground is *in his own mind*. Soon, *he will be taking the battle to the enemy on his turf.* He will be using the very lessons he is learning today to help other people find freedom from the enemy. His crib notes and fire drills will become valuable strategies he can share with others to help them.