



Empowering People to Change the World

Cosmic Encounters and New Freedom

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Cosmic Kingdom of God Warfare Prayer (The Lord's Prayer)

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Today is our tenth message in our series of the Cosmic War. Up to this time in the series on the Cosmic War we have studied:

1. The Gap
2. Lucifer and the Origins of Sin
3. The Divine Counsel
4. The Battle When We Pray
5. The Battle of Persistent Prayer
6. Psalm 2 and Joel 2: Possessing God's Possession
7. Christus Victor: the Victory of God
8. Can a Christian be Demon Possessed part 1
9. Can a Christian be Demon Possessed part 2

This week I want to study two types of encounters necessary in setting ourselves and others free from demonization.

Jesus did two major things while in His public ministry on earth. We observe this all through the New Testament. We observe both in our passage.

Matthew 9:32-35

“As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, ‘It was never seen like this in Israel!’

But the Pharisees said, ‘He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.’

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

Jesus came Proclaiming and Demonstrating the Kingdom of God

First, Jesus Proclaimed the Kingdom of God. Over one hundred times recorded in the four Gospels, Jesus was continually preaching the Kingdom.

- His most famous sermon is the Sermon on the Mount, a treatise of Kingdom living.
- Many of his parables were illustrations of what the Kingdom is like.
- At his birth the wise men came to worship a King.
- At His death, it was nailed on the cross that He was the “King of the Jews.”

Second, He Demonstrated that the Kingdom of God had come through healing the sick and casting out demons.

The first is what I am calling a *Truth Encounter*. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God involved:

- The teaching ministry of Jesus.
- Understanding with our head, our mind, the ways of following Christ.
- But also, understanding with our heart, how to have a love relationship with Jesus.
- It is about discipleship.
- It’s about growing as a Jesus follower.
- It’s learning to live from the heart and obey God’s commands.

The second is the Demonstration of the Kingdom through casting out demons and healing the sick. This is the *Power Encounter*.

- Jesus never met a demon He liked. He always confronted them and cast them out of people.
- Fully 30% of Jesus’s ministry was casting out demons.
- Jesus even said that the Kingdom of God had come when a demon was cast out.
- Setting people free from demons also meant that people got healed at times.

One time I cast out demons out of a young man who had epilepsy. After the demons were cast out, he never had another epileptic episode.

Eight Practical Ways We Might Know if Someone is Demonized

1. Is there a particular sin, nagging thought, or insatiable desire for which you cannot seem to be set free from for any prolonged period?
2. In the presence of worship, the sacraments, or the power of God do you regularly find yourself fearful, shaking, unable to speak, or desiring to flee?
3. Don't laugh, do you regularly fall asleep in church? When the Word is preached you zone out.
4. Do you regularly have frightening dreams, hear voices, or have excessive fears?
5. Do you regularly struggle with bouts of depression and hopelessness, and at times seriously contemplate suicide?
6. Do you regularly struggle with a particular sickness or illness?
7. Do you see specters in the night, shadows that move, or regularly have a deep fear of the darkness?
8. An addiction in your life that holds you in bondage?

Two processes of freedom that we observe in the New Testament, in the ministry of Jesus and the Apostles are the Power Encounter and the Truth Encounter.

The Power Encounter

- Jesus often came across demonized people and immediately cast out their demons through a power encounter.
- A power encounter is when the power of the Kingdom of God encounters or confronts the powers of darkness.
- When Jesus met demonized people who intruded into his pathway, He often had a power encounter.

- There are dozens of these examples in the gospels. The early church also practiced power encounters from time to time.
- So this is a legitimate and powerful way to deal with the demonic.
- It is biblical, often necessary, and brings freedom to people.
- But there is another way overlooked that is the key to, what I believe to be even more long-term freedom.
- I call this a Truth Encounter.

The Truth Encounter

- A truth encounter is different from a power encounter in that it is using the truth of God's Word, His promises, and our identity in Christ against the enemy.
- A truth encounter is an encounter of the truth of God against the deceit of the enemy.
- Thought by thought, we are building a *truth house* in our life and tearing down the lies, deception, and false beliefs of our past thinking.
- Quite frankly this is discipleship! The process of becoming a disciple is a truth encounter.
- It is taking God's Word and renewing our mind—it is the process of discipleship, becoming wholehearted disciples.

Romans 12:1-2

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

- It is doing just that...proving what God's will is through the renewing of the mind.
- This process is much more pronounced and long term.

- But we can see its lasting effects, even over demonic strongholds in one's life.

2 Corinthians 10:1-6

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

- The truth encounter disciplines the person while they are being set free.
- I have found that the truth encounter is well worth the time it takes to help a person learn and grow in the Word and who they are in Christ.
- In the New Testament Jesus used the truth encounter much more than he did the power encounter.
- It is interesting that Jesus' most contentious enemies, the Pharisees and Sadducees, were never dealt with a power encounter, but through truth encounters...Why?
 - I think the biggest issues, strongholds, and deepest demonic influence are most effectively dealt with through pouring truth into someone, rather than casting out deceit.

Power Encounters Cast out Demons; Truth Encounters Crowd out Demons

- Truth encounters *crowd out* demons through the pouring into one's life the truth...this truth crowds out the lies and falsehood of the enemy.
- Often both must be used to set a person free.

I knew a young man who shared of his paranoia with water, swimming...I listened and said that was weird maybe even demonic. I asked the Holy Spirit to come and reveal anything Jerry needed to know, and God took him back to a water-skiing situation in which he fell out of his dad's boat and was summarily reprimanded and fear took over. I identified the spirit of

fear, commanded it to come out and he was set free. And, he went snorkeling the next week!

- But I then had to disciple Jerry with truth encounters and help him learn new habits and new ways of thinking through discipleship.

Power encounters drive out the demons, but if new habits are not formed, they come back even worse than before.

Truth encounters *starve out* the enemy with taking thoughts captive to obedience and crushing the lies of the enemy.

When is the Power Encounter most Effective?

1. God speaks to you that freedom must come right now.
2. You only have a short duration of time, and you may not see the person again.
3. After prolonged ministry the demons have been weakened and the Holy Spirit speaks that now is the time.
4. You are praying for healing, and you are led to rebuke the sickness or malady.
5. The person's heart and will is so ready for freedom that it seems appropriate.

When is the Truth Encounter most Effective?

1. It is always the most effective! Because you are discipling the person into Christ and His truth.
2. When you have time to really minister to a person.
3. When the person is in a strong Spirit-filled, Word-filled church under the expository teaching of God's Word every week.
4. When the person can identify what caused the demonization and can work out new thought patterns and behavior.
5. When good follow-up can occur to continue the discipleship process for ongoing freedom.

6. When the relationship or friendship is engaged between the minister and the person who is being set free.

Nine Steps to Freedom from the Demonic

1. Come to Christ and be born again, John 3.
2. Attending and involved in a Spirit-empowered, Bible teaching church.
3. You must have at least one bloodstained ally—an ally who will fight with you for your freedom. Lots of options at The Road: Community Groups, Whole Heart Men, Whole Heart Women, and EquippingU.
4. Honesty, Ephesians 4:25-27, about all sin—you must be willing to uncover your shame.
5. Confession and repentance of all known sin, 1 John 1:9.
6. Daily read and study God's word PB&J.
7. Realize your new identity in Christ: beloved child of God. See Colossians, Romans, and Ephesians.
8. Command the afflicting spirit to leave or have someone minister to you for freedom.
9. Daily, surrender yourself completely to God, Romans 6:13, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Gave us Power and Authority to do what He Did!

“And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease” (Matthew 10:1).

“Jesus said, ‘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. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it’” (John 14:12-14).

- Come to our next Altar Ministry Team Training.

- If you've been through the training, come up and minister to people.

Next Week: UFO's, Aliens, and Haunted Houses