

The Weapons of Our Warfare Part 2

THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Opening PREMISE: Not everything that appears to be HOLDING us back is an 'ATTACK' of demonic origin.

It could be:

- * The CONSEQUENCE of our own actions
- * Character FLAWS we keep banging up against
- * DIFFICULT people being DIFFICULT

Important to note: You don't WRESTLE against those things; you take them TO THE LORD.

You won't overcome your immaturities & insecurities by SHOUTING at them in the NAME of JESUS.

→ What are the dangers of calling everything a 'spiritual attack'? Is it easier to call it a spiritual attack than to face up to personal responsibility? How easy is it to distinguish between the two?
→ Why is it important to recognise what you 'wrestle against' and what needs to be taken to the Lord for confession, sanctification or His wisdom?

How do you RECOGNISE a spiritual 'attack'?

- i) There's MORE to it than meets the EYE.
- ii) It's TORMENTING you.
- iii) One of 'BIG 3' – LUST OF THE FLESH, LUST OF THE EYE, PRIDE OF LIFE (1 John 2:16).
- iv) You're standing on the THRESHOLD pressing into exactly what God has called you to do & it SIDESWIPEs you out of nowhere.
- v) ANTI-CHRIST: actively opposing the plans & purposes of God.
- vi) Makes you unusually CONFUSED.
- vii) Driving DIVISION, DISUNITY, ISOLATION.

NOTE: Not things that are PEOPLE-based ('flesh & blood'), but clearly DEEPER & DARKER. There's a manipulative DEMONIC FORCE that's MESSING with you.

→ Which of those indicators of spiritual attack listed have you experienced recently? How & why does the enemy use these tactics?
→ What are the dangers of wrestling against flesh & blood, rather than the powers & authorities that lie behind it? How does the devil use people to get under our skin so he can manipulate us into sin & error?
→ What does James 4:7 teach us in regard to spiritual warfare?

The Name Above All Names (John 14:12-14, Mark 16:17-18)

- * If it's in the BIBLE, it should be in my LIFE.
- * Do we appreciate the incredible AUTHORITY vested in the name of Jesus? Do we realise what a POWERFUL WEAPON it is?

→ When you hear Jesus' name, what attributes or stories from Scripture come to mind?
→ How does John 14:12-14 challenge your expectations of what should be 'normal' in the Christian life?
→ What does it look like for us to appreciate — not just recite — the authority in His name?

The DANGERS

1. OVER-FAMILIARITY: Becomes religious repetition
2. MAGIC FORMULA: A 'good luck charm'
3. MISUSE: Take it lightly, use it frivolously, blaspheme it

→ We'd presumably never do these deliberately or knowingly. But is there a danger that we do essentially slip into using the name of Jesus like this? Why do people do so & what are the potentially results if they do?

Biblical Names

OT Hebrew names were very DESCRIPTIVE & often PROPHETIC.

→ Why did God change the following names? Abram → Abraham, Jacob → Israel, Simon → Peter, Saul → Paul. What does each name change reveal about His Kingdom purposes.

GOD has many different OT names, each revealing different attributes

- a) Jehovah / Yahweh = Self-existent, eternal One
- b) Adonai = Sovereign Lord, Master
- c) El-Elyon = Most High God (in culture of many false gods)
- d) El-Shaddai = God Almighty, more than enough, the One who blesses & nourishes
- e) Elohim = Mighty Ones, transcendent, great & glorious
- f) Jehovah-Jireh = God my Provider (Gen 22:8)
- g) Jehovah-Rapha = God my Healer (Ex 15:26)
- h) Jehovah-Rohi = God my Shepherd (Ps 23)
- i) Jehovah-M'Kaddesh = God who sanctifies us & makes us holy
- j) Jehovah-Shalom = The God who is our wholeness & peace

In same way, there are many descriptive NT names for JESUS

- a) Alpha & Omega
- b) Bright & Morning Star
- c) Christ (Messiah / Anointed One)
- d) Immanuel
- e) King of kings
- f) Lord of lords
- g) Lamb of God
- h) Light of the World
- i) Lion of Judah
- j) Man of Sorrows
- k) Prince of Peace
- l) Son of Man
- m) The Resurrection & the Life
- n) Wonderful Counsellor
- o) Word of God

→ Reading that list of Old Testament name of God, which one most encourages you right now, and why?
→ Which New Testament title of Jesus speaks into the season you're currently in? What does that reveal about His role in your life?
→ How does seeing the collective meaning of His name reshape the way you pray?

The POINT: Jesus' name is SO MUCH MORE than just a NICE name! It's the COLLECTIVE FULFILMENT of all the names, ENCAPSULATING all the attributes of all the names.

So, when you pray 'in the name of Jesus,' you are **RELEASING** the **POWER & AUTHORITY** of every single one.

Spiritual reality: Absolutely EVERYTHING is **SUBJECT** to the name above all names (Phil 2:9-11, Eph 1:21, Luke 10:17).

→ What does it mean to say, 'Absolutely everything is subject to His name?'
→ Who or what falls under the category 'everything?' How should that inform how we pray?

POWER OF ATTORNEY = Legal authority given by one to another, enabling latter to act on former's behalf.

Passages like John 15:16, John 16:23-24, James 5:14-15 give us both **INVITATION & legal AUTHORITY** to use the name of Jesus.

- * When you **PRAY** in name of Jesus, you **PRAY** with **HIS** authority, as if Jesus Himself were praying.
- * When you **LAY HANDS ON THE SICK** in name of Jesus, it's as though Jesus Himself had **HIS** hands placed on their head.
- * When you **CAST OUT DEMONS** in name of Jesus, it's as though Jesus were standing there, face-to-face with the enemy, taking authority **HIMSELF**.

→ How do the 'power of attorney' passages (John 15:16; 16:23-24; James 5:14-15) shape your understanding of praying in Jesus' name?
→ What's the difference between praying in Jesus' name and simply adding the phrase to the end of a prayer? How, then, and when should you include the phrase 'in the name of Jesus' when you pray?
→ Does the enemy know whether you really believe it or not and does that make a difference?

The CHALLENGE: The church has been given the Name of Jesus. The question is, what are we going to do with it?

MSG of the series: God has **TIED** His very considerable **POWER** to His **WORD, NAME & BLOOD**.

→ How does the church use the name? How should we use it? What about you personally?
→ What is going to change for you this week as a result of fresh revelations of the power & authority vested in the name of Jesus?