

Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Divine Conqueror

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The Holy Spirit fights for the life of His children; but what is the nature of the battle and against what and whom? Today we consider the Holy Spirit as He moves to conquer. Now we are to see the Spirit of Christ as joyful, triumphant, and victorious.

1 John 3:8 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. NKJV

Under the covenant, God is bound to destroy His enemies, anything that opposes His nature and ways. Therefore, we do not want to become the enemy of God, whether Father, Son, or Holy Spirit.

Whenever we practice sin, we are the enemy of God. Whenever we are the friend of the world, we are the enemy of God. Whenever we are functioning in the flesh, the flesh is at war with the Spirit. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. God opposes all that is anti-Christ.

Spiritual Warfare. We call the war against the enemies of God, against sin, self, Satan, and the world's system, spiritual warfare. Satan is the adversary, the one who opposes Christ, the one who accuses, lies, murders, steals, rebels against the Creator, and wants worship for himself. The Son of God was manifested in order that He might, or should be loosing, or annulling the acts of the Adversary.

The root word "luo" [loo'-o], Greek #3089, has the following meanings depending on context and grammar:

—Greek Word Study (Transliteration-Pronunciation Etymology & Grammar)

- 1) to loose any person (or thing) tied or fastened
 - 1a) bandages of the feet, the shoes,
 - 1b) of a husband and wife joined together by the bond of matrimony
 - 1c) of a single man, whether he has already had a wife or has not yet married
- 2) to loose one bound, i.e. to unbind, release from bonds, set free
 - 2a) of one bound up (swathed in bandages)
 - 2b) bound with chains (a prisoner), discharge from prison, let go
- 3) to loosen, undo, dissolve, anything bound, tied, or compacted together
 - 3a) an assembly, i.e. to dismiss, break up
 - 3b) laws, as having a binding force, are likened to bonds
 - 3c) to annul, subvert
 - 3d) to do away with, to deprive of authority, whether by precept or act
 - 3e) to declare unlawful
 - 3f) to loose what is compacted or built together, to break up, demolish, destroy
 - 3g) to dissolve something coherent into parts, to destroy
 - 3h) metaph., to overthrow, to do away with

The Victory of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of the devil. We as believers need to see the victory of Jesus' atoning work in salvation. Maybe we remember some triumphant victory march in history when a battle was won and especially a war. Ours is an "already and not yet" situation. The victory has been won, or as many say, the war has been won; but as things play out in time, not yet. So we have our battles.

The Conquest. This conquering is a conquering of sin in our lives and of evil in the world and of the devil and the kingdom of darkness. Co-operating with the Holy Spirit in the sanctification process means listening and responding when He convicts us of sin leading to our being convinced leading to our confession of both sin and Christ, i.e., acknowledging the truth, leading to our asking for the granting of repentance unto life, leading to cleansing of unrighteousness and conversion. God's enemies must become our enemies; we need to see what's out there trying to destroy us in reality so that we can be free to enjoy God's blessing in our lives.

The Holy Spirit prevails. The Holy Spirit is the Divine Conqueror, working to bring rejoicing and to express His triumph over the Adversary's attempt to destroy life. Exalted worship is a means of spiritual warfare, especially as we announce to the spirit world passages like Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 2:14, 15; Revelation 5:2, 5; Romans 8:31-39.

nikaó: to conquer, prevail [G3528] [nik-ah'-o], to conquer, overcome, carry off the victory. Hint—Nike shoes; the goddess Nike.

Jesus Christ was victorious over all His foes; He was and is and will be victorious. He calls us to be victorious and to conquer and to overcome in His Name and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers are to hold fast their faith even unto death against the powers of their foes and temptations and persecutions. We are to free ourselves, win the case, maintain the cause, deprive the enemy its power to do harm and to subvert its influence. We are to keep ourselves spotless, unstained by the world, remain courageous and constant against the adversary's devices, schemes, solicitations, and assaults. 1 John 2:13, 14 By the force that resides in goodness and kindness, we are to overcome evil and to cause an enemy to repent of the wrong he has done [Romans 12:21]. We are to overcome the evil one. We overcome general evil by doing specific acts of good.

And how so? 1 John 4:4 The One who is in the believer is greater than the one who is in the world. That One is the Holy Spirit residing in us. The other side has many spirits; none match the power of the Holy Spirit, who is omnipotent. 1 John 5:3-5.

Now from "The Anointing for Cosmic Warfare" by Mary Craig, D. Min.
<http://www.marycraig.org/NewsViews/TheAnointingForCosmicWarfare.htm>

What is the anointing that overcomes? The Holy Spirit's answer to me came simply, yet the profound impact of the truth is transforming.

God so loved the world (the cosmos) that he gave His only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3.16)

The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Romans 5.5)

God's love for the cosmos comes into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. That love prevails against the very gates of hell. Faith works by love. (Galatians 5.6) Perfect love casts out fear. (1 John 4)

We fight antichrist spirits, whoredoms and error, and the like. False prophets have gone out into the world. We are to try the spirits. And how do we know? What fruit do we look for? Read 1 John 4 and you will see that it is love.

Satan and the entities of darkness hate. They work by fear. Our faith overcomes. He that is within us is greater than he that is in the world. Faith works by love. God loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. We ought to love one another. We have been given the Holy Spirit, His Spirit, that we might testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. We, by the Spirit, abide in Christ and He in us.

The Desire for Self-preservation. So what's stopping us from walking in the anointing of God's love? Quite directly, it is our desire for self-preservation. We need to be in control. We fear losing control, losing our "self," losing power over our own lives. In trying to preserve our own life, we fall in the corruption of sin. The iniquity of our little hearts bent toward evil brings inner woundedness. We put up barriers, strongholds, fortresses of protection. We set ourselves up for rejection and don't even know it. We have something to prove, things to justify, issues of worth. We have something to preserve, things to control, issues of self-preservation and self-defense. We have something to promote, ourselves.

We can overcome this need/desire to prove, preserve, and promote ourselves and walk in the anointing for cosmic warfare by following the two dimensions of God's command to love the Lord our God and to love others.

Love God. We do this as we embrace God's love for us. We love because He first loves us. If we think of loving God in the context of loyalty or fidelity, we come closer to what loving God means.

Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." In supreme loyalty and attachment to Jesus Christ, we are given grace to obey through faith which works by love. If we believe in Christ, we are also to believe Him. If we believe Him, then we will come to believe what Jesus believes and walk in a deeper faith.

Since we love because God first loved us, let's consider God's love.

1. God's love overcomes our fears. Fear drives our need for self-preservation, our need to prove and to promote ourselves. We are trying to preserve our own life. God's love and our fear, reverence, awe, and worship of Him overcome our own fears.

2. God's love overcomes our need to be in control. The need to prove, to promote, and to preserve our own life drives the desires of lust and pride. We become like Lucifer, wanting to exalt ourselves to the position of god, wanting to be in control. We learn subtle ways of manipulation. We slip into counterfeit spiritual authority and witchcraft.
3. God's love overcomes lust and pride by the outworking of a new nature, a new creation worked within. God's love works within us as we embrace His love for us.
4. God's love preserves our life in Christ. We are kept by the very power of God, a power generated by His love. (1 Peter 1)
5. God's love overcomes rejection, woundedness, and the corruption of sin. (John 3)
6. God's love is the provision and the promise. (Romans 8)
7. God's holy love removes all that would separate us from Him, for vital spiritual union is the objective. (Ephesians 2)
8. God's love sustains life by the supply of the Spirit. (Romans 8)

God is God. He is above only and below no one. He is transcendent, radiant in His glory. He speaks and acts all His good pleasure. He gives. He loves. He cares. He carries. We thank Him in every circumstance for He is in every circumstance of our lives. He has not left us as orphans, fatherless. He is our comfort, our Comforter. He infuses us with fortitude, strengthening our souls, our hearts.

Let me tell you now of God's love.

The Living God sets us free. Through the atoning work of Christ on the cross, we are loosed from sin, transgression, and trespass; loosed from the kingdom of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. God's wrath is propitiated. We are redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb, reconciled with the Living God who now becomes our Heavenly Father. With the debt note of sin and its penalty paid in full, we are set free from the strongholds of Satan.

God heals.

God binds up our wounds.

God cleanses our consciences by the Blood of Christ.

God clothes us with the rich covering of Christ's righteousness.

God creates in us a new heart, enabling us to love.

Satan counterfeits and smears. He profanes the sacred in his hatred of God. Look at what he especially hates, and then consider what of God must be so for Satan to hate it so much. The Devil wants to kill the Creator and take His place; but the Devil lost the war. The Devil is a liar, a murderer, and a thief. He incites the doing of evil. He wants people to curse God and die, or maneuver people into a position where they are cursed by God and die.

Examine God's Word. Embrace God's love for you and you will love in obedience to Christ's command.

Satan's hatred is overcome by God's love for the cosmos. By embracing God and receiving His love, we release the power of God's love into our world. His love enables us to love others as He has commanded.

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loves not his brother abides in death. (1 John 3.14)

Loving others is the second dimension of cosmic warfare. We'll consider this aspect in the next message.

The Holy Spirit conquers by love to overcome evil. His love never fails. Amen.

<http://www.marycraig.org/NewsViews/TheAnointingForCosmicWarfare.htm>

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