



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Spiritual Covering

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THEME Family Relationships

DATE 20 & 21 May 2017

MESSAGE SUMMARY

JEHOVAH-NISSI – THE LORD, OUR BANNER OF VICTORY

When Amalek came to fight with Israel in Rephidim, Moses beseeched the Lord for divine intervention. He went up a hill and, holding the rod of God, raised his hands up. Israel prevailed (Exo 17:8-16). Who are we looking for for victory? Who is holding our hands up when we struggle?

This week, SP spoke about spiritual covering, which is our weapon and protection that comes from relying on the **Name of Jesus**, the **Blood of Jesus**, and the **Sword of the Spirit** (the Word). *Spiritual covering* relates to having accountability in a relationship that is connected to God.

ARE YOU COVERED?

In war movies, we often hear soldiers ask their comrades to “cover” them. They help each other watch their blind spots, watch their backs. But where does **our cover** come from?

1. Our ultimate covering comes from God

God keeps covenant relationships with His people – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob... and even us, under the New Covenant! Whomever He makes covenant with, He protects and upholds.

- **We receive protection from the Lord.** *The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him, who shelters him all day long; and he shall dwell between His shoulders. (Deu 33:12)*
- **We can seek respite with Him.** *He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge. (Psa 91:4)*
- **He “clothes” us.** *For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness... (Isa 61:10)*

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVENESS OF SPIRITUAL PRAYERS

Spiritual prayers – prayers according to God’s will – are effective for covering. On the other hand, soulish prayers – prayers from our own mind, will and emotions – reap negative effects.

Personal prayer is effective, and more so when you join in prayer with someone in covenant with you (e.g. husband and wife). Prayers by a godly person and corporate prayer i.e. prayer by fellow brothers/sisters in the body-life, are powerful as well.

2. Covering comes when we submit to God's delegated authority over our lives

God is a God of **order** (1 Cor 14:33). The institutions in our lives, as ordained by God, have certain rules and structures to be followed.

We are called to submit to our authorities in:

- **Marriage:** Wives are called to submit to husbands, while husbands are called to lead wives just as Christ heads the church (Eph 5:22-23)
- **The family:** Children are called to obey their parents, while parents have the responsibility of providing covering for their children (Eph 6:1; Job 1:5, 10)
- **The church:** Members are to submit to their church leaders, imitate their faith, and show love and respect to them (Hebrews 13:7; 1 Thess 5:12-13) **In BBTC, there are no lone rangers – everyone is encouraged to get plugged into the body-life.** Then we can be accountable to each other, and cover and pray for one another (Prov 11:14; 1 Pet 4:8).
- **The workplace:** we are to respect our superiors (Eph 6:5)
- **The nation:** *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities* (Rom 13:1).

3. We receive blessings when we submit to His delegated authority

When we follow God's laws, we reap positive outcomes (Psa 84:11), including **protection, provision, peace** and **favour (grace)**. But when we do not submit to His laws, we reap negative consequences (Rom 13:2; 1 Sam 15:23). And we give the devil a foothold, thus losing our covering and become **susceptible** to the fiery darts of the evil one (Eph 4:27). **Of course, an exception is made when submitting to the authority violates God's laws (Acts 5:29).**

DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF COVERING

A. Adequacy of covering

On routine days, the covering we need is routine. But on non-routine days, such as when we are on a mission trip, we need extra layers of prayer covering.

B. Defective covering

When the immediate covering over us is faulty, we must bring ourselves under the next level of covering. For example, when parents fail to uphold the responsibility for the children, the children can seek covering from their leaders.

C. Loss of covering

- **Disobedience:** A person who does not walk in obedience, who fails to pray, can lose his covering (1 John 1:7)
- **Unforgiveness:** bitterness will defile a person (Matt 6:12, 14-15)
- **Separation from the life of God (which is in the body-life):** Those plugged into the larger body life will be saved. But backslidden or wayward believers are deceived and cannot discern correctly (Gal 6:3), and may then be further exposed to witchcraft and curses (Pro 26:2). When we are alienated from the life of God, we risk becoming spectators who merely *know* but fail to apply the truth (Jas 1:22).

OUR ROLE IN SPIRITUAL COVERING

SP reminds us of our special anointing as followers of Christ. a single believer in the household sanctifies the whole family (1 Cor 7:14). Because of Joseph, Potiphar's house was blessed and the prison wardens were transformed (Gen 39). It was because of the fifty and then, eventually, just the ten righteous people in Sodom, that God spared the entire city (Gen 18).

This is because **mercy triumphs over judgement**. So, be it at your workplace or home, be encouraged! Just you alone, in your faithful pursuit of God, can command His presence and grace

upon your workplace, colleagues, and entire family.

QUESTIONS

Why is spiritual covering among Christians so important?

Take a moment to reflect on the areas in your life you lack covering. Identify possible reasons why this may be so and discuss what can be done to rectify that.

Faithful followers of Christ sanctify those around them. You need just one prayerful person of faith to sanctify a family, a class, or an office. How does this encourage you?