



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Effective Warfare – Mapping the Boundaries of Spiritual Authority	SPEAKER	SP Daniel Foo
THEME	Priests and Kings - Part 5	DATE	4 & 5 July 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In the sermon, SP Daniel Foo elaborated on how to engage in effective spiritual warfare by mapping the boundaries of spiritual authority in prayer. As part of the sermon series of being effective Priests and Kings, we were taught to pray strategic Kingly and Priestly (binding and loosing) prayers over our pre-believing family and friends. It was emphasized that we should never take on demon principality-idols in and of itself. In this sermon, we delve into the boundaries of spiritual authority.

EFFECTIVE WARFARE

1) **Absolute authority and power belongs only to God alone.**

We are reminded that all authority was given to Jesus (Matt 28:18) by Sovereign God, and it is He who is before all things and in Him all things consist (Col 1:17). He is also the expressed image of God in person and upholds all things by all things by the word of His power (Heb 1:3). Jesus has absolute authority over wind, water, demons, death and diseases (Luke 8). Thus, we are to rest in the knowledge that only God has the ultimate and absolute authority and power over the physical and spiritual domain.

2) **God delegates authority and power to angels/demons and Man.**

Just as God has ordained a spiritual order in the family (1 Cor 11:3), there is also a spiritual order of authority in the spiritual realm and church (1 Cor 14:40). The delegated authority and power given to angels/demons and Man is limited. We are reminded not to overstep the boundaries of the sphere of influence which God has given us (2 Cor 10:13) and to operate only within the boundaries of delegated authority and power. If we stay within the boundaries, we will have the legal right to exercise our authority and power, but if we violate these boundaries, there are physical and spiritual consequences which we will have to bear.

In the bible, angels are said to have higher power and authority (Ps 8:5), yet when Michael the archangel disputed with Satan about the body of Moses, he did not dare accuse him directly. Instead, he said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jude 1:9) This illustrates to us that there is a spiritual order and boundary of authority that even heavenly beings obey, what more we mere humans made a little lower than angels. This is another reminder for us to not walk in the flesh by despising authority, being arrogant and stubborn. Neither are we to speak evil of people of high standing, ministers or government officials (2 Pet 2:10-12).

3) We do not have authority and power to take on a demonic principality-idol in and of itself.

As mentioned above, we are to remember our sphere of delegated authority and power from God as Priests and Kings, and to function within the boundaries. Our authority and power are over ground-level demons who have afflicted people. We bind and cast out demons only in relation to ministering to people. Thus, we are not to pray against a demonic principality-idol on its own.

Four examples of functioning within boundaries of delegated spiritual authority and power:

Example	Bible Verse	Emphasis for application
Elijah	1 Kin 18:19-40	In confronting idolatry, Elijah addressed the people of Israel and the prophets. He did not confront Baal (demon) directly.
Gideon	Judges 6:25-32	Gideon and his father removed the idols (altar of Baal and wooden image) which he and his father owned. There was no direct confrontation with Baal (demon).
Daniel	Dan 10:12-14, 20-21	When Daniel prayed regarding affairs of the nation, God despatched angels to deal with the principalities. Daniel did not confront the principality in and of itself.
Angel	Rev 20:1-3	Angel is given special power and authority (key and great chain) to lay hold of the dragon (Devil/ Satan), bind him for 1000 years, cast him into a bottomless pit, shut him up and set a seal on him.

4) Our authority and power are over ground-level demons that afflict people.

Thus, we should bind and cast out demons only in relation to ministering to people.

The bible says we are given authority to trample on serpents and scorpions (which refers to ground level demons) and over all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19, Rom 16:20, Eph 1:22-23). If we operate within the sphere of authority given to us, we will be safe and victorious. It is only when we move outside of our boundaries of authority that we will get in trouble. We are reminded that we exercise this authority especially in relation to evangelism and the fulfilment of the great commission.

We are reminded that the degree of spiritual authority we have is related to the degree of submission we have to authority over us. In our life on earth, God has placed 4 authority structures over us, they are mainly the government (Rom 13:1-7), our employers (Eph 6:5-8; Col 3:22-24), authority figures in our home and families (1 Cor 11:3; Eph 6:1-3) as well as leaders and pastors in the church (Heb 13:17; 1 Thess 5:12-13).

In addition, we are reminded that our spoken words have authority and power over people, situations and events in our lives. We are reminded to pay attention to the words we use not only in times of prayer, but also in our daily lives. We are to ensure that the words we speak are aligned with the Will of Father-God, the Word of Christ, the Ways of the Holy Spirit and contain the Wisdom and the Revelation from God.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, as disciples of Christ and effective Priests and Kings in BBTC, we are reminded to raise up to exercise the delegated authority and power which God has given us through Christ his Son within the spheres of influence in our lives by praying together. We are to submit to authority and pay attention to the words which we speak over people and situations in our lives. Lastly, we are to remember that the power and authority given us to cast out demons is for the purpose of evangelism and the fulfilment of the Great Commission.

QUESTIONS

1. Who has absolute power and authority over the physical and spiritual domains in life?
Who has delegated power and authority over the physical and spiritual domain in life?
What is the difference between absolute and delegated authority?

2. In relation to our evangelistic efforts to our pre-believing family members and friends, share testimonies of prayer which resulted in victory over the schemes of Satan. Or share a personal testimony of how prayers led to a spiritual breakthrough as a new/young Christian?

3. Reflect on your own spiritual walk with God as well as your prayer life. Is there a struggle in the area of submission to authority? Is there a struggle in the area of negative and ungodly speech?

Take a moment to bring your areas of struggle before God, and share with your cell (to your level of comfort) how you might like them to support you in prayer.