

Overcoming The Enemy: Some Lessons Learned

By Paul Norcross

God bless you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ! His name is indeed wonderful, and there is a supernatural peace and calm when we pause, and just say His name. Try it right now....you'll see what I mean!

Early this morning I started a fire down at the woodstove (the temperature is beginning to drop as we head into the colder months here in New England), and as you might know, this is a special place of joy and intimate communion for me with the Lord. There is nothing like letting our Shepherd lead us beside the still waters, where He restores our soul. This we need, and can we ever get enough of it?

In just a week and a half my brothers George Sahlstrom, George Ndulesi and I will travel to Africa to minister at three different conferences – two are in Kenya (Nakuru and Suna) and one is in Tanzania (Dodoma). God has opened many doors and we are already so in love with the many saints who have corresponded and asked us to come and teach. There is a hunger in African countries for the things of God that is in itself a testimony for the way we all should thirst to drink from the Fountain of Living Waters each day. Glory to our God!

So as I begin this newsletter, I want to ask for your prayers for this trip (Oct 16 – Nov 10). We will teach three conferences that will last three days each, with a fourth day devoted to training leaders. We will be in city and village churches, in the slums and in the bush – all of the above. There is so much to learn in each culture, and we need such wisdom from above to teach and share what the Lord wants taught to His precious people. But God is One, and the Holy Spirit is mighty. He is the same in everyplace in the whole earth, residing in His temple – you and I!

In Africa there are mighty men and women of the Spirit who preach with such fire of God! Yet there is great need to equip and train the saints not only to hear the voice of the Lord, but also understanding the Word of God. It is such an honor to teach to such hunger. In one area alone, as we consider establishing a school of ministry, there are over five thousand pastors who desire such training. By contrast, I wonder if in any one state or province in the US, Canada, or Europe if any such ravenous hunger exists like this for God?

So as we proceed on this journey of faith and eager anticipation of what the Holy Spirit is going to do, I want to ask for your fervent prayers in our behalf. I believe

God is moving with an outpouring of His Spirit in these times like no other. It is an amazing privilege to be alive in this particular day and time, and be living and serving the One in Whom we live and move and have our being, Who created all things!

In this newsletter, I want to share three things that the Lord taught me recently that have helped me overcome the enemy to a much larger degree. The first concerns getting and keeping your healing, and the second concerns bringing order to your life instead of chaos, and the third is about keeping your peace.

Receiving & Keeping Your Healing: Dealing With A Spirit of Infirmity

A couple of nights ago I was driving to an evening prayer meeting and noticed a headache starting. I prayed and forgot about it through the meeting. But as I was driving home, it began to rise again and intensify. I got angry in my spirit, because I knew this was a demonic attack.

I should tell you that in the past, the devil has tried many times to inflict a headache to immobilize me. Predictably this would happen on Saturdays, which are normally times of preparing my heart for preaching the next day. It does not take a spiritual giant to figure out where these attacks were coming from. Yet for all that, they were still difficult to deal with. Sometimes I was able to overcome them with my faith (where my faith was at the time), and sometimes not.

So as I was driving home from the prayer meeting, I was led by the Lord to yell out, "Satan get out of here with your spirit of infirmity, and take this stupid headache with you!"

It left immediately. I was fine for a few moments, and then I felt the headache coming back. And here is what the Lord showed me –

The spirit of infirmity that was causing the headache did indeed leave when I commanded it to do so. But there was another spirit waiting in line right behind the first one. That spirit stepped in almost immediately, and duplicated the attack (the headache), of the first one. Naturally, I cast this second spirit out too. Then a third one tried, but by then it was a weak attack and that spirit left quickly.

Now here's the nugget of understanding that will help us deal with demons a little more successfully in the future. When you as a believer in Christ discern the presence of a spirit and you exercise your authority to cast it out, that spirit **must** leave. It cannot stay. At the name of Jesus Christ, it does leave. However, satan is clever enough to line up another spirit behind the first one to immediately take over when the first one leaves. In this scenario, we become tricked into wondering why the spirit didn't leave, and we question our faith. But the real truth is, the spirit did leave, and satan tricks us into thinking otherwise.

I recall a conversation with Pastor Carl Fox many months ago in which the Lord showed him something similar. He was ministering healing to a person and it appeared like the spirit was not leaving. So he asked the Lord why, and the Lord showed him that another spirit was coming in place of the first one and duplicating the symptoms of the affliction for the purpose of getting Pastor Carl to give up casting it out. Tricky, huh?

We have authority given to us by the Lord to cast out and chain up devils. And it is a privilege to do so! Those evil spirits do not want to be recognized as such. But many believers tolerate their activities because those activities (which may include sickness, afflictions, poverty, runaway emotions, etc.) may have become seemingly normal, common, and familiar. Older people often think their maladies are simply a part of old age, and thus become weak in their willingness to fight against sickness, or to insist on their eyes not going dim and their natural force not abating (as Moses experienced). Satan knows and cultivates this tolerance, and hides behind such thinking. We must discern sickness, for example, to see how it was able to enter, and move against it in faith.

I'm not telling you that all sickness is from a demon. I'm just telling you how sly the devil is, and how he often covers his participation through familiar reasonings and common human experiences to provide an excuse for why you have a particular sickness or disease. With sufficient senses reasons for why a symptom might exist, we often quit looking into the spirit realm for it's true source. After all, we have an explanation (often a medical explanation) that satisfies our soul, so we turn off our spiritual antenna. But remember, Ephesians 6:11-12 tells us that we do not wrestle with flesh and blood (and their methods such as innocent sounding reasonings, diagnosis curses, generational curses, etc.). We must remember: all life is spiritual, not just some parts of it!

We Can Deal With Spirits Because Jesus Dealt With Them And Showed Us How

Psalm 149:5-9

5 Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;

7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;

9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints.

Praise ye the LORD.

It is our privilege to deal with evil spirits the same way that God deals with them. He gave us authority to put them in chains, and this is an honor for us to do wherever and whenever we encounter them! Here's how God deals with them:

2 Peter 2:4

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Jude 1:6

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Luke 10:17-20

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

So you see, it is not only available to deal with spirits decisively, but it should become part of one's normal Christian walk to do so. You are a terror to them when you detect their presence and you use the name of Jesus Christ! Therefore evil spirits desperately want believers to be ignorant of their presence and operations, lest the believer notice them and cast them out merely by commanding them to go in the name of Jesus Christ (that name at which every knee must bow!). This is an

honor and a privilege for every saint to do. Part of the continuing problems faced by many believers hinges on their ignorance regarding how to discern an evil spirit, and how to deal with it once it is discovered.

So don't be as I have been in past times.....far too tolerant of a demonic attack on my health. You will find that when you get in the habit of putting a spirit into chains, you will have fewer spirits to deal with, and they will be more anxious to leave when you are around and have your discerning antennas on. This isn't to say we should become cocky or to go looking for spiritual fights, but when you encounter them, be aggressive and realize you are doing Christ's work to chain them up.

Bring Order To Your Chaos

Now here's another piece of learning I received this past month that I want to pass along to you. It has really helped me accomplish more around my home, church, and ministry. I think it will bless you too, and it is so simple.

Familiar spirits love to bottle us up with familiar problems and overwhelm us into complacent inaction. Take clutter around the house, or unfinished projects for example. Or better yet, how about assignments from the Lord that go undone because they seem too big for us?

Try this little key - pray in the morning before you start your day for God to bring order to the day, for Him to order your steps. You will be astonished at how much you accomplish when you aggressively bind hindering spirits, and God brings order to your thoughts. Inefficiency and ineffectiveness in your day is also spiritual phenomena. It is so common that we don't even think about it being a result of spiritual maneuvering against you. Instead, we tend to acquiesce, and reason with ourselves why little or nothing is getting done. This can all be quickly dealt with if we get in the habit of asking the Lord to order our steps.

Psalm 119:130-135

130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

131 I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.

132 Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.

133 Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

*134 Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts.
135 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.*

Don't Outrun Your Peace

Here is a third key against chaos that the Lord taught me this month: don't outrun your peace.

We can do nothing worth doing in our day when we outrun the peace of God that passes all understanding. When we do, we have to stop what we are doing, and regain our peace. Most often, this requires confession of our sin, broken fellowship, and spending some moments communing with Him in conversation, praise, and worship.

Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

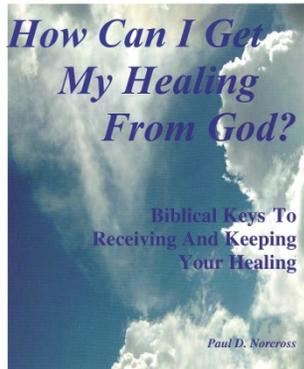
9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

You see, it is the peace of God which guards our hearts (like a military garrison) to keep us at rest and continuance in Christ Jesus. So to outrun your peace in Christ is to become a run-away train, waiting to have a wreck.

So along with praying each day for order in your day, pray also for the peace of God to rule in your heart this day too! And deal directly and decisively with your adversary, the devil and his spirits.

May the grace and peace of our Lord be in you this day as we look to Him,

--Paul & Rita Norcross



In this powerful book, *How Can I Get My Healing From God?*, principles of miraculous faith for healing and many encouraging examples of how to have faith amid infirmity are presented. God is full of divine healing! This book is a huge help in learning how to receive it. Available at the bookstore at www.KingdomFaithMinistries.Org