

# Cell Outlines - Week beginning: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2006

## Theme: Spiritual Warfare

**Welcome:** Share with your cell if you have ever had a spiritual experience? What kind of experience was it? Good, bad or not sure? What happened? How did you deal with it - if at all?

**Introduction:** The Bible teaches us that there is a supernatural realm. The birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus were all supernatural. By 'supernatural' we mean that it is beyond the natural laws of logic and science. Christianity, although based on historical facts, is supernatural. We become children of God through the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit (e.g. Luke 18:18-27; John 1:12-13; 3:3-8 & Heb.11:1-3). The Bible also teaches us that there is a supernatural force of evil in the world (as per the Lord's Prayer), which is opposed to the Kingdom of God and wants us to rebel against His will through disobedience.

### Word/ Teaching Slot

#### Key Scriptures:

- **Matthew 4:1-11** (The temptation of Jesus and how He overcame the devil);
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** (Why there is spiritual blindness);
- **Ephesians 6:10-18** (How we overcome the strategies of evil);
- **1 Peter 5:5-11** (Overcoming Satan through obedience to the Lord);
- **Revelation 20:7-10** (Satan's doom).

Prayerfully read the above verses and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand its true meaning.

#### Questions and Discussion Points

1. Jesus Christ won a complete victory on the cross, why then, do so many Christians seem to live in defeat?
2. If we do nothing for God, do you think Satan will bother us? Why is this so?
3. Have you had any involvement with occult practices, including horoscopes, ouija boards, tarot cards, séances, spiritualism, fortune telling, witchcraft etc., or any of the cults? If you have, you need to renounce them and ask God to forgive you for your involvement.\*
4. Is there any area of your life where you are allowing Satan a foothold? What fruit are we bearing? The fruit of the Holy Spirit as per Galatians 5:22 or the fruit of the Devil as in Galatians 5:19-21. Have a look at these passages and your how your attitudes compare with the 2 lists.
5. Have you checked to make sure you have *all* your spiritual armour on? Remember that the armour Paul wrote about was Roman armour, which had no protection for the back. We don't ever need to run from Satan. We need to stand and face him in Jesus' power (James 4:7 & 1 Peter 5:9).

**Worship. Suggestion:** Focus on the person of Jesus Christ who is the true King. He has won victory for us. Even though the spiritual war continues for a little while longer, as we read in Rev.20:7-10 Satan's reign will soon come to an end. You might like to read Philippians 2:5-11 & Colossians 2:9-15. (Herein lies a mighty weapon against the schemes of the Devil by giving heartfelt praise for Jesus and thanksgiving for His power and goodness! When you're feeling fed-up or got at - try lifting up the Name of Jesus and telling Him how wonderful He. Satan will flee from you, as He hates to be reminded of God's power and can't stand the love which lives in the believer's heart for the Saviour. Remember - perfect love drives out all fear (1 John 4:18)

### Witness & Application

Churches that are under the attack of the Devil are full of division, gossip, discord, jealousy, dissensions, envy, apathy and impurity - i.e. a lack of love. You may have heard of the words of Jesus called the 'Beautitudes', which are in Matthew 5. Here is what someone thought the 'Devilitudes' might be:

*Blessed are those who are too tired, too busy, too distracted to spend an hour once a week with their fellow Christians in Church (& cell!) - they are my best workers.*

*Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked-- I can use them.*

*Blessed are the touchy, with a bit of luck they may stop going to church-- they are my missionaries.*

*Blessed are those who are very religious but get on everyone's nerves-- they are mine forever.*

*Blessed are the troublemakers-- they shall be called my children.*

*Blessed are those who have no time to pray-- they are easy prey for me.*

*Blessed are the gossipers, for they are my secret agents.*

*Blessed are those critical of church leadership, for they shall inherit a place with me in my fate.*

*Blessed are the complainers-- I'm all ears for them.*

*Blessed are you when you read this and think it is about other people and not yourself-- I've got you.*

### **5 Important Things to Remember**

1. Jesus disarmed Satan and all his followers and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross (Colossians 2:15).
2. Jesus even took the power of death away from Satan and freed those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15; Revelation 1:18).
3. Satan is still, for this moment, the prince of this world (John 14:30), but we who are in Jesus Christ have authority over Satan, because Satan is under Christ's feet (Ephesians 1:18-23) and we are in Christ (Colossians 3:3).
4. Satan's time is short. His destiny is decided. (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:9-12).
5. We, as disciples of Jesus, need to live as Jesus did, overcoming the enemy and living in victory in every area of our lives.
6. Jesus is King!

To prayerfully consider: *Are there those within our circles of family, friends or work colleagues whom you suspect are caught in the devils' trap? Spend some time praying about this in your cell group and ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to talk to them or bring them along to a service or cell meeting.*

\*If anyone in your cell has any personal issues regarding any of these things please feel free to refer them to Rev. Mark for further help and assistance.