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Taking A Position For Spiritual Warfare

Pastor Margaret Mendenhall

The word that has been given in past teachings tells us to arise, put first things first and take our position with praise and worship. We don't have time for distractions and putting things off. God needs us for His work and if we are so busy with things that are so insignificant to what God has called us to do, then we haven't put first things first. We have to be in preparation in order to receive from God.

2 Chron 20:17 "You shall not need to fight in this battle; take your positions, stand still, and see the deliverance of the Lord [Who is] with you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Fear not nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you." AMP

God wants us to do the same as He told Jehoshaphat with the battle facing him. They began to praise the Lord and didn't have to fight, instead they watched as the Lord fought the battle for them and then they gathered up the spoils. When God says to do something, it is always for our good, but we will have to trust God completely.

As the word has gone forth in Luke 8, Matthew 11 and Mark 4 telling of the sower sowing the seed and it being planted, we see that out of four hearts hearing the word, only one type of soil or heart actually received what was being sown and was able to make a difference in their lives and there was a harvest.

Isa 55:10-11 "For as the rain and snow come down from the heavens, and return not there again, but water the earth and make it bring forth and sprout, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void [without producing any effect, useless], but it shall accomplish that which I please *and* purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." AMP

Every promise in the word of God is a seed that will produce a harvest in our lives. This harvest comes in the form of financial needs being met, healing of our bodies and restoring relationships. We need to learn how to be the heart that received, that had the hearing and doing heart in order to obtain our harvest. We could go through every promise in the word of God and see that everything that God has promised has to do with living life abundantly above and beyond all we can ever ask or think.

Luke 8:11-15 "Now the meaning of the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God. 12 Those along the traveled road are the people who have heard; then the devil comes and carries away the message out of their hearts, that they may not believe (acknowledge Me as their Savior and devote themselves to Me) and be saved [here and hereafter]. 13 And those upon the rock [are the people] who, when they hear [the Word], receive *and* welcome it with joy; but these have no root. They believe for a while, and in time of trial *and* temptation fall away (withdraw and stand aloof). 14 And as for what fell among the thorns, these are [the people] who hear, but

as they go on their way they are choked *and* suffocated with the anxieties *and* cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not ripen (come to maturity and perfection). 15 But as for that [seed] in the good soil, these are [the people] who, hearing the Word, hold it fast in a just (noble, virtuous) and worthy heart, and steadily bring forth fruit with patience." AMP

v. 11 and 12; The seed is the word, there is no doubt, no discussion, but the minute they heard the word, the devil or the thief came immediately to steal the word. If we are going to be able to reap a harvest from the word of God, we will have to contend or deal with the devil.

There are five things that will cause the word not to be fruitful; offenses, cares of the world, deceitful of riches, lust of other things, affliction and persecution. Those things came for a purpose, but v. 15 shows what the good soil produced.

The following scripture gives us the reason and who is responsible for all that happens.

John 10:10 "The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)." AMP

This is the only reason that the enemy has come, it is the only reason. If anything good comes it is from God and anything bad comes from the devil. If we are expecting anything good to come that we may have a harvest, then we must learn how to deal with the devil and what he is trying to do. The word makes it clear who he is, what he is trying to do and what we must do to overcome, giving him no place in our lives.

It is so important that we do not allow our thoughts which usually come from the enemy to take hold and cause us to dwell on them. Suggestions of anything bad, either things of the past or things of the future are not from God, God comes only to bless us and not take away from us.

Rev 12:12 "Therefore be glad (exult), O heavens and you that dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in fierce anger (fury), because he knows that he has [only] a short time [left]!" AMP

Eph 4:27 "Leave no [such] room *or* foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him]." AMP

2 Cor 2:11 "To keep Satan from getting the advantage over us; for we are not ignorant of his wiles *and* intentions." AMP

God is also working to bring all that will come to Him, because of the time. It is not His will that any should perish. Many are coming to the saving knowledge and are being brought out of the pit. We have authority over anything and everything that the devil would try to send our way, because of the shed blood of Jesus and the power of His name.

We cannot allow ourselves to think that we are off limits to the devil. We must remember that the devil is out to get all he can and will do all he can to cause problems for us, we must not give him any opportunity to get a foothold. We must know how he works and not be ignorant.

The following scriptures (verse 5) tell us how to avoid living in pride but (verse 6) tells us to live a life that is pleasing to God by humbling ourselves, (verse 7) learning to cast our whole care and not trying to figure things out for ourselves, (verse 8) having a well balanced life, but being cautious about the enemy who is out to devour. The devil cannot just devour at will but

he is seeking those that he can.

1 Pet 5:5-8 "Likewise, you who are younger *and* of lesser rank, be subject to the elders (the ministers and spiritual guides of the church)—[giving them due respect and yielding to their counsel]. Clothe (apron) yourselves, all of you, with humility [as the garb of a servant, so that its covering cannot possibly be stripped from you, with freedom from pride and arrogance] toward one another. For God sets Himself against the proud (the insolent, the overbearing, the disdainful, the presumptuous, the boastful)—[and He opposes, frustrates, and defeats them], but gives grace (favor, blessing) to the humble. 6 Therefore humble yourselves [demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation] under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you, 7 Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately *and* cares about you watchfully. 8 Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant *and* cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon *and* devour." AMP

Example was given from a book telling of how satan is out to destroy the churches, how in the spirit world demons can tell the Christian people, who appear to be clothed from the unbelievers who appear to be naked, but their goal was to unclothe the Christians causing them to sin, making them fair game to be deceived and brought down. Anger is one way that will unclothe a Christian and cause sin. Our thought life is another way that the devil can get a foothold. Many times the devil through our thought life will tell lies that don't even seem like lies, having a portion of truth in them. Being able to recognize these lies that come as thoughts and dealing with them is of most importance to us.

2 Cor 10:3-5 "For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh *and* using mere human weapons. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow *and* destruction of strongholds, 5 [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments *and* theories *and* reasonings and every proud *and* lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought *and* purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)," AMP

The weapons mentioned here are not physical, we are not in a fight with another person, but the weapons from God are meant to pull down strongholds, verse 5 tells what strongholds are. Our emotions come from what is thought and said, we can think fear, offense, anger and sadness into our lives and they become strongholds. The enemy uses our thoughts to try and hold us in captivity, but the weapon provided by God will bring down whatever is thrown our way, but we must know the word of God in order to know how to stand against the devils plans.

Rom 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, *even* the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you]." AMP

James 1:22 "But be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth]." AMP

Renewing our minds with the word of God will save our soul, our mind and emotions; it transforms us into the likeness of Jesus and will help us to bring our thought life into line with God's word. Renewing our minds will teach us how to recognize and capture all the thoughts that would cause us to go against what Gods plan for our lives might be.

Example was given of a woman who allowed her thoughts to overpower what she knew to be

true and eventually led her to a place where she was completely out of God's will and refused to repent. Strongholds which came to her in the form of oppression begin to become obsessions to her which finally led to her falling away and allowed possession to take place. Had she committed the unpardonable sin? The following scripture tells what would bring this about. She originally had experienced all these things, but she had on purpose turned her back on Jesus, she had refused to repent.

Heb 6:4-6 "For it is impossible [to restore and bring again to repentance] those who have been once for all enlightened, who have consciously tasted the heavenly gift and have become sharers of the Holy Spirit, 5 And have felt how good the Word of God is and the mighty powers of the age *and* world to come, 6 If they then deviate from the faith *and* turn away from their allegiance—[it is impossible] to bring them back to repentance, for (because, while, as long as) they nail upon the cross the Son of God afresh [as far as they are concerned] and are holding [Him] up to contempt *and* shame *and* public disgrace." AMP

Committing the unpardonable sin is a lie from the enemy and we cannot accept this lie. Baby Christians or Christians who are pressured from the enemy because of sin in their lives, feeling as though they cannot ever do things right are in no danger of committing the unpardonable sin.

The blood of Jesus is greater, He died for us, He is calling us to a higher level, don't listen to the lies of the enemy, and don't become offended.

God has given us what to think about and how to identify if we are listening to the right voices and has given us peace from knowing Him. The following scriptures give this information to us.

Phil 4:6-8 "Do not fret *or* have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance *and* in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God. 7 And **God's peace** [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison *and* mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. 8 For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence *and* is honorable *and* seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely *and* lovable, whatever is kind *and* winsome *and* gracious, if there is any virtue *and* excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on *and* weigh *and* take account of these things [fix your minds on them]." AMP

Harvest time is here and Jesus is telling us to move to another level of glory, look into the law of liberty, the word of God. Arise and take our positions and become lights in the darkness of this world. It is up to us individually, the devil has no power over us, we don't have to give him a toe-hold. We have the victory through Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 3:16 "But whenever a person turns [in repentance] to the Lord, the veil is stripped off *and* taken away." AMP