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THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE

THE FOURTH STAGE –CHRIST'S FULL GROWTH IN US Spiritual Warfare

In conclusion, all spiritual work is a form of spiritual warfare. There is not one time when we rise to work that we do not encounter the attacks of the enemy. In the day when Nehemiah restored the city of Jerusalem, because of the disturbance caused by the enemy, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon (Neh. 4:17). Likewise, we who serve the Lord today ought to work with one hand, and fight with the other. We ought not to care for our gain or loss, but through the blood, in the position of ascension, declare the Lord's victory. Then, exercising the various spiritual weapons to deal with Satan, we can overthrow his power and bring in the kingdom of God. We must not neglect any of these principles while we are engaging in spiritual warfare in a practical way.

2514 Truesdale Drive, Regina, SK **July 2, 2018**

Scripture Reading

Mat 12:26, 28-29 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?... But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can anyone enter into the house of the strong man and plunder his goods unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will thoroughly plunder his house.

In this passage of the Lord's words, there are several important points related to spiritual warfare. First, the Lord says here that Satan has his kingdom. Not only is there the kingdom of God in this universe, but also the kingdom of Satan. Second, the Lord says that if He casts out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto men. Hence, we see that to cast out demons by the Spirit of God is to bring in the kingdom of God, which is to engage in spiritual warfare. Third, since to cast out demons is to bring in the kingdom of God, then before the demons are cast out, it is the kingdom of Satan that reigns. It is through the demons that Satan usurps men and reigns. Fourth, the strong man that the Lord mentions here is Satan. Satan is a strong man; he has that which he usurps and has seized by force. Fifth, both the kingdom of Satan and the house of the strong man are mentioned here. The kingdom of Satan is the house of the strong man. Therefore, the people in the world are on one hand the subjects in the kingdom of Satan, and on the other hand the possessions in the house of Satan. It says here that a certain man enters into the strong man's house and spoils his goods. This refers to the Lord coming to the kingdom of Satan to rescue men out of Satan's usurpation and possession. Sixth, it says here also that in order for one to spoil the goods of the strong man, he must first bind the strong man. This means that when the Lord comes to rescue us, He must first overcome Satan and bind him.

Matt 6:9-10 You then pray in this way: Our Father who is in the heavens, Your name be sanctified; Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Today, although the kingdom of God has not yet completely come upon this earth, although God has not yet gained a sphere wherein He can exercise His authority in a full way, and although His glory has not yet been made fully manifest, nevertheless there is a small place, a small sphere, thank the Lord, where there still exists the condition of God's partial reign, which thereby manifests a portion of God's glory. This is the church... It is through the church that God will bind Satan and destroy his power. Thus, His name will be honored in the whole earth, His kingdom set up, and His will done. This is the commission of the church. This also is the purpose of the church's spiritual warfare.

Hymn # 885

1 Fight the battle in the Body, Never fight it on your own; With the Body to the Head joined, Fight the battle on the throne.

Chorus

Fight the battle in the Body! By the virtue of the Head; Standing firmly with the Body, Into vict'ry you'll be led.

- 2 For the Body is God's armor, Not for anyone alone: When you wrestle in the Body, All its benefits you own.
- 3 'Tis the Church on Christ established Satan shall not overpow'r; 'Tis the Body built together Which resists the evil pow'r.

- 4 In the Body, by the Headship, Sitting in the heavenlies, Struggle with the wicked spirits And the principalities.
- 5 As a member of the Body, With the brethren stand for God: Praying always in the Spirit, Claim the vict'ry through the Blood.
- 6 In the heav'nlies more than conqu'ror, In the power of His might. As a soldier in the army, In the Lord the battle fight.
- 7 Keep on wrestling in the Body, Mighty vict'ry you will see, Bind and loose, God's will fulfilling, And the foes your food will be.

Fight the battle in the Body Spiritual Warfare — In the Body

885 (Guitar: Capo 1) 1. Fight the Bo Nev er fight it bat on your own: With the Bo the Head joined. hat. on Chorus throne. (C) Fight $_{\mathrm{the}}$ the tue G 0 Head: Stand-ing firm In - to led. ly with the Bo - dv.