

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Making War In the Heavens August 6, 2019 Suzi Armstrong

Ephesians 2.1-6

¹As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is **by grace you have been saved.** ⁶**And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.**

Living seated with Christ is living in His kingdom. When we are in His kingdom structure He is King of kings and Lord of lords. The cycle of defeat is broken when you are born again. You are shifted into the heavenly structure where all things are subjected to Christ. Free from the cycle of defeat and death. Free from sickness, darkness, disease – they cannot hold us. We are under the domain of the Father. Every sin habit is broken in our lives. The kingdom of God is what is in operation. Let Holy Spirit teach you how to walk and live in this realm. We are free!

Understanding the structures in the heavens and how they operate gives us the platform to speak life into our city, community, culture and family. We have authority and an assignment to bring heaven into the earth. God’s kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. **The cycle of life begins with Christ in us.** There is no life without the Son. We are recreated in the likeness of Jesus.

Hierarchy of the Kingdom of God CYCLE of LIFE	Hierarchy of the domain of darkness CYCLE of DEATH
<p>Born again by the incorruptible seed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ in you the hope of glory. • You have become a new creation in Christ. • Sin no longer has dominion. • Rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into His marvelous light. 	<p>Individual with sin habit & sin nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life is lived in darkness and defeat. • Everything Adam brought in can attack us. This is why you need to be born again, healed & delivered.
<p>Christ’s headship – hierarchy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Christ the whole body grows and is held together. • Our life is connected to the body. We have a specific place to connect and specific ones to be connected with. • When you are part you are always there to bless and release life. • Live your life by the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. • You have been redeemed from the curse. • Healing, deliverance and wholeness are given to you through Christ. • Growing in wisdom and understanding by Holy Spirit. 	<p>Human hierarchy, institutions, homes, jobs, vocations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole world is under the influence of the evil one. This is a world view marked by self interest, greed, power and lust. • Man with sin nature is placed in an environment like this and areas of weaknesses in his life become manipulated by a force greater than the individual. • The people are unable to break free because they are under a hierarchy. • The job, the organizations you belong to, etc. the enemy will use to hold the man in bondage inside the hierarchy.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stepping into your identity in Christ and Christ in you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The institution has authority. You can't escape having to work, being born in a family. You are under people who have authority. There is a narrative that is released that pressures the people to conform to the hierarchy.
<p>Purposes of God set the course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our God ordained purpose covers our life. There is a predetermined pathway. The church subjects itself to the purpose, then the individuals are covered by the purpose. All are going to the same place together. This is not about your ministry or how you become fulfilled. The purpose of God directs us and it is what we are all fighting for. The blessings of God will flow in our lives through this hierarchy. Purpose is secured by God from the beginning...it is established through Jesus. Set mind on things above. Renewing of your mind to the truth and purposes of God. We are not stuck in the institutions when live seated with Christ nor are we bound in the philosophies of the world as our mind is renewed. 	<p>The course of this world Individual ⇔ institution ⇔ course. The course controls the institution and the institution controls the people. The stronger the entity, the stronger the hold.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hierarchy working on the sin nature and sin habit of man. The course holds families – the problem in the house (institutions) holds. The course impacts all who are there. If there is an alcoholic in the house then all have to deal with it, if there is fear in the house, then all have to deal with it, etc. People become oppressed and the pressure on the people increases. Globalization, corruption, etc. releases pressure and the institutions become pressured and then the individuals are pressured. The final sufferers are the individuals. The lives of people become impacted by the changes in the course. The institutions do not care, that is not their concern. Ideologies control the course. Philosophies dominate. The controlling narrative becomes much stronger.
<p>Influence of the Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being in the Spirit. It is here we are seated together with Christ in the heavenly realms. This is place you draw all resources from Christ in you. This is the re-fueling station. Our adequacy is in Christ. In Christ we have strength, wisdom, grace, hope, peace, creativity, etc. Christ is our supply. When a problem arises don't try to figure out the answer in your mind, rise up in the spirit and get the answer. The battle is the Lord's. This is the level where we engage in battle, spiritual warfare. This where we pull down the powers of the air. A new spirit needs to come forth. You have the government of God on inside of you. 	<p>Influence of spirits in the world Individual ⇔ institution ⇔ course ⇔ spirit influence. Course is controlled by spirit influence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirits influencing entire territories – a city, region, nation, culture. The narrative has become a strong entity shaping culture and demanding conformity. This is the place where witchcraft spirits work. Witchcraft spirits release influence that takes hold of individuals that are vulnerable to their influence. This is how witchcraft works through people. Witchcraft can work through a person with them knowing or not knowing.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spirit of the world is not influencing you because you are not under its control. You are in the world but you rise above the hierarchy of the world. You are in the world but not of the world. • This is the place that we can shield and cover our family or community by the authority given to us in Christ. Shields up!! 	
<p>Christ in the heavenlies Far above all powers and principalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus defeated the evil one and every power of darkness on the cross. We are connected to Christ and seated with Him. • We have been set free by Jesus. He whom the Son sets free is free indeed. • We do not have to live our lives subject to the powers of the air. We live our lives subject to the Holy Spirit. • Our reality is in Christ. • Jesus the name above all names. Jesus' name above the powers of the air. • As the body of Christ we legislate the heavens. We speak the name of Jesus over the powers of the air. The powers of the air are subject to Jesus. • This allows people in the city to be blessed as oppression is broken over their lives. 	<p>Powers of the air Individual ⇔ institution ⇔ course ⇔ spirit influence ⇔ powers of the air.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powers of the air use the spirit influence and the philosophies of the world which control the institutions that oppress the people. • The powers of the air take their place in the cities. They use familiar spirits, ones familiar with you and how you act. The person thinks they are blessed, they don't need God, all gods are the same. • The person does not feel vulnerable because these spirits protect him. The person lives continually in darkness – they think they are OK. • The nature of this spirit is the nature of the city. This is the strongman. The structure has been built strong. Everyone in an area thinks the same. Churches can fall into this. They are always the same, operating in the same tradition and institution. • The powers of darkness hold the people captive. There is no way to escape because the people are under the structure. The structure is reinforced by the narrative.
<p>Christ is King Christ is physically seated at the right hand of the Father God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ is King of a physical kingdom. This physical kingdom is real and is demonstrated through you and the church. • The church is physical. Our work is physical. Our warfare is spiritual. This is why you can't just live in spiritual things. • It is predestined that the Son will have pre-eminence in everything. • The mountain of God is greater than all other mountains. We are sent from the mountain of God to bring God's kingdom into the earth, into mountains of influence. 	<p>Prince of darkness Individual ⇔ institution ⇔ course ⇔ spirit influence ⇔ powers of the air ⇔ prince of darkness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prince of darkness chooses the powers. He has chosen his powers well. The powers transfer spirits. The influence of the spirits is in the doctrine. • Philosophies can change, for example a nation can move from dictatorship to socialists – the people are still oppressed. • The institutions control and don't care what philosophy is being used to control. • The philosophy is released through a strong narrative that demands that the people serve the narrative.

Godhead

- This is place where it all began and it all continues.
- Everything is sustained by the power of God's word.
- Nothing in heaven or earth was made without the Godhead – the heavens and the earth belong to the Lord.
- When Christ ascended into heaven and was seated at the right hand of God the power structure of satan was broken, its authority was shattered.
- Under Jesus we have been given the authority to bind and to loose. When binding strongholds in heaven all of the levels will ultimately break and the individual released.
- Your position of attack needs to be right. This eliminates the struggle. Satan's place is far below. Satan is not free to go outside of this authority structure. The devil's power has been defeated. When we understand our structure the fight is different.

Satan

The power that feeds the prince of darkness.
Individual ⇨ institution ⇨ course ⇨ spirit influence
⇨ powers of the air ⇨ prince of darkness ⇨ heavenly realms.

- It is in this realm that the hierarchy becomes functional.
- All of the devil's authority structure was defeated by Jesus.
- Satanic forces are confined.
- Satan is not free to do what he wants.

Allow Holy Spirit to speak to you out of the above chart. We perish – become stuck and do not advance – for lack of knowledge. See how political spirits, religious spirits and other spirits of darkness come to lock down and oppress the people. Hear how the powers of darkness create narratives that do not allow freedom of choice. Understand how the enemy is defeated and how we bring the enemy captive by the authority we are given in Christ. Know that you are seated far above the hierarchy of darkness because you are in Christ when you are born again. You do not need to fear the workings of darkness because greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.

Remember that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds. The enemy is not flesh and blood but powers and principalities working through the domain of darkness. We are not subject to the domain of darkness. **We are subject to the kingdom of God.**

The Lord will put His word in our mouth to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow the domain of darkness that holds the people captive. **We speak the prophetic word of God that is filled with His promise and purpose that is powerful and substantive to break open and to establish the NEW.** Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor...to proclaim freedom for the captives [in our city, in our families, in our communities, at the work place] and release from darkness [this evil hierarchy of darkness] the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor..." We speak the word God gives us and then He watches over the word to bring it into fruition. We speak the words, the law, the commands, the life of the kingdom of God **bringing heaven into the earth.** This shifts the structures in the heavenly realms **for life to freely flow.**

