

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Spiritual Warfare – Binding and Loosing March 12, 2024 Suzi Armstrong

1 John 3.8 NIV

⁸The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

- Jesus thoroughly defeated powers and authorities by disarming and making a public spectacle of them through His death, burial, and resurrection.
- In spiritual warfare we do not have to defeat the devil again – we are enforcers of His victory.
- In the Book of Revelation Jesus said that He is alive forevermore and that He holds the keys of death and Hades – the underworld.
- What are the works of the devil? They are things the devil does to kill, steal, and destroy God's creation and mankind – sickness, disease, oppressive governmental structures, manipulation, intimidation, false accusation, sexual perversion, divisiveness, lies, and false narratives. These works of the devil hold people and cities in captivity as if being held in prison.

Luke 10.19 NIV

¹⁹**I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.**

- Jesus delegated to us, God's sons and daughters, authority over the works of darkness.
- We execute that authority in His Name – at the Name of Jesus every knee will bow, in Heaven, on the earth, and under the earth and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.
- We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony and not loving or clinging to our own lives, even when faced with death.
- When we overcome the power of the enemy, when deliverance comes, when the sick are healed, when tyrannical governmental structures are unraveled, when strongholds are demolished – the Bible says that Heaven and every Heavenly being rejoices!

Matthew 16.18-19 NIV

¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and **the gates of Hades will not overcome it.** ¹⁹**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."**

- Jesus will build His church. **1 Peter 2** says that we are living stones being built as a spiritual house. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that we may declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light.
- The gates of hell or the underworld will not be able to overcome the spiritual house that God is building.
- We are given the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven to bind and to loose.
 - The keys give us permission, authority, and the ability to transact spiritual business.
 - What kind of spiritual business – enforcing the victory of Jesus who has already defeated the devil and his works of darkness.
 - These keys have the power and authority to bind and to loose.
 - Bind means to tie, fasten with chains, to put under the obligation of the law, to forbid, prohibit, declare to be illicit.
 - Bind also means that there is need for it to be done. That it is right and proper to bind, that it is brought on by necessity and required to bring about an end. **It is of necessity of law and command established by the counsel and decree of God.**

- Loose means to dissolve or melt, break, beat something to pieces, or untie something that is bound. To declare unlawful, destroy, overthrow, to do away with, put off, dismiss, discharge from prison, let go, set free.

Psalm 2.7 AMP

⁷ I will declare the decree of the LORD.

- Binding and loosing re-establish the boundaries God originally set and the work of redemption.
- We speak what God has spoken.
- We bind and loose, forbid and release, with our voices. We speak the decree by the authority of Jesus. Bind the spirit of infirmity and loose healing. Bind the thief and loose prosperity.
- Hebrews 2 describes how God made the earth subject to mankind. This reiterates the command that God gave Adam in the Garden.

Jeremiah 29.11 AMP

¹¹ For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,' says the LORD, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, **to give you a future and a hope.**

- This is the blueprint of God's heart that we would prosper and not be harmed. In every place that the devil encroaches and blocks this plan in our lives and in our city, bringing pain and poverty and subjecting us to darkness, we can use the keys of the Kingdom to bind the devil and loose the blessings and promises of God.
- If we, ourselves, have made poor choices and opened the door for the thief to come in, choosing death over life, darkness over light, then we must repent and turn our hearts back to God, opening the door to His blessings and promises. Deuteronomy 28 fully describes blessing and curses.
- When darkness or wickedness are operating, they bring a curse upon the land and the people – drugs, murder, death, mental disease, corruption, deception, manipulation, usury, thievery, lies, and cover-up will prevail. We can see the operation of these entities in our communities.
- But the proclamation or decree over Detroit is 'where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty'. Are we seeing the Spirit of the Lord prevailing in the streets, in our courts, in our schools? It is time to reset boundaries.
- Repent and turn back to God. Bind darkness and loose the light of God. Reset the boundaries for peace and well-being that opens the door to a future that is filled with hope and abundant life.

PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

Father, we honor You in and from our City. You are a good God that abounds in love and is slow to anger. As individuals and as citizens in this City and community, we repent for our sins and the sins of the church for not being salt and light in this beautiful City and for allowing darkness to operate. But this is a time of turn-around as You have caused Your church to wake up and take their rightful stand in Christ Jesus.

By the authority given to us by Jesus and in His Name, we bind the strongman of murder, death, illicit drug use, mental disease, corruption, violence, deception, and lies. We put the strongman under the obligation of the law of God, we forbid and prohibit your activity and destruction. We declare the strongman to be illicit. We declare that your structures and your tenacles are being unraveled and brought down in our City.

We loose the abundant life of God in this City – His promise of hope and a future. We welcome the goodness of God to saturate our communities and families. We declare that Detroit will thrive and rise up in its God-given destiny. We welcome the gifts of God that bring inventiveness, new ideas and new ways of doing things that are upright and full of integrity. We speak deliverance over this City and that the Spirit of the Lord will be evident as this City moves in freedom and liberty. **A new sound will come from Detroit, and it is the sound of life!**