

**Engaging in Spiritual Warfare and
Exercising Spiritual Authority**
Skills for Spiritual Warfare and Spiritual Authority
Sermon Series Starting February 2, 2025

Thesis: We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.

Text: John 1:1-42; Acts 26:12-18; 1 John 5:21; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Theme: **Skills for Spiritual Warfare and Spiritual Authority: Current Context.**

The context has changed.

As Apostle Mosy Madugba told us in 2018, this is a season of war. The Lord is calling us to prepare for spiritual warfare, to be strong, and to fight with the Lord. According to the promises of the Lord, we have a great opportunity for total recovery in this season. Will we contend for our destiny? Let's get equipped and trained! *"Praise be to the Lord, my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me" (Psalm 144:1-2).*

This season is also a time to contend for our children, youth, and young adults to have their own experiences with the Lord and the Spirit of God. *"Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace" (Psalm 144:12).* May we contend for our sons and daughters, and may we contend for our kingdom destiny.

Jesus said that he was giving us the same work to do that he had been doing. The work of Christ includes advancing the kingdom of God and defeating darkness, disease, and the devil (Matthew 16:18; 1 John 3:8; Luke 4:18-19). God is raising up an army to advance the kingdom of God, empowering and authorizing disciples to defeat demonic enemies, to heal people of diseases, to overcome darkness with light, love, forgiveness, and other weapons of the kingdom of God. Therefore, we must conclude that spiritual warfare is a reality for Jesus and his followers (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Since spiritual warfare is a part of our reality, we need to learn how to fight. We want to develop skills for engaging in spiritual warfare and exercising spiritual authority to conquer darkness, disease, and the devil.

Spiritual Warfare Is the Context for the Joshua Generation

Revelation about this season of war (journal entry from 10'6'18)

Dear Lord:

I just realized something this week. I need to change my mental model about this season in which we are engaged.

We are a part of the Joshua Generation. That means that we must fight to possess our promised land.

We fought in May and June. You gave us breakthrough against the strategies of the enemy as we talked about Isaiah 43 and passing through the waters and fire of transition.

We fought in July - August with the Seven Days of Worship, Prayer, and Warfare. You gave us victory over witchcraft which has come against us.

We fought in August when Apostle Gloria Madugba came on August 19. You released favor and anointing and inspiration to fight and to achieve breakthrough as Gloria ministered.

We fought at the Ministry Leaders Weekend when Doug Stringer was here, September 29 - 30. Pull down the strongholds. Raise a new standard. You did both of those things according to Doug Stringer's dream on April 23. It was another time of breakthrough in the midst of serious warfare.

These past two weeks we have been in intense warfare. (See the list previously.)

So, here is what I am present to.

I see warfare as a one-off situation. We fight briefly, then, we go back to what we were doing.

As I was sharing about our situation and season at Pastors Prayer Group on Thursday, Oct. 4, it dawned on me that the context has changed. We are going to be in a season of battle until we possess our possession. That was true for the Joshua Generation, so it is true for us.

Yes, I prefer fighting one time and that takes care of it. However, our calling and reality are different than that. This season is a season of war. You are giving us instructions on how to fight each battle to possess our possession. It is not a one and done deal; nope, it is an ongoing season of war to do what you have called us to do.

Lord, please help me to change my mindset.

Please give me your guiding principle for this season.

Please help me to lead.

We have committed to fighting on Thursday morning IP meetings for the duration. That is one step of action. Please show us what else you want us to do.

Lord, thank you for speaking to me through the transformation conversation on Thursday at Pastors Prayer. I am so grateful for how you are speaking, moving, and leading.

Revelation about this season and a new mindset

1. **We are in a new season.** This is a season of warfare.
 - a. We focus on the vision set before us or on the joy set before us.
 - i. *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates--all the Hittite country--to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Joshua 1:1-5).*
 - (1) The Lord has given us his plans, purposes, promises, and prophetic words.
 - (2) Fighting and overcoming the enemy are not our focus; doing what the Lord is showing us to do and possessing our promised land is our focus.
 - b. We are learning to fight and to rule and reign with the Lord now, because we are children of the King, members of the household of God, sons and daughters of God Most High, and partners with the Lord forever and ever.
2. **As a part of the Joshua Generation, we must fight to take ground and to possess our inheritance. This is not a one-off season. We will fight until we possess our inheritance.**
 - a. In the past, warfare has been infrequent for us.
 - b. In this season of warfare, fighting becomes the norm.
 - c. And, the enemy will come against us.
 - i. Trying to deceive us (Gibeonites)
 - ii. Counter attack (kings banded together to attack Joshua and his troops)
 - iii. Etc.
 - iv. Questions: What are some of the examples in the book of Joshua and the book of Nehemiah about warfare and battles? What were some of the strategies of the enemy to hinder the advance of the people of God?
3. **Change of mindset: ongoing warfare and battles are a part of possessing the land.** This is not a short season. Don't be surprised, discouraged, confused, and resistant.

4. **If we fail to understand the season, or if we have the wrong mindset, we will respond incorrectly to the attacks and battles.**
- a. **Wrong responses to a season of warfare:**
 - i. What are we doing wrong?
 - ii. Are we under a curse?
 - iii. Have we missed God?
 - b. **Right response: In a season of warfare, being a part of the Joshua Generation, we expect that we will have to fight.**
 - i. **Our Champion is leading us into battle.** He has given us our possession. Now, we go with him in partnership to possess our possession. So, don't be surprised by ongoing warfare. No enemy will be able to stand against us.
 - (1) *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them-to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates-all the Hittite country-to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you (Joshua 1:1-5).*
 - ii. **Fight the good fight of faith** (1 Timothy 6:12). Fight and keep on fighting.
 - (1) *Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses (1 Timothy 6:12).*
 - iii. **Stay at your post;** don't abandon your place or assignments (2 Timothy 2:4). Stay faithful.
 - (1) *You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs-he wants to please his commanding officer (2 Timothy 2:1-4).*
 - iv. **Keep on showing up** in the grace and power of the Lord, and don't quit.
 - (1) Don't grow weary in well doing (Galatians 6:7-9).
 - (2) *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians 6:7-9).*
 - v. **Find fresh strength and encouragement in the Lord.** Don't give in to fear, fatigue, discouragement, frustration, deception, disappointment, or confusion (Joshua 1:9).
 - (1) *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).*

(2) *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:28-31).*

The context has changed and is intensifying in 2025.

The Lord is speaking to us again that our context has changed, and we need to rise to the occasion for this new season. (See *Our Word for the Year 2025. Convergence: Reaching Others with the Love of God. 1'19'25.*)

Here is what I believe to be the word of the Lord for us in 2025. It is the same word which God gave to us for 2024.

Convergence: reaching people with the love of God.

Here is our group identity.

We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.

Here is what I believe:

1. Reaching others with the love of God is **still** what the Lord is doing.
2. Reaching others with the love of God is **still** where we need to grow as a congregation.
3. Jesus is reaching others and asking them to join Calvary (Matthew 16:18).
 - a. **Are we joining Jesus in his mission?**
 - b. I would say that we need to practice more.
 - c. We need to be inspired and challenged to practice more.
 - d. We need to celebrate progress.
 - e. And, we need to grow in our capacity to join Jesus on this mission.

Here is a confirmation of what the Lord is saying.

During our **Thursday Morning Corporate Prayer Time** (1'16'25), Jay Kelley shared an impression he received from the Lord.

1. Impression: **This is a time about reaping, not sowing**. Jay was reminded of our **convergence word** from John 4:34fl.

- a. *John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 (1) I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. (2) Others have done the hard work, and (3) you have reaped the benefits of their labor" (John 4:34-38).*
2. Lift up your eyes. The fields are white for harvest.
3. Here is what Jay was sensing: "I sent you to reap for that which you did not labor. Others have labored. You have entered into their labor."
4. Jay prayed:
 - a. May we seize the opportunities to reap what has already been sown.
 - b. We speak that word over our teens today to seize and reap where others have labored and sown.
 - c. Lord, empower all of us to seize the harvest that is ready and ripe today.
 - d. Lord, we ask for that grace to do that today; give us the reminders to do that today.

On the mission trip to Nigeria and the Global Prayerquake for Jan. 3 - 12, the Lord led me to a divine appointment. I believe that conversation speaks into our word for the year.

Divine encounter with Miracle Chris on Saturday after the Prayerquake 1'11'24

It was about 7:25am on Saturday, 1'11'24, when I finished the second point in my spiritual journal and conversation with the Lord.

I felt an impression, or a leading, that I should go outside. I felt like there was someone or that there were some people whom I needed to see or greet.

The only person I knew was Miracle Chris. He was getting out of his car. I just wanted to greet him. Another person was working on Miracle's vehicle; it was broken down.

We exchanged greetings and began sharing. Then, he asked how the church was doing. I told him about our missing a generation, and how we are doing kingdom work among children and youth, but we weren't seeing them and their parents in church. I told them this was true of other churches that I know about, so other churches face the same dilemma.

Miracle began to pour out much wisdom and revelation. I recorded most of our conversation. It was a divine appointment for me. This is why the Holy Spirit led me to go outside.

I need a mindset shift. I needed an impartation. I needed revelation. I didn't know what I didn't know.

Lord, thank you so, so much. Holy Spirit; you are so thoughtful and wise. I don't know how you get my attention though impressions, but I am so, so grateful. I love you. I love you. I honor you. I exalt you. In the name of Jesus.

Here are some takeaways from our conversation and one takeaway from the MPN Global Prayerquake that I want to share with you at this time.

1. Spiritual warfare.

a. Evangelism is not just about scattering the seed.

- i. Yes, we pray for the seed to take root and bear fruit.
- ii. Yes, we are a "servant and witness to the things which you have seen in me."

b. Evangelism involves warfare.

- i. *To open their eyes.* That requires revelation and warfare.
- ii. *To help them turn from darkness to light.* That requires light and warfare.
- iii. *To help the turn from power of Satan to God.* That requires a power encounter of warfare. Someone has to win the battle for their lives in the spirit realm.

- c. *Acts 26:12-18 (ESV) In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. 13 At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you 18 **to open their eyes [remove the blinders; free them from bondage; level the playing field]**, (1) so that they may turn from darkness to light and (2) from the power of Satan to God, (3) that they may receive forgiveness of sins and (4) a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'*

2. Idols.

- a. Evangelism also means dealing with idols according to Miracle Chris.
- b. I agreed with Miracle, saying that lost people have idols in their lives which are stealing away their worship of God.
- c. Yes, that is true, Miracle said. But that is not what he was talking about.
- d. **He was talking about the idols in the evangelist.**
 - i. Idol of expectation of what harvest looks like and how it comes.
 - ii. Idol of expectation on what needs to happen for the person to get saved or to come into a personal relationship with God.
 - iii. Idol of expectation in how to reach each person.
- e. **Yes. I had expectations and assumptions that the Lord wanted to highlight and correct.**
- f. *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols (1 John 5:21).*
 - i. **Reject that which is false and embrace that which is real.**

- ii. Applying this text for today, Dodd gives the following exhortation: **"It behooves the individual Christian to be on his guard against any such God-substitute, whether it be a political idea, or some fashionable cult, or merely the product of his own 'wishful thinking.'"** (Akin, Daniel L. *1, 2, 3 John*. Vol. 38. *The New American Commentary*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001.)
 - iii. It is easy to adopt expectations and assumptions that are out of alignment with the way of Jesus and the kingdom of God.
3. **Power ministry and evangelism.**
- a. At the MPN Global Prayerquake, I was also reminded of our calling as a church to move in the power of the Holy Spirit in ministry, evangelism, and warfare.
 - b. In 1988, the Lord carved out time in our services for God to touch people with his presence and power. Since 1989, we have trained people through [Ministry Team Training](#) how to do the works of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit and out of intimacy with the Living God.
 - c. **The truth is that we leak. We leak of faith, belief, conviction, and practice because we live in an anti-supernatural culture and worldview.**
 - d. *When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but [so that your faith may rest] on God's power (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).*
 - e. May each of us recommit to doing the works of Jesus and sharing the words of the Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - f. May we both proclaim and demonstration the gospel of the kingdom of God in our spheres of influence.

Here is another confirmation about what the Lord is saying.

At staff prayer on 1/14/25, I shared my learning regarding evangelism, idols, and warfare. **Margaret shared the following revelation she received on 1/5/25**, which confirms the revelation about learning to do spiritual warfare for the harvest, breakthrough, and evangelism.

-----Original Message-----

From: Margaret Petry <margaret@calvaryhouston.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 2:54 PM

To: Jeff McGee <jtm@calvaryhouston.com>

Subject: The word I received from the word on Sunday, January 5

Jeff,

This is the word I wrote down in my notebook during worship on Sunday, January 5.

"This is a year of war. Fight for your brothers and sisters, for those I died for. This is a year of taking ground, a year of victories and overcoming. Walk in your authority in Christ."

Conclusion:

God is speaking to us. I am excited about this year and our future.

1. **Convergence: reaching others with the love of God.**
2. We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.
 - a. **Capacity:** Building upon the foundation of intimacy, community, and kingdom, we want to grow our capacity to join Jesus on his mission together with others in our spheres of influence.
 - i. **Awareness:**
 - (1) What is God saying?
 - (2) What is God doing?
 - (3) What can I work out that he is working in me in this moment?
 - ii. **Authenticity:**
 - (1) How do I show up the way the Lord wants me to as open and honest?
 - (2) How do I show up with others as a person on a journey, rather than showing up as a know-it-all or as someone sent to debate with others?
 - (3) How do I show up and love others well by listening deeply, caring, coming alongside, and offering hope and help in the name of Jesus.
 - iii. **Alignment and action:**
 - (1) In what ways am I aligning with the ways of Jesus in my life and relationships?
 - (2) In what way am I in action with what the Lord is leading me to do and to say?
 - b. **Skill:**
 - i. Let's look for ways to bless people and to go about doing good (Acts 10:38).
 - ii. Ask: How can I pray for you?
 - iii. Ask people about their stories.
 - iv. Listen for the Spirit to give words of knowledge, wisdom, and prophetic insight.
 - v. Pay attention to others and seek to discern what Jesus is saying about that person or doing in them.
 - vi. Stay in step with Jesus and what he is doing: planting seeds, watering, encouraging light and life, and asking good questions rather than telling.
 - c. **Desire:**
 - i. Asking the Lord to help me see others the way he sees them.
 - ii. Asking the Lord to help me love others the way he loves them.
 - iii. Asking the Lord to use me to bless others the way he blesses them.
 - iv. Asking the Lord to empower me to touch others with his love, light, and goodness.
 - v. Asking the Lord to use me to do his works in the power of the Holy Spirit to heal, save, deliver, and encourage.

Spiritual Warfare Context from Rick Joyner 1'21'25

- [The Book of Revelation, Part 14](#)

Why is so much in the book of Revelation about the antichrist, the beasts, the false prophet, the great harlot, and all the primary enemies of the Son of God? Because we see in this vision how these enemies of God are overcome by the revelation of Jesus Christ, and by the power and authority of those who follow Him.

The spiritual enemies of God are defined in Scripture as various levels of *demons*, assigned to buffet individuals. Above them are *principalities*, which are assigned to fight God and His Christ on regional levels. Next are *world rulers*, which are given power throughout the entire world. These are general evils such as racism and counterfeit spiritual authority, which the Bible calls witchcraft or sorcery.

Finally, we have the devil himself, who usually appears to be sophisticated and brilliant. The devil's primary domains are religion and politics, through which he seeks to have people build on human alliances for what is earthly, rather than the will of God. For this he uses all of the above, but especially the demonic Jezebel spirit and Leviathan, a demon known as the "twisting serpent." Leviathan especially twists words, understanding, and the alliances men make.

As we will study in some depth, the religious spirit's evil is like a personification of the good side of the Tree of Knowledge, which is just as deadly, and more deceptive, than the evil side. It seeks to have us base our relationships to God on our works rather than the cross of Jesus. It is contrary to the faith upon which a true relationship to God is based, and it seeks to become a substitute for this faith.

The above is not an exhaustive list of the evils we face, but they are primary in the devil's war against mankind--and, through mankind, against God. These are also the main evils seen metaphorically in the book of Revelation. Of course, all of these are contrary to the Spirit of God that was fully manifest through Jesus and His work through this age. So, the primary way that we discern these evils is to know the Spirit of God, who is the Spirit of Truth and is sent to lead us to Christ.

As we mature in Christ and gain victory over our personal demons, works of the flesh, and tendency to side with the religious spirit, we may be given insight and authority over the higher levels of evil such as principalities over our regions, beginning with neighborhoods, towns, and cities. As we gain victory over these, we may be led to know and confront principalities over our states, provinces, and even countries.

There are levels within each level of evil. With demons, lust can be the most powerful, and others--such as greed and fear--support and feed it. These are all directed by a principality that is working to keep people in bondage to them on a more regional, and now, even a worldwide level. This is why there has been such an explosion of virtually everything being sexualized and perverted. Satan is making his final move to spread his "**deep darkness**" over the earth (see Isaiah 60:2).

A great challenge is to see how evil the "good" side of the Tree of Knowledge is. Its "good" side is even more deceptive and effective at deceiving the nations— and even the elect—than its "evil" side. Understanding Revelation can give us much greater insight into this and strengthen our ability to resist it and its evil mark for mankind.

Lust, racism, and fear exist on multiple levels, from personal demons to world rulers. Every Christian can have authority over demons. However, authority over the higher levels of evil only comes when we have maturity in Christ, abide in Him, and are in unity with other believers in the body of Christ. Jesus said the gates of hell would not prevail against "the church," singular, not "churches," plural (see Matthew 16:18-19). Therefore, to take on principalities, we need unity in the church in the region targeted.

We only have true spiritual authority to the degree that we abide in the Lord and He abides in us. Spiritual authority does not come by learning tactics, strategies, or special incantations to use on different demons. That is a form of witchcraft, and Satan will not cast out Satan. *Spiritual authority does not come by knowing our authority in Christ as much as it does by knowing His authority in us.* Maturity in Him is not learning to get Him to move at our request as much as it is us learning to move with Him and His directions.

Maturity is also learning to be patient with the level of authority we have been given and not running ahead of the Lord. When we get beyond the authority He has given to us, we can get beyond His protection. When we are immature in the Lord, He may still protect us if we become presumptuous and try to take authority He has not given us yet. However, as we mature, we will learn to not get beyond what He has called us to do. To do this, He may allow us to experience some of the consequences of not submitting to Him and His timing, and that will not be pleasant.

Summary:

Over the next weeks, we will talk about *Engaging in Spiritual Warfare and Exercising Spiritual Authority*.

Our desire is to develop new *Skills for Spiritual Warfare and Spiritual Authority*.

Remember the **learning process**: information, practice, reflection, repeat.

I want to invite you to make a journey together with the Lord and with each other in 2025 in this new context of reaching others with the love of God.