

INHERITING THE NATIONS SERIES

OUR POSITION IN CHRIST

We are going to read Psalms two. *Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and his anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree of the Lord; He said to me, "You are my son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling kiss his feet, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

In the book of Psalms two is the prophecy regarding our Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 7 *I will tell of the decree of the Lord; He said to me, "You are my son, today I have begotten you.* That verse is not referring to Jesus' coming in the manger, born of a virgin, visited by shepherds, when He first came to the planet earth. Verse 7 is referring to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like many scriptures if you read it without the Holy Spirit we would conclude that it was referring to His birth in the manger, but its not. It's referring to the resurrection of Jesus. The apostle Paul used that scripture in the book of Acts 13:33 *This he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, "Thou are my Son, today I have begotten thee."* And that is where some theologians like E.W. Kenyon got the understanding of the second birth of Jesus based on that verse. Now I know that among evangelicals and other groups of Christians they will say there is no such thing as the second birth of Jesus. How could Jesus be born again? Understand it in this way. Jesus died in His spirit, soul and body for us on the cross. So Jesus was

raised in His spirit, soul and body for us; it is just that simple. Man has to be redeemed spirit, soul and body. If Jesus' body died for you, only your physical body is saved. If Jesus' soul died for you only your soul is saved and not your body. If Jesus' spirit didn't die for you then your spirit is not saved. Jesus has to come as a perfect man. And it's only reasonable to consider that Jesus died on the cross for us as full-blooded man, pure and without sin. His spirit, His soul and His body were given in redemption for us. Therefore when Jesus was raised from the dead, God raised His spirit, soul and body, which are meant by the verse "*Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee.*"

To substantiate that, Colossians and Ephesians and Revelation call Jesus *the first born from the dead*. Now Jesus was not the first one raised from the dead physically. In the Old Testament Elijah and Elisha has raised people from the dead. Jesus was not the first one raised from the dead. In the New Testament before Jesus died He himself raised some people from the dead. So what is the meaning of the word first born? The word *firstborn* comes from the Greek word *prototokos*. *Protos* means first or first for something. We know definitely it cannot be first for resurrection for physical death since Jesus was not the first one to be raised from the dead. Every person who was raised form physical death died again. But Jesus was raised up from spiritual death. Physical death is only a shadow of spiritual death. To prove that He actually tasted spiritual death turn to II Cor. 5:21 which I can quote to you *Jesus became sin*. And the key context is contrasting sin with the righteousness of God. He became the complete redemption for us. And there was a struggle where He struggled in Gethsemane where He took spiritual death. Jesus was not afraid of dying physically. Don't make Jesus look like a coward. But even among the human race there are people who are daring to face death physically. But it is spiritual death and separation from God that was a great thing.

When Acts 13:33 quoted Psalms 2:7 that *this day I have begotten you*, it was referring to the day Jesus rose from the dead spirit soul and body and He was anointed and God said sit down at my right hand. Heb.1 says that again. Let me make this statement here. Where we are in our life and Christian experience and ministries in success or failure is based on what we know and what we don't know. So if we don't know we don't have it if we know we have it. If we don't see it then it is not ours. There has to be a revelation in our hearts. Heb. 1:5 is another quotation again. *For to what angel did God ever say, 'Thou are my Son, today I have begotten thee.'* Or

again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son." And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Now here he is talking about the resurrection of Jesus. Hebrews 1: 5 and Acts 13:33 is based on Psalms 2: 7. This is a case of scripture interpreting scripture.

This message is an important conclusion to the series on Inheriting the Nations and the authority that we have. If you understand that realm you would understand that it is a different world you are living in. Watchman Nee wrote the book the Normal Christian Life. Many normal Christians who read it found that they were not normal because a lot of people fall short of the normal Christian life. Now something happened to the human race when Jesus was raised up from the dead. Today only a small percentage of the church have a comprehension of what took place at the resurrection and walk in that resurrection power that God has brought for us. A lot of things happened that Jesus received on our behalf. Sometimes the church is like a beggar walking about begging a few coins here and there, but in whose pocket is given an inheritance of a million dollars. And we haven't realized it until we go over to the shore beyond and find out how much power God has given to the representatives of Jesus, and to every born again believer and every church on this earth. And we have only used that much. Wouldn't it be a sad day? You can't undo what has been done. You can't relive your life. It has become history. One day all these things will be history. Which is why I believe in living my life to the fullest. We don't have the privilege of being lazy. We live our life every moment thinking about the Lord and wanting to do the best in God. Imagine finding out something when it is too late to use it.

God will not give sickness, disease or sent demons against you. But let me tell you Jesus did talk about the narrow road. Rephrasing what Jesus said, there is a broad and easy way which is carpet laid. But Jesus said there is another way the hard one and very few go through that. The conclusion Jesus said please go through that one. A lot of people are avoiding and not learning the lesson that they should learn in life. If they are to choose between the carpet paved way and that thorny narrow way, they wouldn't choose the narrow way. But learn this when you began to choose things that are hard there is something that you gain in your inner man. When you keep choosing the things that are easy, the easy way out, you are the loser. The better man was the man who came up the hard way. God is not interested in just giving you a million dollars or giving you success. God is

interested in making you a man. He is not just interested in feeding you and giving you all the pleasures of life. That is why when some people claim for healing or they believe God for something, they wonder why some people receive the answer in this way and other people receive it the other way. We need to learn how to walk the way of the cross.

Sometimes in the body of Christ and in the things of God we don't realize the amount of power that has been released to us. And we have been struggling. This message I minister to you part of it came in a dream that God gave me. In the dream I was taken into a big huge church and I know that church was symbolic. And there were hundreds and hundreds of people in the church. There were no pews. It was just empty. But it was a very strange sight that I saw. The strange thing I saw was that every single person was wrapping themselves up like a mummy. And there were special materials all available for everybody. And they were binding themselves up to be like a mummy. Then after they were bound up they broke the whole thing again. And in that dream I remember that everybody was celebrating Easter day. I look at the thing and said this is not for me. And I started to walk out. And as we walk out I got up from my dream and I remembered 2 things. Before I slept I was thinking very much about the doctrine of binding and loosing. And when I woke up I got an understanding of what God was trying to tell me about binding and loosing. We will continue that part of the story five minutes from now.

Now let me get back to resurrection. Something happened in the resurrection of Jesus that we need to appreciate or which I think that not many Christians are experiencing. Eph. 1:17-19 *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe.* Now he didn't say that he had given them anything. The only thing that he prayed for them was a greater measure of the Holy Spirit. He never asks God to give them more riches, a greater hope of his calling. But he was asking God to show them what was their calling, the hope of their calling, to show them by the Spirit opening their eyes. To show them the riches of the inheritance in the saints which is already there but not seen. There are three things the hope of his calling, the riches of His inheritance in the saints and the

exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe according to the working of His mighty power which He work in Christ and He raise Him from the dead.

I make this statement and then we proceed. Everything has been done in Christ. Everything has been given in Christ. Not future tense, not present tense but past tense. In fact it's a past perfect tense. Paul had this revelation the only difference between your life now and where you are walking in your victory in Christian life and what you were 5 years ago when you came to know the Lord is your knowledge. I accepted Christ in 1974 the only difference between me last time and now is what I come to know of God. God hasn't changed. The Holy Spirit hasn't changed. The word of God hasn't changed. But my understanding of what I have in Him is different. It is what you know now that makes you different from where you were. And sometimes we think that what we know now was what He has given since. But what we know now was what we discovered was ours and we claimed it or gain access to it. And think about what we don't know now that we have yet to discover that is ours. That's the part I am talking about. There is a whole realm there that is yet to be discovered of what that have been given to us in Christ.

Tonight I can only talk about one aspect the authority that He has given in this earth over the nations. Let me read and complete this chapter in Eph. 1:20-21 *Which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.* Now whom do you think these principalities, power and might and dominion are? Are they good, are they bad. I am sure some of you have read Ephesians 6:12 every well. *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, wicked rulers of darkness of this age, and wicked spirit in high places.* And I am sure you read Ephesians 3 where it talk about how God is revealing the wisdom of God in the church to all the demons powers that are there. We can approach the subject differently. All the time you are looking at Ephesians and you are wonder whether the principalities, powers and dominions, are good angelic beings or wicked demonic beings. The context of the book of Ephesians and if Paul is consistent he is talking about the powers and thrones and dominion set up by Satan himself. Above everything Jesus was raised up and He was put at the right hand of God.

Let me emphasize a little part of the Greek here in verse 19 *and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us*. There is a cut off point there after the word *us*. The Greek actually says *what is the exceeding greatness of his power towards us, those believing according or concerning the working of his mighty power which he work in Christ when he raise him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places far above all principalities, power, might and dominion and every name that is not only this age but in that which is to come and he put all things under his feet and gave him to be the head over all things in the church which is his body the fullness of him who fills all in all*. And in the Greek there is no chapter or verse as Paul writes it. And he continues *and in you he made alive who were dead in trespasses in sins in which you once walk according to this world*. But he tells us in verse 4 *but God who is rich in mercy because of his great love in which he love us even when we were dead in trespasses*. He made us alive not future, not when you were born again, but when Jesus was raised from the dead. *He made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus that in the ages to come, which is our time in the industrial revolution, in the atomic age, in the information age, in every generation, he might show the exceeding greatness, the exceeding riches of his grace, in his kindness towards us in Christ Jesus*.

Let me tell you again the position that you have in Christ that the world has yet to see is based on your understanding of where you are in Christ. If you don't see it you can live and die without tasting it. It is based on the resurrection of Jesus. Chapter 1 and 2 are so closely knitted. In fact Ephesians is a book, which look like Paul writing in one whole long sentence. If you look at chapter 1 alone it is just basically many verses but basically almost just a few sentences that are all connected together. The whole book of Ephesians still resolves and revolves around us understanding our position in Christ and all that it entails. Sometimes the church of Jesus Christ is little mule that doesn't know what it has. And we run around like little hairs blown about by the devil and every foul breath. He comes and he knocks on your house and he says *little pig, little pig, open the door and your house is made of straw*. You are not a pig but you believe what he says. Then he says *I puff and blow your straw down*. And every little move of the enemy frightens us.

Paul hasn't finished all those things in chapter 2. He continue talking about this thing even in chapter 3 and he says in verse 9 and 10 *And to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; that through the*

church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. All that God has for us, He wants to show all that is available in Christ Jesus. Ephesians is a book that brings a magnitude of what Paul is talking in the revelation he has.

Romans show us a little bit of that in Rom. 5:20-21 *Law came in, to increase the trespass; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness. Verse 17 If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.* He gives only a glimpse that he described in details in Ephesians. There is a lot of power that has been released to the church. The church is seated at the right hand of God in our gifting, in our anointing. But many people and Christians are walking like they are not seated with Christ. Like they don't have that authority. They are not heirs and joint heirs with Christ.

My big question is why. Why do Christians cry over the rental payment for their houses when they are heirs in Christ. Why do Christians complain about not having enough money, not have enough food to eat when they are heirs in Christ? Heirs without knowledge are like non-heirs. And from that first statement I made where all that we are from the time you are born gain till now. Your success is based on how much you have come to know Him. Let me make the opposite statement. Every thing that has held you back in your life is because there is an error somewhere. What's the error? Wrong knowledge somewhere is holding you back. There was a lying principle, a lying fact that we have adhered to. And until and unless we give up that error and believe the truth we will not be free. If you believe that sometimes God heals, sometimes He doesn't, so be it. Some people think that they believe that God heals all the time. But the truth in their heart is that they don't quite believe. You hear the way some people pray, it looks like God never hears them. When the Son of Man comes again will He find faith? Doubt has been robbing many people. Doubt is the lie of the enemy. The only thing that keeps you from being a solid heir in God is to remove the error, replace it with truth and then you will be. It's the errors that keep from that. That applies on many areas tonight I just talk on one area.

Now I will interpret the dream the Lord gave me. Binding and loosing can be very subjective to many people. This is the interpretation of the dream that I had shared earlier. Many people who taste some measure of success in binding and loosing treat it like a small little game. When you get involved in any games, when you lose, you smile because you are culturally trained to be a gentleman loser. It's a nice game but your emotion still hurts. I wish I could have won. And wasn't the victory delicious. You feel the pleasure. By getting involved in that game you created for yourself the displeasure if you lose or a pleasure if you win. If you have never played it at first you would not have tasted the displeasure or pleasure.

Let me bring to the picture of binding and loosing. A lot of Christians have no comprehension of how much authority they have over the enemy. In their small little ways because of their wrong thinking and because of their wrong belief, they have bound themselves. It was their own errors that set them back but it will be the truth that sets them free. And then when we exercise one small little arrow of truth, we break those bonds that we have bound ourselves. When we break them we feel the pleasure. In the dream I saw the people feeling pleasure as they broke out from there. But when I look even more closely I marveled. In the first place they created those things themselves. They create the mummies and they broke themselves out of the mummies. They were in a cycle of self-creation and self-destruction.

Then the Lord talked about binding and loosing. The Lord allowed let me to see the details of what takes place. There is a lot of Christian warfare today in binding and taking authority over territorial spirits. There is an element of truth involved. But in getting involved in those things we must not forget one most important truth. There is a realm where you learn territorial warfare. You are fighting with what we call territorial spirits but you must not miss out this one main truth: Satan was defeated at the cross of Calvary. If in all your spiritual praying, in all your groaning, in all your tears and crying, if you don't base them on this truth but you base it on a lie, your effectiveness is gone. If you connect your spiritual wiring according to a 100% truth you 100% result. If you connect it with 50% truth, 50% error you get 50% result. And truth never exists on one tiny portion. Truth is always interlinked with other truth.

If you forgot that the devil has been defeated at the cross, you may have certain pleasures in a limited form and experience limited victory. But there is a greater realm to walk in where Satan has been defeated. I want to establish this fact: Satan is not going to be defeated and he is not being defeated. He has been defeated. If you don't establish that truth in your life as a foundation, how you walk, what you pray is different from someone who does. The bible declares he *is* a defeated foe, not *will be* a defeated foe. He has been defeated. He will be arrested but he has been defeated. He is now playing a game of guerilla warfare. Christ Jesus has conquered Satan's country. Satan is now just a guerilla fighter, trying to frighten those who are more than conquerors in Christ. If you don't understand this fact your whole battleground is different. It will be like using bows and arrows against atomic bomb. What Jesus did was like a big atomic bomb thrown onto the devil's kingdom. But the people of God continue to walk with bows and arrows.

In the book of Heb. 2:14 *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil.* He didn't do it for himself. He did it for us so that we could taste all those benefits.

Col. 2:14 *Having cancelled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the principalities and powers.* You see that word *disarmed*. Heb. 2:14 he destroyed the devil. Col. 2: 14 he disarmed all his cohorts. So what you have is an enemy whose head has been destroyed. The enemy has been removed and purged of all authority. In fact the Greek word for *destroys* in Heb. 2:14 is *make zero*. The enemy completely has no authority and his cohorts have all been disarmed. So where is the battle? That is the question I am asking tonight. It says he made a public spectacle of them triumphing over them. Some of you say then why am I still struggling? Why do I still have trials and tribulations? Didn't you hear what Jesus says, be of good cheer I have overcome the world. You know what He is trying to tell us? When you have tribulations and all those things I want you to rest in my victory. A lot of people are not fighting the fight of faith. They are fighting their own fight. They created the fight by themselves; they are protected by themselves, and they finally get exhausted in themselves.

Some ministers think that the devil comes after them after they have done some deliverances. I have been in the ministry since 1976. Let me assure you the devil has never come after me. He can't because Ps. 91 works. I am talking from 20 years experience in the ministry. When I started in my first year of ministry Christians who were in the ministry of deliverance warned me to be careful when I go out to minister. They told me that when you cast out demons sometimes they follow you all the way home. I took in one evangelist today whose ministry is in the twilight and fading away. He has been ahead of me, being in the ministry for nearly 30 years. Where you will be in your ministry and in your life lies in what you believe in today. And what you believe in may be an error. But if what you believe is the truth, the truth will not pass away. I ask him one question, "Are you married?" He said, "Yes." "Do you have any children?" He said, "No." I asked him why didn't he have children. He said in this kind of ministry it is very dangerous. And he is known as a demon caster. If I have given my spirit soul and body to serve Almighty God and He can't protect my family what kind of God am I serving? Again it depends on what we believe. And some Christians and even some ministers can believe some of the dumbest things that are unscriptural. It will be to their own disadvantage and defeat.

Tonight I pray that the Spirit of God stir your heart. In each one of our lives there still may be errors that we need to perfect. Remove them one by one until you become the word made flesh. Some of the things you believe could be wrong. If they are wrong you cannot adopt it any longer. Some teachers confuse the word of wisdom with the gift of wisdom. Because they confuse that they cannot operate in the gift of wisdom powerfully. When the Lord began to show the difference between the word of wisdom and the gift of wisdom you become sharper. But when you began to mix things together and you don't divide the truth rightly you limit yourself. In this life in this world only truth can set us free. Remember this the test of the pudding is in the eating. The test of what you believe is in your result. I guarantee you if you don't believe correctly that is scriptural you cannot produce the same scriptural result. If you don't believe the correct way about the doctrine of healing, you cannot produce the same bible result. It's important to believe the truth to get the result. We need to search our heart and search the word of God for what is true and what is error. It is not based on just what I say. It is not based on what history say. It is not based on what any church say. It is based on what the word of God says. History has come and gone. Denominations come and go. Men of God come and go. But the word of God remains true and unchanging.

Now you know why Jesus said that He sends us the Holy Spirit and He calls Him the Spirit of truth. Why suddenly the Spirit of truth becomes more prominent than the spirit of power. Because its truth that brings power. If you don't see it you cannot have the power. When you see it you have the power. When you begin practicing the truth, the truth becomes a part of your life and you are not afraid of demons any more. The truth becomes a part of your life you know that healing is your right. Among those truths Satan was defeated, not is, not is going to, he was.

What about spiritual mapping? A truth can be understood from two angles. You can understand truth from a worm's eye view or from an eagle's eye view. The blind man felt an elephant. He was fingering the tail of the elephant. And he says an elephant is like a rope. Was he right? I call that worm's eye view. Then another blind man was feeling the body of the elephant. And he says an elephant is like a wall. Was he right? I call it bigger worm's eye view. Another blind man was feeling the elephant's leg. And he says an elephant is like a tree trunk. Was he right? But it is called a worm's eye view. Just because something is a fact and partial truth does not mean it is the whole picture. You can only see the whole picture from the throne room. Why something works. Why something doesn't work. Why is it that sometime people trace the history of a place and they go to the source and they pray and it works.

Let me explain in the psychology and the psyche just like we all have a soul. Do you know nations and cities have a soul? And the whole society can function like one soul together. Sometimes a whole mass of people is under a particular bondage because of their past and history and their belief. The whole Chinese culture believes the dragon is good and it puts us into bondage. They call it culture but if culture contradicts the word give up that part. It is in the psyche of a society of a nation. Remember, what we believe wrongly is what holds us in bondage. Why are Asians so different from Westerners? It is in our psyche. Confucian teaching of being filial respect for elders influences a lot of Asians. I am not saying those things are bad. There are a lot of good things that you can find here and there. As long as it is in the word of God, fine. But if it is not in the word of God, reject it. But it has come to a point where sometimes submission can become a weakness. So we Asians may submit to something wrong and we don't voice out. It has become our Asian

mentality. Now what is our strength can be our weakness. It would be easy to enslave a group of people like that. If you were a good ruler over people of this mentality, it would be good for the nation. If you were a bad ruler, it would be bad. And we can be so submissive that if Hitler is ruling and he say kill we kill. But I am pointing to a whole mass of soul consciousness. I am pointing to a whole mass of soul consciousness.

My question is how does it come? It doesn't just come through the genes. You can take any one with any colored skin. You can raise a Caucasian child in an oriental environment and the child will adopt the same thinking. It has nothing to do with skin color. It has to do with the mind. Let me make a statement. The only stronghold is the stronghold in our life. You read this scripture in the New Testament. In the Old Testament the strongholds are the cities. In the New Testament the only strongholds are the strongholds in the mind. When ten thousand people are having the same stronghold in the mind, you have a stronghold over a city. The only way to free the people is when you preach the gospel. And the truth will set them free. I don't find apostle Paul going to the city of Philippi and going to the libraries of Philippi and say let me check the history of Philippi. Let me go there and bind the demon there. I didn't find the apostle Paul going to Ephesus and cursing the god of Ephesus. And you know what the god is in the book of Acts? Diana. And you know what the people said about what Paul said about Diana, nothing. Lets look at the book of Acts 19:35 *And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of Ephesians is temple keeper the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky?"* Now the people in the city believe that and the whole city came under bondage.

Sometimes it is just one error that holds a whole group of people. Do you know what held all the Germans and the Nazi together under Hitler? He thinks that the Aryans were a super race. And he convinced them that they are a super race. That was an error. God made all men equal. But it's a conviction. When he became convinced by the wrong error he began to behave wrongly. He began to conquer people and enslave a group of people. It can be just one major error that people believe in. Let me warn you in our society today the time of information age, there can be things that are circulated that you can believe easily. Sometimes it creeps through without you knowing. Kenneth Hagin was talking about how one day he

was reading the Reader's Digest. And a medical article talks about when you reached a certain age you begin to forget certain things and certain things don't function so well. Subconsciously he believed it without realizing it. He accepted that as a fact. And he found that he started forgetting things. Until one day the Holy Spirit gave him a Holy Ghost jolt. He said that's not scriptural. Yes that's not scriptural from that day onwards he remembered everything. Think about the thing you accept and believe in the natural because natural people told us. And we don't see it from God's point of view.

It says in Acts 19:36-37 *Seeing then that these things cannot be contradicted, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess.* I would not go out and destroy something that is legally there. But if somebody comes to the field in front of me or the tree in front of my house and puts an idol there, I would immediately remove it. In the first place it's illegal. He may have the freedom to put it there. I have the freedom to remove it because both are against the law anyway. But when something is legally there you don't remove that illegally. It says Paul didn't seek to do that. This is a statement observers made of Paul. They were neither robbers of temple nor blasphemers of your goddess. In other words in all Paul's 3 years of teaching there, he has never said one wrong word about their goddess Diana. He only went there and he preached the gospel. And when the truth came it will set the people free.

In the book of II Cor. 4:3-4 It tells you the secret of how Satan holds society and people from God is all in the mind. *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God.* It's the mind.

Turn to the book of Ephesians where we left off. And you find that the battle is the battle of the mind. Eph.2: 2-3 *In which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind.*

In the book of II Cor. 10:3-6 *For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine powers to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.* People are out in bondage through their thought life. A whole society, a whole city can believe the wrong thing. In America they believe homosexual has a right and its accepted. That thought becomes a bondage to the whole country. It is a sin in the bible. It is an abomination in the bible. But society has justified it. When you accept it, that's it. People jump in and out of the kingdom of light and into the kingdom of darkness. Even though they may be children of light just by a mere thought, when you accept as fact that the enemy offers to you, you are in there. We have to guard our hearts and our minds to make sure that what we believe is scriptural. And there is a whole lot of junk that he tries to give to you through newspapers, magazine, everything. You got to read it with a filtered mind. You don't just read it and accept it. When you look at those things, you got to ask yourself is this in line with the word. What is not in line with the word should be rejected. The moment you casually read it, casually subconsciously accept it, it begins to work in your life. This whole life is built around thoughts and words. This whole universe is built around words and thoughts. When God destroyed the society in Noah's time, it was because He saw the evil thoughts. Gen. 6 you find, He saw the hearts of men were wicked all the time. The thought and intents were all wicked. And he destroyed men for their thoughts. Every bad habit that has become part of your character came from one thought that you believe in. If you believe that certain things that are wrong are right, it will become a habit for you to commit those things. It's all wrestling in your heart and mind. The only stronghold that is there is in the thought realm.

Now lets look at binding and loosing in Matt.16 and 18. There are other passages that talk about binding. Jesus says that unless a strong man is bound you cannot spoil his goods. You check that out in Matt. 12. And you find that how Jesus binds was by casting out. The Pharisees said He cast out demons by Beelzebul. Jesus was casting out the devil. When you cast him out there was a limit set of what the enemy could do. There was a line drawn. When you cast the demon out you are saying don't cross this line. You are binding him.

Matt.16:19 *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on*

earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Now the binding and loosing is based on the keys that Peter had. Tradition thinks that apostle Peter will be the one opening the keys of kingdom of heaven and meeting you at the pearly gate. Peter died physically and if the keys of heaven were given to him, when he died we would have no keys left. It says I will give you the keys of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. The promise to every believer is based on the keys. Now you look carefully what those keys are. They are revelations that Peter received. And there are many revelations along the pathway of our spiritual life. For him Peter has come to the stage where he has a revelation. Jesus asks, "Who do man say that I am?" They replied all kinds of answers. Then He asks, "Who do you think that I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God." And Jesus said, "Blessed art thou Simon Bar Jona. Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven has revealed this to you." What was happening? A revelation was taking place. And when Peter got hold of that revelation that He is the Christ, He is the Messiah, He is the one who is to come, he was risen up into another realm of authority.

And Jesus was talking about that realm; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven. Peter felt like a giant. He could have been five foot eight but he felt ten foot tall. Then Jesus began to give them another revelation. More advanced that what Peter had come to receive. You know sometimes we get one revelation we think it's a big deal. Some people saw one angel and they think they are heroes now. They had one vision of Jesus and they broadcast it for the rest of their life they have no other experience. It's a continuous walk. Or they get some new thing in the Spirit whether laughing in the Spirit or groaning in the Spirit and they think that's it. No, Christian life is a continuous experience. I have many, many experiences in the Lord. But I have never built my ministry around that. You don't hear me talking on Sunday about Jesus appearing to me in 1986. I don't build around that. And so Peter was 10 foot tall. Jesus then said that the Son of Man must be betrayed, be crucified and be raised on the third day. Peter now thinks he is equal to Jesus and said that will not be. Whatever I bind on earth will be bound in heaven. That shall not be. He took Jesus aside and rebuked Him. Jesus looks at him and said, "Satan get thee behind me." And he realizes that there were some other revelations that he didn't have a hold on.

Just imagine how could Satan choose to rebel against God when he has been so long with God. Because he thinks he knows everything God knows. You know when rebellion comes? When people think that they know everything they know of their leader. And that is why they can be equal. Remember Miriam and Aaron who said, "Who does Moses think he is? Does he think that he is the only prophet? Doesn't God speak to us too?" They think they are equal. Remember this in this world and in the kingdom of God, it is God who sets position, not us. We will all be rewarded not based on our position but based on our faithfulness. Bible says first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, to function as a team you cannot have all Red Indian Chief and everyone gives the command. To function in this life we just recognize where our position is. Even for the rest of your life you play second fiddle, if that's how God meant it, let it be so. He who plays first fiddle must die to self, he who plays second fiddle must die to self; everybody must die to self.

And so Peter thinks that he is 10 foot tall. He doesn't have that revelation and he couldn't move on. What I have proven to you is that the authority to bind and loose is related to the revelations of God. When you see you have the authority. When you have knowledge you have the authority. If you know what the word of God says about your rights of healing, you have authority when you pray. When you pray it is different. It won't be like a baby Christian prayer. You must be established by the word. It is not just mental knowledge. You must know it from the very depths of your heart. How do you know whether something is really in your heart? When you become so deeply convicted of it. And you have no more doubts about it. When it's in your mind you still have doubts. When it is a part of you, you don't have any doubt. When it drops into your heart its different. A lot of people see it mentally but they don't have the conviction. You have to meditate on the word until it becomes a part of your life. It's a different thing when you know that the devil is a defeated foe. You know that the enemies you face are disarmed. And tonight when you pray it's different. You pray knowing that God hears.

There are many people going out trying to do spiritual warfare, taking authority over cities and they are getting defeated. And it makes the devil looks so powerful. They are approaching the right battle with the wrong knowledge. It is like going into the battlefield with bows and arrows when you should approaching it with nuclear weapons. Its just like if you switched off the light and someone who is young in the Lord will see any little moving shadows as demons. But when you are

trained in the Lord you are not looking for demons; you are looking for angels. The same manifestation that appears to different people will draw different interpretations. It depends on your knowledge. And that is why when people expect the wrong thing they get the wrong thing. Then when something begins happening, they interpret it the wrong way. What do some people interpret a small little thing happening when they go into territorial warfare? They say that this is a satanic battle because in their hearts they are expecting it. Many people are trained wrongly because they believed wrongly.

Binding and loosing is related to revelation. And Satan is more afraid of what you will know than anything else that you can do, because if you do it out of the right knowledge it defeats him. That is why he tries to prevent knowledge. He tried to prevent Daniel from having the right revelation. Why should the prince of Persia come and stop Gabriel from delivering that message? Do you know why? The moment Daniel understands what the 70 years mean he can pray differently. When you pray differently it is more powerful. That is why every new truth that comes in the body of Christ has always been fought tooth and nail. He used religious people to go against the word of God. He uses everything he can to destroy truth. Because he is afraid that people will come to know the truth. Martin Luther first brought forth the doctrine of justification by faith. He was attacked upside down. The first few people who believe that you could be saved by grace were all killed before they could tell others. The church of those days kills those people. But when just one person just got enough time and enough life span to write and publish it, Christians came to know about justification by faith. The truth just set them free. Martin Luther didn't do any mapping. Martin Luther just preaches the truth that was revealed to him. He struggles for his whole life to find this one truth: the just shall live by faith. When he got that one revelation, he broke the chains of cities, of nations and the reformation period began. It is the truth that set us free.

God's word is like a laser sword. No matter how great the bondage just one word from the Lord is enough to cut spirit and soul loose and to cut bondages off. Let's not underestimate the power of the word. When the Pentecostal Movement first started many people were running it down, saying that this is the last deception of Satan. It is not the deception of the devil; it is the move of God. In the realm of the devil we need to see that he is a defeated foe. And sometime you got to believe even against natural facts. When you break through those realms then you know it

can be done. Matt. 18 is the other verse of binding and loosing. Matt. 18:18-19 *Truly, I say to you whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by Father.* You know what the binding and loosing is related to. In verse 19 the power of agreement. When the church gathers together and they agree on something, that's it. When two agree or three agree on something, that's it. That is the power of agreement.