



TOPIC No4

“WHAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN A HEALING MINISTRY?”

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INTRODUCTION

“Spiritual Warfare!”

“Sounds scary. I have no desire to be caught up in that sort of yucky stuff.”

That might be our initial reaction when first hearing about the concept of spiritual warfare. The term seems to carry with it many disturbing connotations.

For example in spiritual warfare isn't there a lot said about light and darkness, bondage and freedom, Satan as the ruler of the world and didn't Jesus death on the cross do something about it?

The problem is that none of us can be detached from spiritual warfare. We are already in it whether we like it or not.

The great encouragement is that as we learn more about spiritual warfare we learn more about why the world is as it is. We learn why it is that people behave in such abominable ways towards one another. It is especially necessary to understand spiritual warfare when Christians throughout the world are undergoing the strongest persecution that has ever faced them in human history. It seems as though the powers of darkness are rampant throughout the whole world.

We can play our part in bringing more healing into the world as we understand how spiritual warfare affects us personally and how we can walk in a greater degree of freedom than we have known before.

It might amaze us to know that we as believers can make a difference. We can pray that the powers of darkness are rolled back and that people are set free of demonic bondages.

It is a great privilege in ministering to other people to realise that we can help make a difference in their lives as well. There are many people in our community whose minds are blinded to the truth of the gospel and who need the Lord to open their spiritual eyes so that they may see.

There are also many others in our community who in some way or other are in bondage to the powers of darkness. Many have been deceived through the lies of the enemy and are unaware how the enemy has deceived them.

In this study therefore we look at the nature of spiritual warfare and how we can live in victory through the cross of Christ. We also learn how we can help other people come out of bondage into the glorious freedom which is theirs in Christ.

QUESTION 1). WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

The concept of Spiritual warfare arises from the recognition that there are forces of evil in the world opposed to God and to the people He has created in His image. We see that opposition even in Genesis where the serpent tried to seduce Eve into rebelling against her creator God.

We see that serpent identified as Satan in these verses, Rev 12:9 *“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”* And in Rev 20:2 *“And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”* There are 18 references to “Satan” in the Old Testament and another 36 references to Satan in the New Testament.

But Satan is also called by other names such as those in the passages from Revelation above, namely *“devil”* and *“deceiver of the whole world”*. He is also seen to have his angels. Other terms are used to describe him in the New Testament. Many of them express different aspects of his nature. For example, the Accuser, Tempter, Father of lies, Adversary, Deceiver, Enemy, Beelzebub, Belial, Murderer and the Evil One.

Spiritual warfare then has two aspects. One is defensive in seeking to provide protection against Satan and his angels, demons or evil spirits.

The other is offensive in the sense of exercising the authority Christ has given to His people, over the powers of darkness in all their forms and in setting captives free.

QUESTION 2). WHAT EFFECT DOES SATAN HAVE ON HUMANS TODAY?

Satan can attack humans in the following ways:-

A). THE MIND

1). Satan attacks humans by feeding accusing thoughts into their minds

- *Zec 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. (Satan is the one who accuses. (Here “Satan” and “accuse” are the noun and verb forms of the same word. In the Greek Old Testament version (LXX) “Satan” = diabolos = devil = accuser.)*
- *Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God". (Here again the noun “accuser” and the verb “accuses” are from the same word kategoreo.)*
“Accuser” is what he is by name, and “accuse” is what he does by nature.

2). Blinds the minds of unbelievers

- *2 Cor 4:4 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 image of God. Satan as the god of this world prevents unbelievers from understanding and responding to the gospel. They remain in spiritual darkness rather than coming into the light of Christ.*
- *1Jn 2:11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. It is true that unbelievers who walk in the darkness cannot love others as those in the light are able to do. Satan’s hold remains on them.*

3). Deceives humans

- Satan deceived Eve by sowing doubt in her mind about what God said, *Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"*
- He deceived Eve by getting her to doubt God’s motivations in what He said, *4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* Satan’s words were a lie. Eve would die spiritually if she were to eat of the forbidden fruit. But his words were seducing in the sense that if she were

to eat, she would be like God. She did eat. She did come to know good and evil. She did die spiritually.

- Deceitful spirits. *1Tim 4:1* “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.” Evil spirits can deceive and lead people away from the truth.
- Deceiver and AntiChrist. *2 Jn 1:7* “For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.” One of the characteristic teachings of false teachers is to deny the incarnation of Christ. Such false teachers under the influence of deceiving spirits are opposed to Christ.
- Deceiver of the whole world. *Rev 12:9* *And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*
- Satan seeks to deceive those who are perishing. *2Thess 2:9* *The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

4). Satan Is Characterised By Lies

Jesus said to some Jews who were opposing Him, *Joh 8:44* *You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Ananias chose to lie to the apostles but he was found out. Peter rebuked him saying, *Acts 5:3* *"Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"* Satan was able to persuade Ananias to lie.

5). Tempts humans

- He tempted King David to take a census. *1 Chron. 21:1* *Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.*
- *Matt. 4:1-9* Temptations of Jesus in the wilderness. He tempted Jesus to satisfy a legitimate need for food in an illegitimate way. He then tempted Him to put God to the test by jumping from the temple and thereby forcing God to rescue Him. The third temptation was to rule the world by submitting to Satan. Each temptation Jesus rejected by appealing to the word of God.
- He tempted Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. *John 13:2*, “ *During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ... 27 Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to*

him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." The decision to go ahead with the betrayal meant that Judas came under Satanic power.

He can use human instruments to tempt

- Peter tempted Jesus to by-pass the cross. *Mat 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." Jesus rebuked him saying, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." Mat 16:23.* Peter had acted as a mouth-piece for Satan in this temptation.

6). Satan entices humans to form strongholds (or wrong patterns of thinking) in their minds.

2Cor 10:3 "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." The strongholds seem to consist of truths that are contrary to God's revelation of Himself in His word. As such they prevent people from coming to a true knowledge of God. However God is able to destroy those strongholds in our minds. The preventative course is to present every thought we have to Christ to allow Him to rule on its authenticity or otherwise.

B). PHYSICAL ATTACK DIRECTLY OR THROUGH FELLOW HUMANS

Afflicts physically. Luke 13:16 "And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

Causes some believers to be imprisoned. Rev 2:10 "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Has the power of death. Heb 2:14 "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil."

He Harasses (perhaps through persecution), *2Cor 12:7 "So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited."* The word for "angel" (aggelosis) or angelos is used for human and celestial beings and seems to refer to personal harassment.

C). SEEKS TO OPPOSE AND HINDER THE WORK OF GOD

Hinders Christian ministry.

Jesus spoke about Satan as the enemy who stops the seed of the gospel from taking root as it is preached. Mat 13:37 *He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. And in Mar 4:15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.*

Satan hindered Paul from going to Thessalonica, 1Thess 2:18 *"because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us."* We are not told how they were affected but it seems they were.

Satan and his servants seek to disguise themselves, 2 Cor. 11:14,15 *"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds."*

Satan will be responsible for the coming of the lawless one, 2 Thess. 2:8-10 *"and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders."*

D). HE RULES OVER THIS WORLD

The devil wanted Jesus to worship him, Mat 4:8 *Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."*

Jesus described Satan as the ruler of the world in these verses,

- *John 12:30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."*
- *John 14:30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me,*
- *John 16:11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

Paul wrote about spiritual warfare in terms of standing against Satan and the powers of darkness in Eph 6:11-12, “put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes (methodeia) of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” The believer is to stand in the victory that Christ accomplished on the cross. But he still needs God’s armor for the battle.

QUESTION 3). HOW CAN WE HELP PEOPLE BECOME FREE FROM SATAN'S CONTROL OVER THEM?

We help them by reminding them of the resources they have in Christ and by encouraging them to obey what He has commanded.

1). PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF GOD. Eph 6:10-18

Looking To The Lord For Strength. (10) “*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*”

Note: Three power words are used in this one verse. (be strong = endunamoō. Strength = kratos = might, dominion. Might = ischus, meaning power or ability). Paul prayed for his readers in Ephesus that they might know, Eph 1:19 “*what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.*”

Paul used some of the same words for power in both chapters, namely “power” is dunamis; “great” = kratos and might = ischus). Having prayed for the Ephesians to know God’s strength in their lives, he now encourages them to take a stand relying on that strength. In other words there comes a time when we have to act in faith on the resources we have in Christ. The victory is won in His strength, not ours.

Putting On The Armor Of God. (11-18)

(11) *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.* Note: “schemes” = *methodeia*). *I.e., methods, strategies, trickery.* Satan has strategies in place to bring down believers. But God can protect us as we put on the armor He has provided for us. But first we need to know who the enemy is. Paul now tells us.

Recognising The Enemies Behind The People. (12) *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* Our fellow humans may be Satan’s willing or unwitting accomplices. But behind them are the spiritual forces of evil at work in the world.

Putting On All The Armor. (13) *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

Note: We are to stand in the victory that Christ won on the cross when He disarmed the principalities and powers, Col 2:15. We don’t stand relying on our own wisdom or strength. However we need the whole armor and not just some of it.

The Specific Parts Of The Armor. (14) *“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness”.*

Note: Truth is the belt that binds everything together. The breastplate of righteousness is the imputed righteousness or the quality of living imparted by the Holy Spirit who reproduces that righteousness in and through believers.

Preparation For The Fight. (15) *and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.*

Note: Standing on the truth prepares believers for experiencing and sharing the peace that the gospel brings.

Being Prepared At All Times Is Necessary For Victory. (16) *In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;*

Note: The large shield of faith provides complete protection against “*all the flaming darts of the evil one.*” The accusations are like fiery darts but are extinguished as they strike the shield and not the believer.

The Mind Needs To Be Protected At All Times. (17) *“and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

Note: The helmet covers the head, the mind, and is part of God’s salvation to guard against lies and deceptions and accusations.

The sword of the Spirit . This is a defensive weapon in that it distinguishes between truth and error and can be used to protect the believer from demonic attack or influence.

It is also an offensive weapon in that the truths in the word of God wielded as a sword can tear down strongholds in the individual mind and can protect Christian communities.

Prayer is necessary to maintain closeness in our relationship with God

(abiding in Him) and allowing the Spirit to direct and empower our prayers. (18) *“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication”.* Note:

Tongues may be part of this praying in the Spirit but it may have a more general meaning in terms of being fully open to the Holy Spirit and praying as the Spirit instructs us how to pray and for what to pray.

Perseverance is vital. *“To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints”.* Note: Keeping alert is being open to the Holy Spirit to be able to discern between the spirits and also to be able to pray effectively for the whole body of Christ.

A Summary. In Romans Paul summed up the teaching on spiritual warfare by urging his readers to put on the armor of light and in simple terms to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”. He is the ultimate protection for His people when they are clothed in Him, *Rom 13:12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*” Jesus offers us personal protection.

2). OVERCOMING LIES AND DECEPTION

The antidote to lies and deception is the knowledge and application of the truth. The truth is the revelation of God to humans given in His word (and in the teachings and life of Jesus) so they can know His will and purposes for the world. As Jesus said in John 8:32 *“and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

There are two weapons in the armor of God mentioned above that can be used to overcome lies. One is the “belt of truth” as we bind the revealed truth of God to us like a belt to be able to know and do the will of God.

The other is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:14) which is described as the Word of God. It can be used in defensive warfare as we combat the lies of the enemy with the truth of God’s word. It can also be used offensively in breaking down the strongholds of the enemy as the light of God’s revealed truth dispels the darkness of the lies of the enemy.

3). DEALING WITH ACCUSATIONS

We have seen above in dealing with the armor of God that the shield of faith can be used to overcome the accusations of the enemy, *Eph 6:16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.*

We have seen that “Satan” means the accuser and so does the word “diabolos” for devil. A major part of his strategy is feeding damaging thoughts into the minds of humans. They are in the form of accusations which people think arise from their own thinking. The accusations may be in the form of questioning the spiritual identity of the people. The devil may suggest that a person is unworthy to be called a Christian. Or that they are useless and have nothing to offer. He may highlight things in the past that have not been dealt with adequately. If there are sins in the

past that have not been confessed and forgiveness sought, the devil has legal grounds for bringing those accusations. That is why we need to know that our sins have been confessed and forgiven so the enemy has no grounds for condemnation.

So a very important part of bringing freedom for people who are suffering from accusing or condemning thoughts is to encourage them to be open with God and to confess as sin all the things He shows them to be wrong in their lives. They need to do this by praying sincerely the prayer at the end of Psalm 139 verses 23 and 24. *Psa 139:23 "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"* They need to let God do the searching and the revealing of past sin. It means then that when the enemy comes to accuse, the person knows they have been forgiven by God. He or she can then tell the enemy to be gone.

4). THE TEARING DOWN OF STRONGHOLDS

Strongholds may be patterns of thinking or mindsets that are unhelpful. Paul wrote in *2Cor 10:4*, "*For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*" The word for "stronghold" is only used here in the New Testament. It can mean a physical fortress or something on which people rely, such as a settled pattern of thinking.

Paul goes on in this passage to show that wrong patterns of thinking should be destroyed, 5 "*We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God.*" As light dispels the darkness so truth should expel lies and deceit. The "arguments" and "lofty opinions" mentioned here are ways of thinking that ignore God and ignore true spiritual realities. They are to be rendered null and void through the application of the truth.

Part of this process is gaining control of our thought life. That is why Paul goes on to say, "*take every thought captive to obey Christ.*" Instead of letting the thoughts in our minds get out of control, we are to bring them before the Lord. In doing so we are measuring them in the light of His truth. It means then that the way we think about ourselves, about other people, and about God come under divine scrutiny. In this way we allow Christ to bring our mind under His control so that we are thinking Christianly about all the various areas of life.

5). TRUSTING IN GOD’S PROTECTION. GOD WILL PROTECT US

We can have confidence as the children of God that we live under His protection. Jesus whilst on earth prayed to the Father to protect the children of God, John 17:15 *“I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.”* He was motivated to pray this and God the Father is obviously motivated to answer that prayer.

Jesus still prays for us. Paul wrote in Rom 8:34, *“Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”*

St Paul wrote on the faithfulness of God to protect His own, *2Thess 3:3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.*

The apostle John also reminds us of God’s protection, *1Jn_5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.*

God has given us in Christ all the weapons we need to defend ourselves and to take authority over the powers of darkness.

6). AN UNDERSTANDING OF SATAN’S PURPOSES AND STRATEGIES

As we are engaged in spiritual warfare it is essential that we know how the enemy operates. Paul encourages us by these words in 2Cor 2:11 *“so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.* The point he makes is that we know how Satan works. We know his designs, what he purposes to do and how he proposes to do it.

It is in the word of God, the Bible, that we discover how he works, how Christ has defeated him and how we can share in that victory.

7). LEARNING FROM THOSE WHO HAD VICTORIES IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Even in the New Testament we read of early Christians who were having victories in the spiritual realm. The apostle John wrote in 1 Jn 2:13, *“I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father.”*

The victories came because they knew the Father in a personal relationship. It was through that knowledge they could overcome the evil one. It was also through the knowledge of the word of God that they could have victory, 14 *“I write to you,*

young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one". 1Jn 2:14

Question 4). "How Do You Minister To Someone Who Feels They Have An Evil Spirit Or Are Under Attack From The Evil One?"

This sort of ministry normally needs to be authorised by the leadership of the church. There are many reasons for this and it is to safeguard all those involved. However there are times when the powers of darkness manifest themselves in a person and we need to know what to do when we are confronted with such a situation. (In many cases it only necessary to bind the spirit in the name of Jesus and to leave a deeper deliverance for a later time or for those more experienced in a deliverance ministry.)

For any sort of permanent deliverance to take place or for people to be set free from demonic influence the following is normally required of the person seeking such help.

1). Repentance. The Person Needs To Repent Of All Known Sin

While people continue in sin or refuse to seek God's help for their problem, they are not in a position to receive His healing. They need to repent of their sin and confess it to the Lord. That was the message of the preachers in the New Testament. People needed to repent and believe.

Repentance is not just feeling sorry. It means a new way of thinking about one's life. The Greek word for repentance means a change of mind accompanied by a change in attitude. It means a change of mind about sin and to confess it as such to the Lord. It also means asking for His forgiveness, and seeking His help not to do it again.

2). Renunciation. The person needs to renounce any contact they may have had with the powers of darkness. It may have been through the occult or through aspects of the New Age Movement. They should renounce especially any "supernatural abilities" they may have picked up through the contact with the powers of darkness, especially "gifts" like clairvoyance and psychic control. These powers are not of God and should be renounced and entertained no longer in the life of the believer. (Renounce means to give up any right to something. So a person who has received a "gift" of clairvoyance or some other gift has to say "I want nothing more to do with it!" and be willing to be prayed over for its removal.)

3). Belief in Jesus. The person needs to receive Christ as Saviour

Only then can they experience true forgiveness and only then can they receive an empowering in the lives to live for Him.

It means that when Christ comes into their lives they become “a new creature” in Him. They receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of eternal life.

4). Total commitment to Jesus as Lord

They need to give their lives to Jesus and to embrace him as Lord of every part. He has to become number one in every part of their lives because all God’s purposes are centred on Him. Paul says in Ephesians to give no foothold to the devil. (Eph 4:26 *“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.”*) While any part of a person’s life is not submitted to Christ, a foothold exists for the enemy to continue to control that person in that area.

A vital part of this total commitment is the willingness to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

5). A Willingness to be Filled with the Holy Spirit. Eph 5:18

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not an optional extra for some Christians. It is God’s command to all believers, *Eph 5:18 “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit.”* We receive this infilling as we offer every area of our life and personality to the Lord and ask him to fill us with His presence.

In doing so we open ourselves to receive all that God has for us and we become more equipped to be able to live for Him and to serve Him.

Therefore in ministering to other people it means that they should be willing to do these five things in order to be set free from the powers of darkness and to become open to the power of God.

For those who have the authority to minister deliverance there are some factors to keep in mind.

- i). The person wanting help must be willing to do the five things mentioned above.
- ii). The victory over the powers of darkness has been won on the cross. As Colossians 2:15 puts it, *“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”*
- iii). In ministering to people we are not trying to win the victory over the powers of darkness, but to proclaim that victory and to apply it to the person.

iv). In ministry you are only able to go as far as a person will allow you to do so. If they don't want to go any further in this ministry, then it is unwise to go ahead. You can praise God for the victories that have been already won and leave the rest of the ministry for another time.

v). One needs to pray for protection for the person who was ministered to because the enemy does not want to give up "territory" it once occupied. So we can pray that God would put a "hedge of protection" about them to ensure their safety. We also need to pray for safety to those who are engaged in ministry.

vi). We need to cover those whom we have prayed for with on-going prayer support. The enemy doesn't like it one little bit if he thinks he is losing one of his own.

vii). We need to be non-judgmental with people regarding how quickly they are progressing as we minister to them over a period of time. If we were to understand the negativity towards Jesus that some people encounter day by day in their homes, we would realise that it is a miracle that they may make any progress at all. Some may even face physical or verbal abuse for even venturing to get help from a church or healing ministry. So our approach is to be softly, softly, gently, gently, lovingly, lovingly as we try to bring God's healing into their lives.