

Forward In Faith Into 2025.

*A message exploring how we should approach living in this new year of 2025
A message concerning the spiritual battle that is ongoing and nearing its climax*

Headings

- It is a Spiritual Battle
- A Word About Warfare
- The Keys of the Kingdom – Authority and Power
- Authority / Power / Encouragement

It is a Spiritual Battle

- **We Must Recognise That We Are In A Spiritual Battle – in 2025 (as every year)**
 - **We cannot just retreat into our hiding place**
 - It's what the enemy wants – timid and silent saints
 - But the Lord sends us forth – we are to be witnesses just like the first disciples
 - “***But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.***” ***Acts 1: 8***
 - **We are Empowered – by the Holy Spirit – Indwelling Us – Leading Us**
 - **We are Sent to be Witnesses – not just ‘witnessing’ but being witnesses (our very nature and character in the Lord)**
 - **There is a battle – for the nation; and for our relatives, friends and neighbours**
 - When a Nation Rejects God (as ours has done) – there is judgment...but also mercy if we turn back to the Lord
 - For Friends, Relatives and Neighbours (those amongst whom we live) – there is a battle to release them from the enemy's grip... and into the kingdom of God
 - **There is a danger that saints will, in what are clearly the last days, just focus on the Lord and His coming soon – and will cease to engage in this spiritual battle**
 - The Lord's coming for His bride is our great hope and expectation
 - But there is still a spiritual battle in which we have a part to play

- **When the Enemy Comes In Like A Flood**

*So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; **when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.*** ***Isaiah 59: 19***

- **This verse speaks of the Lord's coming to His people – ‘The Redeemer will come to Zion’ (v. 20)**
 - **But there is a principle here – when the enemy is fierce and strong...the Lord raises up a standard against him**
 - **It is not us who are the ‘standard’ but the Holy Spirit in us and working through us!**
 - It is the Holy Spirit who is the power to defeat the enemy's wiles
 - We need not be afraid – see Galatians 5: 22 (the Fruit of the Spirit)
- **It is the same for this Nation – and for us as we go forward in faith into 2025**
 - **The UK is Under Judgement – as Hanani warned Jeremiah, the city and the nation are wide open to the enemy – and there is a spiritual battle to be waged**

*‘And they said to me, “**The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire.**”* **Nehemiah 1: 3**

- Gates are there to protect the people, and the wall is a place to stand and guard the city – but when gates are burnt down and the wall has been broken down there is nothing to stop the enemy from flooding in
 - No-one could resist the enemy from freely walking in and capturing the people
 - **There is very little protection for the people of this nation; the spiritual gates have been pulled down and broken**
 - **The enemy has flooded in with his idolatry, occultism, immoral filth and perversions**
 - There is no resistance as a national family or body in the nation
 - **Where is the church’s voice warning the nation to resist the ongoing evil power?**
 - **There is only a whisper speaking to the ruling authorities, natural or spiritual**
- **The Enemy is Building his own Wall, to Defend his Territory**
 - **He is building his end time temple for his Humanistic Worship**
 - **He has named it and claimed it – the RSVP has been given and people have listened**
 - **His ‘elders’, working at the gates, are to let in more idolatry and occultism**
 - **The ‘spirit’ of the New Age, New World Order, Great Reset, Bilderbergers, UN, EU, etc is building a wall - to keep the populace in spiritual ignorance – and to contain the Christian faith; to hold it, to manipulate it and control it**
 - **But: The Gates of Hell will not Stand or Prevail**

*‘And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.***

Matthew 16: 18

- **Gates of Doubt are being built in a Wall of Unbelief by the evil one:**
 - He builds his walls to hold people in, captured to make ready for hell
 - He desires to put his character in his people in the wall; creating his evil temple
- **The Work of the Kingdom:**
 - We have to destroy the enemy’s wall and temple and build God’s Spiritual temple
 - Work of the Kingdom of God is to pull down and to destroy the works of the Devil
 - A wall of resistance is to be set up, an ongoing work of the Lord’s Prayer warriors – praying for the building of the kingdom, and resisting the enemy also
- **The Rock on which the Kingdom is built is Witness to Yeshua**

*He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**” Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”* **Matthew 16: 15-16**

- **Peter’s testimony of who Yeshua is - is the foundation of the Church (His Body / His Kingdom)**
- **There is a Wall of Unbelief holding back many of the Christian warriors – we must be strong in the Lord, and in His might we fight (Ephesians 6: 10-18)**

- The Spiritual Wall of Prayer is a defence to protect the people
 - In Our Spiritual Life – we should be creating the wall of faith
 - Where it is weak – it is to be built again

- The Work of Building is in the Conduct of God’s People
 - We Build with a Sword in our Hand (the Sword of the Spirit)
 - Our conduct, the way we live, carries the power to fight – through the character of the Father and the Son in us

- The Warfare is the Conflict in the Spiritual Realm
 - Only Conflict leads to the Place of Victory and Security for the people
 - No fight, No win

A Word About Warfare

- Faith is a Confrontational Work
 - Jesus sent His disciples to do the same as He did
 - The whole gospel is ‘go and do’ – but from a place of being, in Christ
 - Humility hears what Truth proclaims – Truth transforms us into His way of living

- We do not war according to the flesh – our weapons are divinely powerful

*‘For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God** for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.’*

2 Corinthians 10: 3

- Human ingenuity, worldly wisdom, or clever methodologies are impotent weapons, powerless to free souls from forces of darkness and bring them to maturity in Christ

- Driving out the unclean and the demonic is part of the work of the Kingdom of God

*‘And **when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.**’*

Matthew 10: 1

- The work of the church (His body) is the same as that of Yeshua and the first Disciples
 - The Work and Power to do it flows - from Head to Body
 - In Oneness with Yeshua and each other is great strength

- Some in the church will oppose entering into warfare
 - But if our friends and relations, and the nation, are to come into a saving faith in Yeshua – there is a spiritual battle to be fought
 - As we have seen – the spiritual battle is waged in the power of the Lord, by the Holy Spirit and under His guiding and direction

- **Our Mission** – is to set people free; to lead them to forgiveness of sins; and to destroy the works of the evil one - as it was for the disciples in Yeshua’s day

*‘And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, **He gave them power** over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.’*

Matthew 10: 1

*‘And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”***

John 20: 22-23

*‘He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.***

1 John 3: 8

- **We are commanded to establish the Kingdom of God here in the world** – and we rule because our Head is in heaven, far above any other Name
 - **We are to take God’s revealed will and establish it in the earth, to bind what is not God’s will and to loose that which is**
 - **Simon Peter learned this from Yeshua** – based on his confession of faith

*‘Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Matthew 16: 16-19

The Keys of the Kingdom – Authority and Power

- **Definitions**
 - **Authority** – The Right to Rule
 - **Power** – The Ability to Act
- **Authority is Vested in Yeshua**

*‘And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore** and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always**, even to the end of the age.” Amen.’*

Matthew 28: 18-20

*‘And **what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.’*

Ephesians 1: 19-22

- **He is the One with Authority**
 - All Authority in heaven and earth...spiritual authority with an impact

- **He Delegates this Authority**
 - Sometimes for a season (gifts to people)
 - Sometimes for a specific purpose or act
 - Sometimes more generally...
- **Always – exercising His Authority is in Submission to Him**
 - Remember Samson who was unaware the Spirit had left him

- **We are to be Under Authority**
 - **The Example of the Centurion**

*“The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. **For I also am a man under authority**, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”*

*When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” **Matthew 8: 8-10***

- He understood authority
 - ‘I am a man under authority’ – Am I? – Are You? – Are We???
 - ‘Under authority’ – commands will be carried out
 - This is a good lesson for us
 - **Yeshua was amazed!!!**
 - No one in Israel grasped this!
 - Few in the Church grasp this!!
- **Submission is the Key to Authority**
 - **Always acting, praying and thinking under Yeshua’s headship and authority**
 - **Practising such submission is the key to having authority in praying and speaking (witnessing) to those the Lord points us to**

- **Power Unlimited**

*“Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” But He said to them, “**Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?**” Then **He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.** So the men marvelled, saying, “Who can this be, that **even the winds and the sea obey Him?**”” **Matthew 8: 23-27***

- **How much power has Jesus got?**
- **Yeshua is not worried by the storm – so don’t be fearful**
- **He rebukes nature (a demonic storm)**

*“**Having disarmed principalities and powers**, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” **Colossians 2: 16***

- **He stripped the demonic of their weapons of power**
- **He has already triumphed...the demonic is a defeated foe**

*“(Jesus Christ) who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and **authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.**” **1 Peter 3: 22***

- **Note the Position of our Head – Far Above All**

- **Power Delegated**

- **Yeshua Sends Out the Disciples**

‘And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.’

Matthew 10: 1

- **Note how Yeshua sends out His Disciples**

- Instructions are given
 - Power is delegated...to cast out unclean spirits, and to heal

- **Sending Out the Seventy**

See Luke 10: 1-24

‘After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.’

Luke 10: 1

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

Luke 10: 17-20

- Yeshua rejoices at the result (Satan falling)
 - Our reason to rejoice
 - Not that the spirits submit (it was not our power)
 - But that our names are written in heaven (in the Lamb’s book of life)

- **Power over Demonic**

‘When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

*Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.” **And He said to them, “Go.”** So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.’*

Matthew 8: 28-32

- **Yeshua has Power over the Demonic**

- That power is delegated
 - Praise God – because we know that the battle is ‘spiritual’, the opposition is spiritual
 - Note how short is the prayer Yeshua prays – it is a command...‘Go!’

- **Power is God-Centred**

*‘Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.** For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel”’.*

John 5: 19-20

- **Even for Yeshua...He only did what the Father was doing**
 - The antidote to ‘gung-ho’ spiritual warfare
 - Discernment is vital – so pray for more discernment
 - The Father shows the Son what He is doing
 - The Spirit will show us what the Lord is doing

*“But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”*
John 14: 26

*“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, **for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**”*
John 15: 15

*“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, **the Spirit of truth**, has come, He **will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He **will tell you things to come**. He **will glorify Me**, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”*
John 16: 12-14

Authority – Power – Encouragement

- **Authority Without Power is Impotent**
 - There are too many ‘powerless saints’
 - Fleshly activity often masquerades as spiritual authority in the church today
 - Abiding is the key (see *John 15*) to authority with power
- **Power Without Authority is Corrupt**
 - Such power it is Controlling and Destructive
 - There are many false prophets and false teachers without authority from the Lord
 - They are operating in / under another spirit
 - There many ministries which ‘go to seed’ through exercising power without authority – such ministries often have demonic roots
- **What Measure of Authority is Yours?**
 - We have victory in our personal lives, to the degree of authority and power we have taken – it is not automatic!
 - Authority is to be taken, in faith, by trust in Yeshua – led by the Holy Spirit
 - We have to have a knowledge and discernment of the will of God in every situation – this is a key to having authority with power
 - We are to tear down every lofty thing that raises itself above the Lord
 - We are to fight for our nation and for our relatives, friends and neighbours
 - We are to bind the works of the enemy and loose people from his power
- **Encouragement**
 - Recognise that as believers we are in a spiritual battle
 - Be encouraged to stand and withstand – both individually and together
 - Go forward to fight and to win
 - Do all things resting in His Power and under His Authority
 - Encourage each other as we go forward in faith in 2025
 - Let us ‘be witnesses’ of our Lord and Saviour, Yeshua

Closing Prayer

‘Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.’

Ephesians 6: 10-18