

XLII. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
LESSON FORTY-TWO
...ABOUT SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson we will look at another aspect of Spiritual Warfare, which is, **SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE.**

These captives which are to be set free are prisoners of the devil/satan. They are in satan's labor camp, being forced, as slaves to do his bidding. They are in chains of bondage, and there is nothing they can do about it.

II Corinthians 4:3-4 reveals the nature, purpose and results of this bondage and also, identifies the chains which hold them in bondage.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

From the above Scripture answer these questions.

What is the nature of this bondage?

What is the identity of the chains?

What is the purpose of the bondage?

What is the results of being in bondage?

Conclusions: From the above Scripture we understand the minds of the captives have been blinded by satan, the prince of this world. This means their minds are closed/shutoff to receiving the gospel which is able to set them free. The chain that holds them fast is unbelief, that is to say, their minds have been preconditioned by satan - brainwashed to reject as foolishness , fantasy, improbable, impossible, or an outright lie, the gospel of Jesus Christ. This unbelief is so strong that the message of the gospel cannot penetrate/shine unto them. They are lost and there is **NOTHING** they can do about their condition.

Spiritual Warfare for purpose of setting the captives/lost free, involves using the Keys of the Kingdom (Matthew 16:19) to:

1. bind the strong-man of the house;
2. loose the chains of bondage;
3. preach the gospel to the saving of the lost; and
4. disciple (teach).

SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

In-order to set the captives free our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the Keys of the Kingdom.

Matthew 16:19, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven..."

These Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven are seen in operation in the Book of Acts, chapter 4, verses 23-31 (29-31). They are:

- verse 29
- verse 30
- verse 31
- verse 31

Conclusions: These four keys are linked together in operation IN PRAYER. As we PRAY the WORD in the NAME OF JESUS, the HOLY SPIRIT ANOINTS the WORD with POWER which will then unlock the minds of the captives/lost, so that, the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ might set them free.

BINDING AND LOOSENING

The first step in the process of setting the captives free is seen in these Scriptures. What is that first step?

Matthew 12:29

Psalm 149:8

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that before the captives can be set free; before your can take the strong man's property he (the strong man) must be bound.

The authority for Binding the strong man of the house and Loosening the captives/lost is seen in the following Scriptures.

Matthew 16:19

Matthew 10:7-8

Mark 13:34

Mark 16:17-18.

Luke 10:19

John 14:12

Matthew 4:23-24

Luke 13:11-16

Philippians 2:9-10

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that part of the total ministry of Jesus before His ascension was that of loosening those whom Satan had bound. Jesus, in-order to continue setting the captives/lost free while He is away, gave His followers instructions to continue doing the things He was doing (setting the captives free) and gave them the authority to use His Name to carry out those instructions.

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

The purpose of binding the strong men, in-order to loose the captives from bondage/chains of unbelief is for the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to shine unto them, since it is the Gospel that saves/delivers.

Romans 10:17

Romans 1:15-16

1 Corinthians 1:18,21

Acts 8:25,35

Conclusions: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is the power of God for the saving/delivering/setting free of those who are imprisoned with chains of unbelief.

What is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ?

2 Corinthians 5:19

Isaiah 53:6-7

John 1:29,36

1 John 2:2

Romans 4:25

Isaiah 53:11

John 3:16

Acts 16:30-31

Romans 6:23

Ephesians 2:8-9

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that the Gospel is the message/good news that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto

Himself. This reconciliation was accomplished through the sacrificial death of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as the Lamb of God. Jesus was/is the propitiation (appeasement, expiation) of the sins of the whole world. Then God raised Him (Jesus) from the grave as a testimony that the wages of sin had been paid and therefore, whosoever by faith receives Jesus Christ as their Savior would receive the GIFT of eternal life.

MAKING DISCIPLES OF THOSE SET FREE

A very important part of Spiritual Warfare is making disciples of those whom God in Christ, through the Gospel has set free, so that, they might stay free. This aspect of Spiritual Warfare is seen in the Great Commission and in other Scriptures.

Matthew 28:20

Luke 24:47-49

2 Timothy 2:25-26

Hebrews 5:11-6:2

Colossians 2:7

Matthew 7:24-27

Luke 6:46-49

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that those who have been set free from the chains of bondage, in-order to stay free, need to be taught/grounded in the principles of God, so that, they will have the ability to:

- discern between good and evil,
- deliver themselves from the trap of satan through repentance, and

have the ability through the Holy Spirit to order the course their lives according to the ways of God.