

5 THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY OVER SATAN

KOUKA: DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL SPIRITS

One day a man called Kouka went to the market and met some of his friends. They decided to go and drink beer. As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly Kouka's laughter stopped and a look of despair came over him. Kouka became angry and extremely violent. An evil spirit had entered into him.

His father began searching for a witchdoctor who would have strong enough charms to drive out the evil spirit. All the charms the family tried seemed ineffective. Kouka's family finally gave up in despair. They cut down a tree to make a stock, as the custom is in their village for those who become violently insane. They bore holes in the tree trunk and fastened Kouka's feet through the holes in the tree. Then they forced him to sit on the ground. He sat under a straw shelter for six months with his legs fastened securely. He often raved and fought to try to free himself only to drop repeatedly to the ground in exhaustion.

Kouka's father soon became tired of taking care of him and decided to take him to a friend. The friend had offered to help because he was sure he could find a powerful charm to set Kouka free.

Kouka was led with a rope around his neck to his friend's village. His feet were again put in stocks, and he was forced to sit under a small grass shelter. However, the shelter did not block the rain. So like a beast of the field, he squatted on the ground while the rain poured upon him. The people spread many kinds of mixtures on his body and gave him foul smelling liquids to drink. They would beat him severely when he refused to eat and drink what they gave him.

Then one day a preacher came to the village where Kouka was bound. The preacher was a follower of Jesus. He told those who were taking care of Kouka that he would pray for him and ask God to deliver him. But first, they needed to remove all the fetishes that had been attached

to Kouka's body. A fierce battle started when the fetishes were removed and the preacher began to pray. The evil spirit did not want to leave, so the preacher and other followers of Jesus continued to pray for Kouka for several days. They commanded the evil spirit to leave in Jesus' name. Finally, Kouka was completely set free from the evil spirits, and his mind was restored. Then the preacher taught him about Jesus. Kouka repented of his sins and received Jesus as his Savior. His life was miraculously changed, and he became a follower of Jesus.

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL STUDY:

- The authority of Jesus over Satan and evil spirits
 - The power of Jesus' name
 - Spiritual weapons to defeat Satan
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THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS OVER SATAN AND EVIL SPIRITS

This amazing story about Kouka's deliverance from evil spirits causes us to wonder. How did the preacher receive such authority that he was able to see Kouka completely set free? Many people tried to help him. They wanted to see him set free, but all their efforts failed. Sadly, they inflicted Kouka with a lot of pain and suffering as they made many fruitless attempts to help him. The witchdoctors could not deliver him because they have no authority over Satan. They themselves are controlled by evil spirits because they do the work of Satan.

But Jesus has complete authority over Satan and all his demons. When Jesus was here on earth, demons feared Him. There is a story in the Holy Bible about the authority Jesus has over evil spirits. Jesus had crossed a lake in a boat and was met by two men who were possessed by evil spirits.

Jesus has complete authority over Satan and all his demons.

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him.

They were so violent that no one could pass that way. “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.” He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. (Matthew 8:28–34)

The demons were afraid that Jesus had come to judge them and cast them into hell.

The two men were driven by the demons to live in the tombs. Everyone was afraid of them because they were so violent. But when they came into contact with Jesus, they were afraid of Him! The demons were afraid that Jesus had come to judge them and cast them into hell.

They begged Him not to destroy them but to let them enter into a herd of pigs. Jesus allowed them to enter the pigs, and when they did the whole herd ran off a cliff and drowned in the water because they were tormented by the demons.

THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME

There is great power in the name of Jesus. Demons and Satan himself must flee at the command given in the powerful name of the Lord Jesus Christ. As followers of Jesus, we can use His name to resist the devil. And when we do, Satan must flee from us. “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

The most powerful name in the universe is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The name of the Lord Jesus Christ is the most powerful name in the universe. His name is exalted above all other names.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every

knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory

of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9–11)

PRAY AND DRIVE OUT DEMONS IN JESUS' NAME

Jesus has given His followers the privilege to pray in His name.

I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. (John 16:23–24)

Jesus has also given us the authority to use His name to drive out evil spirits. “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons” (Mark 16:17).

SPIRITUAL WEAPONS TO DEFEAT SATAN

Jesus rules over all God's creation. He came to establish His kingdom in the hearts of people here on earth. It is Jesus' kingdom of light that overthrows the kingdom of Satan, which is the kingdom of darkness. Each time someone is set free from evil spirits in Jesus' name we see evidence of the kingdom of God defeating the kingdom of Satan.

God gives every follower of Jesus the spiritual weapons of His kingdom to fight against Satan and destroy his works. God's Word says:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, ... the belt of truth ... the breastplate of righteousness ... your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.... take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:10–18)

***Every follower of
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THE BELT OF TRUTH

God has promised the followers of Jesus many wonderful things in His Word, the Holy Bible. God's Word is like a belt of truth around our lives. It protects us and sets us free from Satan's lies. Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31–32).

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

We have the breastplate of righteousness to protect us from evil spirits. Jesus is our righteousness. When we believe in Him and follow Him as our Savior, His righteousness covers us and He declares that we are children of God. We have been purchased with Jesus' own blood when He died on the cross. His righteousness is given to us. We can stand in His righteousness being more than conquerors through Him. The Holy Bible tells us:

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37–39)

FITTED WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

As followers of Jesus, we have our feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. We are always ready through Jesus for every trick of the devil. The good news of the death of Jesus for our sins and His resurrection from the dead gives peace in our hearts. We know that He will never leave us or forsake us. Jesus is always near and when we call on His name, He hears and delivers us. We are ready to face the devil and to overcome him in Jesus' name. The Word of God tells us, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith" (1 Peter 5:8–9).

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

God has given us a shield of faith to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the devil. Satan throws temptations at us. He is the god of this world in that he controls the hearts and minds of wicked people. But through faith in Jesus and through His Word we can overcome Satan and the darkness of this sinful world. We are able through the shield of faith to put out all the flaming arrows that Satan shoots at us.

Through faith in Jesus and His Word we can overcome Satan and the darkness of this sinful world.

Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (1 John 5:4–5)

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

God has given us the helmet of salvation. We are saved through the Lord Jesus Christ—through His death on the Cross and His resurrection from the dead. We are saved from our sins. We are saved from the judgment of hell. We are saved from the devil who wants to destroy us. We are saved from the fear of death. This is why we must confess Jesus as our Savior and Lord. The Holy Bible says:

Romans 10:9–10 explains two things we must do to be saved.

If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, [declared by God to be forgiven], and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

God has given us the Holy Bible. It is the Word of God, and is also referred to as the Sword of the Spirit.

When Jesus walked on earth, He used the Sword of the Spirit to defeat Satan. After His baptism in water, Jesus went into the desert where He

fasted and prayed for 40 days. At the end of this time, Jesus was very hungry so Satan tempted Him. The Word of God tells us:

The tempter [Satan] came to him [Jesus] and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

(Matthew 4:3–4)

Satan tempted Jesus three times, and each time Jesus defeated him with the Word of God. Followers of Jesus can also defeat Satan with the Word of God. As we read and meditate on the Word of God, it becomes our spiritual food. It strengthens our faith and gives us spiritual power. Then we can use it to overcome Satan and all his evil spirits.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

Finally, we overcome Satan by praying in the Spirit. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, God’s Spirit enters our lives and gives us power to live in victory. As we fast and pray, as Jesus did, we can defeat every evil spirit. We can pray through the help of the Holy Spirit, calling on God in Jesus’ name, and this will cause every evil spirit to flee.

If you want to have strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you need to be filled with His Holy Spirit so that you can pray more effectively in the Spirit. If you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will be protected from Satan and all his evil spirits.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I thank You that You died for my sins. I know that in Your name I have power over Satan and all his evil spirits. By faith I want to put on all the spiritual armor You have given me so that I can resist the devil. He must flee from me through the powerful name of Jesus. This is my prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

TO HELP YOU LEARN

Please answer these questions.

1. Who in the following list has authority over Satan and all his demons? (Draw a circle around the correct name.)

Sorcerer

Witchdoctor

Jesus

Shaman

2. Why are demons afraid of Jesus?

3. Which one of the following is not a spiritual weapon for followers of Jesus to use to defeat Satan? (Draw a circle around the one that is not correct.)

Belt of Truth

Helmet of Salvation

Shield of Faith

Faith in a witchdoctor

4. According to Romans 10:8–9, what are the two things we must do to be saved?
