

RESTORED AT THE ROOT

Last Sunday I started a series entitled Spiritual Warfare are you ready for battle. Here in this series I am speaking about warfare internal warfare. I am going to title this Bible Study series Restoring the Root “The enemy in me”

Romans 7:14-16 (GW) I know that God's standards are spiritual, but I have a corrupt nature, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I don't realize what I'm doing. I don't do what I want to do. Instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ I don't do what I want to do, but I agree that God's standards are good.

You can not fix what you can not face!

When you have a problem. In order for the problem to be fix, you ought to be able to face the problem.

If you choose not to face the problem, this would lead to even more problems. Not only would the problem most likely would not fix itself but it would also cause you a lot of unnecessary stress.

In Romans Chapter 7 Paul is showing us that he had a struggle with something. Now what it was we do not know. But it was a struggle that we do know.

We will look more closely at Romans chapter 7 later in this series **RESTORED AT THE ROOT**

Human beings are extremely complex. Our **emotions** are only one aspect of our being, but they are a very important one. Actually, it has been said that emotions are the Christian's number one enemy because they can easily prevent us from following the will of God.

We have thoughts, feelings, imaginations, and desires that reside in a much deeper part of us than what we see in the mirror. The Bible refers to that part as “the hidden person of the heart” (1 Pet. 3: 3- 4).

1 Peter 3:3-4 (CSBBible) Don't let your beauty consist of outward things like elaborate hairstyles and wearing gold jewelry or fine clothes, ⁴ but rather what is inside the heart — the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

This Scripture is not implying that it is wrong to fix your hair, wear jewelry, or have nice clothes. It is saying that if we pay excessive attention to how we look and ignore the hidden person of the heart, God is not pleased. It would be far

better for us to work with the Holy Spirit to improve our thoughts, emotions, attitudes, imaginations, and consciences. If in the eyes of the world a woman is considered beautiful and well-dressed, but she is filled with anger, unforgiveness, guilt, shame, depression, and negative, hateful thoughts, **then she is bankrupt spiritually and unattractive to God.**

The War Within

We often feel like a war is going on within us. Anger, unforgiveness, guilt, shame, depression, and negative thoughts, hateful thoughts. Things that have happen to us along the road of life such as Betrayal, Rejection, Abuse sexually, Abuse Mentally, and Abuse Physically came have a way of controlling our emotions.

These things can cause us to live bound and in a graveyard

Luke 8:26-29 (CSBBible) Then they sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 When he got out on land, a demon-possessed man from the town met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes and did not stay in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torment me!" 29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was guarded, bound by chains and shackles, he would snap the restraints and be driven by the demon into deserted places.

What changed this man's life was Deliverance and it is the same thing that will change yours. We need to have an Encounter with God.

You do not have to remain as one who is without help. Instead, do as the Bible instructs in Hebrews 4: 16 and "come boldly to the throne of grace, that [you] may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." You no longer have to be a victim of your circumstances, but you can be a victor through Christ.

Deliverance is available to you and those connected to you. But conquering the crisis in your life may call for a shift in your strategy. You cannot expect others to do for you what God has empowered you to do for yourself.

The man had to come to the Lord Jesus. The man came expecting help.

Too many believers adopt a strategy of codependence. Our relationship with Christ should shift us to walk in the reality of what He has given us "FREEDOM" Freedom from Anger, unforgiveness, guilt, shame, depression, and negative thoughts, hateful thoughts. Things that have happen to us along the road of life such as Betrayal, Rejection, Abuse sexually, Abuse Mentally, and Abuse Physically freedom from everything that has held us captive.

You've been given authority, so you must walk in it with confidence and declare God's Word over your life and situation. Commit more time to fasting and prayer, and you will experience the results you desire.

You can not fix what you cannot face!

The spirit was so violent, the man constantly broke the shackles. But no matter how many chains he broke, he could never break free of **the internal bondage, the spiritual enslavement this spirit imposed on his life.** Have you ever identified something you felt was causing your turmoil? Such as Anger, unforgiveness, guilt, shame, depression, and negative thoughts, hateful thoughts Betrayal, Rejection, Abuse sexually, Abuse Mentally, and Abuse Physically

You can not fix what you cannot face!

You have a choice let it overcome you or you through the healing power of Gog overcome it.

What we can learn from this man is that **the chains are but a fruit— a seed-bearing manifestation but not the source of the bondage.** To truly break free, we must get down to the root.

Spiritual attacks whether from outside or internal are meant to accomplish spiritual oppression.

What is oppression in simple words?

- A feeling of being tormented.
- The act of crushing by cruelty.
- Mental pressure or distress.
- Prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of wrong authority.

- The state of being subject to cruel treatment.
- The state of being kept down by unjust use of force or authority.

The enemy desires to get the victory over you by forcing you to abandon your mission and purpose in life, overwhelming you to the point you want to withdraw from the fight, and rendering the weapons of your warfare ineffective. All of this is done with the hope of causing you to surrender.

Mitigation

The word **mitigate** means to reduce the severity, seriousness, or pain. Let's be clear: our goal is not to simply lessen the pain of our torment; it is to remove it completely.

We can live in a place and be in a place of **Mitigation** where we can learn to play do the Severity, the seriousness, the painfulness of what we are dealing with and learn to live with it no matter how uncomfortable it is.

Mitigation is hard work. It is not for the faint of heart. This is why so many take the easy route and avoid it. The journey of deliverance is like peeling an onion. Each layer becomes more difficult because each step of the process stimulates a variety of emotions.

Location: We can also not ask an important question "How did I get here"

Interrogation: When we do not question and interview ourselves we will never locate the cause.

Once the hidden is revealed, we may find ourselves going down paths that are unfamiliar as we begin to deal with years of issues that have been lying dormant. This is why it can be difficult for many people who have created certain personas to address their root issues. They fear it might shatter what people have come to believe about them. However, if the discovery never takes place, the case will never be resolved. This unpleasant process must take place to make right the wrongs that have occurred in your life. But you are not going through it alone. Jesus is with you. Demons are not your friends, nor do they play fair. Demons

come to destroy you, and if you are not prepared to handle the demons, they will overtake you.

When the root of the issue(s) is uncovered, that revelation will bring you face to face with the demons behind the spiritual attacks. We need to be equipped to go into a time of warfare with the demons.

Deliverance is risky because it cannot occur without the unraveling of your current situation and past issues. This is what makes the tormented man's encounter with Jesus so timely and remarkable.

Jesus got out of the boat; He was immediately met by the man from the tombs. The compassion of Jesus made it all but certain that this man would not remain in the situation another day. You cannot be in the presence of Jesus and remain the same. **His presence is transformative.**

Jesus' mission was clear from the beginning when He publicly read the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue, stating in Luke 4: 18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (KJV). Jesus was sent to the earth to bring transformation to the areas in your life that are riddled with torment because of demonic instigation. Jesus came to establish peace in the places that are chaotic. But peace is often won through struggle.

Spiritual Warfare are you ready for battle.

The Bible says that when the man saw Jesus afar off, he cried out. His crying out exposed the duality of his existence. One part of him was controlled by the demon, and another part of him protested the oppression. When the protest part of us gets stronger than the controlled part of us, we cry out for help. Crying out manifests in a variety of ways. The man's cries were audible, but some cries are not. Some people cry out and never make a sound. Their crying has become behavioral.

Because demons have no spiritual power over the Spirit of God, they want to avoid contact with the Deliverer, Jesus. Demons want to maintain control of their territory, and Jesus' presence threatens a demon's ability to continue to oppress a person's life.

The attempt to tame a demon is simply another strategy people use to manage a life filled with spiritual torment. But freedom is possible. **You must decide today if you want management or a miracle.** The spirit you are dealing with is counting on you to give it a leash instead of an eviction notice. It knows it cannot be tamed, so as long as it is allowed to maintain residence, it can still execute its destructive agenda.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

1. Are there issues plaguing your life that you don't even want to think about? If the answer is yes, make a list of the issues you would rather avoid, and in one sentence state why you have refused to face what needs to be fixed.
2. What has been your greatest spiritual attack? What was happening in your life before the attack?
3. Have you ever engaged in the process of discovery while going through a spiritual attack? If so, what did you learn about the demons you were fighting?
4. What have you gleaned from past spiritual attacks that you can use to help others?
5. How can you make your environment a safe space for those around you who are crying out because they are in a state of torment?