

Purpose and Dynamics of Spiritual Warfare Introduction Flow Chart

By His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus terminated the authority the enemy had over God's people by virtue of the agreement Adam and Eve, the parents of mankind, entered into with him in the garden. (Of course, this nullification only applies to truly born again believers. Satan retains full authority over nonbelievers.) The authority held by Satan that Jesus nullified had passed by descendancy (inheritance) to the entire family line of mankind. With that authority broken, the only way Satan can gain new authority over a born again believer (i.e., a son or daughter of God) is by trading with the believer – i.e., by express or implied agreement (most commonly through sin) – or by the express permission of God (as in the case of Job). This act by Jesus was the most “spiritually violent” warfare act in the history of the creation and was a devastating defeat to the entire dark spirit realm. Matthew 11:12; Colossians 2:13-15. However, it is important to remember that Jesus did not take the dark spirits' power, only their authority over God's true people.



The nullification of the authority previously held by Satan opened the door for believers to be able to access their inheritance, other rights and property from God but it did not hand over to them the fullness of those things. They must be obtained through maturity and co-laboring, including in kingdom warfare, with God. *There is a cost to becoming. God is not running a grace welfare state where all things are free.* This fact and the fact that while Jesus “stripped” (in the original Greek) dark spirits of authority over born again believers they still have their powers is clearly illustrated in His parable of the strong man: “But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property *unless he first binds the strong man*, and then he will plunder his house.” Mark 3:27 NASB. And: “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever *you bind* on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever *you loose* on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:19 NASB. After Jesus died, he descended into Hades and took the keys of Hades and Death. Revelation 1:18. So, Jesus has opened the door of the enemies' stronghold by stripping them of authority but they are still powerful and it is up to us to fight for and plunder what is ours, by right as sons and daughters of God and joint heirs with Christ, that they now *illegally* hold. By way of Old Testament example, the enemy has been delivered into our hands but we still have to fight the fight, overcome and conquer, and take the ground and the spoils that are rightfully ours by virtue of our (new) spiritual royal family line.



We were born again into rights and property from God but not with full access to them. In the original Greek (transliterations), we were born “*teknon*” sons or *immature* sons of God with status but not fullness, but we are to become “*huios*” sons or *mature* sons of God with full appropriation of our royal family representative authority, rights and property. The process of maturing from a *teknon* and becoming a *huios* is largely accomplished through overcoming opposition in faith and obedience and spiritually “violently” taking from the dark spirits who still hold captive our dominion and other rights. Matthew 11:12. Therefore, it is critical that we exercise the authority we have been given and spiritually violently assert and take what is ours if we are to become who we were created, called and chosen to be. It is only by so doing that we become mature and fully conformed with and perfected into the measure of the fullness of the stature of our model, forerunner, brother, bridegroom and King, Jesus Christ.



It is critical to understand the spiritual import of family featured in the Bible. It is at the heart of God’s eternal Kingdom purpose. Kingdom familial principles predominate warfare symbolism. We are given new life but born again spiritually immature. Throughout the Old Testament God spiritually matured His people through the process of warfare conflicts and conquests. In the New Testament, Jesus’, the first son, very first act after being baptized before beginning His ministry was to engage in a face-to-face warfare confrontation with the devil. Consistently, the Bible tells us we have to take our place of mature fullness in our family and Kingdom by spiritual violence, conflict, overcoming and plundering our dark spirit usurper enemies. For true Christians, spiritual warfare should be viewed as the *expected* consequence of the life of Christ in and expressed through us in a physical realm largely controlled by unseen spirit powers utterly antagonistic to and at war with that very life. The more fully that life is in you and expressed through you the more enemy attention and conflict you will draw and the more you will be able to overcome it, all of it. John 14:30; Revelation 3:21