

STRONG MAN COMPETITION

March 3, 2013 Luke 11:14-26 by Bob Branch
Freedom Fighters, Part 3

MAIN IDEA: In the spiritual battle, your alliance with Jesus, His authority, power and perspective will turn the tide to victory.

¹⁴ Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. **Luke 11:14**

1. **Spiritual attack is frequently aimed at STEALING FROM YOU. Jesus comes in to take back what has been stolen from you and restore you!**

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. **John 10:10**

¹⁵ But some of them said, "By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." ¹⁶ Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.

2. **We tend to fear, POLARIZE & DEMONIZE whatever we do not understand, but we need to be careful not to blaspheme the Holy Spirit with this kind of attitude. (Mt. 12:32)**

¹⁷ Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. ¹⁸ If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **John 14:12**

3. **Healing, deliverance, forgiveness and restoration are all evidence that THE KING WAS HERE... The King has arrived! They are evidence of the King's reign in you and through you!**

²¹ "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

Satan first... the strong man.

JESUS... the Stronger Man.

- a) **People!** (Lk. 4:18; Jn. 8:36; Acts 13:39; 2 Cor. 3:17; 2 Pet. 2:16)

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free **Luke 4:18**

Redemption: slaves price paid, set free; set the captives free! (Is. 61:1ff; Luke 4:18; John 8:36; Acts 13:39; 2 Cor. 3:17; Rom. 6:7,18,22).

- b) **Dominion:** authority, rule, heal, restore (Luke 10:19; Mt. 28: 19; John 14:12; Gen. 1:28)

4. **The enemy is strong and crafty, but Jesus is STRONGER 100% of the time, & you are now dealing with a foe who has been assaulted, overpowered, stripped, and completely defeated! This victory is complete and is now yours to walk in (esp. after Jesus' death & resurrection!)**

²³ "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

5. **In this cosmic battle, there is no MIDDLE GROUND. You are either on His side, or on the other side!**

²⁴ "When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' ²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first."

6. **Be on your guard against spiritual COUNTER-ATTACK, especially after a great victory, and make sure you FILL YOURSELF with everything that following Jesus entails.**

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **Philippians 4:8** (Eph. 5:18-21; 6:18; Jude 20-21)