

The Art of Spiritual Warfare Part 8 of 10: Giving Authority to Enemy; Breastplate of Righteousness (Presented in 2016)

The following text is based on a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_12-5Z26-4

***Portions of the video message have been edited to present a written document. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in the red text. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Today we are going to talk about something that I feel is pretty important. I think you will agree with me as we get to the end of this message. I want to talk about the danger and the effect of giving authority to the enemy.

When you're at war, the last thing that you want to do is give your enemy, your adversary, any advantage over you whatsoever. That defeats the whole purpose of going to war. You want power and authority. That's the object.

Here's the tragedy of the situation. Unfortunately, today there are a plethora of Christian, believers in Yeshua, who are willingly giving their authority over to the adversary. Here is the scary part. They don't know they are doing it. We are going to look at this concept today, and hopefully, by the end of today, I think you're going to have a little better perspective on authority, what it means, how important it is, how to handle and not handle it, and how to not misuse it.

I want to begin by taking you to the book of Joshua. There's a particular story we're going to utilize that is the basis of today's message. As we come to the sixth chapter, we read about what I would call a magnificent war. Israel is going up into the Promised Land. They are beginning to take the land by war. This is awesome!

The first place on the map they come to is Jericho which is a fortified military city. Jericho is not the city you want to go up against, but the LORD tells Joshua, "I am giving this city into your hand; you are going to take this city. The only catch is there are a few instructions or requirements you're going to need to follow."

The requirements were the men of war were to go in front of the Kohanim who bear the Ark of the LORD. They were to march around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to do it seven times.

When we look at these instructions of the war and study the story of how Israel attacked Jericho, our primary emphasis is on the aspect of the instructions. This, however, is not the only thing the LORD commanded them to do. Chronologically the instruction we are looking at next is the last thing that the LORD told them right before they went to attack the city. The LORD gave them special instructions regarding the spoils of war. This instruction is going to be our focus in this study.

This is what it says in Joshua 6:18-19—¹⁸ And you, by all means, abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. ¹⁹ But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord."

When you look at those instructions, they are explicit regarding the spoils of war. All the precious metal, iron, and so forth were dedicated to the LORD. We also discovered that there is a strict command to abstain from every accursed thing. They were not allowed to take anything accursed as spoil.

As the story unfolds, we find that Israel marched around the city, and the city walls fell flat. We see that Israel gained victory over their enemies. But unfortunately, that's not the end of the story. As we come to Joshua 7:1, we read the following—**But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel.**

Unfortunately, despite God's warning to Israel that they were not to take of the accursed things, we find one particular man does not heed these instructions. It was the man known as Achan. He did not follow the commands of the LORD. He took of the accursed things, and as we continue, we're going to see the effects of Achan's disobedience. The effects of this disobedience are probably vaster than you might initially conceive.

This is what we read in Joshua 7:2—**Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy out the country." So the men went up and spied out Ai.**

I want you to put this into context. Israel just went up to Jericho and defeated them. Now they are moving on and taking the land by war. They are now going to attack the city of Ai.

Going to Joshua 7:3—**And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few."**

It is crucial to have this in context. Joshua sends spies to look at the city they're going to make war against. The spies come back and report that Ai is militarily pathetic. It is not fortified like Jericho was. Keep in mind that the Israelites just came from the military conquest of the century. They were tearing down the walls of Jericho by the thunder of God. It was an awesome victory! Defeating Jericho was something that in the flesh looked impossible. Now they've turned their sights on Ai. The men of Israel are looking at Ai and saying, "This is a joke. It is not even worth our time. Let's not trouble everyone. Let's send a few men out to the city of Ai as this is not a fortified city, and it has few inhabitants to protect it. This city is easy and weak." This is the context that has been painted for us.

Look at how things unfold in Joshua 7:4—**So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai.** So they send about three thousand men and they end up fleeing from the men of Ai.

Continuing in Joshua 7:5—⁵ **And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of**

the people melted and became like water. This simple task of taking the city of Ai has all of a sudden become a hellish nightmare for Israel. All of a sudden a city that was militarily pathetic is now running down the nation of Israel. The men of Ai are striking them down and killing them. Not just that, but we're told how this affected Israel— hearts of the people melted and became like water. Israel could not stand against an enemy who was the weakest of the weak.

Think about that for a second. Joshua is left in a total state of confusion. The whole situation has Joshua completely beside himself, and I would say rightfully so. So what does Joshua do? He does what all of us should do—⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all--to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! ⁸ O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? (Joshua 7:6-8).

Joshua realizes Israel had no power over their enemies. I'm going to tell you something. Probably the most frightening thing that could ever happen to any army in war is to have the revelation they don't have power over the enemy. It's one of the most terrifying, if not the most terrifying, thing that can happen. When you're in a war against spiritual hosts of wickedness, make no mistake, when you come up against that line, and you realize you have no power, I assure you your heart will melt. You will be frightened. That is precisely how we see it unfolding. The weakest of the weak and the kingdom of Satan will put you to flight. Think about that.

As we continue, Joshua is going to express his additional concern in all of this. Joshua 7:9—For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?" Joshua is revealing the obvious here because Israel is being chased by the men of Ai who are the weakest of the weak. He knows the word is going to get out about this.

Think about that. This is the preverbal hemorrhaging in the water where blood is gushing out of some fish and the piranhas smell the blood. If you've ever seen National Geographic shows about piranhas, then you know that the water starts to quake, it starts to rumble, because the piranhas smelled the blood and started to attack. When they're done, there is nothing left.

Joshua knows this. There is hemorrhaging. He knows this defeat is going to awaken all of the piranhas. All the warriors, the enemies, are going to come after Israel because they're going to smell the blood in the water. There will be nothing left of Israel, and Joshua knows this.

So the LORD responded to Joshua's prayer and says in Joshua 7:10-12—¹⁰ So the Lord said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? ¹¹ Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff. ¹² Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies. This answers the question of why Israel was running from the weakest of the weak and could not stand before their enemies. Because they embraced that which was accursed. They embraced the accursed things of God.

Continuing in Joshua 7:12—but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I [the LORD] be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.

There are so many lessons in these verses for us to learn. Especially the one at the end. This could be directed toward the pastors, the preachers, the teachers, the rabbis, the judges, and the elders of all the various churches across the world. When you're praying, and the LORD reveals sin in your camp, you better take care of it. Why? Because of what the LORD said to Joshua. He warned Joshua—**neither will I be with you anymore**—if you don't take care of this matter. If that does not strike fear into your hearts, I don't know what will. When sin is revealed, good shepherds, good leaders, take care of business. Why? For the protection of the whole community.

Now, we need to take what we have learned so far in this story and start making this personal. There's deep spiritual connotation here that you need to draw away. I want you to ask yourselves, "What is your position in the war?" Have you thought about it? Have you assessed your situation? Have you taken of the accursed things? Have you embraced the things of the world; things that are abominable in the sight of God? Are you under the control and authority of the enemy?

If you're going to fight the good fight of faith, and you desire to walk in victory, you're going to want to have power and authority over your adversary. If you want that, you can't have sin in the camp or in your heart. Your mind has to be purged.

There's a concept that I want to share with you that is monumental. This is so immense it will revolutionize your faith. I say that because it did mine. How many of you can attest to this? As you're going through Scripture, you suddenly get that ah-ha moment. The light bulb goes off on something in Scripture that the Holy Spirit has revealed to you, and it is impactful to your faith. It dramatically impacts your faith and how you walk it out. The principle I'm about to share with you was an ah-ha moment for me. It impacted my faith. It changed the way I looked at life, and the way I approached certain situations. It revolutionized my faith. This is what it is; the enemy cannot have power over you unless you willingly give it up.

I want that to sink down into your hearts. This is one of the most empowering things that you could tell yourself because it is biblically supported. This is one of the most empowering things to build your faith and give you the confidence to go out and stand in front of the enemy.

Satan has no power over you unless you willingly give him that power and authority. There is a reason that Paul says—**If God is for us who can be against us (Romans 8:31)**. Paul understood the context of this ah-ha moment I'm sharing with you.

It's so empowering for me to assess and analyze situations that are in front of me and ask myself, "Am I giving my authority away?" That question dramatically impacts the way I'm going to move because guess what? I'm type "A." I am a power control freak. I don't want to give power up. You need to be the same way.

I want to give you a couple of examples from Scripture to build upon this concept. The first example I would like to take you to is the Garden of Eden. I could probably teach just on the Garden event for a year because I can keep going back and pulling different stuff from it and going at it from different angles. The whole Garden event is so epic to the faith regarding understanding the adversary and how he works. The more you study it, the smarter, the wiser you get. And that is how it is supposed to be; the more we go to the Word, the more the LORD opens our eyes. Amen?

So going back to the Garden of Eden, I want to ask the question; did Satan have authority to impose his power and will over Adam and Eve? No. He did not have the power to impose his will which was death and destruction. Adam and Eve were untouchable. That is until they willingly gave Satan that power. Once they gave Satan that authority, they were brought to total desolation.

You need to understand something. The only play that Satan had in the Garden of Eden against Adam and Eve was to seduce Eve into taking that which was accursed. She took of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. That tree was cursed by God. It was abominable; she was not allowed to do that.

Isn't that interesting because in our story Achan did the same thing? You see, Satan is doing the same tricks over and over again. Just the characters and books change.

Achan did the same thing. He fell into the identical trap of embracing that which is accursed. So did Adam and Eve. They went from being an untouchable immortal to being a touchable mortal. Furthermore, they became cursed.

Another great example is found in the book of Numbers in the story of Balaam and Balak. Over and over again Balak runs to Balaam and is crying out to Balaam, "Come bring a curse upon the people of Israel." Balaam was powerful. Balak knew that whatever Balaam blessed was blessed and whatever he cursed became cursed. Balak was willing to pay anything and give everything he had so that Balaam would come and curse Israel. Do you know why? The story tells you why. Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel because he wanted to have power over Israel in order to drive them away. Balak knew if Israel were cursed, he would gain power and authority over them.

So Balak kept coming to Balaam over and over trying to get him to curse Israel. Balaam's response to this is found in Numbers 23:20—**Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.** Israel is untouchable. The adversary has no power over them no matter how much money Balak throw at Balaam. No matter how powerful Balaam was, his hands were tied. Do you know why? Because this goes all the way back to that covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12:3—**I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.** This is why Israel was untouchable. Nobody could have power over them.

But here's where things get interesting. If you just keep reading in the book of Numbers, as you come to the very next chapter something happens. We discover Israel, who is untouchable, all of sudden becomes touchable. Israel, who couldn't be cursed, all of sudden is receiving curses. I want to show you how this possible. This is what we read in Numbers 25:1-5—**¹ Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. ² They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³ So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel. ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the Lord, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel." ⁵ So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor."**

So let me get this straight; in the previous chapter, we found that Israel was untouchable. They couldn't be cursed or harmed. Balaam had no power to do anything against them. Now we find the exact opposite happening to them. I ask you; how does it happen that someone goes from untouchable and blessed to being cursed?

We discover the answer to that question in Numbers 31:15-16—¹⁵ And Moses said to them: "Have you kept all the women alive? ¹⁶Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord. Balaam was the very same guy that had told Balak that he had no power to do anything against Israel. Now, this is the very same guy that brought curses upon them.

How did he do it? Seduction. That is the same way Satan did it in the garden. This is the same way Satan seduced Achan. Balaam got the children of Israel to embrace the accursed things. That is the reality.

Do you see how powerful this deception is? To get you to embrace the accursed things is to get you to give your authority over to him. So this principle that the enemy cannot have power over you unless you willingly give it is a game changer. It's one of the most valuable principles for you to understand when going to war.

I want you to be warned; Satan is going to try to get you to give up your authority. Absolutely! He wants you to embrace the various accursed things. Think about how he might do that because there's no single way. There are many things that would fall into the list of what God deems abominable. The list is long of what we should be staying away from. That should keep you on your toes. That keeps you in the Word of God to make sure you are not walking out of step with the LORD.

I want you to think about some of the things that we have to deal with in this generation. These are things like movies, T.V., and the Internet. One of the most powerful gateways to open up for the devil to be able to come into your life to take control of your mind and heart is through television, movies, and the Internet. There are hundreds and thousands upon thousands of images that Satan is trying to pipe directly into your heart and mind. He wants you to download all these images as you're surfing on the Internet. He wants you to click that mouse on the immoral, pornographic, and lustful sites to feed your flesh. He is after you to do this. He is coming to corrupt you.

Growing up in a conservative Christian home, my dad taught me a lot of good lessons. As I was coming into the teen years, I was involved in sports, and not all my friends were believers. I had this vast group of friends growing up, and I played sports.

Well, growing up in the conservative Christian home with my dad who was a sports freak, and I was involved in sports, we were subscribers to *Sports Illustrated*. There was only one month I was concerned about out of the twelve months of the years. That was the month the swimsuit edition came out. I could never get my hands on it because my mother threw that perversion in the garbage. My mom would not allow that stuff in the home.

One day, however, I had a bunch of friends over. We were hanging out in the garage, and one of my friends asked me if I had seen the newest swimsuit issue of *Sports Illustrated*. I told him I had not because my mom always grabs it and throws it away. I reminded him that I was a Christian; I wasn't ashamed of being one. He informed me that the magazine was due to come in the mail that day; so we went to the mailbox, and there it was. We took it and went to the garage. So here we have a bunch of teenage boys who are looking at this magazine and laughing.

Now what is so amazing is how the Holy Spirit works. My dad got a sense that something wasn't right, so he came into the garage. We realized he was coming, so one of my friends tossed the magazine across the garage, and it goes swirling across the floor. My dad sees the publication and says, "Well, I guess I don't have to ask what you're doing."

The point of this story is my dad gave me some fantastic wisdom at the end of that event. First, I want to give you a little background. My dad was a rock star. He traveled in a rock band that opened for huge venues such as Steppenwolf and the Monkeys. My dad was a lead singer; that was his background. When he got saved, he got out of the industry.

So he pulls me aside, and he tells me, "Daniel, I have to tell you something. You don't want to see those images. You think you do, and your flesh does, but you're going to spend the rest of your life trying to purge all of that out of your mind. The enemy will bring these images back into your mind at the opportune time."

I never forgot that talk. It hit me hard. I pondered that information, but I didn't fully appreciate the weight of what he was telling me at the time. But I'm telling you right now; he is right. The images that you allow to be downloaded in your heart will be what Satan uses. He will bring them back to your mind and use them to destroy you.

We take them captive. We have the power to do that. But I'm telling you right now; the more garbage and images that you place in your mind and heart, the harder your struggle will be. We are not meant to be wasting our time with all these images that Satan is going to try to bring back to our mind.

I would compare this to all of those pop-up ads that you get on your computer when you are surfing the Internet. You are going along and all of the sudden you get this tornadic wave of pop-ups all over your drive. How productive is that? I want to tell you if you start filling your head full of ungodly images, you're going to have pop-ups constantly. It is counterproductive.

I have never seen such a glut of immorality, demonic programming, witchcraft, and sorcery being broadcast on TV. I am trusting you are not watching these shows, but you know they are out there. Someone recently told me there is a show called Lucifer. They're just coming straight out with all this demonic stuff like Harry Potter. They are putting it in cartoon form to make it look harmless. This is what is going on. It is insane!



Satan is running a propaganda machine harder than he's ever run it before. With just a click of the mouse or remote, you can be in a world of immorality and iniquity with thousands of images being downloaded into your mind. These are the images you are going to have to wrestle with and have to purge from your mind.

There is a reason David says in Psalm 101:3—I will set nothing wicked before my eyes. David knew the power of images. He knew the power that wickedness can have. Yeshua told us in Luke 11:34—The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. When you put darkness in front of you, your eyes see it and put darkness into your heart. Do not lie to

yourself. You cannot handle it. You were not meant to be equipped to handle wickedness and embrace it. You will not come out of it unscathed.

What about music? This is one of Satan's best tools that he utilizes against us. We know music began in the heavens and was created for worshiping God. The angels in heaven worship by singing to God. Well, Satan wants that kind of worship too. What kind of music are you listening to?

Let's go back to the story of my dad. He was in a rock band at a very young age. He was something like fourteen or fifteen years old. He grew up in the music world. He knew many rock stars such as Prince. The music world is a small world.

My dad and a group of his friends went to a concert. I think it was Black Sabbath, but I am not sure. Black Sabbath is totally demonic. Don't tell me there is nothing godly about the Sabbath because here you have Satan coming out to debase it with groups like Black Sabbath.

So my dad and this group of musicians go to the Black Sabbath concert. Now keep in mind that he was not saved at this time. So he goes to this concert, and one of his friends, who was into witchcraft and the occult because he was a Satanist, starts looking up and staring at the rafters. He starts laughing. Keep in mind that no one in my dad's band did drugs or drank. They did not do that.

So this guy is looking at the rafters and laughing. My dad is getting agitated and asks the guy what he is laughing about. The guy said to my dad, "Don't you see them?" My dad looked up, but he didn't see anything. So the guy said to my dad, "The rafters are filled with demons, and the demons are laughing."

My dad never forgot that. When he got saved, he realized these venues, these rock shows, are altars of Satan. They are the gathering place of demons, and they're laughing and mocking their worshippers. That is the power of music.

I'm telling you; if you have music that is not right, you need to get it out of your house and car. Get it out of your heart. Don't allow the devil to start sowing this demonic stuff into you. I want to remind you Satan is willing to pay. He is willing to cut the check to give you the desires of your heart. Whatever your debased flesh can concoct, Satan will meet it. Rest assured, he will cut that check.

This is the proverbial Trojan horse, Greek mythology, scenario. The Greeks couldn't get into the city of Troy because it was a fortified military city. Troy cannot be scaled, so it cannot be conquered. There was only one way the Greeks were getting in, and that was through the front door. So they decide to offer the citizens of Troy a gift. However, the gift was a Trojan horse, and inside the Trojan horse were the Greeks who were hiding. Satan does the same to us. Accept this gift, but what is inside will cost you very life.

When we are looking at our story today, it is the Trojan horse scenario. This is what Satan peddled to Achan, "Accept this. This is a gift. You want this." Satan lured Achan in so that Israel could be defeated.

I want to go to Joshua 7:20-21—²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and this is what I have done: ²¹"When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment [an accursed item], two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels [which were to be only the LORD's], I coveted them and took them.

I want to recall one of the first things that we read in the story was the LORD said—**Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? ¹¹ Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant (Joshua 7:10-11).** What did God mean by that statement? Read Exodus 34 where you find the covenant. It is the Ten Commandments. What is the tenth commandment? You shall not covet (Exodus 20:17).

Achan stepped out of the protection of the commandments of the LORD. He embraced that which was accursed, and it came at a mighty price because Achan was killed in the end.

So Achan goes on and says—**And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it"** (Joshua 7:21). Isn't that fascinating? Why did Achan hide it? He knew he sinned; he was not ignorant. He knew what he was doing went against God's instructions, but the covetousness was just too good. The gift was too much. He embraced that which was accursed, and he hid it.

There's another biblical principle that you need to remember as you are confronted with choices. It is found in Numbers 32:23—**Be sure your sin will find you out.** The LORD's eyes roam to and fro throughout the earth. You will not get away with what you're doing. You may think you do it in secret, but the LORD will bring it out in the open. He will bring it out in the open either in this age or definitely in the age to come

I want to move on to Joshua 7:13—**Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the Lord God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."**

I want to give you hope today because the LORD God gave Israel real hope that day. What was the hope? Remove the accursed thing from you. Take it away from you. The hope is— **Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand** (Matthew 4:17).

That's the gospel. When John the Baptist went out, what did he preach? Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. What were Yeshua's first words when He started His ministry? **Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** When Yeshua commissioned His Apostles to go to the four corners of the earth, they were to preach repentance and remission of sins through His name (Luke 24:47). **Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent** (Acts 17:30).

That's a message of hope, freedom, and liberty. Look at what the LORD says in Acts 26:17-18—**¹⁷ I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.**

Do you understand what the gospel message does? It is a power play. It turns the power and authority Satan had over you. It shatters them. When you call upon the name of Yeshua, Jesus, it is shattered. We gain power and authority when we separate ourselves from the accursed things. It turns away the wrath of God.

This is where the breastplate of righteousness comes into play. What does the breastplate do? When you are in a war, it protects all the vital organs against a knife or sword. It protects against fiery arrows that



you can't see coming. These arrows hit your blind spot and bounce off the breastplate of righteousness. This is how vital righteousness is. Righteousness will guard and protect you. The commandments of God are not there to oppress you. They're there to set you free.

Proverbs 13:6—**Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.** When we stay within the lines that God has commanded, we are untouchable. That is empowering. I crave that. I yearn to be under the shadow of Yeshua's wing. I yearn to be under His protection and authority because nobody can conquer Him.

I know Satan is going to be conquered. I don't want to be under his authority. Nothing good will come out of it. His demons will be laughing at us as we are in pain and suffering while the LORD mourns. What does it say in Psalm 116:15? **Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.** Satan and the LORD are two different authorities with two entirely different views.

There is an excerpt from the Torah Treasury that I appreciate so much. It speaks to the point I am making today. I want to share it with you—**Most people are servants of their passions, but the truly free person is the one who can control his desires. When the sages taught "Only one involved in Torah is truly free" (Pirkei Avot 6:2), they meant to say that only Torah allows one to free himself from the shackles of desire [Free from fleshly desires and passions. Free from the world and its bondage] and to truly exercise free choice. Without Torah, one is not free at all; he is a slave, controlled by a master foreign to his better instincts. While intellectually he might have correct ideas of how to live, ultimately his master – his passion – will force him to act otherwise** (Excerpt from The Torah Treasury, pg 146, Artscroll publications).

Does this rhetoric sound familiar at all? It should because we find Yeshua saying the same thing in John 8:31-32—³¹**Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

It will make you free, but Satan is peddling the lie, "Stay away from the Torah. It is oppressive. It is a curse." Satan has flipped it totally backward, and the Church has eaten it hook line and sinker. However, the reality of it all is the complete converse of Satan's ways. God's Word that he spoke, the Torah, will set us free. He made His ways known to Moshe, Moses, as recorded in Psalm 103. His ways will set us free. We stand in His commandments. We will not be moved. Like I said before—**For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again** (Proverbs 24:16). Why? Because we're untouchable when we're walking in the faith of Yeshua and His commandments.

Psalm 119:97-98—⁹⁷**Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.** This is going back to how I opened up today. We need the advantage in war. We need to maintain the power and control. How do we do that? We do it through His commandments; we get elevated over our adversary. We rise and become wiser. Satan is not able to seduce us or deceive us when we stand in faith in Yeshua. It won't happen.

I want to close with a verse from Ecclesiastes 9:18—**Wisdom is better than weapons of war.** Do you know what wisdom is? It is the commandments of God. Wisdom is understanding the commandments of God.

Psalm 111:10—**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.** This means the fulfillment and maturity of wisdom is you being obedient to God and obeying what He has commanded. That is better than weapons of war. We are not to trust in the physical weapon; instead, we are to trust in Yeshua. That is where the trust lies.

I want to close with this thought. It is time for us to take back the authority. Men, go take back the authority in your homes. Are you praying over your wives on a daily basis? I want to charge you with something; do not leave your house without laying hands on your wife and praying over her, praying with her, and praying to Yeshua. Giving Him praise and glory. Pray for the protection of your minds and hearts as you two are separated during the day. If you are not praying for your spouse, you have not stood up and done what you were called to do. You are opening a door for the adversary to come in. Take back the ground you have given to Satan. Clean out your house. You should also be praying for and with your children.

Twice a day I pray over my family. I do not leave the house until I've prayed over them even if they're sleeping. If they are sleeping, it doesn't change anything. I still go to war in prayer over my family.

I'm praying over my children. I'm not leaving the house until I have done that. Are you teaching your children how to pray? If your children don't know how to pray, they don't know how to fight the war. When something happens in our household, my girls know what the answer is. They come to me and tell me to pray. Kids who understand that know how to fight the war. At night we all kneel down towards Jerusalem, and we pray as a family.

This is so instrumental. If you want to learn the art of spiritual warfare and be able to rise and have power, you have to do this. If you want a good marriage and relationships with your children, you have to do this. This is the thing you have to do even if your life is too busy.

If your life is too busy to do this, I'm scared for you because your value system is in total disarray. It tells me the enemy has a foothold in your house. These are the things we need to be doing.