

what the devil is doing, and bring Jesus grace, mercy, love, forgiveness against it, replacing it.

Once renounced bring the work of Jesus against it. Remember in Jesus you have the power and authority to cast out the lie and invite in the Spirit. We remove the lie and replace it with the truth. Which reminds me of one of Jesus promises; "I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven." (Matthew 18:18) Remove the rubbish and bring in the God.

The last step is to send the foul spirit to the place of judgement assigned by Jesus. Don't just cast that thought out, send it packing with a no return note.

And if the devil is seeking to cause a split between you and another person invite the Spirit to bring the cross of Jesus between the two of you. The beauty is, the cross never prevents Jesus' love from passing between us, never prevents the Spirit of God from heal us. The cross only cuts off unhealthy things, so there is never any fear in bringing it between you and others.

So I'd encourage you to actively resist the devil, using the power and authority you have in Jesus. I'd encourage you to ask Jesus what lie of the devil, or temptation of the devil he wants to deal with today. Invite him to expose it; then name and shame it, casting it out, filling your soul

with the Spirit that you might walk in that wonderful intimacy Jesus has given his life for us all to live in and enjoy.

Jesus gave his life that you live free, not chained to lies and fears, but free growing in him to be all that he has dreamed possible.

15 October 2017
MOVING MOUNTAINS
Week 6: Warfare Prayer



What comes to your mind when you hear that title; 'Warfare Prayer'?

I have a collection of ideas; from it's not something I'm familiar with, to it scares me. I think I've watched too much Hollywood, rather than focus on how Jesus deals with the demonic. When I think of 'Warfare Prayer' I think of casting out demons, or at least stopping their effect on my life.

I don't believe any Christian can be possessed by a demon, but they sure love to nag and lie, seeking to influence you, seeking to get you to believe their lies rather than believe Jesus' truth.

When I look at the life of Jesus, one thing's for sure, he treats the demonic as real. You don't have to read too far into the Gospel of

Mark and you'll find Jesus casting out a demon. Straight after his baptism Jesus is tempted by who? The devil!

If Jesus treats the demonic as real, then it must be real; but not as Hollywood presents it. Do you notice when Jesus deals with a demon it is always as the one who has the authority. He commands them to leave and they leave. Often you'll find even before Jesus has said anything the demon is bowing, acknowledging Jesus as Lord.

I like the way we have been lead up to this prayer. We have been reminded of the authority we have in Jesus. We don't wield our own power and authority, we are anointed by Jesus, so that we can us his power and authority. In baptism you were

declared one of Father's children; and so that is what you are in Jesus.

I don't go off to fight using my own ideas and strength. In Jesus you are a child of God. You are Father's child, whom he loves and delights in. In Jesus that's who you are. So you have access to his power and authority. You wield his power and authority for you are a legitimate citizen of heaven, in Jesus. In Jesus you have the authority to come to God as your Father. What a wonderful privilege.

So we began with the prayer of the heart; as a child talking heart to heart with our loving father. We have the prayer of consecration where we remind ourselves of who we are. We can daily commit ourselves to God, in Jesus, because

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

he has committed himself to us. We can continually remind ourselves that Jesus lives here; we are holy ground. In Jesus we are set apart for life with God; and so right now we have God with us in the person of the Holy Spirit. That is the reality we live in; what a precious treasure this truth is.

Then last week built on these truths looking at 'Listening Prayer'. What a gift. I don't just go off and do what I think is right, I can stop and ask Jesus, knowing he will answer. Knowing without a shadow of doubt that when I ask Jesus about something he has clearly revealed his will, he'll do it.

I loved focusing on 'Listening Prayer', because it is so easy for me to try and work things out for myself, according to my own logic and perceived reality. The simple reality is my own logic and perceived reality is only very partial at

best. Thank God I can stop and ask him.

How would you describe Jesus' logic and view on reality? Partial or beyond what you could ever come up with. I'd go with the second; and thank Jesus that he has invited me to 'ask him' and he'll answer.

Jesus: resist the devil and he will flee

Why wouldn't a loving Father answer his precious child in who he delights! In Jesus, remember, that's you.

So now when faced with a difficult situation, like 'Warfare Prayer', I can ask Jesus what to do, and have the confidence that he'll lead me.

Jesus reminds us to resist the devil. So in James we read; "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close

to God, and God will come close to you." (James 4:7,8) Peter puts it this way; "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith." (1 Peter 5:8,9)

The devil, and his demons will have a go at you; but don't cower in fear; resist, stand firm, in Jesus you have all the power and authority you need to send him packing.

Notice he seeks to intimidate you; a roaring lion. He wants you to be scared; but Paul reminds us that; "you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children." (Romans 8:15) Or from his letter to Timothy; "God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline." (2 Tim. 1:7) So when Jesus is faced

with the demonic he doesn't cower away in fear, but he resists the devil, and believes his Father.

So we are called to resist the devil. That may present itself in the form of a person who is demonically possessed. Don't run in fear; in Jesus you hold the authority.

But it could also involve the devil trying to tempt us. Trying to discourage us. It could involve that satanic whisper which seductively seeks to lead you away from trusting Jesus.

Don't forget, the devil isn't out to get you to do some stupid outlandish thing, his primary goal is to get you to doubt; to doubt Jesus. To doubt the love of your heavenly Father. To doubt the reality of the Spirit's presence with you, now. Satan wants to get you to believe his lies rather than Jesus' love for you. Jesus love for you is the truth; feeling self-loathing, having a

sense of insecurity and no self-worth are the devil's lies. Also believing you're smart enough to go it alone; that you don't need God as a crutch. That's one of the devil's lies. His goal is to create doubt, doubt in God, who in Jesus has promised himself to us, adopting us as his loved precious children.

Identify Renounce Bring in Jesus Send packing

Committed to walking through all of life with us, that we might grow in a wonderful intimate relationship which we live daily, now, through conversational intimacy.

A thought that has stuck in my mind about prayer is; when you talk with Jesus, why wouldn't the first thought you get be from God. The second thought is probably the devil getting you to doubt it.

Anyone here ever faced discouragement, huge feelings of crippling guilt, or condemnation? That could very well be the devil; so why not ask Jesus. You could be under attack from a feeling of insecurity, or trying to gain a sense of worth by working hard, out doing others, or you may have strong urges that tempt you – like when trying to give us smoking. That could very well be demonic; why not ask Jesus.

So here's a simply outline for prayer; Identify the spirit; a spirit of anxiety, of depression, of pride. Seek to be specific; ask Jesus to make things clear. Name it then renounce the enemy's claim; after all the devil has no right to you, you're one of Father's loved children. Renounce, that means say you don't believe it but you choose to believe Jesus' truth. Renounce the devil's lie; exposing it. Isn't that what we do with confession and absolution? We expose