


Putting Spiritual Discernment Back Into Spiritual Warfare

I was raised in spiritual warfare. By that I mean, soon  after I got saved I plugged into an **apostolic church** that vowed to run to the battle line to wrestle spirits of Jezebel, witchcraft, religion—and whatever else was opposing the purposes of God.

My church home was akin to a **spiritual war zone**. We were always on red alert through **prophetic warnings**, dreams and visions about the next attack. Indeed, spiritual warfare was a consistent thread in most of the praise, worship, equipping classes, Sunday morning sermons and leadership lessons.

You might call it “extreme apostolic.” We hunted down the demon(s) behind every doorknob like a child with a sweet tooth hunts for chocolate Easter eggs. Looking back, it seemed at times like a contest to determine who could present the most detailed dream or vision about the enemy’s impending plan. Once the enemy was spotted, a shouting match with the principality or power ensued that left you with a sore throat—and no respite from the warfare.

I was in a **spiritual warfare ditch**, where the enemy and his plans were ultimately exalted over God and His plans. Don’t get me wrong. I believe wholeheartedly in spiritual warfare. But we can get into a ditch with any principle if we take it to the extreme. So we have to ask ourselves: What causes us to take biblical principles to the extreme?

Don't Give Up: God Wants to Encounter You in a New Way

☒ Do you remember when the Lord spoke to the apostle Paul in the night by a vision? He said: "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:9-10).

That's the **Scripture** that came to my mind last Friday after I came home from the spa. Yes, the spa. See, I'm not too proud to admit that carrying the weight and fighting the **spiritual warfare** that goes along with planting a church, writing a new book about the **Jezebel spirit**, producing **worship songs**, commenting in a weekly national radio broadcast, working in media ministry at *Charisma*, raising a teenager as a single mother—I'll stop there—I'm not too proud to admit that sometimes the warfare against my mind and body is so intense that it borders on overwhelming.

When that happens, I've learned that I need to unplug and allow the **Holy Spirit** to minister to me. And that's what I did last Friday afternoon. I never imagined that God had someone in the spa ready and waiting to speak a word in due season that would remind me of just how great our God is and how much He really cares. But that's just what happened. Call it a **divine appointment**. God had stationed a powerful **prayer warrior** (with a strong Jamaican accent) in that spa to minister to me by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How to Get Off the Emotional Roller Coaster

✘ We are emotional beings. God gave us emotions—and God Himself has emotions. Our emotions can be a great motivator at times and a great enemy at other times.

Think about it for a minute. Sometimes we feel joyful; sometimes we grieve. Sometimes we feel bold; sometimes intimidated. Sometimes we feel triumphant; sometimes completely and utterly physically and emotionally exhausted.

Is it possible that we could avoid the extreme highs and lows of the **emotional roller coaster** if we maintained **God's perspective**? What if we could wait on the Lord, mount up with wings as eagles and take a **prophetic perspective** of our lives—then rejoice in the Lord for the victory?

Anybody Else Out There Going Through a Raging, Fiery Trial?


✘ You were walking by faith and not by sight down the narrow path that leads to life. One day at a time, you were pressing on toward the goal to win the prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling you upward. You had the peace of God that passes all understanding.

Suddenly, the narrow road constricted. The eyes of your faith waxed dim. One day at a time seemed like too much and the

finish line too far off in the darkened distance. The peace turned to anxiety and you didn't understand how to get past where you are to where you are going—or even how to get there.

What in the world is happening? It's a trial—and not just any brand of trial. A raging fiery tribulation. A top to bottom faith examination. A fruit inspection. You are on audition for God on the way to the next level. The good news is you don't have to waste your pain. You can rejoice—and take a lesson from a High Priest who understands.

Great Judgment, Great Awakening ... or Both?

Whether we're headed for downfall or mass revival, it's hard to dismiss The Harbinger's warning for America 

You might call Jonathan Cahn a harbinger—one who foreshadows what is to come.

The Messianic rabbi's prophetic message is not only winning the attention of the body of Christ, it's beginning to demand the attention of the secular world as well. That's just the way he wants it.

Cahn's book *The Harbinger* reveals an ancient mystery that claims to hold the secret to America's future. Cahn is blowing the trumpet in Zion, so to speak. He's living out the Ezekiel 33 mandate as a watchman to warn America because he doesn't want the blood on his head. And his voice is being heard.

Why You Should Never Let the Devil See You Sweat



Never let the devil see you sweat. If your best friend betrays you, don't put your disappointment on display. If you can't pay your mortgage, don't verbally doom your financial fate. If the doctor gives you a bad report, don't speak death over your life. If you just feel like giving up, don't voice your resignation.

There's no faith in circumstantial fretting. Our frustration and fear is what causes us to overheat and sometimes boil over. Why not decide by your will to agree with the **Word of God** and receive the grace you need to overcome the disappointment, the financial stress, the health issues and the despair? Why not walk in Philippians 1:28? Pick whatever translation inspires you. Here are a couple of choices:

Don't Pronounce Shame on Me! (Or Anyone Else!)



If you don't like what I write, agree to disagree or speak the truth in love. But don't pronounce shame on me. If you don't agree with your pastor's theology, ask some honest questions

in the right spirit or go to another church. But don't pronounce shame on him. If you don't like the way your son is behaving, then discipline him. But don't pronounce shame on him.

Beloved, I see far too many shame pronouncers in the **Body of Christ**. And it troubles me. Rather than announce what a shame it is, let me rather turn to the Word and educate shame-pronouncers why Jesus doesn't want us to pronounce shame on one another. Like Paul, I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved brethren I warn you (1 Cor. 4:14).

In other words, I'm not trying to heap shame or condemnation on people who have adopted the habit of pronouncing "shame on you!" when they don't like what people say or do. I am merely warning you not to use these three words so loosely because your words carry the power of life and death and Jesus suffered death to give us life.

Prophetic Word for 2012: Revival Begins With You



While I was praying over 2012, I received impressions about many things—some warnings and some promises. But what burned most on my heart to share with the masses wasn't a list of predictions or a prophetic directive. What burned most on my heart to share are four simple words:

Revival begins with you.

We yearn to see signs, wonders and miracles manifest today as they did in the book of Acts, don't we? But are we willing to pay the price the early church paid? Are we willing to die to self? Are we willing to relinquish control to the Holy Spirit so He can move like He wants to move? Are we willing to repent for the character flaws that hold us back? Are we willing to walk in love and unity with true believers who don't believe exactly the same as we do? Are we willing to war against the spirit of compromise that is raging against the church in this age? Revival begins with you.

The book of Acts never fails to fascinate me. It is the Holy Ghost in action, the gifts of the Spirit made manifest, a charismatic believer's delight. Indeed, many of us want to see the Holy Ghost move in the church—and in the world—like that again. Well, I beseech you to consider these four words: Revival begins with you.

Put Your Determination Where Your Desire Is

☒ *Put your determination where your desire is.* The **Holy Spirit** spoke those seven simple words to me ... and they bear repeating: Put your determination where your desire is. Friends, that's a key to reaching every godly goal.

Before you decide you don't need to read another goal-setting article, think again. My goal here is not to teach you how to set goals. My goal is to stir the Holy Ghost determination in you to reach—and even exceed—them to the glory of God.

Doubtless, you understand the principles of goal-setting and don't need me to tell you that most great men and women who reached their goals first wrote them down on paper, then told other people and finally took daily steps toward their intended destination. So I won't drive you down that step-by-step route.

If you'll get in my vocabulary-based vehicle with me for the next five minutes, though, I'll give you a key that will not only start the engine of your dream machine but also offer the fuel to keep it running despite the rocks and sand that the devil tries to pour into your gas tank.

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