

Introduction:

- We were born in a war...a spiritual war. It is a war for the souls of men. And the thief is at his best there: killing, stealing and destroying. Our purpose as a church is to bring Freedom and Life to People and Glory to God!
- Jesus was born into that war. Mt 2 In fact, all the boys two and under in the region of Bethlehem were murdered by Herod. We call that infanticide. When you are born into a war you learn to fight.
- The safest place in this war is in the center of God's will...it is the place of deep intimacy with Him. Jesus had this down by age 12! *""But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?""* (Luke 2:49, NLT)
- These words of Jesus declare two things: first, His relationship with God (as Father); second, His commitment to the purposes of God. I also want to point out that after the religious duty to passover was finished, Jesus' commitment to the purposes of God, for life, was personal and very important.
- Another insight I want to direct our attention to was the fact that Jesus was the son of a carpenter, Joseph. He already had a job, a future, and apprenticeship at home. Yet at age 12 there was something greater that He was aware of. He was understanding the purposes of God.

I. We Are On The Offensive

- A. "The Church" has been on the defense for too long.
1. We have been biding our time until Jesus comes or the angels come for us. We have lost our purpose having lost our priority in the midst of busyness and pressures of this life.
 2. We have fought the wrong battle for so long that have forgotten the true war. The enemy announces what he is going to do culturally and politically and the "the church" organizes defensively forming committees and boards to discuss what we are going to do about the devil and we preachers talk about what the devil is doing and the intercessors tell God what the devil is doing. And the church takes a silent defensive posture of not advancing the Gospel.
 3. The Great Commission puts me in the offensive position. I should not care what the devil is going to do. IE. Bill Johnson used a great illustration years ago. "Picture a football team huddled up on the field. The coach sends in a play, the quarterback communicates with the offensive team. But on the sidelines is the opposing offensive team. Their QB lines up, out of bounds, off the field and with no ball. Can you imagine the real offensive team getting distracted by the intimidating actions of the other offense? Can you picture the real QB running off the field to inform the coach: "You better bring the defense back on the field because they are about to run a surprise play." That sounds foolish but that is how much of the church is reacting currently. Satan reveals his plan. He roars. And we think we have been bit.
- B. The great commission puts me on the offensive!
1. *"Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the*

*Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. **And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.***" (Matthew 28:18-20, NLT)

- a) At 12 Jesus is about the Father's business. He is learning the family trade. He is interested in what the Father is interested in...Restoring the Kingdom and expanding the family business!
 - b) At 30, he announces His purpose and the Father's plan. *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."* (Luke 4:18-19, NLT) He is restoring the Kingdom and expanding the family business. He is not here to plunder hell in order to populate heaven. He is here to plunder hell to dominate earth with heaven! On earth as it is in heaven.
2. Where do we hear the Father say, "Be careful Son." Jesus was always on the offensive. Jesus is always the light. Darkness is always retreating.
- C. God is on the offensive! Jesus is on the offensive. His team must be on the offensive!
1. Hells leaks are not to stop heavens advance. Hell leaks things to make Christians afraid. He loves when we get into fear. When Christians are afraid we play right into his plans. We clothe ourselves with a defeatist mentality and that gives Satan legal ground to assault us.
 2. We must remember:
 - a) He is with us always.
 - b) He has given us authority to go.
 - c) He has anointed to take back all the enemy has stolen.
 3. God is on the offensive. If God is on the offensive, then...

II. We Are Equipped To Win

- A. Jesus' desire is to give us the winning edge. He is more than a coach, He is the Captain of the hosts/armies of heaven His mission was to make the Father's love and Father's Kingdom visible for all to see. And make it available for all to receive.
1. And to make sure that we as subjects to Him and citizens of the Kingdom are equipped to win. *"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are **endued** with power from on high."* (Luke 24:49, NKJV)
 2. Endued - ενδυσθησθε - the root word means to submerge or to plunge. With the prefix 'en' it means to put on to cloth one's self with. Like...*"The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses."* (Revelation 19:14, NLT)
 3. He wants us immersed with heaven/anointed/smeared! He wants us clothed with the Holy Spirit. He wants us to have His power!

- B. Jesus' desire is that we have the winning power! *"(But) you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8, NLT)
1. They ask: *"Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"* (Acts 1:6, NLT)
 2. He answers in vs 8: *"But, you will..."* You will receive power to be my witnesses. You go and free...you go and restore! Let me watch you decimate the kingdoms of darkness. You Go... you destroy the devils work! Tell them it is Me in you! Reveal to them Father's love.
 - a) Dunamis - power. "To be able to do!"
 - b) Witnesses - martyring - to bear in mind, to be concerned. The *mártys* would thus be one who remembers and can tell about something, i.e., a witness. The verb *martyreín* means "to be a witness," *martyría* means "bearing witness" or "the witness borne," and *martyrion* means "witness" as proof. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (pp. 564-565). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
 3. When you are immersed in the Spirit you are then equipped to go out into the world to be witnesses of the facts. Jesus is alive. Jesus heals. Jesus saves.
 4. Follow Jesus' example: The Holy Spirit came upon Him and remained. (Jn 1:33). The lead to Acts 10:38... *"And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."* (Acts 10:38, NLT) God wants the Holy Spirit to come upon us and remain....and overflow onto others.
- C. Jesus desires us to get in the game!
1. Don't be afraid of the struggle. He will lead us. Note to self: If He leads us and it looks impossible it is probably God! It is called obedience and trust. *"When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, 'If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.'"* (Exodus 13:17, NLT) Don't be afraid!
 2. Rest in Him in the middle of the threat. *"You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies..."* (Psalm 23:5, NLT). How intimidating is that? The devil is trying to intimidate you and you are sitting down to fellowship at the Father's table while the enemy watches you. When we refuse fear the enemy become afraid.
 3. Submit to His leadership. James 4:7 Submit to God resist the devil and he will flee.
 4. Attack the darkness! Mt 16:18 the gates of hell **will not prevail**.

III. He Gets The Glory Moravians “Win for the Lamb that was slain the rewards of His sufferings!”

- A. The battle is the Lords. The opportunity for us is to step out and minister to people. Pushing past fear into the grace of God. “What if He doesn’t move? What if He does?” We are on the offensive in Christ! We have the light! And the light flees the darkness.
 1. Jehoshaphat. *“Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”* (2 Ch 20:15) They sang about Him...He was getting the glory.
 2. Peter and John at the gate beautiful. *““Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.”* (Acts 3:16, NLT)
- B. We bring His life and His freedom to people and they will give glory to God.
 1. *“This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”* (John 2:11, NKJV) The signs pointed to Jesus and they saw His glory. When we see healings, signs they point back to Jesus not to us.
 2. Signs reveal the nature and heart of God.
- C. Signs point back to Christ. *“So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.”* (Matthew 15:31, NKJV)

Conclusion:

- What will it take to get you back on the Holy Spirit offensive?
 - Are you out of the game? Are you living a defensive Christianity? Has hell leaked something that has create more fear in you than the Word of God has created faith?
- Have you received the Holy Spirit?
- Let’s purpose to put Him into our community. Let’s purpose to go into our community.