

**Introduction:**

- Black History Month
  - David Barton - American History in Black and White.
  - Good article: <https://wallbuilderslive.com/setting-the-record-straight-americas-history-in-black-and-white-part-1/> (Scroll down until you see: Welcome) start reading. Article on the constitution and slavery. Fredrick Douglas at first held constitution-supported slavery...until...he read it for himself.
- Crane Creek - Melbourne Founders
  - Three Freed Slaves
    - 1867 - one year after Homestead Act (inexpensive land grants were given to freed slaves)
      - **Captain Peter Wright** sailed from Georgia with former owner - 160 acre (front street) He carried mail/merchandise by boat along central coast, business man (citrus)
      - 1880 - **(William) Wright Brothers** - citrus, grocery store
      - 188? - **Balaam Allen** citrus
    - 1885 - Greater Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church built - 1<sup>st</sup> black church in Melbourne birthed in Brothers' home with Allens and Lipscomb.
- Last Sunday I preached on the spiritual war that we are in.
  - Our enemies are God's enemies. And God's enemies are demons and those who align with them.
  - These enemies are waging a war against us because 'in Christ' we remind Him of who we are and whose we are. Therefore he is out to mar the image of God in us and to steal our God given destiny.
  - You do not have to be afraid of demons. Jesus triumphed over them on the cross. But you have to believe that, or you will risk being bullied into a place of compromise and unbelief.
  - We finished up quickly going over how to win over/conquer demons. I want to spend more time on that topic. It is more important for us to become Christ's disciples than it is to be knowledgeable of demons. A good disciple will both win over demons and set others free.
- Get annoyed with demons. Paul got annoyed with a demon and took action. *"And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour."* (Acts 16:18, ESV) Get annoyed with devils enough to do something about it.

**I. How Will We Win This Spiritual Fight?**

- A. Fight Like God. Lost people say, "Fight like hell." Hell lost, so you do not want to fight like hell, you want to fight like God! How does God fight?
  1. God does not get into the flesh.
    - a) If you are in the flesh you are not fighting like God. *"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,"* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5, ESV)
    - b) Do not fight against people. Recognize the enemy (demon spirits) and fight them.

- c) A good soldier of Christ Jesus will not get in the flesh to fight a spiritual battle. It won't go well and you will lose ground.
- d) Jesus did not get in the flesh, when: falsely accused by Pharisees, when His brothers and mother came to him and thought he was crazy, when Judas betrayed him, when Peter denied Him, when Roman soldiers crowned Him with a crown of thorns, etc. Jesus stayed in the Spirit when confronted by those who were in the flesh. How many of you are walking in the Spirit? Stay there.
- 2. Occupy the place of humility. God occupied that place.
  - a) Jesus humbled himself. *"And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."* (Philippians 2:8, ESV)
  - b) Humility attracts God. *He who would be great must be a servant of all.* (Mk (9:35)
    - (1) He gives grace to the humble. *"Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.""* (1 Peter 5:5, ESV)
    - (2) *"But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.""* (James 4:6, ESV)
- 3. God totally embraces truth! There is no room for lies in His Kingdom!
  - a) Satan is called the Father of lies.
    - (1) *for he is a liar and the father of lies."* (John 8:44, ESV)
    - (2) Beelzebub is Hebrew for Lord of the flies, Lord of the dung heap. Flies in your dreams have to do with lies.
    - (3) Lies are attracted to unclean spirits and together they create a stink.
  - b) Jesus overcame the lies of the devil with the truth of God's Word. Mt 4:4,6,7 *"It is written!"* This is Jesus response to the lies of the devil! He knew the truth so well that He could spot a lie a long ways off!
    - (1) Truth will keep you holy! *"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."* (John 17:17, ESV)
    - (2) Lies undermine the Word and power of God in us. Ie. If you pray for someone and they are not healed does that change the word of God. I am not called or given permission to bring the Word down to my level but I am called to raise my level up to God.
- 4. Fight the good fight of faith. Mark 11:22-24 (God kind of faith) Have faith in God or have the God kind of faith. And, 1 Tim 1:18-19 (good fight of faith)
  - a) The word will be contested. What we do with that contest/conflict determines the outcome. Following are from Bill Johnson:
    - (1) God allows the word to be opposed but it will not die. He allows that so we discover the strength of His word.
    - (2) God allows the word to be opposed so we will have to make a choice. Where there are no choices there are no rewards. He is a rewarder (Heb 11:6) and rewards have to do with out choices. Faith does not let the problem have influence.

- (3) 1 Tim 1:18-19 the Word you have been given is your weapon. **That means you will have to fight to get to where God sees you.** "I cant afford to have a thought in my head that He does not have in His head! I live because He talks!"
- b) Right after Jesus speaking/cursing the fig tree and it dies. He says, "Have the God kind of faith." Mark 11:22-24
- c) How will we fight? Fight like God, and Win!

## II. Use The Weapons God Has Given

- A. The Weapon of the Word - It is alive! No death in it. Heb 4:12
1. John 6:63 His words are Spirit and they are Life! Life trumps death!
    - a) Spirit of God, pneuma...breath, wind,
    - b) Life - Zoe life - full of vitality, causes to live and come alive.
    - c) With the Word being that, there is one thing that is needed—Humility!
  2. Humility is the soil in which the Word of God grows.
    - a) You must find and occupy the place of humility. Humility is the soil in which the word of God grows.
    - b) You must humble yourself to the Word.
      - (1) When you are humble to the word, you are a person who makes time for it in your life.
      - (2) When you are humble to the word, you let it occupy a major portion of your heart. It becomes your treasure.
      - (3) When you are humble to the word, the word now governs your life, your choices, your words, your actions.
  3. Watch your words! "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits." (Proverbs 18:21, ESV)
    - a) If you believe a lie you empower the lie. And when you speak the lie you have empowered the liar.
    - b) IE. The Little girl video. Don't listen to the devils lies. The devil always sows lies in the area that we are receiving truth.
  4. The Word is a huge weapon!
- B. The Weapon of the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony.
1. Blood has to do with covenant. What is important about Jesus blood is that it has never dried out on the altar of God! It is still as red today as it was when He gave it.
    - a) He was the sinless sacrifice!
    - b) His blood purchased our redemption and it will never lose it's power.
    - c) When we plea the blood of Jesus it speaks on our behalf. IE. Like a person who pleas the fifth in court. He is silent so as to not incriminate himself...let the blood speak for me! It speaks forgiveness, It speaks Covenant! It speak victory.
  2. "*And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*" (Revelation 12:11, ESV)
    - a) Assured of the blood of Jesus Christ
    - b) And so rested in who Jesus is that death did not scare them.

- C. The Weapon of the Anointing of God (the presence of God/Holy Spirit)
1. *""The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, **because he has anointed me** to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.""* (Luke 4:18-19, ESV)
  2. *"It shall come to pass in that day That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, And his yoke from your neck, And the yoke will be destroyed **because of the anointing oil.**"* (Isaiah 10:27, NKJV)
  3. *"how **God anointed** Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."* (Acts 10:38, ESV)
  4. I Jn 2:20, 27 "You have an anointing...and this anointing abides within you."
- D. The weapon of praise and worship
1. Praise silences the enemy. Ps 8:2 God ordains strength.
  2. Praise binds the enemy. Ps 149:6-9
  3. Praise is inhabited by God. Ps 22:3
  4. Praise is prophetic activity where in we declare what God is doing and said He will do.
- E. Close open doors to the devil. Submit to God and resist the devil. *"**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**"* (James 4:7, ESV) Read vs 7-11
1. Submit to God
  2. Resist the devil
  3. Draw near
  4. Cleanse your hands
  5. Humble yourselves
  6. Don't speak evil
  7. Close open doors to the devil.
    - a) Demons get entrance to our lives when we open doors up to them.
    - b) King Saul, 1 Sam 28:7 went to see a witch and opened a door to a tormenting spirit.
      - le. Ojeh board, fortune,
    - c) Mt 18:34 tormentors

### Conclusion:

- Church, fight like God and win!
- *"But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.""* (Luke 10:20, NLT)
- *"We are nothing outside of our citizenship in heaven. It is from this position, seated with Jesus in heavenly places that all ministry flows."* Randy Clark p. 90
- To win at this fight you must have the dread champion (Jer 20:11 NASB) on your side! Jesus Christ!