

Di122 Essentials of Christianity

Lesson Di122-18 Christian Life: Being Victorious in Spiritual Warfare

The spiritual war has begun in your life. Christian soldiers are equipped with the essentials to win the victory over evil spiritual forces as well as temptations directed toward your flesh. The prize to the victor is your eternal soul. The good news is that as children of God, “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2Cor 10:4-5).

This lesson will help you become aware of the battles being fought. It will introduce you to some of the spiritual weapons that our Lord Jesus gives each Christian for victory over the flesh and the devil. Your victories will be celebrated in heaven. God will give you the power you need in any situation if you are faithful. Memorize God’s Word, pray and fast, testify, and be filled with the Spirit, as Jesus was. In this way a new Christian will become a disciple of Christ and learn to walk in the Spirit.

Jesus was teaching and preaching in the towns of Galilee. He was healing the blind, the lame, those who had leprosy, and the deaf. He was giving the Good News to the poor. Jesus was saying, “Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me” (Matt 11:6). Many of those who hated Jesus doubted that he was the Messiah. But Jesus always demonstrated in power that he is mankind’s Savior. He will meet a person’s needs if they believe on him.

As he traveled along one day in Galilee, some friends, by faith, brought a demon-possessed man to Jesus. Jesus was constantly showing that God was with him by working miracles everywhere he went. This poor man was blind and mute because of the demon. It seemed to many that it this was an impossible case. Jesus, however, was not afraid. He stood in faith, loved the possessed man, and asked God to heal him. Jesus was fighting a spiritual battle using spiritual weapons to defeat the devil. The religious leaders did not like Jesus because they had no power to heal and were jealous of him. He did what God wanted him to do anyway.

Jesus reached out and prayed to God, who delivered the man from the demon, so that he could both talk and see. The common people went into an uproar. The scripture says, “The people were astonished and said, ‘Could this be the Son of David?’” (Matt 12:22-23). The crowds sensed that Jesus was the Messiah, but the Pharisees were plotting how they might kill him. He told them, “If it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you” (v.28).

Remember that Jesus and Christians are at war with the devil and his demons, but we are not left as orphans. He said, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ... I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth. ... I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you” (John 14:12-

13, 16-17). He has given us the power to overcome those things that Jesus overcame, if we ask in his name.

Christians are given spiritual weapons that are much more powerful than the weapons of Satan, the world, and the flesh. The religious leaders were determined to destroy anyone who stood against them. They claimed that the devil was behind Jesus' ability to heal the sick man. Jesus would not stand for such a lie. He knew that the gift of healing comes only from God's Spirit. Spiritual weapons, God's weapons, come to Christians from heaven above. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). Those weapons are powerful to destroy the kingdom of Satan in people. God's weapons enable a powerful Christian life to honor our Lord Jesus.

Jesus took time to turn aside and heal the demon-possessed man because he knew the power God would give him. He knew the man's need, and he loved him enough to set him free. That very same power is in each Christian, as he or she lives their life in Christ Jesus by faith. Using spiritual weapons to defeat our spiritual enemies is essential to a strong Christian life.

This story is **important** because it is an example of Jesus showing the dramatic power of a spiritual weapon through the healing of the demon-possessed man. What the world cannot do, God does through his people who exercise spiritual weapons by faith and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that God will give you the power you need in every situation. You must be faithful in memorizing God's Word, praying, sharing the Good News, and being filled with the Holy Spirit as Jesus was. These are among the essentials of Christianity this course is teaching.

Your **review questions** are:

1. What is defeated in the Christian's life by using the essentials provided from God above?
A. [Pause] If you answered, "The world, the devil, and the flesh," you have answered correctly.
2. Why are God's spiritual weapons essential to Christians in their successful walk with Jesus Christ?
A. [Pause] If you answered, "Because they are powerful in tearing down every stronghold and lie that is set against God, and a Christian cannot be strong without them," you are right.
3. In the story which essentials did Jesus use to defeat the demon?
A. [Pause] If you answered "The gift of faith, prayer, and the gift of healing," you have answered correctly.

Your **assignment** is to listen to the lesson three times or until you can tell the story in your own words. Do you understand what the essentials of Christianity are? Tell the story of Jesus casting out the demon. Introduce your friend to the spiritual power of the Holy Spirit.

Discuss with them the essential of faith in living a victorious Christian life. Ask the person to share a time that their faith was actively involved in a real life situation. Discuss with them the importance of the essentials of Christianity you have learned about thus far.

Memorize Second Corinthians 10:4—“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”