

The Spiritual War in Your Home, Part 10 | how your family is to engage demonic forces in possession**I. Notes on Imaginary Friends**

- If your child uses her imaginary friend to escape real relationships, there's an unhealthy obsession or there may be something very wrong with the real relationships in her life.
- Similarly, it's one thing for your child to imagine people in genera, but if your child always imagines the same person over and over, he may be exhibiting signs of addictive thought patterns or a desperate desire for something he does not have.
- If your child blames her imaginary friend for her sinful choices, there's a problem. It may be an immature attempt to shift blame, but it may also be a sign of demonic influence.
- In the same way, if your child's imaginary friend scares him, you have to determine why he would dwell on this fantasy that frightens him, or you may need to accept that the vision is being forced on him.
- The key is this, don't be a passive parent. Ask questions. Ask your kids if they have an imaginary friend. Ask what they talk about. Find out what this creation is or does. If nothing else, it will help you better understand and parent your child. It may even reveal a significant spiritual issue in their lives.

II. What do we do when Satan is attacking our family in the physical realm?

- **We need to get on our faces before God and talk to Him.**
 - How many times does David beautifully illustrate how believers run to God in times of physical distress.
 - We are not powerful enough to fend off Satan and his hordes. Why would we attempt this without God?
- **We must open God's Word.** When we study God's Word, we're armed with the Truth we need to understand what God is doing in physical struggles. We're no longer afraid of the Devil, we're thankful that God is in control.
- **Once we've learned and understood the Truth that arms our spiritual weapon, and we've seen our lives through the scope of the Gospel, we must live righteously in faith.**
 - It doesn't matter what Satan does to you and your family. No complaining. No gossiping. No arguing. Don't call God a liar. Don't lose your joy, contentment, peace, or gratitude. It's simply not allowed.
 - Keep in mind that God never commands us to *escape* physical suffering. Sure, we can use medicines and make wise financial choices, but think of Job. The man had nothing but to sit there in his ashes, scraping his boils, listening to his ill-advised friends, and trusting God.
 - There was nothing Job could do but keep doing what he had been doing. He's been trusting God in his plenty, and he was trusting God in his want. He brought nothing into this world, and he was prepared not to take anything out of it.
 - Regardless of the spiritual attack, sickness, injury, financial distress, or persecution we face, God's Word has the same prescription — trust and obey. That's what He expects Job to do, that's what He expected Paul to do, and that's what He expects us to do.

III. What do we do when we believe someone is either being directly influenced by demonic forces (like I believe my daughter was) or being even being possessed by demons?

- Acts 16:18; Mark 9:17-29
- Jesus did not require any lotions or potions or motions when it came to casting out demons. Jesus simply commanded the demons He created, and they fled.
- The apostles simply did what they saw Jesus do . . . with one small addition.
- Whereas Jesus *was* the authority necessary to command the demons, the disciples had to invoke Jesus' authority because they didn't have an intrinsic authority themselves. This is why, in Luke 9 we read that Jesus had to give them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases. There is nothing inherent in us that a demon must obey. The authority must come from Christ.
 - First, faith is an absolute necessity. There will be no spiritual victory without faith in God and His Truth. That's why Sceva's son's failed, and that's why we'll fail.
 - And second, Jesus said that this particular kind of demon could not be cast out by anything other than prayer. What is prayer? If nothing else, when done correctly, it's the very outworking of faith. It acknowledges that I don't have something or can't do something and beseeches the One Who can.

III. Final Thoughts

- God is the only authority demons will obey.
- Therefore, we can only have success when we — in genuine faith — call upon the Lord to do the work we cannot do.
- This should likely involve prayer every single time.
- Anything else we say or do must be consistent with the Scripture. The more Bible we use, the better.
- We learned in James that if our faith is faltering for any reason, the best thing to do is call in spiritual backup. Invite spiritually mature people into the situation; don't attempt to handle it all on your own.
- II Timothy 2:24-26
 - Someone has been captured by the devil and is doing his will. They are not in their right, spiritual mind. They're being influenced or controlled by demonic forces.
 - What is the only thing that God says will save them? Repentance. Turning away from sin and to Truth.
 - And how do they come to this repentance? It's granted to them by God . . . not us.
 - But how does God want to use us in the process? We must not be quarrelsome, but — instead — kind.
 - We also need to patiently endure the evil that the demonically influenced individual does to us. That falls right in line with what we've learned about how God uses suffering to make us steadfast and mature.
 - And we need to correct this person with gentleness.
 - We need to be humble. It's not about us. That word "gentle" refers to meekness, humility, and considering others before ourselves.
 - We can't *not* confront a person under demonic bondage. It's not an option. If we are patient, kind, able to teach, and mature enough to endure suffering and persecution, it's expected of us that we correct our opponents in humility.
 - It's not about us. It's about God, His glory, and His Truth.