



## Spiritual Warfare + Torah Righteousness?

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I have just attended a conference on Spiritual Warfare, done by some of the same people who sponsored the wonderful training I had in the subject from 1990 through 2000. I can see the roots of where I stand on the matter in what was presented now. It was very much what I teach and I remain in agreement. It was a great blessing to hear these matters of faith staunchly and clearly declared, despite the acknowledged controversy these truths bring to the church at large.

It occurs to me that the one area in which I now see additional need may, in fact, be an area that those who have already understood and practiced the disciplines of spiritual warfare may be more able to comprehend than the average Christian church goer; that of strongholds, authority and permission. The diagram on the subject was very revealing to me. I was unable to copy it here for review. It clearly demonstrated how one could still be a sincere believer, faith "intact" so to speak, from the foothold, eventually becoming a stronghold, that takes up residence in the periphery of the soul. Knowingly or not, permission can be given to tolerate such a stronghold, accepting another authority than our Elohim, the God of Israel. (*Specifically referenced in point 10 below.*)

For very brief background, I was also trained in the mid '90s under the leadership of Rev. Dr. John Spangler using the Bethel Series teacher training over 2 and half years of intensive study. Since 2000, I have been studying from a Hebraic perspective, moving from study of commentaries through learning study skills that include Hebraic block logic, thematic and chiasmic study as well as examining the ancient Hebrew pictographic script. While I am not a Biblical scholar, I am a serious student of the Word and founder of a Life Model Messianic home fellowship and equipping community formed in 2000.

The one potential difference I now saw in all that was presented was in reference to the Law and how one walks. It was initially stated that prior to conversion as a believer, one could "step

over” the line of what the Law allows and be condemned. Following coming to a living faith in Messiah, it was originally stated that the line is no longer there, because the Believer has been freed from the Law. This I would take exception to as the Law and the Word are synonymous and the Word itself declares it stands forever.

*The grass withers, the flower fades, But the **word** of our God **stands** forever.”*

Isaiah 40:8

It was clarified later, that it is the condemnation of the Law that has been removed from the Believer, with which I fully agree. Repentance, turning back from a sinful episode to honor Him again will result in restoration however, the consequences of stepping over the line of sin as defined by the Law may well remain. It was indicated that one then needs to walk in a way that is pleasing to our God in order to overcome the consequences of the sin. The specifics of what this means were not addressed in this conference, though there are other materials available.

Here is the point of addition to already good teaching. The first reference to the “line” of law as being removed seems to belie the typical underlying assumption of many believers that the “Old Testament” is no longer applicable. There is a vagueness that characterizes what it means then, to walk without sin while honoring our Father and His Son, our Messiah Yeshua.

I would identify this as walking in righteousness in accordance with Scripture. Our traditional Christian background leaves this very open, viewing it as mostly a personal matter between each Believer and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Thankfully, some groups still also understand there is a need for knowledge of the Word to test the spirits. The emphasis is on the New Testament only, still minimizing the place of the Law. The concept of “Law” as we usually understand it as primarily pejorative is misleading in this case. I believe it is more accurately translated as “God’s teachings on righteousness.” The Hebrew word behind Torah literally means “to hit the mark.”

The training included reference to the “I wills” of satan in declaring his intention to usurp God’s place, and also included reference to Messiah’s statements that even though many called on His Name and did wonders in His Name and cast out demons in His name, they would not be received, instead counted as workers of lawlessness. (Matthew 7:22) **This truth was acknowledged but not discussed as to what form it might take.** It was this insight that dawned in my spirit following the conference, specifically referred to in the verse just prior to the one quoted. (*It is written on the next page for your consideration.*)

The danger lies in the belief that all strongholds of demonic entity have been revealed and expelled. It is so because many ministers of deliverance are just as much under this stronghold in this area as their people have been under other strongholds. We had to face this very issue in 2001-2 as we grew Set Apart Ministries, an equipping ministry/community to support those coming out of ritual abuse.

Though the spiritual warfare instruction in how to submit to God and resist the devil remains thorough and Scripturally sound, there remains the great danger of failing to provide adequate instruction on how one is to walk in a manner pleasing to God after deliverance. This failure is a systemic problem throughout much of Christianity due to the neglect of the Whole counsel of God as found in the Whole Word.

**I submit here that there is a deep personal, familial, generational and institutional stronghold that exists, promoting rebellion against honoring the Whole Word of God, and instead, choosing to submit to the denominational understandings of men. This allows believers to still act and intercede on behalf of others with great efficacy, but also leaves room for the evil one to subvert their future.**

I suggest that it is the walk of righteousness that is left so vaguely defined, as some type of wholesome spiritual discipline and mentoring that is a personal matter between each one and our Father and Messiah, that opens the door to danger. The verse that was not referenced is this:

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;  
**but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.***

Matthew 7:21

It is doing the “will of my Father” or more accurately, in avoiding doing the will of our Father that the danger lies. As was quoted in this training, no matter what wonderful works have been done in His Name, we can still be told to depart from Him. I further note that we can still not be allowed in the Kingdom of heaven because we have not sought and walked in the will of the Father. **It was the insight of this resistance actually being a stronghold that dawned on me after the conference.** Otherwise, I had just thought of it as being a difference of understanding due to institutionalized teaching and opinions.

Why do we not seek the will of the Father? Again, I say it is because there is a deep personal, familial, generational, institutional stronghold of rebellion toward honoring the instructions of righteousness found in what we call the “Old Testament.” It can be traced to Marcion’s teaching that presented what I believe to be a false dichotomy between the “Old Testament” angry god and the “New Testament” grace filled loving god. He was eventually removed from church leadership but this artificial and incorrect dichotomy of the Father and the Son remains. There are other roots but suffice it to mention this one now.

When we do not follow His instructions on how He wants us to walk, but instead invent our own ideas, or follow the practices used to “worship” other “gods” we are no different than the Israelites making a golden calf to worship YHWH when they feared Moses was gone. This manmade idea from Egyptian pagan practices led to many deaths. David made a nice new oxcart to carry the Ark when he declined to honor the instructions of how God wanted it done. Only one death resulted then. This current failure to honor and teach His ways of righteousness now can lead to a great many more deaths.

This desire to worship Him as man has determined leaves the evil one in great joy. We can be Believers ourselves and assist to deliver others from the power of the evil one **up to a point**. But when we fail to train ourselves and others up in the Father's will and righteousness and His way to walk, ultimately, we **may be turned away from our reward at the last moment** when there is no option to do otherwise. Satan will have a victory in having kept those who believed themselves to be **already** in the Kingdom of Heaven away from Messiah.

**If you do not believe that your mind, will, and emotions could hold a stronghold of rebellion against keeping the entire Word of God, I ask you to prayerfully consider the same kind of testing that would be done for one seeking freedom from occult ritualistic backgrounds.**

**Please consider the inner resistance or agreement you find with these Scripture references and facts. Please ask the Holy Spirit to bind back any demonic entities attached to the denominational western worldview glasses that have dominated your understanding in these matters, just as you would ask that any interference to an individual's coming to saving knowledge of Messiah be held back. Please try to read them in the context in which they were written, not by denominational interpretation.**

1. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2 Timothy 3:16*

**FACT:** when this was written, the Scripture referenced was the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings. It is all that is needed to know how to worship the God of Israel and His son our Messiah Yeshua.

(If you find resistance to acknowledging this fact. Consider the presence of a stronghold. Don't get stuck in defending the legitimacy of the New Testament here but stay with the basic fact. The New Testament confirms the "Old" in every way, and if we think otherwise, it is because we lack the correct context.)

2. *For I am the LORD, I **change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Malachi 3:6*

*I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. Isaiah 43:11*

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Hebrews 13:8*

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Rev. 22:13*

**FACT:** Our God says that He does not change. Our Messiah Yeshua is the First and the Last, fully God and fully man, eternally existent with the Father. His teachings on righteousness were not changed or abolished-- by His own affirmation. He did not change the Fathers instructions

on how we are to live and to worship Him. He did correct the errors, particularly of legalism, that had become institutionalized. **How is it that we think errors couldn't have crept in again?**

In our fear of legalism, we have run right across the road to the other ditch of antinomianism, an equal and opposite error. Perhaps two pillars in the stronghold?

If you find resistance to this fact that our God doesn't change and He and Messiah are One, consider the presence of a stronghold.

3. *Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.  
If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine,  
whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. John 7:16-17*

**FACT:** Jesus only taught what the Father had already taught. Had He done otherwise, He would have failed the Deuteronomy 13 test of a false prophet. He deferred to the Father on every occasion in many familiar references.

If you find resistance to the belief that Jesus taught only what the Father already had taught, consider the presence of a stronghold.

4. *Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed,  
When I look into all Your commandments I will praise You with uprightness of heart,  
When I learn Your righteous judgments.  
Psalm 119 5-7*

**FACT:** This Psalm extols the virtues of the Law/Torah and of keeping it for righteousness. Though the Psalms are beloved by many in Christian faith, it seems to have been overlooked that they promote keeping His Law. In Psalm 119 alone, the Word/ Torah is described as:

*Reason for rejoicing, wondrous, a delight, a source of strength, liberty, life, source of comfort, better than gold and silver, faithful, settled in heaven, meditations, sweeter than honey...etc.*

If you resist His commandments that are said to be all of these things and more, you are rebelling against the will of the Father. If you define the OT God as one of anger and His word no longer of any value, you are rebelling against the commandments of God. You are doing what Messiah Yeshua refused to do.

If you find yourself resisting these beautiful descriptions of His Torah as something we would actually DO please consider the presence of a stronghold.

5. *He restores my soul;  
He leads me in the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.*

Psalm 23:3

**FACT:** There are instructions on how to walk in righteousness on the correct path as confirmed in this beloved Psalm as the way to walk. David wrote these words long before there was a “New Testament” so it referred to the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings. The word translated as “path” here, can more accurately be understood as “cycles.” We saw cycles of judgment in the book of Judges, but we see cycles of righteousness in the calendar and path of keeping His feasts, in an annual cycle. This is especially true of the seventh day, observance of which is a forever sign of the covenant.

*It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.*

Exodus 31:17

If you find internal resistance to this fact and pattern, and prefer to keep what seems like traditional celebrations, please consider the presence of a stronghold.

6. *Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*

1 John 3:4

**FACT:** Lawlessness is translated from the Greek *Anomia*, referring to the Law, the Torah, specifically to being WITHOUT the Law. Sin is Torahlessness: The absence of the teachings on how to walk in righteousness.

If you find internal resistance to this fact, please consider the presence of a stronghold.

7. *And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. Romans 11:17-18*

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone Ephesians 2:19-20 (all of chapter 2)*

**FACT:** If we claim the Name of Messiah, then we have been grafted in by faith to the household of Israel. We are adopted as sons to be about the business of our Father. **This is NOT the same thing as Rabbinic Judaism.**

If we dislike this idea, and find thoughts such as: “I am not a Jew. God is done with Israel and has replaced her with the church,” consider the existence of a stronghold. We are not to boast against the root of our faith because surely, if He removed the natural branches due to unbelief, and made room for the Gentiles to come in, He can surely graft in the natural branches once again...and cut us off for unbelief and boasting.

**FACT:** Jews, or Judah, are only one tribe of all of Israel. While we may or may not be of the tribe of Judah, if we belong to the God of Israel, we are part of the family of Israel. Whether by Israel blood line or not, faith is the determining factor.

If you reject this fact, consider the presence of a stronghold.

8. *And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 2 Peter 3: 15-16*

*For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.  
Deuteronomy 30: 10, 14 (entire chapter for context)*

*For Christ is the end(goal) of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.  
For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law,  
That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.  
But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart:  
that is, the word of faith, which we preach;  
Romans 10: 4,5,8 (whole chapter for context)*

*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 1:3*

**FACT:** Paul never denied his Israelite/Benjamite heritage and did not “convert” but had his eyes opened to Who the Messiah really is. He did not change what was taught by the Father through Moses. Again, had anyone done what even Jesus refused to do, he would be a false prophet according to Deuteronomy 13. The same would apply for Peter, James and John. Thus, Paul’s affirmation to Timothy of the validity of the Word previously noted. **Moses was a Messiah type, a shadow cast by the substance that already existed and was yet to come. His words were never intended to be used as “either/or” to Messiah’s teachings.**

Unlearned people of the Whole Word of God, the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings, do twist his words to their own destruction as Peter warned. The western Greek world view of “either/or” thinking, blinds many to the “if this is so, how much more is this so” kind of Hebraic thought. (Hillel’s Rules of Comparison)

Augustine, an early “father of the faith” was involved in Manichean sun god worship and began to incorporate these practices into the “new” Christian faith. Polycarp, a disciple of John, had stood as a remaining eye witness to testify to the practices of the early believers, which did not include celebration of pagan practices but affirmation of the instructions in the Torah. There is archeological evidence of a first century Messianic community in Israel that honored Yeshua as Messiah and kept the Feasts.

If you sense resistance to this awareness, please consider the presence of a stronghold.

9. *‘For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. Leviticus 11:45*

*‘And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.*

Lev 20:26

*but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy. 1 Peter 1:15-16*

*“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11*

If you find resistance to this acknowledgement that He did provide adequate instruction for how we are to walk in righteousness, and in holiness in the Torah, the prophets, and the writings, please consider the presence of a stronghold.

**FACT:** The Bible instructs the People of the God of Israel to worship Him through His calendar of feasts and appointed times, all of which directly point to Messiah Yeshua. He warned against doing what the nations do. The Bible instructs the People of God on how to live. It never attributes these feasts to be “Jewish” but to be of God. His instructions are complete and need no addition. In fact addition is prohibited.

If you find resistance to the awareness that additions are prohibited, please consider the presence of a stronghold

10. *“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it. Deuteronomy 12:32*

*“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.*

Rev 22:18



**FACT:** there is no Biblical directive to celebrate the birth of Messiah at a “Christmas” season nor is there Biblical directive to celebrate “Easter.” The roots of these celebrations did not come from Scripture but from other sources. These added practices are not needed when the instructions already given cover every aspect of Messiah’s life and service to us, first and second coming. These additions are pagan in nature.

When one participates in pagan practices, the door is opened for the demonic entities associated with them to have a place in that one’s life, in this case, specifically blinding participants to the nature of what they are doing and to what the Scriptures actually direct His people to do. **This is the principle of authority and permission in action.**

If you find internal resistance to these Scripture references and facts, consider the presence of a stronghold.

Despite our intense desire to serve and please our Lord, and despite the evidence of blessings received, please deeply consider the possibility of a stronghold that holds us back from seeking and doing the Father’s will through observance of His entire Word of instructions on righteousness.

Yes, He is merciful, slow to anger and steadfast in covenant love for us, but He is also just. *(12 parts mercy and 1 part justice: Exodus 34: 6-7)* If we do not heed His full instruction in walking in righteousness, we are at risk, as Messiah said. If we rebel against the Father’s commandments as recorded by Moses and reinforced by our Messiah, we put ourselves outside His promises. There is a great deal more to say especially in regard to the time in which we live and the acknowledgement that we have been living under His mercy for a very long time already. (Leviticus 26, especially note verse 44) But ultimately, there comes a time when He will call us back for the greater Exodus, and He will test our hearts and our walk to see if we are truly desiring to know Him and His ways or are only honoring him with our lips while rejecting His ways.

If we continue to serve Him and help others be cleared of demonic activity but do not clear ourselves of this rebellion toward the Scriptures teaching on righteousness and the way to walk, and continue pagan associations and give permission and authority to the demonic powers attached to them, we have tolerated a stronghold of rebellion and could find ourselves and the people we have served standing outside on the day of Messiah’s return.

He could say, even though you called me “Lord,” you did not do the will of my Father so you cannot have entrance to the Kingdom of God.

May it never be!

Comments or conversation on these matters are welcome at [info@set-apart-ministries.org](mailto:info@set-apart-ministries.org) or (920) 336-7005.