

## The Way of the Lord

### 5. Jesus Came To Free Me From WHAT? (Part 3)

In our last segment we discussed two areas of darkness in your mind, will and emotions that hinder your walk in Jesus as your Lord. These two areas are DEMONIC STRONGHOLDS and your SIN NATURE. Both of these evil forces work together to make your motivations ANTI - Christ and ANTI - God's Word.

In this segment we're going to present Jesus in a way most people never think about Him — as God Who became Man in the power and authority of HIS NAME. The Bible describes Christ as “the POWER of God and the WISDOM of God” (1Corinthians 1:24).

What do you think that means, the POWER of God that's found in Jesus? If you don't know, then you're NULLIFYING for yourself what it is to experience the FREEDOM Jesus promises. Think about the TRUE Gospel that was preached to those who first trusted Jesus. It totally altered their lives! “Our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with POWER, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction” (1 Thessalonians 1:5).

Jesus sent His first disciples out to REVEAL HIS POWER, a power which ALL His followers can access today:

- “When Jesus had called the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases” (Luke 9:1).
- “When the disciples returned they exclaimed, ‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your Name.’” (Luke 10:17).

His disciples weren't surprised that they'd encountered demons in people. Instead, they were were thrilled by the POWER they had in the Name of Jesus to FREE them. The people who'd been demonized weren't all raving maniacs. They may have been acting like most people who AREN'T spiritually free. Very likely they were influenced by demonic strongholds passed along by their parents, or by strongholds that formed when they habitually gave way to sin.

Jesus knew that if people were to understand the true gospel, they needed to have their mind, will and emotions freed. The demonic spirits in someone who ISN'T free will distort both the Gospel AND all of God's Word. That person CAN'T live according to God's way.

There's a distinct connection between the POWER of Jesus's Name, and the UNITY that the authority of His Name produces in His own people: “Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name — THE NAME YOU GAVE ME — so that THEY may be one as We are one” (John 17:11). There's POWER in the Name of Jesus. His Name has POWER to evict demons, and POWER to change people to become more like Him.

If you've demolished the strongholds in your soul, then you've experienced the authority in Jesus's Name over Satan's servants. But there's another aspect to His power, the power to HEAL and CHANGE you. When the Bible speaks about Jesus that, “He took up our infirmities and carried away our diseases” (Matthew 8:17), we believe it applies as much to sickness in the soul as diseases of the body.

John affirms this when he writes, “I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well” (3 John 1:2). He’s describing an important connection: When your soul is healthy, it effects your whole body.

If you belong to Lord Jesus, He intends to replace the old thought patterns of your strongholds and sin-nature-controlled soul so you’ll think and respond as HE would. Jesus promises to transform you through HIS SPIRIT at work within you: “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, Who is the Spirit” (2Corinthians 3:17,18).

He does this by healing your mind will and emotions of toxic memories. Then He replaces them with motives that are like Him. Let’s see how this transformation takes place. Suppose you’ve demolished a stronghold of bitterness in your mind. Within that demonic fortress were HABITUAL symptoms of resentment, unforgiveness, anger and hatred, and chronic grumbling. Each one of these symptoms is a dark, thorny memory in your brain, a diseased memory coated with toxic chemicals.

These demonic strongholds rely on DECEPTION. They blind you to just how emotionally callous you are. And, they foster insensitivity to the emotional needs of others. Very often you’ll hurt OTHERS in the same way YOU were emotionally wounded — especially if they REMIND you of someone who hurt you in your past.

After the demonic portion to the strongholds has been demolished, each symptom needs to be transformed into a Christ-like, biblically-based response. This can only happen as you examine your toxic memories through God’s Word, identifying which ones DON’T conform to the love-based character of Jesus.

Changing those sinful responses is a twofold process. First, you need to FORGIVE the person who caused the emotional hurt that brought on the stronghold. Next, you need to REPENT for holding onto that bitter memory, and receive God’s forgiveness for that. Then, ASK the Spirit of Christ to help you become more like Jesus in that area of your life.

The power of His Spirit at work in you can CHANGE your toxic memory into a healthy one. The testimony that this change has taken place will be that your motives and responses become more loving and forgiving — just like Jesus. If your memories become healthy, you’ll really understand this declaration: “I was blind but now I SEE!” (John 9:25).

If you’re going to MAINTAIN your new-found freedom, then it’s essential that you take Paul’s command seriously: “Take captive EVERY thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2Corinthians 10:5). Taking your thoughts captive is much like how personal exercise contributes to better health. Thoughts that obey Jesus enable you to LIVE the way of the Lord.

#### For Further Study:

Lifebyte 73: Stop Toxic Thoughts — Replace Toxic Memories

Lifebyte 74: Having the Heart of Jesus — A Kingdom Mindset

Lifebyte 75: A Kingdom Mindset — You Must Get Out Of Your Comfort Zone  
<<http://www.restorationministries.org/html/LifeBytes.html>>

All are a free download from our website: [Restorationministries.org](http://www.restorationministries.org)