

Even Stranger Things

Part 03

Intro

1. Our attention is grabbed when we see something strange.
And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!" - Luke 5:26
 - a. Faith that takes action
 - b. Peace that people have never seen before
2. Sometimes it's the things that are unseen that grab our attention even more. *Ghost stories, horror movies, Stranger Things.*
 - a. We're going to read a story about unseen fights.

Read: Luke 9:37-43

3. The people were standing in awe of Jesus' display of power - they'd never come across anything like it! *Strange things.*
 - a. While Jesus' victory was obvious, there was an invisible fight that the disciples had lost
I begged your disciples to cast out the spirit, but they couldn't do it.
- Luke 9:40
Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?"
- Matt 17:19
 - b. Same incident described in Matthew showed the disciples didn't even know why they were beaten or how they lost the fight.
4. Today we're going to talk about spirits and the battle that goes on in the spiritual realm.

I. The Fight You're Guaranteed To Lose Is The Fight You Don't Even Know You're In

The disciples weren't aware of the spiritual battle and how they lost it.

A. You can't fight something you're not aware of.

Talk about seeing stuff Stranger Things characters don't see. Video clip example.

1. Can't prepare for it if you don't know it's coming eg.
Exams.

2. The devil wants you to remain unaware so he can do whatever he wants.
3. Not to hyper-spiritualize or blame the devil for everything, but we need to be aware of what he's up to.

B. There is a fight between God's kingdom and Satan's

kingdom. *1 Chron 21:21, Acts 10:38, 1 Thess 2:18, 1 Pet 5:8.*

1. Satan attempts to oppose, twist, and destroy everything God does.
2. Kingdom of Light vs Kingdom of Darkness
 - a) *Holiness vs Sin*
 - b) *Healing vs Sickness*
 - c) *Truth vs Deception*
 - d) *Joy & Life vs Sorrow & Death*

C. Evil spirits are part of Satan's way to oppose, twist, and destroy God's creation.

An evil spirit keeps seizing him, making him scream. It throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It batters him and hardly ever leaves him alone. - Luke 9:39

1. Believers can be oppressed by evil spirits
 - a) *Attacked, harassed, and bound*
 - b) *Territorial spirits in areas you're trying to take*
2. Believers cannot be possessed by evil spirits
 - a) *Occupancy and ownership = possession*
 - b) *Under their complete control*
 - c) *Holy Spirit occupies you and Jesus bought you with a price. Evil spirits cannot occupy or own you.*

II. Bringing The Right Weapon To The Fight Sets You Up To Win

We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and destroy false arguments. - 2 Cor 10:4

A. Don't apply natural weapons to a spiritual fight.

B. The greater has authority over the lesser.

But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and healed the boy. - Luke 9:42
Jesus is the boss, like a gun in a knife fight.

C. Jesus has already defeated Satan.

1. As the author of sin. *1 John 3:8, you can live free.*
2. As the author of sickness. *Isa 53:4, you can live healed.*
3. As the author of death. *Heb 2:13-14, you can have abundant life.*
4. As the ruler of this world. *Rev 11:15, you share in His authority.*
5. In every spiritual realm. *Phil 2:9-11, you share in His victory.*

III. Victory Comes From Who We're Connected To

Jesus said, "You faithless and corrupt people! How long must I be with you and put up with you?"
- Luke 9:41

Faithless = Not connected enough to God

Corrupt = Too connected to the world

A. Realise your position

1. We are IN Christ *1 Cor 6:17*
2. When we are in Him we are in a position of victory
3. Intentional effort to be found in Him

B. Recognize your responsibility

1. Live victorious over sin and give Satan no claim on you.
Claim = Belong. John 14:30 1 John 3:8
2. When he has a claim you sabotage yourself in the fight
3. Submit to God, resist the devil. *James 4:7-8. Both together.*

C. Renew your battlefield

1. Your spirit is won by God, no room.
2. Satan goes for your soul - mind, will, emotions.
3. Renew your mind. *Romans 12:1-2. Reading the word connects you to God while you disconnect from the world.*

D. Ready your armour

Eph 6:10-18

Conclusion

1. We need to recognize the fight we're in and not treat it lightly.
2. As we fight and win victories in the spirit, things in the natural will start to line up.
3. In order to win, we need to be connected with our source of victory.

Salvation Call

1. Supernatural and evil spirits etc. are real.
2. No need to fear because there is victory in God.
3. First step is making a decision to believe in Jesus.

Ministry Time

1. Draw close to God and position ourselves IN Christ.
2. Close any open doors and revoke any claims.
3. Spiritual warfare - fight for Fright Night, Connect Group outreach, souls.