

# Models of Deliverance Part 1: Truth

## —God at War, Week 9—

(NIV)

### I. Our \_\_\_\_\_ Strategy of Spiritual Warfare is \_\_\_\_\_

#### James 4:4-10

<sup>4</sup>You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? <sup>6</sup>But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud  
but shows favor to the humble.”

<sup>7</sup>**Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** <sup>8</sup>Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

*It is useful to use James 4:7 as a guide for how we think about this kind of war against the enemy. The first and most important issues is our submission to God through the Lordship of Christ. We must fully bring all of our lives into submission to Jesus. This involves confessing all sin and renewing our allegiance to Jesus as Lord, ideally out loud. Only then will we be in a position to successfully resist Satan with God's power.*

### II. One \_\_\_\_\_ Strategy is a “\_\_\_\_\_” Model

- This model focusses on renouncing sin and deception, and then reestablishing our authority and freedom in Christ
- This approach has been developed by Neil T. Anderson in his book *Bondage Breaker* (2000/2019) and other resources like *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*.
- The understanding here is that the birthright of Christians is freedom from spiritual oppression, but as we believe lies of the Devil and sin, it “opens the door” in our lives to spiritual oppression. Consider:

#### Ephesians 4:26-27

<sup>26</sup>“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup>and do not give the devil a foothold.

- The solution is thus to confess and renounce our sins, confront lies we might have believed, and instead focus on and believe in our identity in Christ. Other relevant passages include: Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:5-10; James 5:16.

- Anderson's *Steps to Freedom in Christ* contain seven steps to help us do this, in which we consider ways we might have opened doors to Satan:
  - Counterfeit versus Real (occult involvement, false religions)
  - Deception versus Truth (lies we might have believed)
  - Bitterness versus Forgiveness (forgiving all those who have hurt us)
  - Rebellion versus Submission (repenting of rebelliousness)
  - Pride versus Humility (repenting of pride)
  - Bondage versus Freedom (repenting of various sins, esp. sexual)
  - Curses versus Blessings (focus on generational sins and curses)

- As helpful as Anderson's material is, there are two flaws to bear in mind:
  - (1) Anderson has a misunderstanding that we are primarily bound by the letters in the New Testament, and that this means what Jesus and the apostles do in the gospels is not as instructive. In the past he has said that because we don't see the letters telling us to directly confront demons, we shouldn't do this. This is why he focusses on his truth-based approach.

*Yet this understanding of the gospels is wrong-headed. The gospels are actually written after many of the letters, and are written to Christians to teach Christians, not just to serve as a kind of historical relic. The example of Jesus and the apostles in exorcisms are there for our instruction. Furthermore, we see the apostles directly confronting demons in Acts, which is written after the death and resurrection of Jesus.*

*Now, I'm glad to see in the newest edition of Anderson's book (2019), he has largely removed this discussion. His statements are no longer as blatantly wrong—however, while he removed these statements, the same view remains the theological rationale for his approach. As it stands now, we only have a hint of his earlier justification, where he says this about the approach of challenging a demon, getting information from it, etc: “There are no instructions in the epistles for that methodology...” (197). That is true. But just because something is not found in the occasional letters in the New Testament doesn't mean it's not viable. The examples of Jesus and the apostles in Acts should be allowed to stand.*

*(2) Anderson, by laying the blame for spiritual problems largely on sin and deception, can be interpreted as (at times) putting unwarranted guilt on the oppressed. He might not allow sufficient room for the category of innocent spiritual oppression.*

*This all means that Anderson's approach, while scriptural and powerful, is not the exclusive and final word on how we should proceed in spiritual warfare. We want to pay attention to other models as well.*

### The Bottom Line

Seek \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ by \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, disbelieving \_\_\_\_, and understanding better who \_\_\_\_\_

...by remembering and applying the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

...by \_\_\_\_\_ the *Steps to Freedom in Christ* with \_\_\_\_\_.  
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