

Freedom FOCUS

September—October 2008

NEWSLETTER

“...to turn them
from darkness
to light...”

www.indianabcc.com

Overcoming the Enemies of the Family (Part 3)

Ephesians 6:10-12, “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

We are born into a battle. Unfortunately, many families fail to recognize the reality of spiritual warfare in their lives.

At IBCC we believe that it is important to maintain a biblical balance as we teach families to consider the impact of spiritual warfare in their lives. C. S. Lewis, wrote in the preface to *The Screwtape Letters*. “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors.”



To help people form a balanced spiritual warfare perspective we need to consider the following principles:

1. The Sovereignty of God in our spiritual warfare worldview brings balance.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 “So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

2. Demons are spirits of influence for the Christian not control.

Dr. Timothy Warner in his book *Spiritual Warfare* comes to the following conclusion, “Spiritual possession clearly implies ownership and would seem to include the control of one’s eternal destiny. It would seem impossible to be owned and controlled by Satan and have a saving relationship with Christ at the same time. So if the question is, ‘Can a Christian be demon-possessed?’ the answer is clearly no.” (Wheaton, Ill.; Crossway, 1991)

3. Satan wants you to make agreements with his lies.

Satan is a liar (John 8:44). He brings suggestions in your mind that try to influence you and bring discouragement, condemnation, accusation, confusion, or counsel that is contrary to the Word of

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IBCC

Fall Praise Banquet

Mark your calendar and call our office now to reserve your seat for our 2008 Fall Praise Banquet. This is always a great opportunity to share firsthand what God is doing in the lives of individuals through this ministry!

Date:

Friday November 14th, 2008

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location:

Indianapolis
Training Center
2820N.Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Cost: \$10 per person

RSVP

Call: 317-585-1845

Overcoming the Enemies of the Family (Part 3 cont.)

God. People *who ignore this reality are easily deceived.*

4. Satan will be allowed by God to tempt you. *1 Thessalonians 3:5* “For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the **tempter had tempted** you and our labor would be in vain.” Satan’s temptations appeal to your fleshly desires.

Jesus clearly stated Satan’s three goals in John 10:10 “The thief comes only to **steal and kill and destroy...**” This becomes a reality in our lives as Satan comes as a thief to take away your freedom in Christ feloniously; withdrawing it undetectably and gaining it gradually. He does this through temptation and us succumbing to a continued lifestyle of besetting sin. Secondly, Satan comes to unlawfully kill the heart of a human being with premeditated malice. He does this through rejection and the lies that come in the message of that wounding. Finally, Satan desires to influence you to walk in the flesh and continue to make sinful choices that will bring destruction to your life, marriage, family and future generations.

In counseling families it is important to address root issues as to how Satan is trying to steal, kill and destroy families. **Here are the strongholds that we desire to address:**

- Pride- James 4:6
- Bitterness- Ephesians 4:26, 27
- Rebellion- 1 Samuel 15:23
- Sexual Immorality- 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 4, 1

Corinthians 6:15-20

- Spiritual Counterfeits- False gospel, spirits, false Jesus- 2 Corinthians 11:3, 4
- Fear- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Guilt- 1 Timothy 1:18,19
- Unhealthy Relationships (Soul Ties) - 1 Corinthians 5:9-12
- Idolatry- Exodus 20:4, 5

It is imperative that families understand how to defeat Satan and how to address the spiritual warfare battles in their family. Scripture gives us great insight on how to be an over comer in Christ. **I have seen many people find freedom and deliverance in their lives by obeying God in the following ways:**

- Repentance- 1 John 1:9, James 5:16
- Renunciation- Ephesians 5:11, Titus 2:12
- Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-18
- Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee- James 4:7-10
- Resist steadfast in the faith- 1 Peter 5:6-10
- Learn to suffer well- 1 Peter 4:1,2, Romans 8:17

Rev. Jeff Pokone

For more information on this subject, we invite you to download Rev. Pokone’s message entitled, *Overcoming the Three Enemies of the Family (Part 2)*, available at www.indianabcc.com/family_series.htm.

Counseling Seminar, In-depth, Practical and Helpful

ON Saturday, June 21st, 2008 the states of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana were represented at the Counseling Training Seminar held at Second Reformed Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. From 8 am to 4 pm, Rev. Jeff Pokone directed his lectures to help one understand from a biblical perspective how counseling goes hand-in-hand with discipleship.

The 20 attendees were given an in-depth look into the who, what, why and how of counseling. One attendee pointed out how Jeff’s informal way of taking lessons and stories from his own experience and relating them to specific points helped her grasp vital content and kept her eyes wide open.

Jeff addressed not only the needs of a hurting person but also the attitude of the heart of the counselor. The day was an excellent crash course on counseling. Question’s that were answered were, “What Should I Consider when I counsel someone?” and “What are the basic steps to

helping someone find help for their problems?” A lot of information was packed into each session as Jeff covered valuable issues that help one comprehend the vast complexities of the human soul as God created it.

Altogether the seminar was uplifting and a time of practical training. One attendee who is a former client shared their personal testimony of how God brought her to Himself and used Rev. Pokone in that process.

Listening to the truths that were taught, I found my own heart encouraged. I was reminded that God created relationships after the perfect model of the relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I caught a glimpse of the hope and healing that comes from seeking Christ who binds up the wounded, who heals the brokenhearted and who turns our sorrow into joy.

Stay tuned for more training opportunities!