

Good and Bad Enemies

Reflection: Ephesians 6:10-18, John 8:36

The Bible says, if Jesus Christ makes you free, you will be free indeed (John 8:36). There are churches and ministries that still believe participating in constant deliverance sessions is required to "*fight, rebuke, bind, kill*" satan and demons (evil spirits) to be set free from bondage. Yes, you can fight satan, and you can bind and cast out demons, but you honestly do not need sessions upon sessions to do that, if you are a true follower of Christ. The full armor of God has been made available to us (Ephesians 6:10-18). We also have the authority to cast out demons in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15-19). Christ is the Head of all principalities and power – He is feared by demons (Matthew 8:29); they know Him and submit to His authority (Mark 1:23-28); they also know true followers of Christ (Acts 19:11-16). With that said, let us keep in mind that even God uses evil spirits to punish people. He sent an evil spirit to King Saul (1 Samuel 16:14-15). Let us pursue holiness, beloved, and it will be well with us. As for satan, you can resist him, defeat him, overcome his attacks – all because of Christ. But can you kill him? No, you can't. Satan will continue to roam the earth until God gets rid of him (1 Peter 5:8, Revelation 20:3,10).

Some of these churches and ministries also make you say repetitive prayer lines targeted at cutting short the lives of your *enemies*. Ideally, we are not to avenge ourselves, as true followers of Christ - Do not avenge yourselves. "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord (Romans 12:19). Who is to say cutting short the lives of your enemies will be what the Lord chooses to avenge you of their wrongdoing? You may still believe saying these prayers is the thing for you, regardless of what the Bible teaches. While at it, keep in mind also, that there are three categories of enemies in the life of a true follower of Christ.

The first category of enemies are the ones permitted by God Himself to bring out the best in us, so that we can attain greater heights. For example, Joseph faced some obstacles before he could fulfil the purpose of God for his life. Satan meant to harm him through his brothers, but God permitted those obstacles for good. God permitted satan to afflict Job, as well, for good. We also face trials, as we go through the refining process that prepares us for good works.

The second category of enemies are those we may have permitted through sin. They are going nowhere in spite of warfare prayers, and may eventually do a lot of damage if we continue to live in sin and refuse to repent. Do the needful, beloved!

The third category of enemies are those who hate us without a reason. These enemies exist through no fault of ours, and are influenced by satan to bring us misery. However, God gives us victory over them. We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus (Romans 8:37). He said we are to be of good cheer because He has overcome the world (John 16:33). Remember always, that He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4), and all things will always work together for our good (Romans 8:28). The Bible says when the ways of a man please God, He will cause his enemies to be at peace with him (Proverbs 16:7). We have no reason then, to fear, if our ways please Him. May we be guided, beloved.

Shalom!