

## I Will Build My Church – Part 10

**Matthew 16:18-19 (KJV)** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- This series is about discovering God's blueprint for building His church!

### **PRINCIPLE #14: SHAKE OFF THE SERPENT**

(Acts 28:3-5)

**Acts 28:3-5** <sup>3</sup>And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. <sup>4</sup>And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. <sup>5</sup>And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

- Any time you build a spiritual “fire” the enemy will show up! He appears because he cannot stand the heat you are applying to him!

### **SATAN IS REAL, AND HE HAS A KINGDOM:**

- **It is a kingdom of DARKNESS.**

**Colossians 1:13** *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

Darkness vs. Light / Sin & Unrighteousness vs. Holiness & Righteousness / Deception vs. Truth / Sickness & Disease vs. Healing & Health / Sorrow & Death vs. Joy & Life

- **It is an INFLUENTIAL kingdom.**

**Luke 4:5-6** *And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.*

- **It is a COUNTERFEIT kingdom.**

**John 8:44** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Since man was created to worship, Satan has developed a completely counterfeit religion, to draw this worship away from God to himself. According to Scripture, Satan has: a throne (Rev. 2:13), great depths of doctrines and men who teach them (1 Tim. 4:1), a table of communion (1 Cor. 10:21), people who sacrifice at his altar (1 Cor. 10:20), the ability to pose as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14), spirit and human messengers (2 Cor. 11:13), a kingdom (Matt. 12:26), the ability to perform counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders (Rev. 16:14), false apostles, prophets and teachers (2 Cor. 11:13), a city (Mystery Babylon) to oppose the city of God (New Jerusalem) and a harlot church to counterfeit the Bride of Christ (Rev. 17:5)

- **It is a LIMITED kingdom.**

**Luke 11:21-22** *When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.*

Satan is a powerful opponent, but his domain is limited by God (like a dog on a leash). And at Calvary, Jesus took away all of Satan's power over those who are in Christ! Satan has no power over you!

- **SATAN HAD THE POWER OF ACCUSATION, BUT ...**

**1 John 2:1** *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

- **SATAN HAD THE POWER OF OPPOSITION, BUT ...**

**1 John 4:4** *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

- **SATAN HAD THE POWER OF TEMPTATION, BUT ...**

**1 Corinthians 10:13** *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

- **SATAN HAD THE POWER OF AFFLICTION, BUT ...**

**Psalms 34:19** *Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*

- **SATAN HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, BUT ...**

**John 11:25** *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

**Mark 16:17-18** *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; **They shall take up serpents;** and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

**SO WHEN SATAN COMES “OUT OF THE FIRE” AND FASTENS HIMSELF TO YOU, HERE’S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:**

1. **Ignore him.** Paul didn't talk about the viper or seek sympathy from others. He gave it no undue attention. The devil loves attention, and wants us to focus on the vipers instead of building the fire!
2. **Shake him off.** The best way to shake off the devil is with praise, because your mouth is the center of spiritual warfare in your life!  
***Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*  
***Joel 3:10** Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.*
3. **Throw him in the fire.** Paul threw the viper back into the fire – the very thing it was trying to escape in the first place. The fire is the Holy Ghost, so when the devil shows up just turn up the heat!  
***Isaiah 59:19** So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*
4. **Continue your ministry.** Paul didn't miss a beat because of the viper; in fact, his deliverance opened doors for him to pray for the sick on the island. Because Paul refused to be distracted, even the devil's plan to destroy him became an opportunity for revival! Never retreat from him!

## **PRINCIPLE #15: PRAY THE PROMISES**

(Acts 29 ... today!)

- During this series, we've been studying the various principles that brought miraculous growth to the First Century Apostolic Church. When Peter first opened the door to the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius in Acts 10, he declared ...  
***Acts 10:34** Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:*
- In other words, what God did for the early church, He will still do today! We often mistakenly think that we are waiting on God, but in reality God is waiting on us! When Israel was at a standstill facing Goliath, they all hoped God would do something. **But God did nothing until David did something.** God intervened, but He was waiting for someone to move!
- We need to let the book of Acts become more than a book of church history to us – we need to pray it until it becomes reality for us! Take the key verses of revival and growth and pray them until they happen!

## **WHY WOULD WE PRAY THE WORD OF GOD TOGETHER?**

1. **The Word of God is a rich and effective prayer language.**  
So often when we pray, we pray the problem instead of the answer. But the Word of God is the answer, and praying back to God the truths He has given us increases our faith and teaches us to pray!
  2. **Praying corporately promotes agreement.**  
Jesus said in Matthew 21:13 that His house is to be a “house of prayer” – that should be the number one activity of the church! His last command to the church in Luke 24:49 was to go and hold a prayer meeting. The early church was birthed in a prayer room and grew up in constant prayer meetings! An extraordinary power is released when a group of Christians pray in agreement over a period of time about the same thing!
  3. **Praying Scripture helps us pray with a Kingdom Agenda.**  
Often our personal prayer agendas range from better jobs to new cars, but Jesus always prayed about “Kingdom things.” When we pray the Word of God, we can be sure we are praying in the will of God!
  4. **Praying the Word of God invites the Spirit of God.**  
There is a “resident anointing” in the Scripture that brings the presence of God. As we make an effort to “pray God's way,” He will lead us in even more effective levels of prayer.  
***John 14:26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*
- **THE BOOK OF ACTS IS UNFINISHED BECAUSE THE ACTS OF THE HOLY GHOST THROUGH GOD'S PEOPLE ARE NOT FINISHED!**
  - **WE ARE WRITING “ACTS 29” TODAY – LET'S MAKE IT A GOOD CHAPTER!**