

Power Tools for Men (Father's Day 2009)

VIOLENCE – has a negative connotation throughout God's word

- Genesis 6 – 2X – “The earth was filled with violence”
- Psalms – several times – “violent man” or “violent men”
- Ezekiel 18 – 4X – spoiled by violence
- Proverbs 16:29 – VIOLENCE BRINGS INFLUENCE & CONTROL!
“A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good.”

It's all bad, until one verse in the early pages of the New Testament ...

Matthew 11:12 (KJV) And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

Matthew 11:12 (NIV) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

VIOLENCE: highly excited action, impetuosity, force, injury done to that which is entitled to respect, infringement, assault, a wild or turbulent state resulting in injuries and destruction.

The studies prove it – MEN ARE PRONE TO VIOLENCE. It's in our nature to fight, to hunt, to conquer and to win. One of the problems of modern Christianity is that it has tried to FEMINIZE men until they are just like women. That's why dead denominationalism struggles to maintain its male population, and why many Christian men are BORED!

There is a bad violence, yes – but there is a good violence!

That's why the devil works overtime to get us to turn our violence against each other – instead of against him!

GOD HAS GIVEN MEN “POWER TOOLS” TO USE IN THIS FIGHT!

RELATIONSHIPS – THE LIGHT THAT SHINES

I believe in the holiness standards the Bible teaches for women, because they create much of the DEFENSIVE POWER of the church.

Apostolic women will generally stand out in the way they APPEAR, while Apostolic men will generally stand out in the way they ACT.

The Bible's holiness standards for men are equally important, because they create much of the OFFENSIVE POWER of the church.

1 Timothy 2:8-10 ⁸I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. ⁹In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; ¹⁰But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

Men, these are your holiness standards – don't criticize the women until you have lined up to God's Word! **Your relationship with God is to affect all your other relationships!** Every action and reaction is to be impacted by your Christianity. And this is to happen EVERYWHERE!

You are to be the leader of spiritual matters in your home, using your “battle skills” to fight the devil, not to fight your family! In fact, when you get married, a condition is placed on your prayer life – you will never again be able to pray as a single man.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

In a very real way, God sees us through the eyes of our wives, our children, and our friends! Genuine spirituality is marked not by the quality of our accomplishments but by the quality of our relationships!

How does your wife see your relationship with God? Your family? Your friends? The best gift you received was the full-length mirror God gave you called your spouse, your kids, and your friends! If He had enclosed a card it would have read, “Here's something to help you discover what you're really like!” Relationships hold up a mirror to my sin!

As our relationships reveal our weaknesses, the temptation is to resent the one who is doing the revealing!

The devil wants to keep Apostolic men distracted from fighting him by creating “wars” in our relationships!

ILLUSTRATION: This tool has the longest cord and takes the longest to turn on, because relationships are only proved to be genuine over time.

WORDS – THE SAW THAT CUTS THROUGH

Proverbs 18:20 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

YOU EAT WHAT YOU SAY – so stop talking like your enemy!

This is one of the great reasons that you need to KNOW THE WORD!

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Numbers 13:30-33 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, **Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.** But the men that went up with him said, **We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.** And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: **and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.**

10 people convinced 3 million people to have a grasshopper complex!

Numbers 14:27-28 How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

To say what God says is not pride! Humility is accepting who God says I am! Whether you think you CAN or you think you CAN'T – you're right!

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Matthew 12:33-37 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Don't talk out of both sides of your mouth! Make up your mind to speak like God in every circumstance.

PRAYER – THE DRILL THAT PUNCHES THROUGH

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

SUPPLICATION (Greek – “deomai”) has to do with ASKING, but extends the idea further. Asking means to merely make our request known, but supplicating is to ask with PASSION, PERSISTENCE and FOCUS. The root word is “deo” which means “to bind something up or tie something up.” This is speaking of our authority in the Spirit!

Matthew 16:19 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.

WHAT THINGS DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BIND UP? We are to intervene in any situations that are not what Heaven intends them to be and see them through in persistent prayer until they are what Heaven intends them to be!

Supplication moves into the confusion caused by the fall of man (broken heart, broken home, broken health, broken relationship) and begins to bind up broken things, bringing them back to God's original intent.

THE PRAYING CHURCH HAS BEEN EMPOWERED BY CHRIST'S PROMISE TO PRAY IN WAYS THAT STOP WHAT HELL'S COUNCILS (GATES) ARE TRYING TO ADVANCE.

Matthew 16:18 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.

Binding is not limited to our conception of something being tied up; it is also based on the concept of a “binding contract.” Holding a contractor to a contract is possible because its terms are BINDING. But by the same token, this will only happen if the purchaser insists on the clauses of the contract! His PASSION, PERSISTENCE and FOCUS ensures that contested or neglected features of the project will be finished as they ought to be, according to the will of the owner.

Satan tries to construct things that are totally out of line with God's blueprint. That's why we pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in

earth, as it is in Heaven!” Jesus, what you paid for at the cross isn’t being done on earth! Let Your power flow through my prayer to accomplish Your will!

1 Timothy 2:1-4 ¹I exhort therefore, that, first of all, **supplications**, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ²For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

The directive here is to pray for issues that are grander and broader than our own immediate points of personal concern or involvement! Prayer is not to be a preoccupied, self-centered concern. We are promised influence that can affect the climate of a culture (“that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life”) and thus create an atmosphere where people can more readily “come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

In many churches, the prayer requests make more announcements than the announcements; they basically explain why so-and-so isn’t here today! MEN GET BORED WITH THAT KIND OF PRAYING! GIVE US A CAUSE TO BE PASSIONATE ABOUT!

God wants us to invade our churches, families, workplaces, neighborhoods and cities with people who have sufficient spiritual sensitivity to understand that they are present to travail in prayer for a world that otherwise would experience only sin’s consequences without hope of Divine intervention.

Intercession occurs when people realize God has ordained BOUNDARIES OF BLESSING for human experience, and – UNLESS SOMEONE PRAYS – Satan will try to violate the boundary line! We are appointed to monitor the situation for God.

I STAND HERE ARE HEAVEN’S AMBASSADOR ON THIS PLANET. AND I SAY, “GOD’S KINGDOM COME HERE IN THIS SETTING, AND GOD’S WILL BE DONE NOW!”

SUBMISSION – THE SANDER THAT SMOOTHS

First Mention Principle: Hagar submitted in spite of wrong done to her!

Genesis 16:8-9 And he said, Hagar, Sarai’s maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

SUBMIT TO SECULAR AUTHORITY

1 Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

SUBMIT TO SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

SUBMIT TO APPOINTED AUTHORITY

1 Corinthians 16:15-16 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.

SUBMIT TO HEADSHIP IN THE HOME

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

WHAT IS SUBMISSION?

- (Tim Rutledge) “my mission under someone else’s mission”
- You can’t SUBMIT unless you DISAGREE!

SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER !!!

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

SUBMIT TO GOD !!!

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

ILLUSTRATION: This tool has the least noticeable immediate effect, is the most messy, and results in the most finished product.

THESE POWER TOOLS FOR MEN WILL ONLY OPERATE PROPERLY IF ...

- **THEY ARE PLUGGED IN TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!**
- **THEY HAVE SOMETHING OF SUBSTANCE TO WORK ON!**

SHINE in your relationships!
CUT THROUGH with your words!
PUNCH THROUGH with your prayer!
SUBMIT TO OTHERS to have a smooth life!