

Series: Divine Healing Series

Title: Session 17 – The Importance of Spiritual Violence

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How to Believe

10. The Violent Take it by Force

Matthew 11:12 (NKJV)

¹²And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and **the violent take it by force.**

- Many Christians today are not walking in the kingdom of God, and in the promises of God because of a passive attitude.
- When we talk about the grace of God and about God doing everything, about waiting on the Lord or entering into His rest, we automatically think that we don't need to do anything. We are passive. In reality, waiting upon the Lord or entering into the rest of the Lord is everything but passive.
- What does it mean to take the kingdom of God by force and in a violent way? What does it mean to be violent in the spirit? People have a hard time to make a difference between violence in the physical realm and spiritual realm. Violent in the spirit doesn't mean you have to scream, move, do something physical.
- We don't wrestle against flesh and blood and our violence should never be against people, but against the forces of darkness and evil.
- The word VIOLENT in dictionary means: to use force to cause harm or damage to someone or something. We should cause damage and harm to the kingdom of darkness. Another definition is trying to attack someone or something because of anger. So, damaging the kingdom of darkness should be motivated by anger.
- Have you noticed that in the Bible all the people that got a hold of a miracle were violent people? Ex: the blind man on the side of the road, the woman with the issue of blood (tenacity), the four guys carrying a friend on a stretcher. Most Christians would have said: It must not be the will of God, maybe another day or another time. If it's the will of God, it will happen. No, no. You see, when they got at the door and there was no room inside, they refused to give up. That's spiritual violence.
- Being violent in the spirit involves the following:
 - a. **Having a strong conviction** - you are so convinced and persuaded of something.
 - b. **Having anger against the negative situations** – I'm either going to swim or sink, get it or die. This is the attitude: a refusal to receive anything other than the will of God or God's best.

c. **Having a tenacity to follow through** – the willingness to fight, defend or obtain for as long as it takes.

- There are a lot of people that want to be healed, they are struggling with a sickness, they struggled for a while with it, and they know a lot, but it's like they are still living with that thing. It's like they can't get rid of it. And most of the times it's because, without realizing, we've accepted it, we've become passive about it and we're not violent against it anymore. It's the violent that will take it by force.

Mark 11:24 (LEB)

²⁴For this reason I say to you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have **received it**, and it will be done for you.

- The word *receive* in the prayer of faith above in the Greek also means *to take*. When you pray, you must believe that you take. We know it has already been given, but we also have an enemy that will not let us have it easily. Many times it's beyond receiving, you just have to take it, it's yours.

a. Having a strong conviction

Romans 4:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

²⁰He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

²¹and **being fully convinced** that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

- How did Abraham get fully convinced? He didn't consider his body already dead, but the promise God. Stop considering the circumstances or your body, and start considering the promises of God to you in His word.
- How do you consider something? You fix your attention and focus not on your body, or on symptoms, circumstances, but fix your attention of the mind on the word. To consider is to fix one's mind and attention on something.
- You have to be FULLY convinced, not just PARTIALLY. It sounds easy, but it's not. It's simple, but not easy. It's the hardest thing to do. If it was easy, everybody would do it.

Numbers 21:4–9 (NKJV)

⁴Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.

⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."

⁶So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

⁷Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that **everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.**"

⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

- They were getting bit by snakes which were everywhere. God tells them to take their eyes off from

the snakes and put it up on the bronze snake. Why bronze? In the tabernacle, all the furniture of bronze from the outer court had to do with the judgment of sin. All the other furniture that had to do with the presence of God were from gold. Bronze is a symbol of sin being judged. That pole, where the bronze snake was lifted up, meant that sin and sickness were going to be judged.

- The word *look* in the above verse is the Hebrew *nabat* and it means to look with intensity, to fix your eyes and attention on something, behold, consider, gaze on it.
- In the middle of pain, God tells them: don't look at what's around you, don't pay attention to the pain, to your body, to what you hear, to what you see, to what you feel going between your legs, but look to that serpent of bronze lifted up. It seems easy, but try to put yourself in their shoes. Have you ever seen a venomous snake or a big spider coming towards you? Or having the feeling of it crawling on you? Do you think it's easy to look up at some pole?

John 3:14-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

- That serpent of bronze was a type and shadow of what Jesus was going to do for us. Jesus was lifted up on the cross and was judged. He became sin for us and a course for us.

John 12:31-32 (NKJV)

³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

³²And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, **will draw all peoples to Myself.**"

- The context of the passage above is *judgment*. So when Jesus says will draw all to Myself He doesn't refer to people (which is not in the original translation) but to all judgment. All judgment will be drawn into Jesus.
- If the people of Israel could receive life and healing just by looking at the bronze serpent, how much more should we be healed when we look at what Jesus Christ did on the cross.
- Faith is being fully persuaded of something you cannot see.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

¹⁸**while we do not look at the things which are seen**, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

- The afflictions create more glory and power if we look at the unseen promises of God in the midst of problems. They work something in us.

b. Having anger against the works of darkness

- Many Christians stopped being angry on the works of the devil. They see anger as a negative thing. It makes them passive. When you stop getting angry at something, you start accepting it. When you

begin tolerating something, you accept it and what you accept will dominate you!

- We have to be motivated by anger. We need to get angry again!

Romans 12:9 (NKJV)

⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. **Abhor what is evil.** Cling to what is good.

Proverbs 8:13 (NKJV)

¹³The fear of the LORD is **to hate evil**; Pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.

- We think hate or anger is a bad thing. But it's not always when it comes to evil and darkness. I am talking about poverty, sickness, lack, etc. When you see where it comes from, it will make you angry.

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and **death through sin, and thus death spread to all men**, because all sinned—

- When we think about hating evil, we immediately think about only hating sin or sinful actions. And we hate sin, right? But let's take sickness. How did sickness get into the world? Most people will hate sin, but sickness we've learned to live with it. We've learned to tolerate it and accept it. We've learned to live and manage our lives around it. We've learned to cope with it.
- Romans 5:12 says that when sin entered the world, through sin death entered into the world and spread to all men. Sickness, poverty, lack is a form of death. When sin got into the world, it opened the door to death, to spiritual death. Why do we hate sin, but tolerate sickness and lack, which are also works of the devil? That should not be. How does God look at sin, sickness and lack? Does He accept it and tolerate it? Does He like it? God hates sin. If sickness, corruption and lack came together with sin, that means He has the same attitude against those, as He has against sin.
- We have to learn to look at sickness and lack in the same way we look at sin, as an enemy. Death is an enemy of God. That means sickness is an enemy of God just like sin is. Lack is an enemy of God just like sin is. They are all enemies of God.
- God Himself calls sickness and lack a curse in Deuteronomy 28. You hear people saying that sickness or lack is sometimes a blessing, that God sometimes uses it to perform a work in our heart. No, no, sickness is a curse and a work of the devil.

Deuteronomy 28:15–68 (NKJV)

¹⁵“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

¹⁶“Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.

¹⁷“Cursed shall **be your basket and your kneading bowl.**

¹⁸“Cursed shall be **the fruit of your body** and the produce of your land, **the increase of your cattle** and the offspring of your flocks.

¹⁹“Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

²⁰“The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.

²¹The LORD will make **the plague cling to you** until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess.

²²The LORD will strike you with **consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with**

scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.

²³And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.

²⁴The LORD **will change the rain of your land to powder and dust;** from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

²⁵“The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and **flee seven ways before them;** and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.

²⁶Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away.

²⁷The LORD **will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.**

²⁸The LORD will strike you **with madness and blindness** and confusion of heart.

²⁹And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; **you shall not prosper in your ways;** you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.

³⁰“You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes.

³¹Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them.

³²Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand.

³³A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and **you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually.**

³⁴So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see.

³⁵The LORD will strike you **in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.**

³⁶“The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods—wood and stone.

³⁷And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.

³⁸“You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, **for the locust shall consume it.**

³⁹You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; **for the worms shall eat them.**

⁴⁰You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.

⁴¹You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.

⁴²**Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.**

⁴³“The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and **you shall come down lower and lower.**

⁴⁴He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, **and you shall be the tail.**

⁴⁵“Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.

⁴⁶And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever.

⁴⁷“Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,

⁴⁸therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, **in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything;** and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

⁴⁹The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand,

⁵⁰a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young.

⁵¹And **they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land,** until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you.

⁵²“They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.

⁵³You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you.

⁵⁴The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind,

⁵⁵so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

⁵⁶The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter,

⁵⁷her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

⁵⁸“If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD,

⁵⁹then ***the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.***

⁶⁰Moreover He will bring back on you ***all the diseases of Egypt***, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.

⁶¹Also ***every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you*** until you are destroyed.

⁶²You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

⁶³And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.

⁶⁴“Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone.

⁶⁵And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

⁶⁶Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.

⁶⁷In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

⁶⁸“And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, ‘You shall never see it again.’ And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.”