

FROM DEATH TO DELIVERANCE  
FREE RESOURCE BIBLE STUDY

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# CHAPTER ONE

## VIEW FROM THE CEILING TILES

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

God's relentless, redemptive pursuit of the prodigal. Even in the middle of rebellion, danger, and self-destruction, the Lord's plans for His own remain "to prosper and not to harm," and His Word planted in our lives does not return void. Yet alongside that grace stands a warning — an unseen enemy is also at work, looking to ensnare the unguarded heart through hatred and rage.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Jeremiah 29:11–12 (NIV)
- Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)
- 1 John 3:15 (NKJV)
- 1 Peter 5:8
- Acts 16:31
- Ephesians 2:6

### BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Jeremiah 29:11–12 anchors the chapter: God's plans for His people are intentional and good, and He invites us to call on Him and be heard. Proverbs 22:6 testifies that godly training planted in a child takes root for a lifetime — the seeds eventually bring the prodigal home. But 1 John 3:15 and 1 Peter 5:8 expose the other side of the spiritual battlefield: harbored hatred is spiritual murder, and an active enemy stalks those whose hearts are unguarded. The closing verses — Acts 16:31 and Ephesians 2:6 — declare the new standing of the one who finally turns to Christ: saved through belief, and seated with Him in heavenly places. The chapter holds these truths together — God pursues, the enemy prowls, and the response of faith re-positions a life.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Jeremiah 29:11–12 says God's plans are to prosper, not harm — where in your own story has it been hardest to believe that, and what does that verse confront in you?
2. Proverbs 22:6 speaks of seeds planted early that take root for life. What spiritual

seeds — prayers, words, examples — have been sown into you that you may have tried to outrun?

3. 1 John 3:15 calls hatred toward a brother spiritual murder. Honestly, is there hatred, bitterness, or rage you've been excusing that this verse names for what it is?
4. 1 Peter 5:8 warns that the enemy prowls, looking to devour. Where in your life right now are you living unguarded — and what trap might be set in that area?
5. Acts 16:31 and Ephesians 2:6 declare the believer's salvation and seating with Christ. Do you live from that identity, or are you still trying to earn what God has already given?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. The chapter opens with Jeremiah 29:11–12 over a story of near-death and rebellion. How do those verses change the way we read someone else's testimony — including the messy parts?
2. Proverbs 22:6 is sometimes read as a guarantee and sometimes as a general principle. How does this chapter shape the way your group understands that verse, and what hope does it offer for praying parents and praying friends?
3. The author connects 1 John 3:15 to a rising spirit of revenge in his own heart. As a group, discuss: what makes hatred so spiritually dangerous, according to that verse?
4. 1 Peter 5:8 pictures the devil as a prowling lion. What patterns do you see in this chapter — and in life — of how the enemy stalks a person's pain, anger, and unhealed wounds?
5. Acts 16:31 and Ephesians 2:6 describe what becomes true of a person the moment they believe in Christ. How would the Church look different if believers lived fully aware of where they are seated?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus. Thank You that Your plans for me are to prosper and not to harm, plans for a hope and a future — and that when I call on You, You listen, just as Jeremiah 29:11–12 promises. Lord, I confess the places I have run. I confess the seeds of Your truth I have tried to outrun, even though Proverbs 22:6 says they were planted in me to call me home. Search my heart by Your Spirit. If there is any hatred there, expose it — for Your Word in 1 John 3:15 says hatred is murder, and I do not want eternal life withheld from any part of my heart. I renounce rage, revenge, and bitterness. Make me alert and sober-minded, as 1 Peter 5:8

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commands, because I see now that an enemy has been prowling. Today I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as Acts 16:31 declares, and I receive the salvation You purchased. Lift my eyes to where I am truly seated — with Christ in the heavenly places, according to Ephesians 2:6 — and let me live from that place, not beneath my circumstances. I surrender. I trust You. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Activation Step

Take a piece of paper and write down, by name, anyone you have been holding hatred, revenge, or unforgiveness toward. Hold that list before the Lord, read 1 John 3:15 aloud, and choose to release each name to Him — then destroy the list as a physical act of refusing to carry what God has called you to surrender.



## CHAPTER TWO

# FREEDOM DOESN'T COME EASY

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The freedom Christ purchased is real and finished, but it must be walked out, guarded, and sustained through honest surrender and a renewed mind. Salvation can be received in a moment; freedom is lived out by refusing the yoke of slavery, embracing truth, rejecting double-mindedness, and clinging to faith as the substance that holds us when we cannot see.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Galatians 5:1 (ESV)
- John 8:32 (ESV)
- James 1:8 (NIV)
- Romans 12:2 (NKJV)
- Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

### BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Galatians 5:1 sets the foundation: Christ has already accomplished our freedom, but believers are commanded to stand firm and refuse to return to slavery. John 8:32 makes the path clear — it is truth, known and embraced, that sets us free, meaning darkness loses its grip the moment it is exposed to light. James 1:8 warns of the danger of being double-minded; a divided heart is unstable, unable to walk in what God has provided. Romans 12:2 reveals how stability is built — not through striving, but through the renewing of the mind, refusing to be conformed to the world's patterns. And Hebrews 11:1 anchors the whole journey: faith itself is substance and evidence, the very thing that holds the believer steady when feelings, circumstances, and the enemy's voice all scream otherwise. Together, these verses describe freedom as something Christ has secured, truth confirms, single-mindedness guards, a renewed mind sustains, and faith carries.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Galatians 5:1 says Christ has set us free — yet commands us to stand firm. Where in your life are you tempted to slip back under a "yoke of slavery" Jesus already broke?

2. John 8:32 ties freedom to truth. What truth have you been avoiding — about your sin, your wounds, or your need — that the Lord may be asking you to face?
3. James 1:8 warns about the instability of a double-minded person. In what areas are you giving God your words but withholding your full surrender?
4. Romans 12:2 calls for transformation through the renewing of the mind. What lies, thought patterns, or worldly inputs have been shaping you more than Scripture has?
5. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as substance and evidence of what is not yet seen. What hope do you need to anchor in this verse today, even though you cannot see the outcome?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. The chapter argues that a person can be saved and still enslaved. How does Galatians 5:1 frame the difference between salvation and walking in freedom?
2. John 8:32 says the truth sets us free. Why does the author emphasize that darkness only has power in secrecy, and how does the group's experience confirm or challenge that?
3. James 1:8 warns the double-minded person is unstable in all his ways. What does double-mindedness look like in a believer's life today, and how does the enemy exploit it?
4. Romans 12:2 commands the renewing of the mind. Share practical ways your group has seen Scripture rewire thinking — what's worked, and what hasn't?
5. Hebrews 11:1 became a lifeline in the author's darkest moment. As a group, discuss: how is faith a "substance"? What does it actually do for someone who cannot yet see the breakthrough?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come honest before You. Thank You that according to Galatians 5:1, Christ has set me free — freedom is not something I must earn, it is something Jesus has already finished. Forgive me for the places I have submitted again to a yoke of slavery, the cycles I have called "manageable," the chains I have stopped trying to break. By Your Spirit, search me. Show me the truth, because John 8:32 says the truth will set me free. I do not want to live in the shadows of half-confession any longer. Expose what is hidden so it can be healed. I renounce double-mindedness, Lord — James 1:8 warns that such a heart is unstable, and I refuse to be unstable in Your house. Make me single-hearted toward You. Renew my mind according to

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Romans 12:2; I will not be conformed to this world's thinking. Wash my thoughts in Your Word until I see myself, my sin, and my Savior the way You see them. And when I cannot see the outcome, give me faith — for Hebrews 11:1 declares that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Let faith become my substance. I trust You with what I cannot yet see. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Activation Step

On one sheet of paper, list every lie you have believed about yourself, God, or your future. On a second sheet, write the truth from Scripture that counters each one. Read the truth sheet aloud daily this week — Romans 12:2 in action, renewing your mind on purpose, until what God says drowns out what the enemy whispers.



## CHAPTER THREE

# THE MEDDLER

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

Sin begins in the heart and is fully exposed there before God. True freedom is not won in isolation or in pretense, but in transparent confession, repentance, and the dismantling of mental strongholds through the Word of God. The deliverance Jesus provides is the "children's bread" — available to every believer willing to come humble, honest, and hungry, refusing to let unresolved anger or hidden sin give the enemy a foothold.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Matthew 15:19 (NIV)
- John 8:31–32 (ESV)
- Galatians 5:1 (ESV)
- Matthew 15:21–28
- Matthew 15:26
- 2 Corinthians 10:3–6
- 2 Corinthians 10:4
- Romans 12:2
- Philippians 4:8
- Ephesians 4:26

### BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Matthew 15:19 sets the chapter's foundation: sin — including murder — flows out of the heart, not just outward actions. This is why John 8:31–32 ties freedom to abiding in Christ's word and knowing the truth, and why Galatians 5:1 insists that the freedom Christ purchased must be actively stood in, never surrendered back to slavery. The story of the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:21–28 demonstrates that deliverance — what Jesus calls the "children's bread" in Matthew 15:26 — is accessed by humble, persistent faith and is available to all who belong to Him. But freedom is not maintained by emotion or sincerity alone. 2 Corinthians 10:3–6 and 10:4 declare that our weapons are not of the flesh; they have divine power to destroy strongholds, demolish arguments, and take every thought captive to Christ. Romans 12:2 reinforces that transformation comes through the renewing of the mind, and Philippians 4:8 trains us on

what to think — what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. Ephesians 4:26 warns that anger left unresolved becomes an open door — we are not to let the sun go down on it, because what we refuse to deal with quickly will deepen into bitterness, rage, and ultimately, the very heart-level sin Matthew 15:19 names.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Matthew 15:19 says sin proceeds from the heart. What is in your heart right now that Jesus might be calling a different name than you have been calling it?
2. John 8:31–32 ties freedom to *abiding* in Christ's word, not just visiting it. Where in your life are you reading Scripture without letting it change you?
3. Galatians 5:1 commands believers to stand firm in freedom. What "yoke of slavery" are you tempted to keep returning to, and what would standing firm look like this week?
4. Ephesians 4:26 warns about anger that outlives the day. Is there anger you have carried past sundown — past a week, a year, a decade — that needs honest confession and release?
5. 2 Corinthians 10:3–6 says our weapons demolish strongholds and take every thought captive. What stronghold of thinking has been ruling you, and what truth from God's Word will you use as a weapon against it?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. The author calls the man who confronted him "The Meddler." Looking at Matthew 15:19, why might believers actually need someone in their lives willing to "meddle" — to ask hard questions about the heart?
2. In Matthew 15:21–28, the Canaanite woman pressed past obstacles for her daughter's deliverance, and Jesus called it "children's bread" in Matthew 15:26. What does this story teach your group about how desperate, persistent faith accesses deliverance?
3. Galatians 5:1 says Christ has set us free, yet we can submit again to slavery. As a group, why is it possible to be a believer — even a leader — and still walk in bondage?
4. Philippians 4:8 lists the categories of right thinking: true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, of good report. How can your group practically use that filter against intrusive or destructive thoughts?
5. Ephesians 4:26 commands believers not to let the sun go down on anger. What changes when a group, family, or church takes this verse seriously instead of just acknowledging it?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come to You honestly. Your Word says in Matthew 15:19 that out of the heart come evil thoughts — murder, immorality, slander — and I confess that what is in my heart matters as much to You as what I do with my hands. Search me. Show me what I have excused, renamed, or buried. I will not call it passion when You call it sin. According to John 8:31–32, I choose to abide in Your Word so I may know the truth and walk free. According to Galatians 5:1, I refuse to submit again to a yoke of slavery; what Christ purchased, I will stand firm in. Lord, like the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:21–28, I come humble and persistent, asking for the children's bread Matthew 15:26 says belongs to those who are Yours. I receive deliverance, not as a religious idea, but as a son. Forgive me, Ephesians 4:26 — for every sin that has gone down on my anger, for every wound I let fester until it became bitterness. I release it now. Renew my mind, Romans 12:2; tear down every stronghold, 2 Corinthians 10:3–6, and let Your Word be the weapon that demolishes every argument and lifted-up thing that has set itself against the knowledge of God. Train my thoughts on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, Philippians 4:8. I take every thought captive to Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Activation Step

Identify one trusted, godly believer this week and ask them to be a "meddler" in your life — someone with permission to ask the hard questions about your heart, your anger, and your hidden patterns. Then sit down with one specific area Ephesians 4:26 has been convicting you about, name it before God, and refuse to carry it into another sunset.



## CHAPTER FOUR

# THE SPIRIT OF MURDER MUST DIE

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The believer's war is not fought with fleshly weapons but with divine power that destroys strongholds. Real deliverance requires surrendering self — taking up the cross, losing one's life to find it — and then walking forward in the authority of a testimony washed by the blood of the Lamb. What Jesus accomplished must be received not only as forgiveness but as freedom from shame, self-condemnation, and the hidden roots that drive ungodly behavior.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- 2 Corinthians 10:3–4 (ESV)
- Matthew 16:24–26
- Revelation 12:11

### BIBLICAL INSIGHT

2 Corinthians 10:3–4 frames the entire chapter: we walk in the flesh, but we do not war by it. The weapons God has given us have *divine power* — power capable of destroying spiritual strongholds the flesh could never touch. Matthew 16:24–26 reveals the cost: real freedom comes through self-denial, taking up the cross, and following Jesus. Trying to save our own life — our pride, our masks, our defended sins — guarantees we will lose it. Losing it for His sake is the very way we find it. And Jesus presses the question home: what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? Revelation 12:11 then declares how the believer overcomes the evil one — by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. The blood deals with what we have done; the testimony deals with what we have become. Together these three Scriptures expose the false strength of self-defense, point to the only weapons that actually work, and call the believer to a daily, public, surrendered life that proves Jesus' victory is real.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. 2 Corinthians 10:3–4 says our weapons are not of the flesh but have divine power. What fleshly weapons (control, anger, image-management, willpower) have you been using to fight a battle that only the Spirit's weapons can win?

2. Matthew 16:24 calls for self-denial and the taking up of the cross. What part of yourself are you most reluctant to deny — and why does the Lord ask for that surrender?
3. Matthew 16:25 says we find life by losing it for Christ's sake. What "life" are you holding onto that may actually be holding *you*?
4. Matthew 16:26 asks what a person will give in exchange for their soul. Has anything quietly become more valuable to you than your soul's health before God?
5. Revelation 12:11 says we overcome by the blood of the Lamb *and* the word of our testimony. What part of your testimony have you been hiding that, if shared, could become a weapon against the enemy?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. The chapter argues that demons can be cast out, but strongholds in our thinking must be torn down. How does 2 Corinthians 10:3–4 shape the group's understanding of what spiritual warfare actually involves?
2. Matthew 16:24–26 lays out the cost of following Jesus. Why is "denying self" such a hard concept for modern believers — and what does it actually look like in everyday life?
3. The author says shame remained even after deliverance from the spirit of murder. How does Revelation 12:11 — overcoming by the blood and the testimony — address self-condemnation that lingers after God has forgiven us?
4. The author confessed to his wife and children, not just to God. Why does Revelation 12:11 link the *spoken* word of testimony with overcoming? What role does honest confession play in the freedom of a home, a marriage, a church?
5. Jesus asks in Matthew 16:26, "What will a man give in exchange for his soul?" What things — even good things — are people in your circle quietly trading their souls for?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come to You and lay down every weapon I have made of flesh. 2 Corinthians 10:3–4 says we do not wage war according to the flesh, and the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but have divine power to destroy strongholds — so today, I stop fighting with control, with rage, with self-defense, with pretending. I pick up the weapons You have given me: Your Word, Your blood, Your name, Your Spirit. Lord Jesus, You said in Matthew 16:24 that if anyone would come after You, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow

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You. I deny myself today. I deny the version of me that has demanded its own way, defended its own sin, justified its own anger. I take up the cross. According to Matthew 16:25, I am willing to lose my life to find it in You. I refuse to gain the world and forfeit my soul, as Matthew 16:26 warns. I exchange nothing for my soul — it belongs to You. I renounce the spirit of murder, the spirit of rage, the spirit of shame, and every hidden agreement I have made with darkness. According to Revelation 12:11, I overcome the evil one by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony. I will not hide what You have done. I will not bury what You have healed. I will speak it, and let my testimony become a weapon for the freedom of others. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Activation Step

Take Revelation 12:11 seriously this week. Write out — in one page, plain and unedited — the testimony of what Jesus has delivered you from. Then prayerfully share it, in person, with at least one trusted believer. Speaking it aloud breaks the silence the enemy depends on and activates the second half of the verse God gave you for overcoming.



## CHAPTER FIVE

# DELIVERED BUT STILL IN A WAR

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

Deliverance is not the destination — it is the doorway. A heart that has been freed must also be examined, tried, and led by God into the way everlasting. True freedom requires an ongoing invitation for the Lord to search out anything hidden, anxious, or wicked still lodged within, because what looks like strength can be bondage in disguise, and what remains unexamined will eventually resurface.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Psalm 139:23–24 (NKJV)

### BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Psalm 139:23–24 is the only Scripture directly cited in this chapter, and it functions as both invitation and posture for everything the chapter describes. The psalmist asks God to do four things: search his heart, know his anxieties, expose any wicked way in him, and lead him in the way everlasting. This is the prayer of someone who has stopped trusting his own self-assessment. It assumes that the human heart can host things even the host cannot see — pride masquerading as ambition, rage masquerading as passion, control masquerading as leadership. The verse refuses the comfort of self-evaluation and submits to the only One whose eyes miss nothing. And crucially, it does not stop at exposure. It asks God to *lead* — past what He uncovers, into the way that lasts. This is the heartbeat of a believer who has been delivered but still walks in a war: continually open before God, continually surrendered to His searching gaze, continually willing to be led further than yesterday's freedom took them.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Psalm 139:23 asks God to search the heart. What in your heart have you been managing rather than surrendering — and what would change if you invited God to search instead of cope?
2. The psalmist asks God to know his anxieties. What anxiety have you stopped naming because it has become familiar? What would it look like to bring it openly to God?

3. The verse asks God to expose "any wicked way in me." Are you willing to let the Lord rename what you have been justifying — your temper, your control, your hunger for power, your hidden compromise?
4. Psalm 139:24 asks to be led in "the way everlasting." Is your current direction sustainable for eternity, or only for the next season of comfort?
5. This prayer assumes the psalmist cannot fully see himself. Where in your life are you trusting your own self-assessment instead of asking God for His?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Psalm 139:23–24 is a four-part prayer: search me, know my anxieties, see if there is wicked in me, lead me. Why do you think the psalmist includes all four, and what would the prayer lose if any were missing?
2. The chapter describes things that "blend in" — bondage disguised as ambition, masculinity, or drive. How does Psalm 139:23–24 help expose what we cannot see in ourselves?
3. The psalmist asks God to know his *anxieties*. What does it tell us that God invites this kind of honesty, rather than expecting us to perform composure before Him?
4. Verse 24 ends with being led "in the way everlasting." What is the difference between asking God to fix our current situation and asking God to lead us in the way that lasts?
5. The author shares that deliverance was followed by an unexpected collapse. How does Psalm 139:23–24 help a believer keep walking when the breakthrough is followed by a breaking?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I pray Psalm 139:23–24 as my own. Search me, O God, and know my heart. I cannot trust my own assessment anymore — I have called too many things passion that You call sin, too many things strength that You call bondage. So search me. Try me, and know my anxieties — the worries I have buried, the fears I have managed instead of surrendered, the dread I have grown so used to that I no longer feel it. Lord, see if there is any wicked way in me. Bring it to the surface. I will not defend it, justify it, or hide it. Expose every stronghold. Name every spirit. Uncover every agreement I have made with darkness — even the agreements I made without knowing I was making them. And then, Father, lead me in the way everlasting. Not the way of momentary breakthrough, but the way that lasts. Not the way of polished perfor-

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mance, but the way of surrendered sonship. I do not want a freedom that ends when the pressure rises; I want the way everlasting. Have Your way in me. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Activation Step

Set aside thirty quiet minutes this week with a journal. Read Psalm 139:23–24 aloud, then write the verse at the top of the page. Below it, ask the Lord each part of the prayer one at a time — "Search me," "Know my anxieties," "See if there is any wicked way in me," "Lead me in the way everlasting" — and write down what He brings to mind. Don't argue with what surfaces. Bring it back to Him in confession and surrender.



## CHAPTER SIX

# WHEN IT COSTS YOU EVERYTHING

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The surpassing worth of knowing Christ outweighs the loss of everything else. When following Jesus costs what we never thought we could lose, the believer discovers that identity is not in marriage, ministry, reputation, or even survival — but in who Christ has declared us to be. Loss becomes gain when Christ remains, and the believer's true identity, anchored in Scripture, cannot be taken by what was taken.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Philippians 3:8 (ESV)
- Jeremiah 31:3
- 1 John 3:1
- 1 Peter 2:24
- Isaiah 1:18
- Galatians 5:1
- 1 Corinthians 6:19
- Romans 8:15
- Romans 8:17
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Luke 10:19
- Luke 1:68
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Deuteronomy 31:8
- Ephesians 2:10
- Psalm 139:14
- Psalm 18:35
- Colossians 2:10
- Jeremiah 29:11

## BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Philippians 3:8 sets the heart of the chapter: Paul counts *everything* as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ — and counts what he lost as rubbish, so that he may gain Christ. This is not stoic resignation; it is gospel arithmetic. What Christ adds to a life is so weighty that whatever the cost subtracts cannot bankrupt the soul. The chapter then closes with a sweeping inventory of identity Scriptures, declaring who the believer *is* through Christ even when circumstances have stripped away what they *had*. The believer is loved with everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3), a child of God (1 John 3:1), forgiven and healed by His wounds (1 Peter 2:24), washed white though sins were scarlet (Isaiah 1:18), set free (Galatians 5:1), a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), adopted with the Spirit of sonship (Romans 8:15), co-heir with Christ (Romans 8:17), made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21), a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), given authority to tread on the enemy (Luke 10:19), redeemed (Luke 1:68), set apart as a chosen people (1 Peter 2:9), never forsaken (Deuteronomy 31:8), God's masterpiece created for good works (Ephesians 2:10), fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14), upheld and made great by God's gentleness (Psalm 18:35), complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10), and given a hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). Together these Scriptures form a wall that no amount of loss can knock down — because the believer's identity was never anchored in what was lost.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Philippians 3:8 says Paul counts *everything* as loss for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. What in your life are you still counting as too valuable to lose, even compared to knowing Jesus more?
2. The chapter argues identity must be anchored deeper than circumstance. From the "I Am" inventory — Jeremiah 31:3, 1 John 3:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17 — which identity statement does your heart most struggle to believe right now, and why?
3. Isaiah 1:18 promises that sins like scarlet can be made white as snow. What past failure are you still treating as if Christ's blood couldn't reach it?
4. Romans 8:15 says we have received the Spirit of adoption, not slavery to fear. Where in your life are you living as a slave when God has called you a son or daughter?
5. Deuteronomy 31:8 promises God will never leave nor forsake you. What season of your life has tempted you to believe otherwise, and what does this verse say back to that lie?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Philippians 3:8 treats all earthly loss as "rubbish" compared to gaining Christ. How does this verse reframe the way your group thinks about cost in following Jesus?
2. The chapter ends with a long list of identity verses. Why do you think the author chose to give a *list* of Scriptures rather than just one closing verse? What does that suggest about how identity is rebuilt after devastation?
3. Galatians 5:1 declares we are set free, yet 1 Peter 2:9 calls us a chosen, set-apart people. How do freedom and set-apart-ness work together in a believer's life?
4. Ephesians 2:10 and Psalm 139:14 both speak to how God made us. As a group, discuss: what changes in a person's life when they truly believe they are a masterpiece, fearfully and wonderfully made — not despite their story, but in the middle of it?
5. Jeremiah 29:11 promises a future. What kind of future does this verse describe — and how does it differ from the kind of "future" the world holds out as the reward for getting life right?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come before You and pray Philippians 3:8 as my own — that I would count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake, I am willing to suffer the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ. Lord, what You have given in Jesus is greater than anything that has been taken from me. So I lay it all down — what I have lost, what I am still losing, and what I am afraid to lose — and I pick up the identity Your Word gives me. According to Jeremiah 31:3, I am loved with an everlasting love. According to 1 John 3:1, I am Your child. According to 1 Peter 2:24, I am forgiven and healed by Your wounds. According to Isaiah 1:18, my sins — once scarlet — are washed white as snow. According to Galatians 5:1, I am set free. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19, my body is a temple of Your Holy Spirit. According to Romans 8:15 and 8:17, I am adopted and a co-heir with Christ. According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, I am the righteousness of God in Him. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, I am a new creation — the old has passed away. According to Luke 10:19, I have been given authority. According to Luke 1:68, I am redeemed. According to 1 Peter 2:9, I am set apart, a chosen people. According to Deuteronomy 31:8, I am never alone. According to Ephesians 2:10, I am Your masterpiece. According to Psalm 139:14, I am fearfully and wonderfully made. According to Psalm 18:35, I am made great by Your gentle hand. According to Colossians 2:10, I am complete in Christ. According to Jeremiah 29:11, I

have a future and a hope. Father, anchor me to who You say I am. Let nothing the enemy takes from me change what You have spoken over me. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Activation Step

Write out the "I Am" inventory — every identity statement with its Scripture reference — on a single sheet of paper. Place it somewhere you will see it daily this week (mirror, dashboard, journal). Each morning, read the list aloud over yourself, slowly, declaring each verse as God's word about who you are. When the enemy whispers that your loss has redefined you, answer back with the page in your hand.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

# THE COURAGE TO CONFRONT EVIL

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

Believers are not called to coexist with evil but to overcome it with good. The mandate to cast out demons belongs to every believer, and all creation is groaning for the children of God to rise up and walk in that authority. Silence in the face of darkness is disobedience; courage is obedience clothed in the name of Jesus.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Romans 12:21 (NIV)
- Mark 16:17 (NKJV)
- Romans 8:19–23 (NIV)

### BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Romans 12:21 anchors the chapter with a command, not a suggestion: do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. The word *overcome* assumes a battle — evil is real, active, and aggressive, and the believer is called to active resistance, not passive tolerance. Mark 16:17 reinforces this with Jesus' own words: signs will follow those who believe — among them, casting out demons in His name. This was not reserved for apostles or a spiritual elite; it was given to every believer. To call ourselves believers while refusing this mandate is to redefine the word. Romans 8:19–23 then widens the lens: the entire creation is groaning, waiting eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. Creation is not waiting for more religious activity — it is waiting for sons and daughters who have been delivered, who carry authority, and who are willing to walk in it. Together these three Scriptures frame the believer's life as one of confrontation: not anger-driven, not politically driven, but Spirit-driven — overcoming evil with good, casting out darkness in Jesus' name, and stepping into the identity creation itself is groaning for us to reveal.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Romans 12:21 commands believers to overcome evil with good — not just resist it,

- but replace it. Where in your life have you been resisting evil without releasing good in its place?
2. Mark 16:17 says signs will follow those who believe, including casting out demons. How does this verse challenge or stretch your current understanding of what belief actually involves?
  3. The author argues that silence in the face of evil is disobedience. Where in your life have you mistaken silence for love or for keeping the peace?
  4. Romans 8:19–23 says creation is groaning for the revealing of God's children. What might creation around you — your family, workplace, community — be groaning for you to become?
  5. The chapter says, "deliverance offends demons." Are you more concerned about offending people than disturbing the kingdom of darkness? What would change if those priorities flipped?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Romans 12:21 commands believers to overcome evil with good. As a group, discuss the difference between *avoiding* evil, *tolerating* evil, and *overcoming* evil. What does Scripture actually require?
2. Mark 16:17 says casting out demons is a sign that follows those who believe. Why has the modern Church often shied away from this part of Jesus' words, and what does that say about the cost of taking Him at His Word?
3. The chapter argues that the fear of people kills the fire of God. As a group, share — without naming names — where you have felt the pull to soften truth to keep peace. How does Mark 16:17 reset that pull?
4. Romans 8:19–23 says creation is groaning for the revealing of God's children. As a group, what does it mean *practically* for the sons and daughters of God to be "revealed" in your city, your church, your workplace?
5. The author distinguishes between fighting with anger and fighting with anointing. Looking at Romans 12:21 — "overcome evil with good" — what does Spirit-led courage actually look like, and how is it different from carnal aggression?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come to You and confess that I have too often been overcome by evil instead of overcoming it. Forgive me. According to Romans 12:21, my assignment is not to

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be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good — and today I take that command seriously. I renounce the spirit of fear, the spirit of compromise, the spirit of passivity, and the fear of people that has muzzled my obedience. I take Your Word at face value. According to Mark 16:17, signs follow those who believe — and one of those signs is the casting out of demons in Your name. I receive that mandate. I am a believer, and I will not redefine belief to make it more comfortable than what You said. Holy Spirit, sharpen my discernment. Train my hands for war and my mouth for truth. Use me to release Your good wherever I encounter evil — to bring light where there is darkness, freedom where there is bondage, truth where there is deception. According to Romans 8:19–23, all creation is groaning for the revealing of the children of God. I do not want to hide in religious comfort while creation groans for me to step into who I am. Reveal Your sons and daughters in this hour, and let me be one who answers. In Jesus' mighty name, amen.

### Activation Step

Identify one specific area this week where you have been silent when God has been nudging you to speak — a conversation, a relationship, a stand of conscience, or a prayer of authority over a situation. Bring it to the Lord, ask for boldness shaped by good (Romans 12:21), and take one concrete obedient step. Don't wait to feel brave; act on what He has already told you, trusting Mark 16:17 that the signs follow the believer who *moves*.



## CHAPTER EIGHT

# AUTHORITY WAS ALWAYS THE PLAN

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

Authority over the enemy was never an aspiration for believers — it was the original commission. Jesus has already given His followers authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. Believers walk in this authority not by striving to earn it, but by knowing who they are in Christ, standing in the armor of God, refusing fear, and wielding the living Word of God against every scheme of darkness.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Luke 10:19 (NKJV/ESV)
- Mark 16:17–18 (NKJV)
- Acts 19 (the seven sons of Sceva)
- Psalm 23
- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)
- Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)
- 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (ESV)
- Ephesians 6:10–11 (ESV)
- Ephesians 6:12–13 (ESV)
- Ephesians 6:14–18 (NKJV)
- Zechariah 4:6 (ESV)
- Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV)
- Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)
- John 14:27 (NKJV)
- Isaiah 55:11 (ESV)
- Romans 8:1 (ESV)
- Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)
- Colossians 3:3 (ESV)
- Galatians 2:19–20 (ESV)
- Romans 6:6 (ESV)
- Galatians 5:24 (ESV)
- Romans 6:11 (ESV)
- James 4:7 (NKJV)

## BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Luke 10:19 is the chapter's foundation: Jesus has *given* authority — it is not earned, voted on, or felt into existence. Mark 16:17–18 confirms the breadth of that authority: signs follow those who believe — casting out demons, immunity from harm, healing the sick. Acts 19 illustrates that authority belongs only to those who walk in true relationship with Jesus; the seven sons of Sceva tried to wield His name without knowing Him and were overpowered. Psalm 23 reminds us we walk *through* the valley — we don't camp there — because God is with us. The closing inventory of warfare Scriptures forms the believer's full arsenal. We have not been given a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7), we are not alone (Isaiah 41:10), our weapons have divine power (2 Corinthians 10:3–5), we are clothed in the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–18), we fight not against flesh but against principalities, and the victory comes not by might but by His Spirit (Zechariah 4:6). No weapon formed against us prospers (Isaiah 54:17); the Word of God is living and sharper than any sword (Hebrews 4:12); His Word does not return void (Isaiah 55:11); His peace stands against fear (John 14:27); there is no condemnation in Christ (Romans 8:1); we live by faith (Hebrews 11:1); our life is hidden with Christ (Colossians 3:3); we have been crucified with Him (Galatians 2:19–20); the old self is dead (Romans 6:6); the flesh with its passions is crucified (Galatians 5:24); we are dead to sin and alive to God (Romans 6:11); and when we submit to God and resist the devil, he must flee (James 4:7). Authority is not a feeling — it is a position, secured by Jesus, declared in Scripture, and walked out by every believer willing to submit, stand, and speak.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Luke 10:19 says Jesus has *given* authority to trample on serpents and scorpions. Are you living as someone who has been given authority, or as someone still hoping to be qualified for it?
2. Mark 16:17–18 lists casting out demons among the signs that follow those who believe. Have you treated that promise as something for someone else, and what would change if you took Jesus at His Word?
3. Acts 19 shows what happens when someone tries to wield Jesus' name without knowing Him. What does this tell you about the relationship between intimacy with Christ and spiritual authority?
4. Ephesians 6:10–18 details the believer's armor. Which piece — truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, the Word, prayer — feels most absent or unused in your current walk?
5. James 4:7 gives a two-part command: submit to God, then resist the devil. Are you

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trying to resist the devil without first submitting fully to God — and what does this verse say will happen when both are in place?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Luke 10:19 says authority has *already been given*. As a group, discuss: why do so many believers live as though they are still waiting for authority to arrive?
2. Mark 16:17–18 names specific signs that follow believers. Why has the modern Church been more comfortable with some of these signs than others, and how should the verse shape what we actually expect?
3. The author cites Acts 19 — the seven sons of Sceva. As a group, discuss what this story teaches about the difference between using Jesus' name as a formula and walking in genuine relationship with Him.
4. Ephesians 6:10–18 commands believers to put on the *whole* armor of God. Why does Paul emphasize the whole armor rather than a single piece, and what happens to a believer who only wears part of it?
5. James 4:7 says "submit to God" *before* "resist the devil." Why does the order matter, and how does this change your group's approach to spiritual warfare?

### PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

#### Prayer

: Father, in the name of Jesus, I receive what You have already given. According to Luke 10:19, You have given me authority to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy — and nothing shall by any means hurt me. I will not apologize for what You have placed in my hands. According to Mark 16:17–18, signs follow those who believe, and I choose to believe — not as theology, but as commission. Lord, I do not want to be like the sons of Sceva in Acts 19 who used Your name without knowing You; I draw near to You so the authority I carry comes from intimacy, not imitation. According to 2 Timothy 1:7, You have not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. According to Isaiah 41:10, I will not be dismayed, for You are with me. According to 2 Corinthians 10:3–5, the weapons of my warfare are not fleshly — they have divine power to destroy strongholds, demolish arguments, and take every thought captive to obey Christ. I put on the whole armor of God according to Ephesians 6:10–18: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the readiness of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit. According to Zechariah 4:6, not by might nor by power, but by Your Spirit.

According to Isaiah 54:17, no weapon formed against me shall prosper. Your Word is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, Hebrews 4:12 — and it will not return void, Isaiah 55:11. Your peace I receive, John 14:27. There is no condemnation for me in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:1. I live by faith, Hebrews 11:1 — my life is hidden with Christ in God, Colossians 3:3. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me, Galatians 2:19–20. My old self was crucified, Romans 6:6, with its passions and desires, Galatians 5:24. I am dead to sin and alive to God, Romans 6:11. So now, according to James 4:7, I submit myself to You — and I resist the devil, and he must flee. In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

### Activation Step

Take the warfare Scripture list from this chapter and choose three verses to memorize this week. Speak them aloud each morning over your life, your family, and the specific places of spiritual battle you are facing. The chapter says your voice is meant to be the creative force God designed — let Isaiah 55:11 do its work: His Word, spoken from your mouth, will not return void.

## CHAPTER NINE

# THE WAR FOR THE ALTAR

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

The greatest war is not in the culture but at the altar — the place of sacrifice, surrender, and consecration where Heaven's fire falls. God is still calling believers to stop wavering between two opinions, to rebuild what has been torn down, and to come to Jesus with the same desperate, passionate faith that has always activated His power. The God who answers by fire has not changed, and He is still looking for hearts willing to be consumed.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- 1 Kings 18:21 (NIV)
- 1 Kings 18 (Elijah on Mount Carmel)
- 1 Kings 18:24 (ESV)
- Romans 1:16 (NKJV)
- Acts 1:3
- Acts 1:8
- Mark 5:25–34
- Mark 5:27–30 (NIV)
- Matthew 14:35–36
- Hebrews 13:8

### BIBLICAL INSIGHT

1 Kings 18:21 frames the chapter as a confrontation: how long will you waver between two opinions? Elijah's challenge on Mount Carmel was not just to a nation, but to every divided heart. In 1 Kings 18, before fire ever fell, Elijah *rebuilt the altar* — fire follows sacrifice, not the other way around. 1 Kings 18:24 makes the test plain: the God who answers by fire, He is God. Romans 1:16 reinforces that the gospel itself *is* the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes — power is not separate from the message; it is the message rightly carried. Acts 1:3 reminds us Jesus showed Himself alive after His passion, and Acts 1:8 records His promise: "you shall receive power" when the Holy Spirit comes — passion precedes power, always. Mark 5:25–34 then dramatizes what passion-activated faith looks like: the woman with the issue of blood pressed through every obstacle to touch Jesus' garment. Mark 5:27–30 records her healing

the instant she touched Him — and Jesus felt power leave Him. Matthew 14:35–36 shows that her desperate breakthrough opened a door others walked through; people began begging just to touch the hem of His garment. Hebrews 13:8 anchors everything: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever — meaning the God who answered by fire on Carmel and released power to the desperate woman is the same God who meets us at the altar today. Together these Scriptures call every reader off the fence, onto their knees, and into a posture of consuming hunger for Him.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. 1 Kings 18:21 confronts the wavering heart. In what area of your life are you wavering between two opinions — and what would it look like to choose Him today, without reservation?
2. Elijah rebuilt the altar in 1 Kings 18 *before* fire fell. What altar in your life has been broken down, neglected, or pushed aside that needs to be rebuilt before you can expect God to move?
3. Romans 1:16 declares the gospel is the *power* of God for everyone who believes. Are you living as though the gospel is power — or have you reduced it to mere information?
4. Acts 1:8 promises power when the Holy Spirit comes. Are you settling for the language of Christianity without the power Jesus promised, and what would it mean to wait on Him for what He has offered?
5. Mark 5:25–34 records a woman whose passion drove her past logic, law, and crowd to touch Jesus. What is currently keeping you from pressing in — and what would change if you said, like she did, "It's going to be me"?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. 1 Kings 18:21 asks how long Israel will waver between two opinions. As a group, where do you see the Church today wavering, and what does Elijah's challenge sound like in our generation?
2. In 1 Kings 18, fire fell *after* the altar was rebuilt. Discuss as a group: what does it look like, practically, to rebuild altars in our homes, our churches, and our personal lives?
3. Romans 1:16 says Paul was unashamed of the gospel because it is the *power* of God. Why has the modern Church often felt embarrassed by the gospel's claims, and how does this verse reset that posture?

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4. The story in Mark 5:25–34 and Mark 5:27–30 emphasizes the woman's faith activated power. As a group, why does Jesus single out *her* touch when many in the crowd were brushing against Him? What does that say about how we approach Him?
5. Matthew 14:35–36 shows that her breakthrough opened a path others walked through. As a group, share: how has one person's breakthrough in your life or community opened doors for others?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come to You weary of wavering. According to 1 Kings 18:21, I will not stay between two opinions any longer — if You are God, I follow You, with nothing held back. Like Elijah in 1 Kings 18, I rebuild the altar that has been torn down in my life. I tear out what does not belong, and I lay my whole self upon it. According to 1 Kings 18:24, You are the God who answers by fire — so fall on what I have given You. Burn away pride, compromise, doublemindedness, hidden idols, every comfort I have used to avoid surrender. Romans 1:16 says the gospel is Your power to salvation — I am not ashamed of it, and I will not preach a powerless version of it. Acts 1:3 declares Jesus showed Himself alive after His passion, and Acts 1:8 promises power when Your Holy Spirit comes upon Your people. Pour out Your Spirit on me. Let passion activate power in my life, just as it did with the woman in Mark 5:25–34. Like her in Mark 5:27–30, I press through the crowd, past logic, past obstacles, past every voice that says I cannot reach You. I touch the hem of Your garment. Heal me. Free me. Mark me. And as Matthew 14:35–36 shows, let what You release in me open a door for others to be healed too. Hebrews 13:8 — You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. The God who answered Elijah, who healed the woman, who poured out Pentecost — You are the same God meeting me here. So fall, Lord. Have Your way. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Activation Step

Build a physical altar this week — a designated space in your home (a chair, a corner, a kneeling rug) where you will meet with God daily. Each time you come, bring something specific to lay down: a fear, a habit, a relationship, an idol, an offense. Like the woman in Mark 5:25–34, refuse to let any obstacle stop you from pressing through. Hebrews 13:8 stands as your promise — the same Jesus who released power then releases power now to those who come with passion and faith.



# CHAPTER TEN

## DEMONS VERSUS STRONGHOLDS

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

Deliverance has two distinct works: casting out demons and tearing down strongholds. Demons get in through sinful access points and can be evicted instantly in Jesus' name, but strongholds are fortresses of wrong thinking built over time that must be patiently torn down through the renewing of the mind in God's Word. Signs follow believers who do both — and the believer who refuses cowardice and walks in obedience reclaims their promised land room by room.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- 2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (NKJV)
- Mark 16:17
- Mark 16:17–18 (NKJV)
- Matthew 15 (deliverance as the children's bread)
- Revelation 21:8 (NKJV)
- Acts 16:31 (NKJV)
- Joshua 6 (Jericho)
- 2 Corinthians 10 (generally)
- 2 Corinthians 10:4
- 2 Samuel 5:6–10 (NIV) (David and the Jebusites)
- Ephesians 4:27 (NKJV)
- Ephesians 4 (generally)
- Matthew 12:43–45 (the returning demons)

### BIBLICAL INSIGHT

2 Corinthians 10:3–6 anchors the entire chapter: our warfare is not carnal, our weapons are mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, demolishing arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to Christ. Strongholds, as Paul defines them, are mental fortresses — walls of wrong belief that must be torn down by Spirit-empowered means. Mark 16:17 and Mark 16:17–18 confirm the believer's mandate to cast out demons in Jesus' name as a sign that follows belief. Matthew 15 reminds us

deliverance is the children's bread — given to God's people, not withheld from them. Acts 16:31 makes salvation gloriously simple: believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved — the entry to all that follows. Revelation 21:8 then issues its sober warning, listing the cowardly *first* among those who will not inherit the Kingdom, exposing the deadly nature of fear and silence in the face of evil. Joshua 6 and 2 Samuel 5:6–10 give two Old Testament pictures of strongholds — Jericho fell only through obedient, persistent action, and David conquered the Jebusite stronghold of Jerusalem only by refusing to accept their mockery and cutting off what sustained them. Ephesians 4:27 commands us not to give place — territory — to the devil, because while sin opens the door, strongholds give the enemy a room. And Matthew 12:43–45 warns that demons cast out can return with worse companions if the house is left swept but empty — which is precisely why tearing down strongholds and filling the soul with God's truth is non-negotiable.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. 2 Corinthians 10:3–6 says strongholds are arguments and high things lifted up against the knowledge of God. What argument or belief have you held that has exalted itself above what God says?
2. Mark 16:17–18 names casting out demons as a sign that follows belief. Is there an area where you have been afraid to take Jesus at His word on this? What is at stake if you do not?
3. Revelation 21:8 lists the cowardly *first* among those who will not inherit the Kingdom. Where has cowardice — dressed up as politeness, neutrality, or "not my battle" — taken root in your life?
4. Ephesians 4:27 commands believers not to give *place* to the devil. What place, territory, or room in your life has the enemy been quietly occupying that you need to reclaim?
5. Matthew 12:43–45 warns of demons returning to a swept but empty house. After deliverance, what truth, what discipline, what worship will *fill* the place that was cleansed?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. The author distinguishes between demons and strongholds. Based on 2 Corinthians 10:3–6 and Ephesians 4:27, how would your group explain the difference to a new believer?
2. Mark 16:17–18 says signs follow those who believe. As a group, why has the modern Church often emphasized speaking in tongues while neglecting casting out demons? What does Jesus' ordering of those signs suggest?

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3. Revelation 21:8 places cowardice at the top of the list. As a group, discuss why cowardice is named first — even before murder, immorality, and idolatry — and what that says about how seriously God takes silent compromise.
4. Joshua 6 (Jericho) and 2 Samuel 5:6–10 (David and the Jebusites) both depict strongholds that did not fall easily. What patterns do you see in *how* God brings strongholds down, and how do those patterns apply to mental and spiritual strongholds today?
5. Matthew 12:43–45 warns about an empty house. As a group, how do you practically *fill* the place where deliverance has cleared something out, so that what came out cannot return?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come to You with the truth of 2 Corinthians 10:3–6 in my mouth — I do not war according to the flesh; the weapons of my warfare are not carnal but mighty in You for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. I receive Mark 16:17–18 as Your word over me — signs follow those who believe, and in Your name I will cast out demons. According to Matthew 15, deliverance is the children's bread, and I am Your child — I receive it. According to Acts 16:31, I believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and I am saved — saved not only to escape hell but to walk in the fullness of what You have purchased for me. I renounce cowardice, Revelation 21:8 — I will not let fear, silence, or the desire to be liked keep me from obedience. Like Israel at Jericho in Joshua 6, I will obey Your instructions even when the strategy seems strange. Like David in 2 Samuel 5:6–10, I refuse the enemy's mockery and I press in to take the stronghold. According to Ephesians 4:27, I give the devil no place — no room, no territory, no foothold — in my life. Holy Spirit, expose every stronghold of wrong thinking, every inner oath, every belief that has exalted itself above Your Word. Tear them down by the washing of Your Word. And according to Matthew 12:43–45, I refuse to leave the cleansed places empty — fill every room with Your presence, Your truth, Your peace. In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

### Activation Step

This week, identify one specific stronghold of wrong thinking the Holy Spirit highlights — a belief about yourself, God, or your future that contradicts Scripture. Find one verse of God's truth that directly counters that lie, write it on a card, carry it with you, and speak it aloud daily. Each time the old thought surfaces, replace it with the spoken truth. This is 2 Corinthians 10:3–6

FROM DEATH TO DELIVERANCE FREE RESOURCE BIBLE STUDY

in action — bringing thoughts captive — and the only way Matthew 12:43–45's warning is avoided: filling the cleansed place with the truth that holds.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

# RUN TO ME HARDER THAN YOU EVER RAN FROM ME

### CORE BIBLICAL THEME

Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen — the lifeline that pulls a person out of despair and the currency that activates God's power in their life. The same passion once used to run from God is now meant to be redirected straight back to Him. In Christ, the old has passed away and all things have become new; open doors no one can shut are set before those who keep His Word, and the believer's call is to obey, take their stand against spiritual forces, and run to Jesus with everything they have.

### SCRIPTURE USED IN THIS CHAPTER

- Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)
- Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)
- 1 Samuel 15:22 (NKJV)
- Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)
- 2 Corinthians 10:4

### BIBLICAL INSIGHT

Hebrews 11:1 anchors the chapter — the same verse that pulled the author back from suicide. Faith is *substance* and *evidence*: the tangible spiritual reality and the proof of what eyes cannot yet see. When the author writes that he was once addicted to substances but is now addicted to *the Substance*, Hebrews 11:1 is the bridge — faith is not feeling, it is foundation. 2 Corinthians 5:17 declares the transformation: if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, all things have become new. This is the doctrinal answer to every voice that says the past disqualifies — in Christ, the past is past. Revelation 3:8 then opens the door no man can shut to the one who has kept God's Word and not denied His name — even with "little strength." The chapter argues that consecration and obedience, not credentials, are what open Kingdom doors. 1 Samuel 15:22 underscores it: to obey is better than sacrifice — religious activity cannot substitute for surrender. Ephesians 6:12 names the real enemy: not flesh and blood, but rulers,

authorities, powers of this dark world, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. And 2 Corinthians 10:4 declares the weapons we have been given are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. Together these Scriptures form the closing commission: faith is your substance, you are a new creation, the door is open, obedience is what matters, the war is spiritual, and the weapons are already in your hands — now run.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Hebrews 11:1 says faith is the *substance* of things hoped for. What "substances" — comforts, escapes, addictions — have you been using when faith was meant to be your substance instead?
2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 declares the believer a new creation; old things have passed away. What "old thing" has the enemy been replaying to keep you from believing this verse over your own life?
3. Revelation 3:8 promises an open door to the one who has *kept His word and not denied His name* — even with little strength. Where do you need to stop waiting for more strength and start walking through the door He has already opened?
4. 1 Samuel 15:22 says to obey is better than sacrifice. Where have you been substituting religious activity, busyness, or generosity for plain obedience?
5. Ephesians 6:12 names the true enemy. Where have you been fighting flesh and blood — people, situations, yourself — when the actual battle was spiritual all along?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Hebrews 11:1 was the verse that turned the author from death back to life. As a group, share a moment when a specific Scripture became a lifeline. How does this verse define what faith actually is?
2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says the old has passed away — yet many believers still live as if it hasn't. Why is this verse so hard to receive personally, and what does it look like to walk in it?
3. Revelation 3:8 describes an open door, little strength, kept the Word, did not deny the Name. What does this picture of faithful weakness say to a group that may feel underqualified for what God is calling them into?
4. 1 Samuel 15:22 was spoken to a king who substituted sacrifice for obedience. As a group, where have you seen the Church do the same — and what is the cost?
5. Ephesians 6:12 reframes our struggle as spiritual rather than human. As a group, how would relationships, conflicts, and battles in your life change if every believer truly believed this verse?

## PRAYER & SPIRITUAL ACTIVATION

### Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come running. According to Hebrews 11:1, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen — so I make faith my substance today. I no longer reach for what numbs, escapes, or distracts. Faith is what I stand on, faith is what I reach for, faith is what carries me. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, I am in Christ, I am a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new. I refuse to live one more day under the identity of what was. The new has come. According to Revelation 3:8, You have set before me an open door no one can shut, because I have kept Your Word and not denied Your name — even with little strength. I walk through that door, Lord, with what little I have, trusting You are the One who holds it open. According to 1 Samuel 15:22, to obey is better than sacrifice — so I lay down religious performance and pick up plain obedience. Whatever You ask, my answer is yes. According to Ephesians 6:12, my struggle is not against flesh and blood but against rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms — so I will stop fighting the wrong enemy. According to 2 Corinthians 10:4, the weapons of my warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. I take up those weapons. Jesus, I hear Your invitation echoing through every chapter of this story and every chapter of my own: *Run to Me harder than you ever ran from Me*. So I run. With everything in me. With nothing held back. Mark me. Use me. Send me. In Jesus' mighty name, amen.

### Activation Step

Write Hebrews 11:1 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 on two cards — one for your substance, one for your identity. Carry them with you this week. Every time you reach for an old comfort, hold up the first card and say it aloud: faith is your substance. Every time the past tries to redefine you, hold up the second and declare it: in Christ, you are a new creation, the old has passed away, all things have become new. Then, as Revelation 3:8 says, walk through the open door — take one obedient step this week that you have been putting off, even if your strength is small. Run to Him harder than you ever ran from Him.

You have now completed the chapter-by-chapter Bible study for the eleven main chapters of *From Death to Deliverance*. If you would like a study guide for the Introduction, Epilogue, or Afterword, type the name of the section and I'll continue.

