

A CITY ON FIRE!

INTRODUCTION

We've had a tumultuous week or two in Krugersdorp. Violent protests against crime, drugs, prostitution, human trafficking and the police's lack of taking action against it.

Houses, cars and a satellite police station were burned. Shops were looted, rocks were thrown. People were caught in a state of fear. Others however watched with an attitude of "well, this will at least sort the problem out".

As I wrote in my blog post. The law was broken, and just because people were frustrated, two wrongs will never make a right. **Romans 12:17-19**(NKJV) Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Whenever man tries to exact revenge, it results in evil, no matter how seemingly good the cause. God's word says, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay". Our role is to walk in love and kindness so that we reflect the character of our heavenly Father.

As I pondered on the events in our city, I wrote about, "I do right", and the Lord gave me this word, "I am starting a mighty work and a return to righteousness. When people start returning to righteousness, they return to Me, and revival comes. You are on the brink of revival. Ask My Spirit to fan the flames. Soon the city will be on fire... not with natural fire, but with spiritual fire. Demonic strongholds will be burned to the ground. Watch me, I am at work. Work with me Keith, I am about to show My mighty hand again."

God is calling us to set this city on fire, not in the way that happened in the past weeks, That may work temporarily, but if we want lasting victory, we need to burn down the enemy strongholds that have such an evil impact on our city" so that we can have complete victory and revival in our city. We can do the same with the strongholds in our own lives!

MESSAGE

A TWO-FOLD APPROACH

The key for taking this city is a twofold approach – It's not simply about the city (the world), its about the individuals living in the city too (the flesh). That includes ALL of us. That's why we need an "I do Right" campaign.

PART 1 – WE MUST PUT OFF OUR OWN DEEDS OF DARKNESS

It can no longer be an “us and them approach”. We can’t help others when we come with a judgmental and self-righteous approach that says, “we are right, and they are wrong”. We have some strongholds of our own that need to be torn down before we can take the offensive to the enemy.

Romans 13:11-14 (NKJV) And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

- God is calling us to wake up from our sleep – It’s time to do away with a compromised, half-hearted approach to our own Christianity and with being only interested in our own well-being!
- Our salvation is nearer than before – Each day the Lord’s return is closer.
- The night is far spent – night represents darkness and also, satan’s time as being the god of this world. It’s nearly over.
- The day is at hand – are we willing to be children of the light?

To get dressed in our armour, we need to first take off the other stuff:

- We must cast off the works of darkness - revelry and drunkenness, lewdness and lust, strife and envy – the desires of the flesh!
- We must put on Jesus Christ -Our armour of light!

Do the example of the black shoe and the white shoe!

Are we wearing two shoes at once – we cannot fight the darkness if we are part of it – are there deeds of darkness in our lives preventing us from putting on God’s armour. We need to deal with them now!

PART 2 – WE MUST TAKE THE CITY!

Once we have dealt with the darkness in our own lives, it’s time to go on spiritual offensive in our city.

GOD’S COMPASSION FOR OUR CITY

One morning, God reminded me about Ninevah, the city He was going to judge.

Jonah 3:3-10 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. 4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. 6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. 7 And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles,

saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9 Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? 10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

God is not only interested in Christian Heritage, or in the believers in Krugersdorp. He is interested in every person in this city. He has a plan for each one of us. Just like Nineveh, God has sent a voice into this city to cry out, "your sins will cause you to be destroyed, repent and be saved".

That voice is you and I!

God has called us to fast and pray for Krugersdorp, to cry out in repentance for this city. We have a role to play, we can prevent judgment and see many lives come to salvation. Are we willing to rise to the challenge? Please make this a focus of your fast next week.

HOW DO WE SET THE CITY ON FIRE IN THE SPIRIT?

Too often God's children find themselves in a defensive position, standing with the shield of faith, warding off the enemy's flaming arrows. But every war consists of defence and offence. It's time we move against the enemy and take back the territory we may have lost:

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 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,

- We must pull down the strongholds, the places where the enemy has gained authority in our lives and in the lives of the people in Krugersdorp.
- We must cast down arguments and high things that stand against the truth of God in this city – we must bind the strong men that have been having free reign in this city and we must loose the presence of God in this city.
- We must take thoughts captive - changing the thinking in this city from hopelessness and despair to joy and victory. The people in Krugersdorp do have a future in Christ Jesus.

May the Lord grant us the strength today to move from defending all the time, to being on the offensive. We war against an already defeated enemy. All we need to do is claim the victory that is rightfully ours.

THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

On Friday in our fast booklet we learned of the weapons we use to wage offensive spiritual warfare:

1. PRAYER:

Prayer is a powerful offensive weapon. When we use it to wage offensive warfare we don't only pray only for our own personal wants, needs, and problems. We intercede for people, leaders, and nations, pulling down strongholds of Satan and his demonic forces.

Praise and worship is a form of prayer and it is a powerful offensive weapon. In II Chronicles 20 when Israel faced a mighty enemy, they began to sing, and praise God and He set an ambush to defeat their army. When we praise and worship God, we are setting "ambushes" in the spirit world.

2. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT:

The "sword of the Spirit," is the Word of God, is a weapon that can be used both defensively and offensively.

- The Word is a defensive weapon when you use it to defend against the attacks of Satan.
- It is offensive when you use it to claim territory for the Lord by confessing God's word and sharing the Gospel message and deliverance with others.

3. THE MIND OF CHRIST:

I Peter 4:1 (NKJV) Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves** also with the same mind, for He who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

1 John 3:8...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil.

Jesus was willing to suffer in the flesh to get spiritual victory. When we arm ourselves with the mind of Christ we get our minds right for war and we become willing to do what it takes.

4. PULLING AND CASTING DOWN:

The goal of offensive warfare is to pull and cast down the strongholds of the enemy:

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but **mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...**

This is where we set demonic strongholds on fire!

In the spirit realm, there are demon "strong men" over our city. In years past we dealt with some of them including the spirit of conflict, and the lay lines.

To "pull down" means to take down by effort or force. To "cast" means to throw or hurl. We are told to cast off the works of darkness (Romans 13:12) and cast out demon powers (Matthew 10:8).

Some of the strongholds in our city are: Drugs, prostitution, human trafficking, poverty, abuse, corruption, greed and theft.

We need to tear down these strongholds in Jesus mighty name.

5.BINDING AND LOOSING:

Binding and loosing is a powerful offensive weapon! Note that this weapon works together: It is binding and loosing. Whenever we bind something, you should also loose something. For example, if you bind the spirit of lying you should loose the spirit of truth to operate in its place.

6.THE BLOOD OF JESUS AND THE WORD OF OUR TESTIMONY:

Note that the use of these two offensive weapons result in overcoming!

THE BLOOD OF JESUS:

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV) And they overcame him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

Salvation, healing, and deliverance are all available because of the blood of Jesus. His blood enables us to wage offensive warfare for the souls of men and women and bring deliverance in deliverance and healing in the name of Jesus. Our power to "overcome" the enemy is because of the "blood of the lamb."

OUR TESTIMONY:

The word "testimony" means "evidence or record" like that used in a legal case in a court of law. As we "testify", we give evidence to the power of God in our life and we wage offensive spiritual warfare.

7.THE NAME OF JESUS:

Mark 16:17 (NKJV) And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

We use the name of Jesus to cast out demons, to pray for the sick and raise the dead. It is a strategic weapon that holds limitless power.

CONCLUSION

Luke 10:19 tells us that we have been given authority over ALL the power of the devil.

The time has come for us to set this city on fire in the spiritual realm. Let God burn out the dross, the dead works and the demonic strongholds

We need to make sure we are dressed in the armour of light, having dealt with deeds of darkness and strongholds in our own lives.

We need to take the battle to the enemy using the spiritual weapons we have been given and claim back the ground that they are squatting on. The victory is ours, but the battle is the Lord's

We have mighty weapons, let's take them up and turn this into a city on fire!