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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

41. How to Bind Satan, Part 1

This chapter argues that Christians share in Christ's authority to restrain Satan and his demons through prayer. It builds its case from Jesus' words about binding the 'strong man' and the 'keys of the kingdom,' then lays out the first practical steps of spiritual warfare.

Key takeaways

- To 'bind' Satan means to restrain or compel him — to hold back his power and stop his evil work. It can be literal or figurative.
- Jesus delegated His authority to all disciples (not just Peter): the 'you' in Matthew 16:19 is plural. Binding, loosing, the keys, and agreeing in prayer are all interrelated and guaranteed because Jesus joins the agreement.
- Step 1 — Recognize Satan's activity. Demons are numerous, organized, and work through people and circumstances; our fight is against the unseen spirits behind people, not the people themselves.
- Step 2 — Recognize the superiority of Christ's hosts. Only a third of the angels fell, so unfallen angels outnumber them two to one, and Christ in us is greater than Satan.

- **Step 3 — Take the initiative.** The binding is done by you, not by asking God or the angels to do it. Tie up the strong man first, then set his captives free.

Passages worth keeping

“I have given you authority ... to overcome all the power of the enemy.”

The plain, non-figurative promise the chapter's whole argument rests on.

“The binding is done by you — 'Whatever you bind.' You must neutralize your enemy before you can set his prisoners free.”

Names the reader's own responsibility to act, not just pray for someone else to act.

How it connects

The chapter ties Christ's finished victory at the cross (Gen. 3:15) to present-day prayer: heaven enforces that victory through believers who take the initiative to restrain Satan in Jesus' name.

Scripture referenced

- **Matthew 12:28-29** -- Jesus binds the 'strong man' by the Spirit before plundering his house.
- **Luke 10:18-19** -- Authority given to disciples to overcome all the enemy's power.

- **Matthew 16:19; 18:18** -- Binding and loosing given to all disciples (plural 'you'), tied to agreeing in prayer.
- **Ephesians 6:11-12** -- Our struggle is against unseen rulers and powers, not flesh and blood.
- **1 John 4:4** -- Christ in us is greater than Satan.
- **Genesis 3:15** -- Satan's head crushed at Calvary — the victory our prayer enforces.