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# Defeating Principalities (Stand Your Ground)

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## The Spiritual Connection

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: The Spiritual Connection: Defeating Principalities (Stand Your Ground)***

***Lesson Text***

Ephesians 6:10–12 (KJV)<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Joshua 1:1–5 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, <sup>2</sup> Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even* to the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. <sup>4</sup> From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. <sup>5</sup> There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

***Introduction***

As we continue with this, “The Spiritual Connection,” we now want to look into the unclean spirits themselves.

In our previous messages Jesus asked the man what his name was to know what and who he was dealing with. Which is the first key to spiritual warfare.

When I first began to study relationships, the first thing the Lord led me to was the connections we have to each other spiritually and the spiritual battles we have to fight.

We are losing our battles because we are not fighting the right enemy, and we are not using the right weapons.

2 Corinthians 10: <sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh we do not war after the flesh <sup>4</sup> (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Ephesians 6: <sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Four Levels of Unclean Spirits, which produce four levels of Drama or attacks on relationships

1. Principalities are Territorial Unclean Spirits
2. Powers are Personal Attack Unclean Spirits
3. Rulers of Darkness are Unclean Spirits of Temptations
4. Spiritual Wickedness are Religious Unclean Spirits

Hosea 4: <sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: ...

Our Spiritual connections with each other require us to learn, overcome, and defeat the unclean spirits that would tear us apart.

Today we will deal with Principalities, unclean spirits with the assignment of possessing and destroying territory that God has promised us.

***Series and Sermon: The Spiritual Connection: Defeating Principalities (Stand Your Ground)***

***“Defining Principalities, Overcoming Principalities, Defeating Principalities”***

### ***I. Defining Principalities***

Principalities is the Greek word Mar'âshâh which means headship or dominion.

It is where we get the word principle, which is the person with the highest authority or most important position in an organization, institution, or group.

Principalities is defined as the state, office, or authority of a prince; the territory or jurisdiction of a prince.

In the demonic world, principalities are the generals of Satan's army. These unclean spirits are the princes that have charge of territories, or territorial spirits.

They affect entire territories or regions with spirits such as crime & violence, poverty & depression, separation & divorce, or fornication and other sexual sins.

But regardless of the sin, they all have one thing in common, a controlling territorial spirit.

Matthew 8: <sup>28</sup> And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

How many of you have had experiences where you ran into someone who became very territorial (new job, new church or ministry)?

How many of you have had people come into your territory or relationship and try to control it?

Principalities are the spirits behind controlling, territorial drama.

When God advances you into new territory, they represent the territorial spirits of intimidation when God advances you into new territory. And they also represent the territorial spirits of invaders once God has given and established you in a territory.

And since everything about us (vision, mission, calling, and purpose) is about relationships, their ultimate purpose is to move in, control, and create drama that is ultimately designed to destroy our relationships.

Their power is in controlling territory until its purpose is destroyed. And they win when we run, quit, or give up on a territory God has either sent to or has given to us.

God is calling on us to stand our ground, to advance into what he's said was ours and to hold on to it once we've obtained it.

## ***II. Overcoming Principalities (The Spirits of Intimidation)***

Joshua 1: <sup>2</sup> Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, *even* to the children of Israel. <sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

The purpose of a kingdom is to advance and take territory, and like Joshua, we are the soldiers who are called to advance and take territory.

Our calling, anointing, and blessing is in the new territory that God has sent us to, but in order to possess it, we have to overcome the principalities, territorial spirits already there.

These territorial spirits are intimidators designed to invoke fear so that we stop advancing.

Numbers 13:27–28 (KJV)<sup>27</sup> And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it. <sup>28</sup> Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

Numbers 13:33 (KJV)<sup>33</sup> And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

To overcome these principalities, we must overcome our fears and advance.

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

Numbers 13:30 (KJV)<sup>30</sup> And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

## ***III. Defeating Principalities (The Spirits of Invaders)***

Joshua 1: <sup>5</sup> There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, *so* I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Once we possess our territory, we must learn how to hold on to it.

Too many obtain their promises, blessings, and territory only to lose it to territorial invaders.

Invaders are the territorial spirits that invade our territory with the goal of raiding, looting, and pillaging everything that they can.

They are marauders who roam the land looking for the good territory that others have taken the time to grow and develop. They don't work for their own, they simply take what others have already worked for.

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Once they get into a territory, they become like locusts, bringing destruction to everything in their path until there is nothing left; and then they just move on.

They invade our marriages to turn husband against wife; they invade families to turn brother against brother; they invade friendships to turn friend against friend; they invade ministries and churches to turn member against member against pastor!

And once the territory is ravished, the relationships are destroyed, they move on; leaving the territory in desolation.

We are to protect our territory by standing our ground.

Ephesians 6: <sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Romans 8:37–39 (KJV)<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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### Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Defeating Principalities (Stand Your Ground))

#### Lesson Text

- Ephesians 6:10–12, Joshua 1:1–5

#### Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *Defining Principalities*
- II. *Overcoming Principalities*
- III. *Defeating Principalities*

#### Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

##### I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Give three words that a person who knows you well might use to describe you.
2. How many siblings do you have? If more than one, where do you fall in the birth order?

##### II. Into the Bible

1. In our lesson text, Joshua 1:1-5, the Lord told Joshua to go to the land he was giving the Israelites. Yet this land included territory that was inhabited by the Hittites, which was one of three superpowers during that time. i) Why would the Lord promise land attached to these inhabitants? ii) What role does fear or faith play in possessing a promise from the Lord? iii) Can you relate to the Israelites' situation to a promise you have received from the Lord in which you have to overtake territorial spirits to possess the promise? What has been your experience?
2. According to 2 Cor 10:4, believers are to use spiritual “weapons.” i) What “weapons” would you use in possessing your promise from the Lord? Use scriptural references. ii) Why would spiritual weapons be more effective than carnal weapons?

##### III. Life Application

1. In relationships it is easy to blur the lines between the person and the spirit behind the person. How will knowing the definition of principalities assist you with making the distinction between the two in your relationships?
2. Has the Lord ever told you to stand your ground in a particular challenge or situation? Did you? Whether you did or not, you can always improve your responses when faced with challenging circumstances. How has this message helped you realize the importance of standing your ground in the face of the enemy?