Weapons of our Warfare

IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST

I want to share with you tonight a principle found in the Word of God that I believe is imperative to see and understand if the Christian is going to live a life of constant victory in this matter of spiritual warfare. And this principle is hinted at in two verses that I want to read to you tonight. The principle, as we'll see throughout the message tonight, is one of the bedrock principles of the Word of God even though we may never have known it. And perhaps have never vocalized it in just this way. In Matt. chapter 6 Jesus is teaching the disciples how to pray ~~XX~~ in response to their own question. And He says in vv 9 and 10 "after this manner, therefore pray ye, our Father which art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come --- and now, this next expression: THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

Now, thisis a prayer that Jesus gave us, a model of a prayer that Jesus gave us, instructing us on how to pray right now. And one of the fundamental principles of the prayer life of a Christian is to pray like this, thy will be done on earth as it's already done, and being ~~XXXX~~ done in heaven. Now, ~~XXXX~~ another verse of Scripture is found in Matt. 18and the 18th verse. Jesus says "verily I say unto whatosever ye shall bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth, ~~XXXXX~~ shall be loosed in heaven. Now as you read that verse in the KJV it gives you the idea that if I bind something on earth then that will be bound in heaven. And if I loose something on earth then that will be loosed in heaven. And that is not at all what Jesus was saying. The tenses of the verb are obscured in most of our translations therefore giving us a false interpretation of this verse.

I like the Williams translation because it translates it the way it ought to be translated. Let me read that verse again, and this is really what Jesus is saying. "Verily I say unto you whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall have already been bound in heaven. And whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall have already been loosed in heaven. " You see, that changes the meaning completely. It's not --- Jesus is not saying that heaven will take it's cue from earth. But what He's saying is , that I, as I live the Christian life, I am to take my cue from heaven. And if I come up against a problem, an adversary, anadversity, a difficulty, and I want to somehow come out conquerer in this situation, the first I am to do is to check out it's status in heaven. And I am to see, has this thing been loosed in heaven/ Then I can loose it on earth. X Has this thing been bound in heaven, then I can bind it on earth. In other words, you see I can appropriate for the here and now what has already been made absolute by Jesus Christ inheaven. So He's not saying that heaven takes it's cue from earth, but rather he is saying that life on earth is to take it's cue from life in heaven. Jesus says you ought to pray and this ought to be the tempo of your life, that the will of God be done on earth, as it is being done in heaven, the same way the will of God is done in heaven, it ought to be done that way on earth. So if I come up against a problem, a difficulty an adversity, what is the will of God in heaven concerning this matter, and I am to first of all check it out from heaven's viewpoint. And so, when Satan comes to me and he tempts me and he accuses me and he launches an attack against me, I'm first of all, if I'm going to be victorious, I want to check his status out with heaven. And I just take out a moment and I check out Satan's file in heaven. And I realize that the Bible says that in heaven satan is bound, that Jesus Christ when He died on the cross 2,000 years ago stripped the devil of all his powers, he destroyed the works of the devil, so in heaven he is already taken care of. Now, I am to take my cue from

heaven. And Praise theLord, since God's says in heaven Satan is already defeated that means that in my life today in the here and now, I can appropriate heaven's defeat to this particular situation andI can come out victorious over the devil. Now that's the way we are supposed to live. And I'll tell you the difference between a victorious Christian and a defeated Christian is all in a matter of viewpoint. Now I just want you to know if I look atthe devil from earth's point of view, I see him as a roaring lion. But if I look at the devil from heaven's point of view, I see that he's had all of his teeth pulled out. If I look at the devil from earth's point of view, I see him as a serpent with venom in his viens - fangs. If I look at him from heaven's point of view I discover that he's been defanged. He's powerless. And the only way that he can assert power over me is through my ignorance and through my unbelief of what Jesus has already done. And the greatest day is when the Christian discovers that his present life here on this earth is to be lived after the pattern of his life in heaven. And so the first thing that I need to discover in this spiritual warfare- what is my condition in heaven? This is so handy when the devil comes to accuse you. And this is one of his primary methods of attack. To come and accuse you and say, hey, you know whatkind of fellow you are. Now maybe the preacher doesn't know, maybe your husband or wife doesn't know, but I know what kind of fellow you are, and you know what kind of fellow you are and you know the kind of life you've lived.All these things you've done, you don't have any right to pray. And he'll accuse you and accuse you and accuse you. How do you get victory? Well, you check it out with heaven. You check it out with heaven. Now if I look at my life from my viewpoint, I'm going tohave to agree with the devil. You're right devil, I don't have any right to pray. But I check it out with heaven and I discover that Jesus Christ has presented me to the Father,spotless - without blemish, perfect in His sight. And so I can see on God's record there is

not even a trace of a sin on my account because Jesus Christ when He died on the cross blotted out the handwriting of ordinances that was against me so Ican take heaven's viewpoint and come back and appropriate it and say, Satan, I appeal to Calvary and you are a liar. And you can accuse me all you want to, but my record in heavenis clear and that's all that matters. And the greatestdiscovery of the Christian is when he discovers that he is to check out his condition first of all in glory, and then appropriate that for his condition on earth. Now, when the Christian makes this discovery the first great truth he comes across, is the truth thatI want to talk to you about tonight - the truth of IDENTIFICATION . Or, our ONENESS WITH CHRIST. Our union with Jesus. We are talking about the weapon of our warfare. I am coming up every day against the devil. And Satan has his host, his innumerable host of evil spirits and Satan's primary objective is to utterly defeat in my daily Christian life. Now God has not left me defenseless and weaponless. Now theBible says the weapons of our warfare - in II Cor. chapter 10 and v 3, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, they're not material, they're not fleshy, they're not human. But our weapons are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. So our weapons that we are going to use in waging spiritual warfare are spiritual weapons and last Sunday night we saw that the primary weapon is the cross, the blood of Jesus Christ. And I can meet the devil and appeal to Calvary because it was at Calvary that JEsus Christ utterly and finally and fully defeated the devil. And the first thing that I need to understandin my spiritual warfare is that Jesus, by His shed blood, has loosed me from any claim that the devil has on my life. You see, theLord took the handle off me and the devil can't find a place to grab hold of. He just doesn't have any claim on my life any more. Unless I fail to believe what Christ has already done. Then through my ignorance and through my unbelieving the devil can come in and defeat me. But as long as I assert my throne rights, as long as I appeal to Calvary, as long

I know what happened 2,000 years ago, the devil has no claim upon me. Because Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins 2,00 years ago. Now, the second great weapon that I use and exercise in this spiritual warfare is my UNION WITH JESUS CHRIST - MY IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST.

Jack Taylor has written a new book, as a matter of fact, it's coming out today, this week it's going to be released. In this book, he makes this statement: "when a believer discovers the truth of his identification withJesus the devil must mark on his calendar, a singular defeat for the powers of darkness. And as the believer begins to assert what he has discovered, the legions of hell must begin their retreat." It is a principle to be applied to every spiritual struggle -- what? this principle of identification. Well, what in the world do we mean by IDENTIFICATION - or my ONENESS WITH CHRIST? Let me give you a definition of it. It simply means this: That Jesus Christ became one w/ me that I might become one w/ Him. Christ became identified totally w/ me, that I might be totally identified with Him. Really, what it's saying is, this: that everything you can say about Jesus you can say about the believer. I John 4:17 says "as He is so are we in this world." Now there it's not talking about what we're going to be when we get to heaven, you see. He says, as Jesus is, so are we in this world. Right now in this present world, whatever you can say about Jesus, you can say about me. Now you have to see this from heaven's viewpoint. If you're going to look at it tonight from your viewpoint, from that low earth viewpoint, you'll never see it, you'll never believe it, you'll come away discouraged and defeated and depressed. You must look at it as God sees it, because you see, the Bible says, that we wage this warfare in heavenly places, you check it out, Eph. 6, the same place where Jesus sits, and where we areenthroned with Him is the same place the battle is fought. We're waging spiritual warfare in heavenly places. And so the weapons of our warfare are not what I can see from this viewpoint, but it's what God says is true about me from heaven's viewpoint. And as Jesus is right now,

glorified, exalted, victorious, so are we right now in this world. Everything you can say about JEsus right now you can say about me. IDENTIEICATION is the mightiest weapon that the Christian has to wage against the devil. Now this means, first of all, that Christ became identified with us. That's what I want us to talk about for just a momemt. Christ became one with us, andI want to show you that by giving you an incident in His life and then somce scriptures. The incidence is this: John was baptizing in Jordan, now John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. It was not Christian baptism. When anybody came to be baptized by John, here's what they were saying. They were saying,I'm a sinner, I'm lost, I'm undone, I stand before God alienated, an enemy of God, I am a sinner and I am repenting of that sin and that's what John's baptism signified. That's why the Pharisees didn't want to be baptized. They didn't want to admit they were lost, they didn't want to admit they were sinners. It wasn't Christian' baptism. You weren't baptized by John to prove that you had been saved. Their baptism - that baptism was the same as walking down an aisle, standing up and saying, "hey, everbody, I am a lousy, foul sinner. And I confess." That's what that baptism was. One day, Joh's baptizing in Jordan and here comes Jesus. And Jesus says, "John, I want you to baptize me." Now you understand why John didn't want to baptize Jesus. I can imagine John perhaps, saying, well Jesus - I mean you're holy, you're pure, this baptism is for people who are sinful. Jesus said that's right, I want you tobaptize me. Why was Jesus baptized? Did He have any sins he needed to repent of? No. Jesus was saying from the beginning of His ministry, see this is so important - this is the first thing He does publicly. Jesus is saying I want everybody to understand it from the outsdt that I am identifying myself with sinful man. ANd the significance of the baptism of Jesus is that Jesus was revealing, He was announcing publicly the very first thing He did announce was, I am coming identified with sinful man. Now, there are many scriptures that reveal this: Romans

5:8 says he died for us. Christ died in our place. Isaiah 53 - you readit when you get home tonight, it is the greatest chapter on identification you'll find in the word ofGod. He was wounded for our transgressions, the chastisement of my peace was upon him, by his stripes I amhealed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we've turned everyone tohis own way, and the Lord hath laid on Jksus the iniquity of us all. II Cor. 5:21 "he made him to be sin for us .... Jesus Christ came to this earth not separate from us, but identified with us and Isaiah 53 says he was numbered with the transgressors, he identified himself with us. And when Jeus Christ died on the cross the reason that God can accept the death of Christ as efficaous for me is because Jesus was identifying himself with me. Everything Jesus did He didn't do for Himself He did for me. He didn't have to come to earth & defeat the devil, He had already defeated him. He didn't have to come to earth and live a perfect live. HE didn't have to come to earth and die on the cross, He didn't have to do that for Himself. He did it for me, everythin Jesus did, He did for me. He totally,absolutely identified Himself with me. Now, that's the first part of it. Christ becoming one with me. Now, He became one with me, and here's the great part: THAT I MIGHT BE ONE WITH HIM. That I might be identified with Him. Now, remember, everything I can say about Jesus, I can say about myself. For as He is, so am I in this world. I am totally identified with Jesus in every aspect. Let's go throught some of these just for a moment. Firstofall the Bible says, that I am identified with Christ in his death. When Jesus died, I died. Now remember we are looking at it from heaven's viewpoint. The only way I can reahly have fellowship w/ God tonight is because I died 2,000 years ago on the cross. And that's why Satan's accusations haveno power in heaven. Because the devil could come to the Lord tonight and say, hey, you know Ron Dunn he's done such and so, and God would say, well that's all right but he died 2,000 years ago. Nothing I can do about it now. I mean death has removed him from any penalty.

That's the reason I can have fellowship with God. I died 2,000 years ago. Gal. 2:20 -- ... and the little words mean the most -- WITH -- I am crucified WITH Christ. Now the only way you can be crucified WITH somebody is to be crucified at the same time they were. All right, let's look at Romans chapter 6. Verse 4. Rather- yes, verse 4. Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death that like as Christ was raised up fromthe dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Look at vs 6. "Knowing this that our old manis crucified WITH him. Verse 8. "Now if we be dead WITH Christ. So I was identified with Christ in his death.

I was reading the other day about a Christian who had gone to visit the holy land and he was on one of these tours, and they were taking the group by Calvary and the guide asked the group" has anybody ever been here before?" And one of the men spoke up out of that group and said, "Yes, I've been here before". And the guide looked at him and said, "Oh, when were you here?" And he said, "I was here 2,000years ago." I'm identified with Christ in His death. But I am also identified with Christ in his burial. Look at the verse 4 we read a moment ago. "Therefore we are buried with him." When Jesus was buried, I was buried with him. Look in vs. 5. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. So I am identified with Christ in his death, in his burial, I am also identified with Christ in His resurrection. We just got through reading it in verse 5 of Romans chapter 6. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. After the service tonight we're going to have baptism - or really it's not after the service it's a part of the service. We're going to observe the ordinance of baptism. Do you know what baptism signifies? Baptism signifies primarily two things - first of all, it signifies the death and burial of Jesus Christ, and His resurrection. And when a person tonight goes down in the water

here's what's happening - they're saying "I believe that Jesus died, and was buried. When they come up out of the water, they're saying, I believe XXXXXXXXX He arose again. That's why we don't sprinkle, you see. TH Baptism, to be scriptural, has to picture that. And if it doesn't picture that, it's not scriptural baptism. But it XXXXXXXXX not only is a picture of the death and burial and resurrection of Jesus, it is also a picture of their death with Him. Look at that third verse in Romans 6. Know ye not that so many XX of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death. Did you know that's what baptism meant? When these folks are baptized tonight, did you know they'll be saying, I give my personal -testimony, not only that Jhsus died 2,000 years ago, but that I died with Him and was buried with Him and I've been raised to walk a new kind of life. I'm identified with Jesus in His resurrection.

I'm also identified with Jesus in HIS ASCENSION AND EXALTATION. Let's look at Eph. chapter 2, one of my favorote passages in all the word of God. XXXXXXXXX He says in Eph. chapter 2, vv 5 and 6, "even when we were dead in sins hath raised us up together with Christ, you see there's resurrection with Christ, by grace you are saved, now notice verse 6and hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ XXXXXX Jesus. You know for a number of years I used to preach that that was heaven. I don't see how I made that mistake, it's just as plain as the nose on your face that's past tense. He hath raised us us together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. That' XXX not future tense, that's not talking about heaven. In the future --. That's saying that when - what has already happened to Jesus has already happened to me, from God's point of view. And that's the way you deal with the devil. Now if you deal with the devil from your point of view, you've had it. But if you deal from the devil fromGod's point of view, he's had it. I deal with the devil =, from God's point of view, I check out my status in heaven first of all and the will that's done in heaven is done on earth and I check it out with heaven and I see tonight that I

am enthroned with Christ. Far above all powers and principalities and every name that's named. And just as God placed all things under the feet of Jesus, and I sit tonight in heavenly places in him, so all those things that are under the feet of Jesus are under my feet also. I'm identified with Him in His exaltation, I'm identified with Him in His GLORIFICATION. Col. chapter 3, verse 4, "when Christ who is our life shall appear, then ye shall also appear with Him in glory." Philippians chapter 3 and vs 21, "Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body ~~XX~~ according to the working~~XXX~~ whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. Now I want to read one more verse of Scripture, its Romans chapter 8 and verse 30. "Moreover whom He did predestinate them .....he also what? what? ~~XXXXX~~ GLORIFIED. Now what is that? ~~XXXXXX~~ Whats the tense ~~XXXXXXX~~ of that verb. That's past tense, in the Greek its an aorist tense which means an act that's already taken place. Here again I am looking at it from God's point of view, I've already been glorified as far as God is concerned. Do you know why I can't lose my salvation? Well, man I've already been glorified. .. In God's point of view. And for God to allow me to lose my salvation, let me go to hell, he would have to back up the processes of eternity. I've already been glorified. I'm identified w/ Christ in His DEATH, in his BURIAL, in his RESURRECTION, in his EXALTATION, in his ~~XXXXXX~~ GLORIFICATION, and I'm identified with Christ in His VICTORY. Because you see, I was with Him there on that cross. And when Jesus triumphed over the devil, I was there with Him sharing in that triumph. And so the Bible says in I John 4:4, ye are of God little children and have overcome them - you're of God and overcome them because greater is he that is in the world -- in you -- than he that is within the world. I John chapter 5 and verse 4, "this is the victory ..... who is it that overcomes the world... even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world but he that believes that Jesus is the son of God. and that world overcome is in the perfect tense which means it happened

way back yonder in the past and it has abiding results. My overcoming the world is an event already taken place 2,000 years ago when Jesus died on the cross. So I am totally identified with Christ. IDENTIFIED IN HIS VICTORY. Every victory that Jesus Christ won while He was here on this earth, and when He died on the cross, He won that victory for me, that's my victory, it wasn't His victory, He didn't have to get victory over the devil. It's my victory, it's my victory and He shares that with me andI am totally identified with Christ.

Now, there are two sides to this coin of identification. Side one IDENTIFICATION - my being identified with Christ means first of all, that Christ IS IN ME. Christ is in me. My oneness with Jesus, the Bible says Christ is in me. We could quote a lot of scripture, Col. 1:27, ... II Cor. chapter 13 and verse 5 says that if Christ is not in you you are a reprobate, you're a phony, you're a fraud. Now that doesn't leave much room for argument. Either Jesus is dwelling within you are you are a reprobate. Now the verse I want us to look at for just a moment is I John chapter 4, I quoted it a moment ago. I John chapter 4 and vs 4. ... All right, what is my spiritual weapon? My oneness with Jesus. How can I meet the devil everyday and come off victorious -- because of my onness with Jesus. That means that Christ is in me. The devil is in the world, fighting me, exerting pressure upon me, but Jesus is in me, that's why I've overcome, that's what he says, "you've overcome them because greater is he that is within you than He that's within the world." Now let me illustrate it this way - everybody here tonight has fourteen point seven (14.7) pounds of pressure pushing on you from the outside. 14.7 pounds of pressure per square inch. Now it all depends on how many square inches there are to you to how much pressure's on you. --- I've got to tell you this: I went tothe doctor last week and you know what he said? He said I'm not overweight, he said I'm just too short. --- He said I ought to be 7 ft 5" tall. So I'm not going to diet, I'm going to try to stretch. 14.7 pounds per square inch exerted on you.

That simply means that everybody here tonight has tons of pressure being exerted on you. Now what is it that keeps you from being crushed? by the atmosphere? Because on the inside there is a corresponding pressure pushing outward and as long as that pressure is on the inside pushing outward XXX, that pressure of the outside pushing inward cannot harm you. That's what keeps us from being crushed. That's why when men go down into the bottom depths of the ocean they have to have a pressurized suit because the XX pressureof that ocean is so much more powerful than the pressure within them it would literally crush them. And I tell you XXXXXX the devil is exerting pressure on me all the time. Just exerting pressure on me all the time. Just exerting pressure on me all the time. But the Bible says I am of God and I have overcome every evil spirit in the world - why? Because greater is Jesus than the devil that's what it simply means. And no matter how much pressure and power the devil exerts in my life, Jesus Christ is within me to make certain that the devil will never exert more pressure thanI can take. He never will. He never will. I'm identified XXX with Christ. It means that Christ is in me, but not only does it mean that Christ is in me, X the other side of that coin means that

I AM IN CHRIST -- I am in Christ

You say, well preacher,that's just two ways of XXX saying the same thing - no it isn't. They are two different truths. You see when I say that Christ is in me, that means that XXXXX Jesus is where I am. Right here on this earth. Driving to work, Jesus is where I am. The pressure at the office, Jesus is where I am. The pressure at school, XXXXX Jesus is where I am. Christ in me, that means XXXXXXXXXXXXX Jesus is where I am. For help and succor and power and strength and deliverance. But when the Bible says that I am in Christ, that means that I am where Jesus is. You say, I don't X understand it, I don't either, but I sure do enjoy it, and just believe it. I'm not about to try to explain this to you tonight.

This is God's Word, this is how , this is what God came up with in the councils of eternity. And I cannot, with my finite mind, even begin to understand the infinite. Now I don't understand how Jesus can be where I am, and how I can be where He is, I let the Lord worry about that, that's His problem. I'm simply to believe it and accept it, and live in the light of that truth. So it says that I am in Christ, over 90 times in the NT Paul uses the expression of being in Christ. That means I am where Jesus is. Well, now, where is Jksus- Hebrews chapter 1 verse 3, says this .... SAT DOWN ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH -- that's where Jesus is. Another verse that shows us where Jesus is Eph. chapter 1 and vs 20. Which he wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that isnamed, not only in this world but also in that which is to come. That's where Jesus is. And the Bible says I am in Christ, and we've already in Eph. 2:6 that I have been made to sit together tonight with Jesus. So where am I? I am in Christ. That is a position of AUTHORITY. All right, now let's sum it all up and say, how can I take this truthof my identification with Jesus, Christ being where I am, and me being where Christ is, how can I use this in my warfare. When I come up against a problem tomorrow, when the devil tempts me, when assails me, what am I to do? Well, I tell you what I would do. I would first of all, acknowledge his presence within me. Ack= knowledge His presence within me. And when the devil comes to me with temptation, adversity, with oppression, I just acknowledge that Jesus Christ is in me and He's in me to live His life through me and He is more than sufficient to meet the devil and overcome him. And I like what Paul says in Gal. 2:20 -- ".... and somebody said that what that meant was Paul was saying that when the devil knocks at the door he just sends Jesus to answer it. I like that, I think that's exactly what it is. You know I like it because I've said it so much. Stephen Olford said that he keeps a

he keeps a little note on his desk and he never leaves this thought from his mind, and it's this: that there is no demand made upon my life today that is not at the same time a demand made upon the life of Jesus within me. What is the demands that are being made upon your life today? Every demand that is made upon your life is really a demand made upon the life of JEsus within you and when you acknowledge His presence within you and you say I thank you Lord that you're more than equal to this situation, I thank you that youwho dwell in me, and you who live in me, you're able to just take this situation, this dilemna, this adversity and your'e able to conquer, I just yield to your life within me. My oneness with Jesus - Christ liveth in me. And I am to acknowledge His presence within me. I just cannot see how any Christian can comeout defeated if he constantly abides in that attitude. - of acknowledgeing in every situation His presence within me.

Butnot only acknowledgeing His presence within me, but asserting my POSITION WITH HIM. Now this is the clincher. I am in Jesus and I am seated tonight in heavenly places at the right hand of the Father. I am enthroned w/ Christ, I have throne rights. Now if you don't know that and don't believe that then the devil can defeat you and you'll have to put up with everything he gives you. But the Christian needs to understand that He has throne rights and not only am I to acknowledge his presence within me but I am to assert my position with Him. What is my position, my position is one of AUTHORITY IN JESUS - ENTHRONEMENT WITH JESUS. Now everything flows from that truth. In other words, that means that I can utter the command of faith. Mark chapter 11 verse 23, JEsus says whosoever ..... the command of faith. The command of faith. Do you believe that? You mean to tell me if there's a mountain out yonder, a mountain of opposition, a mountain of hindrance standing between you and doing God's will that all you have to do is to give the command of faith, and by the way, that is a command, you check it up in your Greek, that's

a command. He's not praying, that's a command. He says you say to that mountain, get out of the way and it will get out of the way. He shall have whatsoever he says. The command of faith. Well, don't you believe if something was standing in the way of Jesus doing the will of the Father, now I'm not saying that every difficulty you have and every adversity you have is going to dissolve, I mean those things that keep you from doing the will of God. You see in Matthew chapter 17, the demon possessed boy was brought to the disciples and they couldn't cast him out and Jesus came back and He did. And the disciples came to Jesus privately, and I don't blame them for doing that, I'd have been embarrassed, too, and they said, Master, why couldn't we cast him out. And Jesus said, now listen I've read a book by a great scholar, who says, that the reason they couldn't cast him out is because Jesus did not give them the permanent power to cast out demons. And they thought that they had the power to cast out demons and they just thought they did and that's why they couldn't cast them out. Well, now, Jesus tells us why they couldn't cast him out. Jesus didn't say you couldn't cast them out because I really didn't give you that gift to be permanent. No, Jesus said because of your unbelief. For I say unto you if you have faith the size of a mustard seed that's mighty small, you can say to this mountain be thou moved into the sea and it will move into the sea. For all things are possible to him that believeth. All right, what was the mountain in that particular case? The mountain was that demon in that boy. They couldn't help that boy, they couldn't minister to that boy because there was a demon possessing that boy standing in the way of the will of God. They had the power, through faith, to command that demon to get out of the way, that was the mountain that Jesus was referring to. And that person who asserts his throne rights and stands upon his throne rights can give the command of faith and to

every obstacle in his way of doingthe will of God he can exercise the authority he has in Jesus Christ and command that mountain of obstacles to get out of the way and Jesus says it'll do it. But not only can he give the command of faith, he can also give the command to be free. Matthew 18:18 -- Jesus said ".....-. ... Now are there some things binding you tonight? Hmm? Are you bound tonight? All right, I tell you what you do you check it out with heaven. You check it out. Has God bound that in heaven? You say, preacher, I have this old habit I have this sin, I have this sin tonight, it's just binding me, holding on to me, well you check it out. You check it out with heaven. Has God dealt with that sin? Is that sin bound in heaven? If it is then you can bind it on earth. Is that sin loosed in heaven? Then you can loose it on earth. But when I assert my throne rights I can also give the command not only of <u>faith</u> and the command of <u>freedom,</u> but I can also give the

COMMAND TO FLEE

and that's to the devil. James 4:7 --- "..... Resist the devil and he will flee from you. My Identification With Christ -- my being lifted up and enthroned with Jesus, my, I sit tonight in heavenly places. Everything you can say about Jesus you can say about me. As He is, so am I in the world tonight. And I am with Christ, lifted up. I share His authority I share His throne and I have the authority under God because of the shed blood of Jesus and by my union withHim to speak to the devil and command him to flee. And those things that bind, those oppressing and depressing spirits, and those shackling, binding, habits of sin, I have the authority in Jesus to command them to be loosed. Whatsoever he saith he shall have if he believes. What a weapon. And the greatest day of yourlife, Christian, will be when you discover that. And you begin to assert your rights of your position. I found this works in the matter of prayer unbelievably. Some of you might be surprised to think that a preacher sometimes has trouble

praying. and I'll be honest with you, there are times, and there have been times more lately than ever before when I just don't want to pray. I have rather go out and dig a ditch than pray. There is just a barrier, there is justsomething there keeping me from praying. I find it the most difficult thing to pray, lately. Over and over again. And you know for a while I thought well I don't feel like praying, I won't pray. Score one for the devil. But then I woke up and I just said I don't have to put up with this, this has to be of the devil. This is just my old nature. I know the Spirit of God within me loves to pray. And you know what I did? I just begin asserting my rights in Jesus. My throne rights. I have every right to pray. And I have every right to command the devil to get out and leave me alone and quit oppressing my prayer life. And I just began by faith asserting and affirming my throne rights andmy position with Jesus and began praising the Lord for that. And you know the devil can't stand praise, he just can't stand it. It justinterferes with his radio waves, it's like putting static over a radio program, it just, he just doesn't like it. And when the Christian begins to praise the Lord for his rights, for his privileges, for his position with Jesus, I'll tell you all of a sudden I found it's so easy to pray. Just so easy to pray. As I stood in Christ where He was asserting my rights as a child of God, my blood-bought rights to pray and to pray with a liberty and to pray with freedom and to know that the Heavenly Father was listening and hearing andmoving.

You say, well how do you get to be one w/ Jesus? Well you enter into it when you come to trust Him as Saviour andLord. and the most marvelous miracle takes place when you come to trust Jesus as Saviour and Lord suddenly everything He bought for you on the cross becomes your possession and you enter into it. And that which, up to this time, has only been available, becomes real - experiential in your life.