

The Advancing Kingdom

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LOVING GOD
LOVING PEOPLE



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God's kingdom is by nature a perpetually advancing and increasing one

- Matthew 16 verse 18
- Matthew 13 verse 33
- Acts 1 verse 8





Luke 11 verse 14 – 28

- Fruitfulness
- Scandalising by the enemy
- The enemy's agenda
- It's a **kingdom issue**
- No other way but **through**
- Crucial warning

Learning from Christ's example



Luke 11 verse 14

- The heart of Christ has always been for us to be fruitful *see John 15 verse 16*
- This means blossoming according to our pre-designed divine purpose - *see Ephesians 2 verse 10*
- The enemy thus seeks to rob us of our purpose and destiny, and one of his strategies is through specifically afflicting people with demons *as seen in Luke 11 verse 14*
- This means that though there may be many reasons why a person does not experience spiritual fruitfulness (*as there often are*) we cannot afford to be ignorant about this aspect
- We thus see that casting out demons has always been an integral part of the Lord Jesus' ministry, *see for example*
 - *Matthew 4 verse 23 to 24*
 - *Luke 4 verse 40 to 41*
- The apostles and disciples also did the same, *see for example*
 - *Acts 5 verse 15 to 16*
 - *Acts 8 verse 4 to 8*

A) Its about fruitfulness



Luke 11 verse 15 to 16

- It is not unusual for the devil to try and stir up a lot controversy around any person or group that is involved in the setting free of people from demonic bondage
- He may try to discredit, scare or discourage against getting people set free
- This must not and cannot stop us from carrying out what the Lord sent us to do

B) Satan seeks to scandalise this truth



Luke 11 verse 17 to 18

- Nothing truly or permanently good comes from the devil
- This means that any form of deliverance that is not true has no lasting spiritual benefit, though at face value it may seem meaningful, see **Matthew 7 verse 15 to 23**
- Incomplete or even false deliverance is seen by spiritual net loss in the life of the counselee after the process has been done e.g. *more nightmares, direct loss of physical and mental wellbeing*

C) Fruit speaks for itself

- i) Deliverance versus exorcism
- ii) Legitimate deliverance is done by the finger of God(Holy Ghost), *see also Exodus 8 verse 16 to 19*
- iii) True deliverance manifests and glorifies(**advances**) the kingdom of God
- iv) Focus on God's kingdom implies the importance of right balance, *consider Revelation 2 verse 24 – don't obsess!*



D) 'Kingdom' is the essence



Luke 11 verse 21 to 23

- As long as it is within the best interests of the kingdom, wherever we spot the enemy we are **obligated** to advance against him
- It must only be done under the authority of one stronger than Satan, i.e. the **Lord Jesus Christ**
 - Acts 4 verse 12
 - Philippians 2 verse 9 to 11
- The key is to first identify and strip the devil of his **armour**, see for example
 - Ephesians 4 verse 26 to 27
 - 1 John 4 verse 1 to 3
 - 1 Corinthians 6 verse 15 to 16
- Hence the devil's name **Beelzebub** – 'Lord of flies'
- Enemy is disarmed by genuine and total repentance see
 - 1 John 1 verse 7 to 9
 - Acts 19 verse 18 to 20

E) No other way but through . .

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Luke 11 verse 24 to 26

- Deliverance ministry must never be done **cosmetically** as the results could be ultimately devastating *see for example Acts 19 verse 13 to 16 – the sons of Sceva*
- The goal must always be to **displace** the power of the devil with the **rule and authority of Christ**
- True spiritual victory comes from meditating on as well trusting and walking in the **word** of God, see for example **Matthew 4 verse 1 to 11**
- *See also Ephesians 6 verse 17 – the word of God is the sword of the Spirit*

F) Word of caution