

## **“The Aggressive Stance”**

*Acts 16:16-18* 16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.

*We operate in the spirit realm, we will face demonic assaults in our salvation and we need to know how to discern, uncover, and take an aggressive stance against it.*

### **I. The Need For Discernment.**

A. There is a great need for us disciples to have a spirit of discernment and it greatly would benefit if we developed this before entering in to the field.

*Eph. 6:12* 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

1. The ability to see and discern the supernatural is a tool that will help us greatly.

a. Why? Simply because not every demonic manifestation is someone convulsing violently foaming at the mouth.

*VS. 16-17.* 16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.”

2. And while there is nothing shy about a demonic assault it can sometimes mask itself and we don't always pick up on it right away. It can even sound and look right.

*2 Cor. 11:13-14* 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

a. This scripture is telling us that the demonic doesn't function out there but it can seep its way into the church, our homes, our lives, our ministries, it can affect our new converts/fruitfulness.

b. In our text where were they headed? To prayer. its most often in that place of victory that place of dominion that place where God has moved before that the enemy chooses to assault you.

c. There are actual servants of Satan/ demonic entities seeking to overthrow the dominion you have established through the blood of Jesus.

*Illustration. Charlene. Because she gave now thought she had the right to correct.*

### **II. Uncovering The Demonic.**

A. There are specific strategic reasons the devil brings assault. The greatest way to mount a counter attack is to know your enemy.

1. Our text tells us that this girl possessed a spirit of divination.

a. Lit. “a python spirit.” Later the phrase meant a demon-possessed person or even a ventriloquist. A spirit that deceived.

*VS. 17.* 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.”

2. While it sounded right the apostle Paul had the discernment to uncover her and the words that were being spoken.

a. Words have power this is why we need to come against words spoken against us.

B. The strategy revealed.

1. **Intimidation.** The enemy knows how valuable you are in the kingdom so he'll bring something against you to stop you in your tracks to keep you from advancing forward.

2. **Fear.** Fear targets you to cripple you and render you useless. *Jada and her dresser.*

3. **Manipulation.** Seeks to control you; control decisions, control emotions, control whether you're going to trust God or not.

4. **Resistance.** The attempt to prevent God from accomplishing his will in our lives in our home in our children, in our ministry, in our church, with our headship, in finances, in fruitfulness, in all of life God has promised breakthrough. When we have uncovered the strategy we can then mount the counter attack.

### **III. Taking The Aggressive Stance.**

A. There has to be something inside of us that says enough is enough. That word annoyed also means grieved  
An aggressive stance is a fighting stance.

*VS. 18:18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her:" And he came out that very hour.*

1. The assault is relentless and unless we stand up against it won't go away by itself.
2. The apostle Paul exercised dominion. in the name of Jesus
  - a. That dominion wasn't just for him we too can exercise that same dominion and get results.

*Luke 10:16-17.17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."*

*18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*

B. The promise is that the assault doesn't have to last forever our text says that the demon came out of the little girl that very hour.

1. We don't have to wait for breakthrough Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever.

*Matt 11:12. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom suffers violence, and the violent take it by force*

2. We don't have to sit around and let the devil rip us off we need to take the aggressive stance against hell.