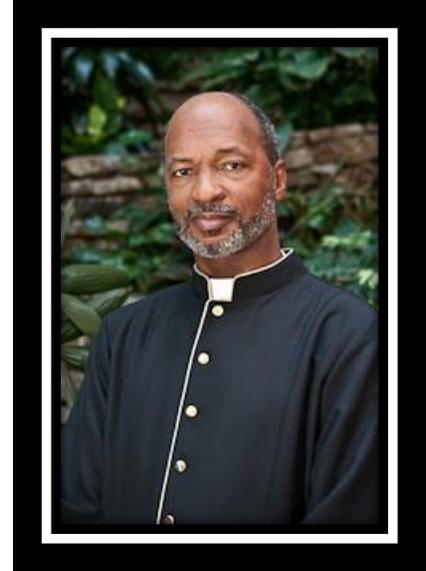


The Bishop's Corner

We Wrestle Against Evil Spirits

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (Ephesians 6:11-18 KJV).”



Evil spirits hinder the work of the ministry, but when we fast and pray, we put evil spirits to flight. Evil spirits attack us individually and they take away our desire to praise God and do the things that please Him. If we listen to evil spirits, they will keep us from wanting to go to church and faithfully serving God. When we find ourselves not wanting to be with the people of God, it is that we are being influenced by evil spirits. If you feel yourself losing the desire to do the things of God, run your spiritual checklist: Am I praying? Fasting? Reading my bible? Assembling myself with the people of God? Hearing the Holy Spirit? Desire to follow Him? If we find we are falling short in any of these things, we must fast and pray until the yokes are broken and the bands of wickedness are loosed. It bothers the devil when we pray deeper in the Spirit.

Even Daniel's prayers were hindered by evil spirits, but the Lord broke the yoke. So, if we continue to pray as Daniel did, the Lord will break yokes for us too. “Then said he unto me, Fear not Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia (Daniel 10:12-13 KJV).”

Evil spirits are also keeping people from coming to church, so we must pray and fast for our local church. Because the local church is the entry point to the Kingdom of God, our local churches are the most important part of the church organization. The churches are here so people can be saved and have access to God. Therefore, those of us who already have the Holy Spirit, have a responsibility to produce others who have the Holy Spirit. The local churches need to be like well-watered garden with everyone in them springing up unto eternal life. Our work starts in the local church, so we need to get in our spot and do our work.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction