

Outline

- I. When people say the name of some sickness or disease, like cancer, it strikes fear in their hearts.
 - A. Many people are more moved by what the doctor, banker, or somebody else says than they are by what God's Word says, and that's the problem; they're empowering that curse and those negative things that have been spoken.
 - B. I could have believed what was said about the Great Recession back in 2007-2009 and pulled back, but I was listening to God, and He told me to do something else instead.
 - C. Although this is simple, it's not easy.
 - D. The hardest thing you'll ever do is get to where the Word of God—what you hear from Him, the truth He speaks to you in your heart—is more real to you than what anything or anyone else says.

- II. Satan can't do anything to you without your consent and cooperation.
 - A. Many people don't like to admit this because they take great comfort in thinking, *The devil made me do it. He's fighting against me, and I can't help it. I'm not responsible.*
 - B. You might be saying, "Come on, Andrew! You're saying it's my fault?"
 - C. That's exactly what I'm saying.
 - D. If you have an enemy out there who's bigger and stronger than you and you can't stop him, well then, woe is you!
 - E. But if it's your fault that you have allowed Satan to lie to and steal from you, then you can change.
 - F. It's actually good news to find out that you're the problem, because you can change yourself.

- III. Quit being a victim!
 - A. Nobody owes you anything.

- B. Quit being oppressed by people, and stand up and take responsibility for your life.
- C. Declare, “It’s not what other people do or don’t do. I’m the one who has the authority and power of God. I’m going to choose life, and through Christ, I will live and succeed!”
- D. It doesn’t matter what color you are—green or even purple—find out what Jesus has done for you.
- E. Discover who you are and what you have in Christ; then take your authority and start standing on that in faith, and you will prosper.
- F. You might have reasons for being a failure, but you have no excuse; the Lord has made you the head and not the tail; you are above only and not beneath (Deut. 28:13).

IV. Words are weapons:

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Isaiah 54:17

- A. Notice that right after the phrase “*no weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper*” is the phrase “*every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn,*” which means that these two actions are linked.
- B. You must condemn curses.
- C. You must judge them and say, “No! In the name of Jesus, that’s not true for me!”

V. God’s Word is a seed:

The sower soweth the word.

Mark 4:14

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 Peter 1:23

- A. When you plant this seed, it germinates and begins to release the supernatural power within it.

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- B. But the Word of God isn't the only seed out there; every word that you hear is a seed—every word!

Death and life are in the power of the tongue.

Proverbs 18:21

- C. Everything you hear is either life or death, blessing or cursing.
- D. The moment you hear something contrary to what you're believing God for, you need to stop the speaker right then and say, "In the name of Jesus, that's not so. I condemn it. I judge it!"
- E. If you don't say something right then because you don't want to offend the speaker and you wait until later when you get home, then you will have to root out the unbelief that was spoken.
- F. It can take a while to deal with the unbelief.
- G. Do this even while listening to the radio or watching television.

VI. The Word says that Jesus "*answered*" the fig tree (Mark 11:14).

- A. This means that the fig tree had been talking to Him.
- B. Speak what God's Word says to things.
- C. You may think, *Andrew's weird*.
- D. But *you're* weird if you're letting the devil run all over you without resisting him.
- E. One of the reasons Adam lived to be 930 years old (Gen. 5:5) is because it took millennia for the devil to teach people to think sick and expect infirmity.

VII. When our kids felt sick, we refused to encourage it.

- A. We taught our kids that being sick isn't good, and as a result, our children weren't sick.
- B. Don't believe in being sick.
- C. God's Word says, "*There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling*" (Ps. 91:10).

VIII. It's sad to say, but other Christians will think you're weird for believing in healing, prosperity, and victory.

- A. One of the most popular doctrines in the body of Christ today is the belief that God controls everything.
- B. A person who holds to this extreme can blame all of their failure on God, saying, "It's His fault. God must have a plan for me being sick."
- C. No, you don't have to be sick, poor, or depressed (1 Pet. 2:24 and Ps. 91:10-11)!

IX. In this verse, God gives you the answer to a multiple-choice test, saying, "Choose life":

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

Deuteronomy 30:19

- A. Why would we choose debt over being debt free?
 - B. Why would we choose sickness over being well?
 - C. Why would we choose welfare over being productive?
 - D. Why do so many shoot for nothing and hit it every time?
- X. Perhaps you've been embracing the standards that the world promotes today, and this is the way that you think.
- A. It doesn't bless you to hear someone say that this isn't God's best.
 - B. You need to repent!
 - C. If you approach God with humility, grace will flow, and He'll show you the way (James 4:6).
 - D. Just say, "Father, You're a good God. It's not Your fault that I've received less than Your best. What I don't know, please show me. Teach me. Everything's on the table before You. I'm not going to hold on to anything. I want Your best. Show me what I need to do."

Discipleship Questions

1. When you are more _____ by what the doctor, banker, or somebody else says than you are by what God's Word says, you're empowering that curse and those negative things that have been spoken.

2. *Discussion question:* Who and what do you believe when it comes to your finances and your health?

3. The hardest thing you'll ever do is get to where the Word of God—what you hear from Him, the truth He speaks to you in your heart—is what?

4. Satan can't do anything to you without your _____ and _____.

- A. Consent / cooperation
- B. Time / money
- C. Mind / emotions
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. If it's your fault that you have allowed Satan to lie to and steal from you, then what can you do?

- A. Nothing
- B. Change
- C. Quit
- D. Run
- E. Hide

6. True or false: Somebody owes you something.

7. What do you need to declare?

8. Discover who you are and what you have in Christ; then take your authority and start standing on that in faith, and you will _____.

9. True or false: There is no excuse for being a failure.

10. According to Deuteronomy 28:13, you are above _____ and not beneath.

- A. Sometimes
- B. People
- C. Prayer
- D. Authority
- E. Only

11. According to Isaiah 54:17, what two actions are linked?

12. What must you do with curses?

- A. Accommodate them
- B. Tolerate them
- C. Accept them
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

13. According to Mark 4:14 and 1 Peter 1:23, what is God's Word?

14. True or false: Every word you hear is a seed.

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15. *Discussion question:* What do you do when you hear something contrary to what you're believing for?

16. Since Jesus "*answered*" the fig tree in Mark 11:14, that means what?

17. What should you speak to things?

18. True or false: You shouldn't let the devil run all over you without resisting him.

19. The devil had to teach people to _____ sick and _____ infirmity.

20. *Discussion question:* How will you learn not to accept sickness as normal?

21. A person who believes that God controls everything can do what?

22. According to 1 Peter 2:24 and Psalm 91:10-11, what don't you have to be?

23. Read Deuteronomy 30:19. What is the answer to the multiple-choice test?

24. If you've been embracing the standards that the world promotes today, and this is the way that you think, what do you need to do?

25. If you approach God with humility, _____ will flow, and He'll show you the way (James 4:6.)

26. *Discussion question:* Why is it important to approach God with humility?

27. *Discussion question:* What would be a good prayer to pray right now?

Scriptures

DEUTERONOMY 28:13

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.

ISAIAH 54:17

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

MARK 4:14

The sower soweth the word.

1 PETER 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

PROVERBS 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

MARK 11:14

And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

GENESIS 5:5

And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

PSALM 91:10-11

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. [11] For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

1 PETER 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

PSALM 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

GALATIANS 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

HEBREWS 13:15

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

DEUTERONOMY 30:19

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

JAMES 4:6

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

JAMES 1:21

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.