

Dominion over Satan, Sin and Sickness

By Richard Vinyard

I would like to share a few thoughts on the subject of dominion. The Bible teaches that we can have dominion over Satan, sin, and sickness. God tells us in His Word why He created man. We read in Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea; and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth." Our Creator intended us to have authority over every other living thing. Furthermore, the Psalmist said, "Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put *all* things under his feet" (Psalm 8:6) and when God says "all" I believe He means "all."

In the beginning, man was subject to God alone. He lived on intimate terms with his Maker and enjoyed the beauties of paradise. His joy was perfect, unmarred by Satan, sin, or sickness. But man forfeited his exalted position by disobeying God's command, and immediately he began to suffer the consequences. Then, in the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the purpose of His death and resurrection was to restore to man all the things he had lost by his fall into sin.

When Jesus walked the paths of Palestine He put this power of dominion into action. "All power is given unto Me," He said, "in heaven and in

earth," and He proved it by His mighty miracles. All sin, all sickness, all diseases, all afflictions, all demons—yes, even death itself—were subject to the power of Jesus, Christ.

In Luke 9:1 we read how He told His followers that they, too, should exercise this power of dominion. It states: "He called His twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And He sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick."

There are various ways to heal the sick. One way is to ask God for deliverance and then to keep on praying until the answer comes, but that may take a long time. Some people have told me they prayed twenty years before they were healed. I had a cancer on my body when I was pastor at a certain place. I prayed for five years before the Lord healed me of that cancer. The thing finally fell off. There isn't a trace of it on my body today and I thank God for that healing, but I thank God also for showing me later on that I could exercise authority over sickness in His Name and claim an immediate deliverance.

Friend, this authority over Satan, sin, and sickness is the thing that Jesus brought to the New Testament Church. This dominion is the thing He paid for at Calvary with His precious Blood. It

is a part of your salvation and mine. Jesus declared that all authority was given unto Him, in heaven and in earth; and the Bible says that we are heirs of God and joint-heirs, with Christ. Christ came to reveal to us the plan of the living God and to guide us into that plan. It is His plan that man should take his place of dominion over all things. The Lord wants us to rise above the power of sin and to dethrone all disease and demon power. We are not slaves to sin. The Bible says, "Sin shall not have dominion over you" (Romans 6:14). We never need to be defeated by Satan, for we read in Romans 16:20, "The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." We can claim these promises as our own and have the victory here and now.

This is no new doctrine. Actually, there were men and women in Old Testament times, who exercised this power of dominion. Let's look at Moses as he faced the Red Sea. What did he have to go on? He had nothing more than you and I have, God's Word. God told Moses to take the rod in his hand, to hold it over the sea, and to start forward. What was this? It was man, taking dominion over God's creation. He took God at His word.

On one side of Moses was a mountain; on the other side was the sea; and the enemy surrounded him from the rear. His only way of escape was to believe God and advance into the sea. Isn't it a pity that so often we have to be crowded into a corner, so to speak, before we take advantage of our God given privileges? Moses lifted

up his rod and headed for the Red Sea. I can imagine some of the people saying, "What is that foolish preacher going to do?" "What kind of fanaticism is this?" But Moses obeyed God's Word and he had dominion over the sea. When a man of faith steps out on the divine promises, God reverses the nature of things. Moses was a man who dared to take his place in God.

Joshua was another man of faith. God did not even talk to Joshua about it. You know, there are some things that faith will do without a blueprint. Joshua had a fight on his hands, and it was a red-hot battle. He knew that if the sun went down, his enemy would escape. He had to win the victory then and there. That is the way we should fight Satan and all symptoms, and claim our healing. So Joshua said, "I am going to fix this so I will have time to lick the enemy to a finish." He looked up at the sun and commanded, "Stand still." Brother, that man took dominion over the elements of God's creation. He commanded them in faith, and God honored his action.

We are going to have to hurry in order to catch up with those Old Testament men of God. We are losing many a battle today because we do not take dominion over the opposing forces, over any elements that stand between victory and us. What about that disease that has bothered you so long? You have prayed and prayed and you can't get healed. You have been anointed and prayed for, and yet you are not healed. Listen: you need to take your place in God and exercise dominion over that situation. Tell the disease and all its

symptoms to go back to the pit of hell from which they came. Jesus' has given you all power over the enemy.

One night I was preaching in a campaign in Pennsylvania, Right in the middle of the campaign I had a heart attack, the only one I ever had. It felt as though someone had run a knife through me. Weak and trembling, I turned white and held to the pulpit. The devil tried to kill me there in the middle of that campaign. The next night I was still very weak but I leaned on the pulpit, opened my Bible, and started preaching. The devil said, "You had better be careful or you will have to go to the hospital. Why don't you close this meeting and take care of yourself?" But I replied, "Devil, I am preaching the Bible, and you are trying to put me to bed. I am staying in this meeting."

I started preaching faith that night, and it wasn't long before the anointing of the Holy Ghost came down upon us. I prayed for the sick, and some time between praying for the first and last persons that night, I was healed. I took dominion over that heart attack, and I never have had another one. God will meet you, too, if you will only choose to believe.

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