

EASTER SUNDAY SERMON

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY VS THE INVISIBLE GOD

The novel Corona virus continues to ravage the world, with more and more persons being hospitalized and many dying. This “Novel” virus is currently unstoppable and without cure. It is invisible to the naked eye, but its existence cannot be denied. Whichever nation it invades, certain signs follow the path it takes. These signs include:

1. Coughing.
2. Fever.
3. Shortness of breath.
4. In severe cases death.

As believers, what is our perspective? Is there a source of evil in the world? Is our God more powerful than the Corona virus? Is our God more powerful than the power of evil?

THE INVISIBLE ENEMY

The Bible tells us that there is someone who has ultimate responsibility for evil activity in the world. He is called by different names in the Bible such as the devil, Satan, Lucifer and the serpent. He is invisible, like the Corona virus, he cannot be seen by the naked human eyes. However, his presence and works can easily be identified. Put it another way, there are certain signs that follow the devil and his followers. Jesus describes his worldwide agenda in John 10:10,

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (NLT)

The apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:12

“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.”

These powers of evil are responsible for influencing humans to practice witchcraft, magic, sorcery, human trafficking, rape, murder, etc.

In John 13:2 (NKJV), the Bible tells us that after supper had ended the devil had already prompted Judas' heart to betray Jesus.

Is the devil prompting your heart to disobey God? He prompted Judas' heart to betray Jesus. If you are not watchful, he can do the same with you.

These powers of darkness have inflicted humanity with sickness and disease.

Luke 13:11-13 tells us,

*'And behold, there was a woman who had a **spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.** But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.'*

OUR INVISIBLE GOD AND HIS RESURRECTION POWER

Some people say seeing is believing. We cannot see the Corona virus, but we can see its invisible destructive qualities.

The Bible tells us in Romans 1:20,

"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."

Here the Apostle Paul is telling us that although we cannot see God with our naked eyes, we can see the things he created and because of this we have no excuse for not knowing God.

1 Timothy 1:17 (NKJV) tells us,

*“Now to the **King eternal, immortal, invisible**, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever.” Amen.*

In this passage Paul is telling Timothy that God is not only invisible, but that he is King eternal over all creation and immortal.

Today we celebrate His resurrection and victory over death. We also celebrate the power of His resurrection that is in us, but is to a great extent not fully appreciated in the body of Christ.

Hebrews 2:14-15

*“14 Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. **For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.** 15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. (NLT)*

Jesus had to die to break the power of the devil. And even more importantly he had to rise from the dead. Because he rose from the dead, he conquered death.

Romans 10:9 tells us,

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (NLT)

The Apostle Paul is saying, if you do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you cannot be saved. You cannot say you are a Christian and at the same time declare you do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you do not believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have no power over the devil.

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NLT) tells us,

“For the Kingdom of God is not just a lot of talk; it is living by God’s power.”

We live in an age in which social media affords us many ways and opportunities to “chat” with each other. We need to be careful that as Christians we do not develop a lifestyle in which we talk about God, but there is no demonstration of God’s power in our lives and in our ministry.

In Mark 16:17-18 (NLT) Jesus tells us,

“17 These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. 18 They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.”

This is a time when as believers we should not just be talking about God, but we need to step up and demonstrate the power of God. We need to experience signs and wonders in our lives. The world needs to know that God is alive.

Through signs and wonders I came to realize that God exists and that the Bible is the word of God. While visiting a Christian meeting and observing persons being healed and delivered in the name of Jesus, I was convicted of sin, righteousness and judgement. I repented of my sins and became a follower of Jesus Christ.

GOD'S POWER RESIDES INSIDE OF US

Romans 8:11 tells us,

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Wow! What a promise! The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside of us. The context here is indicating that the Holy Spirit enables us to control our sinful desires. And this is so true. However, I would hasten to say that in addition to this, by his resurrection power that lives in us, we are also able to cast out devils, heal the sick and raise the dead. We have the same Spirit that Jesus had while he was here on earth. Hallelujah.

Jesus said in Luke 10:19-20 (NLT),

*“19 Look, **I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy**, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. 20 But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.”*

As we celebrate his resurrection from the dead today, let us remember that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. He is not there just to make us feel good, but he lives in us to empower us to cast out devils, to heal the sick and to raise the dead, as he leads us. **The power of the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us**, is greater than the Corona virus or anything that the devil hurls at us. Let us continue to love the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and with all our strength. Amen.