

BFF367 Spiritual Warfare 5, Praying for the Protection of Children

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

**Steve:** I'm well. How are you?

**Scott:** I have some great news on the Henry front.

**Steve:** Great. Let's hear it.

**Scott:** He passed his due date the other day.

**Steve:** Oh, really. He's full-term now?

**Scott:** Yeah. Which was pretty major. It was quite a while where we didn't know if he'd make it to his due date. That was a major cause for rejoicing and praising God.

**Steve:** How much does the little bruiser weigh now?

**Scott:** It's five pounds, five ounces, I think.

**Steve:** Wow! Well, guess what I've been doing?

**Scott:** Speaking at places around the country?

**Steve:** Well, yes, but I've also been spending time with my bride of 44 years.

**Scott:** Hoo-wee. That's amazing.

**Steve:** This is our anniversary week, so we made a plan. I have to give my wife credit for making most of the plan, but I was a cooperative conspirator. Our primary caregiver offered to take care of John for the better part of a week.

**Scott:** Wow.

**Steve:** This is only, I think, the third time in our marriage that we have had a week just to ourselves, without the children and grandchildren, even dogs, just the two of us.

About five days ago we left, and decided we were going to do as much mini-golfing as possible. We have mini-golfed seven times so far. We have also hiked to a waterfall we've never seen. We've had adventures, and then we spent a couple days at the lake house.

**Scott:** Awesome.

**Steve:** That's the theme of what I want to talk about today, being intentional about spending time together. John's a wonderful young man and he's a piece of cake to take care of and all that, but it's still not just us. We usually try to carve out a couple days a month or at least an overnight for just the two of us, so that we can reconnect because we need it.

When we go up to the lake, sometimes we just watch a movie, sometimes we play cards. Sometimes we kayak, or go for walks. We can tell that our marriage is strengthened when we have these times. For all those busy people out there, pray and ask God to help you to carve out some time just for yourselves.

That almost sounds funny to say because most of the people that I meet at these wonderful conferences, are pretty selfless. They think about their spouse. They think about their kids. They think about their family. Which is all legit, but we're not going to be very nice people to be with if we don't have a strong marriage ourselves.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** Well, let's pray, and we'll jump into spiritual warfare again. Father, thank You for the progress in Henry. Thank You that that bruise is now over five pounds. We commit his hernia surgery to You. Watch over him. Watch over the doctors, heal him, strengthen him. I pray that he will meet these milestones ahead of schedule and that they'll be able to go home and Abby will be able to resume some semblance of normalcy.

I pray for Sandi and myself. Thank You for 44 years, where You've helped us and kept us and made us even closer today than we were when we got married. I pray that You'll bless the rest of our week together. Help us to connect at a deeper level, stronger level, in Jesus' name.

And while we're here today, help us to connect in prayer with what the Spirit of God is leading us to. Help us to comprehend scripture in a special way and help us to be led as we apply it in our prayers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** Our last episode, we talked about hiding behind our big brother, having that attitude that Michael had in Jude 21 when it says, "Michael did not even dare rebuke the devil, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" That's our context. We need to always have that attitude.

At the same time, Jesus says, "I don't want to do all the work. I want you to do it with Me." We've touched on this, but I want to go a little deeper this morning because Jesus healed the sick. He preached the gospel. He prayed for people. Then He said to His disciples, "Now you do it. I want you to preach the gospel. I want you to make disciples. I want you to heal the sick. I want you to perform miracles, not just Me.

In my personal Bible reading, I'm just about finished with the Book of Acts. It's amazing to me that these disciples took Him at His word and did the same things that Jesus did. They healed the sick. They preached the gospel. They raised the dead.

We want to take our cue and receive our instructions from our Master because He wants us to work with Him. We are part of His bride. We are going to marry Him. This is the great event still on the horizon. Yes, He's going to come back. Yes, that will be a great event. Yes, there'll be battles in Armageddon. That'll also be an incredible happening.

However, ultimately, He wants us to marry Him, and then we're going to do life together. We're going to be married. We're going to be married for eternity. I'm going to start with two passages in the Old Testament, as is my want. Then we're going to move into the New Testament, and we're going to apply what we've heard.

Psalm 149, I'm going to read the whole psalm. Anybody that's listening, just enjoy this. "Praise Jehovah. Sing unto Jehovah a new song, and His praise in the assembly of the saints. Let Israel rejoice in Him that made Him. Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise His name in the dance. Let them sing praises unto him with timbrel and harp.

For Jehovah takes pleasure in His people." (He enjoys us. He enjoys hearing us sing and watching us dance. He loves us.) "He will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the saints exalt in glory. Let them sing for joy upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand."

Now we're shifting gears a little bit here. As we're singing and rejoicing and enjoying God and He's enjoying us, then it reads, "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance upon the nations, and punishments upon the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute upon them the judgment written. This honor have all His saints. Praise Jehovah."

Really interesting how it starts off rejoicing, celebrating the fact that He's our God and we're His people and we acknowledge that He made us and we're joyful. We're praising him with instruments, and God is enjoying it. Then He says, Now I want you to do something with me. We're going to execute judgment. We're going to bind kings."

This is an honor that all His saints share. This is similar to the bowls of incense in heaven that are a mixture of what heaven is supplying and what the saints are supplying, which is our prayers.

Another passage that completes this picture is Jeremiah 51. God is talking to Israel, and He says, "You are My hammer and weapon of war. With you I break nations in pieces. With you I destroy kingdoms. With you I break in pieces the horse and his rider. With you I break in pieces the chariot and the charioteer, with you I break in pieces man and woman.

With you I break in pieces the old man and the youth. With you I break in pieces the young man and the young woman. With you I break in pieces the shepherd and his flock. With you I break in pieces the farmer and his team. With you I break in pieces governors and commanders."

This is something that we're going to do together. We're going to work together, God and His bride.

Now I'm going to jump to Revelation 19. "Let us rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and let us give glory unto Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready. And it was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright and pure, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

This is us about to marry Jesus. This is a huge celebration. We've returned to the Garden of Eden, when God and Adam and Eve had unbroken communion, and were one.

This bride is not just going to sit on her throne eating bonbons and reading love stories. Revelation 19:11–14, "I saw the heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He that sat thereon called Faithful and True. In righteousness He does judge and make war. And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but He Himself. And He is arrayed in a garment sprinkled with blood, and His name is called The Word of God."

Jesus takes the gloves off. He's coming back. No more Lamb. Now we've got the King returning as a Lion. He's faithful and true. He has come to clean things up. Then it continues, "And the armies which are in heaven followed Him upon white horses clothed in fine linen, white and pure."

I first read from Revelation 19:7–8, and now about five verses later He says, these armies are clothed in "fine linen." These are the saints. This is His bride, and this time we are side by side with Him on the field of battle. This is a warrior bride. This is not a bride sitting on the throne and playing the harp. No, she is working with Him.

I have to ask you, have you read "The Lord of the Rings"?

**Scott:** I tried. I'm a slow reader, and I saw all the movies first. I love the story, but I haven't made it through the whole book.

**Steve:** I'm making the sign of a cross now. You're forgiven.

**Scott:** I feel like I failed as a homeschooler. My kids have all read it, but...

**Steve:** I have read them so many times I have lost count. There's a great scene in there when the Nazgûl, black-robed former kings on black horses, the antithesis of the white horse that we're just reading about, and Gandalf the White, on a white horse. Anyway, big, big contrast.

The Nazgûl couldn't be slain by men. However there was a woman named Eowyn who had snuck into the battle. I can't describe the whole scene, but if you haven't read them, read it. If you have read them, you know exactly what I'm saying. This is after the riders from Rohan and had ridden mightily across the field. They're on their horses and they have swept through the enemy.

Then the king was knocked down, and this Lord of the Nazgûl, is standing over him. Only between the Nazgul and the king was a woman who was dressed as a man with her hair under her helmet. She says, "No, you cannot have the king. I will stop you." The Nazgûl replied, "Don't you know I cannot be slain by the hand of man?"

She took off her helmet, "I'm not a man," and she cut off his head. She was a warrior bride. This is such a picture of us, that we can fight along with Jesus, and He wants us to be at His side. We want to be Eowyns. We want to be these warrior brides, and come what may, we're going to stand with Him.

Let me keep reading. We've read Revelation 8 a couple times in our last few sessions. Revelation 5 says, "Between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, seven horns with seven

eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth, and He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who was seated on the throne.

When He had taken the book, the four living creatures, and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp and golden bowls full of incense which are the prayers of the saints." We're providing incense, with our prayers of faith.

We're going to pray today, and we're going to ask God's Spirit to help us to pray, when we don't know how to pray. Romans 8, "...the Spirit helps our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son," John 14:13. "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also, and greater works than these will he do because I go to the Father." It makes me gulp every time I read that. And "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do."

Today, I would like to focus on praying for children. First of all, without spending too much time on our enemy, here's His description. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy." What a picture. He's a thief. He's a robber. He steals stuff that doesn't belong to him. He kills. He destroys what God has created and designed. This is his MO.

The devil is not creative. He hates everything that God has created and designed. He doesn't want to build anything. He wants to steal it, kill it, and destroy it. That's the enemy, and, sad to say, he's got a lot of people on this planet working with him.

Let's get a little more specific. He not only tries to kill babies in their mother's womb. Those that make it through, he tries to steal them and traffic them. I don't even know how to get my mind around that. I hate it.

However God is generating and regenerating life. The second half of John 10:10, Jesus says, "I came that they may have life and have it to the full, have it abundantly." Jesus came to give life, to create life, to preserve life. The devil comes along, and he tries to steal, kill, and destroy life.

I have some other news. Jesus is the one that decides who lives and who dies, not the devil. It says in Revelation 1, "I am the first and the last. I'm the Living One. I died, but look, I'm alive forever and ever! And I have the keys of Death and Hades." He has the keys. He decides who dies and who lives. It's not the devil.

Even while he's performing abortions and stealing and trafficking in children and trying to take their mind and their identity, making them think that they'd be better off if they were a different gender, as well as trying to take away natural affection. This is nothing but the work of the devil. We are going to begin by binding him and then we are going to do some loosing.

Let's pray. Father in Jesus' name, thank You for the opportunity to work at your side with You. Thank You for this commission that You've given us, which makes us gulp a

little. At the same time, we say, nevertheless, Father, not our will, but Your will be done.

Help us to pray today in Jesus' name. We recognize that we have an enemy. We, according to scripture, can identify this enemy. So in the name of Jesus, we bind the strong man. We bind the thief. We bind the destroyer. We bind him in Jesus' name. I believe that what's bound on earth is bound in heaven.

We bind the liar. He's also a liar. He lies to children, telling them that they'd be better off if they had a different gender or if they had different affections. We bind that in Jesus' name. We know that scripture says, "Whatever we bind on earth shall be bound in heaven."

The Bible says, "If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it shall be done to them." Well, here's Scott and me and everybody listening so that's at least two. In Jesus' name, we bind the devil. We bind him. We bind him. We bind him in Jesus' name. In the cords soaked in blood, we bind him. We believe that he's bound in heaven. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** OK, now let's do some loosing. I don't want to just stop binding and thinking about the devil. Done with him. I am convinced in my own heart that home education is not about education as much as it is about God restoring families.

I have the wonderful privilege to meet families whose God has worked in their hearts and is turning and restoring their hearts to love God and their families. Home education is bigger than math and it's bigger than kids winning spelling bees. It's so much bigger than that, it is families being restored.

In Malachi 4 God sends Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Jehovah and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers.

There's another verse that I have thought about many times. Isaiah 54:13, "All your children shall be taught by Jehovah and great shall be the peace of your children."

There you go. It even says in Daniel, that Michael was raised up to stand for the children of his people.

I don't know all this happening in the heavenlies, but I'd like to back up Michael. And I'd like to back up this ministry that's turning the hearts of fathers to their kids. By the way, there's been at least a couple ministries that call themselves The Spirit of Elijah or Elijah Ministries and their primary audience is the home education community.

That's what God is doing. He's turning the hearts of fathers. He's turning hearts of children and he is taking over the education and restoration of their family. All your children shall be taught by God and great shall be the peace, not consternation, peace.

Father, thank You for helping us bind evil today. Now we're asking you to help us do some loosing as well. We are not just asking You to do it. We're doing it in Your name. We're doing it according to Your will, according to what's revealed in scripture.

I pray for the loosing of the hearts of children, loose them to have their heart turned towards God and towards their families, towards their dad especially. Loose them to be taught by You and by Your word. Loose them from the lies and help them to be taught in peace, "great shall be the peace,"

Help Michael. He's standing up for the children, so bless Michael. You told us that whatever we bind on earth is bound in heaven, and whatever's loosed on earth is loosed in heaven. We loose the armies of heaven to stand up for the children of the people, follow Michael, and follow the other angels.

Whatever's happening there, we say amen to it. We pray that You will loose our children from the grip of the devil because You said that You would hold us and nothing shall snatch us out of the Father's hand. I pray for Your hand to loose the grip from the devil and replace it with Your good grip.

We believe that you'll turn our hearts as dads towards our children, turn children's hearts toward their dad, and ultimately all of our hearts towards You. Let us teach and train our children in the fear and nurture and admonition of the Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. I'm bowled over with the idea of what if all the saints were praying like this what a difference it would make.

**Steve:** We also need to pray for men to step up to the plate. We need to pray for marriage. We need to pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. We know God's will, It's one man, one woman till death us do part. Then we are to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. This is His will. We're praying for God's will to be done on earth just as it is in heaven, and it is going to happen. Amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** Father, bless us in not only praying, but help us now to stand in that. "Having done all," you say, "stand." We have done some praying today, and I believe these prayers are adding to the incense bowls for children and for God's will to be done. I pray that You'll help us to put on the mantle of a warrior bride today.

Help us to have the spirit of Eowyn that refuses to back down and continues to pray. Even when all is bleak and she felt outnumbered and outgunned, she just stood there. I pray that spirit will be part of us today. Help us to be and walk in newness of brideness, so to speak. Help us to walk as a warrior bride while we're on this earth and until that day when we get to see you and marry you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@Gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@Gmail.com). If you have a question for me, you can reach me at [scott@unsocializedmedia.com](mailto:scott@unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.