

## BFF416 Bind the Strong Man

**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:** Well, I'm surprisingly better than I thought with about four hours of sleep, but I've already consumed one pot of green tea and I may do it two more times, because I just heard the footsteps upstairs. My granddaughters are spending the day with us and I think my wife got less sleep than me last night. How are you?

**Scott:** I've had an interesting weekend. I'm good. We're having car issues at the moment and are down to one car out of three. One of which was just gone completely now. We were buying a car, a cheap, used one, for my two boys to share.

The guy who sold it to us, it felt like one of those "God things." I'll spare you the details, but it really felt like this was going to be a great thing. Then we found out right after we got it that this guy didn't even have the title to it yet. It's been six weeks of waiting for him. to try and get us the title, and we finally took the car back to him, and said, "Give us our money back," last night. Then our van, the alternator went out on it so we got to get that replaced and the battery.

**Steve:** I'm sorry.

**Scott:** Yes.

**Steve:** At the GHC conferences this year I have been leading worship at 7:30 in the morning Fridays and Saturdays. I have one more coming up in Texas. At the last conference, after a Friday morning, we had a really nice time.

The first thing I do when people come in, I say, first of all, I appreciate your courage in coming, because when we say "worship" that could mean almost anything. Probably 20 people in the room, when you say the word worship, 20 different images pop into their head, so I said, congratulations, but we're going to not only worship today, we're going to work.

I have four-page handouts that we read through, and we sing, we pray, we bind, and we loose. We come into His presence with singing, giving thanks, praising His name,. We also incorporate images from the tabernacle.

It's like a four-page liturgy, and we go through it together. Half the room reading the blue print and the other half reading the black print, with all of us singing. As we go, I share my testimony by weaving it in and out as we're working our way through it.

Of course, I make assumptions. I didn't realize that one of the assumptions I make is that people know what it means to bind the strong man. After we'd finished Friday, a couple of ladies stayed after and said, "We were up in our room last night talking. We really appreciated what we did this morning. We were really encouraged."

But then they asked, "What does it mean to bind the strong man?" It was a great question. A lot of what I'm going to share today, I shared with them right on the spot.

I didn't have time to put it together, but today I've done a little bit more homework and some research about what it means to bind the strong man?

In my journey, I have been a part of a church that has a strong belief in spiritual warfare. And frequently when we have prayer meetings, somebody or all of us together, will bind the strong man in our prayers. The strong man is obviously the devil. He is our ultimate enemy. He is our ultimate foe.

Jesus came and was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. This was one of the primary goals of His mission. He had to destroy the works of the devil, and He did that when He shed His blood for us on the cross. He also came to set the prisoners free, which I take to mean to loose the captives.

You might say Jesus himself, a big part of his ministry on earth, was to bind the strong man and to unbind the saints. He was to make the devil the captive and release the captives. It was a twofold strategy. He says in Matthew, three different times, that we are supposed to bind the strong man.

I've been a part of a tradition like that for years, and so this was normal for me. Most of the time when I bind the devil, it was because either I sensed something was out of control in our home that was more than just "they ate too much sugar" or "they had gluten" or something like that.

There was something that was different. There was something devilish in the home. I would find my way to my prayer closet, and bind the devil. Sometimes I just did it while I'm standing there silently. I bind the devil. I still do that.

It was about two and a half years ago, I was out on my walks and applying the principles of Psalm 100, that I sensed the Holy Spirit say to me, "you need to be binding the strong man." Since that day, I have done it almost daily and normally several times a day.

I give myself time to not only believe God and to worship God and come into His presence with these principles, but I bind the devil. That's what we're going to be talking about today. What does it mean to bind the devil for all of us? This is something that is open to all followers of Jesus. Let's pray.

Father, help us today to comprehend this subject, and not only to understand it more clearly, but give us the unction to apply what we hear today. There's a song that says, the devil trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon their knees.

I pray for everybody listening to this podcast. Regardless of whether they consider themselves a weak saint or whatever, I pray that you will help us and give us that little unction that will bind the devil on a regular basis. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Scott:** Amen.

**Steve:** Let's start with the Greek. The word for bind is deo, which means to tie or to bind. It has some derivations of the word that are dei, which is necessary, and deomai, which is to request, to beseech, or to pray.

The word is simple. It means to take a rope and bind.

John 11:44, "the man who had died came forth." This was Lazarus, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "unbind him and let him go." This was cloth wrapped around him.

Jesus, in John 18:24, "Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest," probably his hands. Then in Acts 9:13–14, "Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.'"

Jesus was bound by the high priest, and then the high priest later gave Paul the authority to go bind the saints. This was simply to imprison them, to put them in chains. This is what binding means. There is nothing spiritual here. It's a physical binding.

Revelation 20:1–2, "I saw an angel descending from heaven. He was holding the key of the abyss and a great chain was in his hand. And he gripped and overpowered the dragon, that old serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and securely bound him for a thousand years."

This is going to happen in our future. There is going to be a time when that dragon, that old serpent, that devil and Satan, who has been binding people on earth for a long time, is going to be bound himself for a thousand years with a great chain. Our prayers are a part of that.

The opposite of binding is to loose or to untie. The Greek word is *luo*. Mark 7:35, "His ears were opened, his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak distinctly as he should." His tongue had been bound, and now it has been loosed.

Luke 13:16, Jesus talking, "Ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for 18 years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day." I know that not every sickness comes from the devil, but some do because this woman's sickness was from the devil. She was bound by the devil.

That's exactly what Jesus said, and He loosed her just as He loosed that other fellow's tongue. Binding and loosing, very simple. Chains, ropes, whatever, they are binding and they're unbinding. They're making captive and they're setting free from captivity. There's another word, and that is *diarpazó*, which means to spoil or to plunder or to rob thoroughly. This is a great word. It comes from two words, *dia*, which means through, and *harpazo*, which means to snatch or to seize by force, suddenly and decisively like someone seizing bounty or to take by an open display of force.

You put them together, this is a plundering. This is something that I'm envisioning when pirates take over a ship or a bunch of thieves run into a house and take everything in the house. They snatch it up forcibly. They plunder.

With that image in your mind, Matthew 1:28–29, "If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can someone

enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house."

There is a picture of Christian work. The devil is also called the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air. This is his domain, kind of, but he's on a leash. God is ultimately the Lord of the Lord and the King of Kings, but the devil has a lot of power. What we are here to do is we are here to engage in a conquest. It's not really a contest. It's a conquest because we know who wins, but it's still a conflict. We are engaged in a spiritual conflict with the strong man, and we need to plunder his goods.

The first thing we need to do before we plunder his goods is bind the strong man. There's a picture of this in the Bible that I'm going to quote now, because I think that's one of the best examples of what happens when we are binding the strong man, and then we can set people free and bring them to Christ.

Exodus 17:8–13, "When the people of Israel were still at Rephidim, the warriors of Amalek attacked them. Moses commanded Joshua, 'Choose some men to go out and fight the army of Amalek for us. Tomorrow, I will stand at the top of the hill, holding the staff of God in my hand.'

"So Joshua did what Moses had commanded. He fought the army of Amalek. Meanwhile, Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of a nearby hill. As long as Moses held up the staff in his hand, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he dropped his hand, the Amalekites gained the advantage.

"Moses' arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset. As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle."

Moses is on top of the mountain binding the strong man. Joshua is in the plain, plundering and ransacking his house. I can't think of a better image of what we're doing in spiritual warfare. This is what we're about. This is why we need to first bind the strong man before we plunder his house.

Matthew 16:19, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven. And whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Now, there's an interesting thought. You mean there's a battle in heaven? Yes. And there's a battle on earth? Yes. Oftentimes they go together. but when we bind something on earth, it is bound in heaven.

Matthew 18:18–19, "Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on anything about that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven."

We know that we are engaged in this spiritual conflict. We know that God is on our team. We know that Jesus ultimately was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. So, how do we do this? Here are some very appropriate passages.

Ephesians 6:10–13, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle (our wrestling, another version says) is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

The battle's in the heavenly places. That's why he says, "If you bind on earth, it will be bound in heaven." "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm."

There's a word in there that I really like. It's resist. 1 Peter 5:8–9 says, "Be sober-minded, be watchful, your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in your faith."

James 4:7, "Humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. I'll make this real practical. These are things that I put into words in my prayers. Oftentimes, I will simply say, in the name of Jesus, not in the name of Steve, in the name of Paul, no, no, no, but in the name of Jesus, I resist the devil."

Sometimes I get earnest about it. Sometimes it comes out a little louder than normal, but I'm in a fight. In a fight, I'm not using kid gloves. I need to resist the devil, and I need to bind the devil. I pray in the name of Jesus, I bind the devil. I bind the liar. I bind the deceiver. I bind the destroyer. All names for the devil in scripture.

However first I bind him before I begin to pray for ministries that will be effective in loosing people. This is the plan that God gives us in the Bible. We need to first be binding the devil and resisting the devil.

We need to be fighting the good fight of the fight, and it's not just for people who have the gift for this activity, this is for all the saints.

Psalms 149:6–7, "Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute on them the judgment written. This honor have all his saints. Praise the Lord."

This is something that God has taught us to do in the Lord's Prayer. He said, pray, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. This is warfare. We're engaged in a spiritual war on this earth. I believe that God, when we are born from above, gives us eyes and we see these things differently than we did before we came to Christ.

We know that our wrestling is not against flesh and blood. We know that our wrestling is not against politicians, against universities, against all these things that are arrayed against God and his kingdom. Ultimately, it's the devil himself, and we need to go to

the root of the problem and be binding the devil and then praying for God to loose the captives.

Most Christian ministries are "loos-ers" they are plunderers, spoilers, but somebody has got to go into that house and bind the strong man first. Amen. I never gave you a minute, brother, but I'm on a roll, so there you go.

**Scott:** Don't let me stop you, man. That's great stuff.

**Steve:** These truths will change our life and take us to a whole new level of spiritual authority.

**Steve:** Amen.

**Scott:** This is so important. This changed my life when I learned about binding and started applying it. I don't want to assume anything, but there are things that I haven't had to struggle with because I've bound them from me and my family. Life is different when you're in the authority of Jesus binding the strong man.

**Steve:** Amen. Often, when I begin my prayer times, I have temptations to do other stuff, because I think the most important thing I do every day is when I am worshipping God, believing in God, believing in his promises, and binding the strong man.

This is what we can all do, whether we are washing dishes, whether we're driving in the car, whether we're kneeling in our homes. You and I have the potential. We have this wonderful, open promise to us. Whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven.

I'm going to close with these two passages.

Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed."

He's quoting Isaiah 61, which is a little different, "The spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon me because Jehovah has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."

Our job is to put the devil behind bars, set free the captives, and take them out of prison. Our job is to be binding, and at the same time, exercise our wonderful opportunity to loose people to believe the truth.

We bind and we loose. I bind the devil, and then I pray on a positive note. Loose us to see Jesus. Loose us to believe in Jesus. Loose the whole creation to love Jesus because, ultimately, that's what's going to happen. Every knee is going to bow, and every tongue is going to confess that Jesus is Lord. I know that. I'm not resting in that conviction, I'm praying for that to happen. Let's close in prayer.

Father, thank You that You have chosen us, not just to go to heaven but that we can fight with you while we're here. This is an honor for all the saints. This is a privilege. We're a part of Your warrior bride. We're going to marry You, and we can't wait for

that. At the same time, we're going to fight with You. We're going to war with You. We're worshiping warriors.

In Jesus' name, this morning, I bind the strong man. I bind the devil in Jesus' name. I hide behind my big brother, and I resist him. I ask You to deliver your creation from evil. but I also pray that You will pour out your good Spirit. Help us to have our eyes open to see Jesus.

Loose us from our unbelief. Loose us from his talons, so to speak, and help us and send your angels forth, send the hosts of heaven forth to minister to the saints and to deliver us all from evil in a fresh way. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Scott:** 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 at [unsocializedmedia.com](http://unsocializedmedia.com). Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.