



Tearing Down Demonic Strongholds and Altars to Win Souls By Karen Sue Nyquist



1. What is the Great Commission? It's to win souls. - Jesus has given us, His church, the Great Commission: "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age**'" (Matthew 28:18-2). That's a big responsibility! Are we following through to the extent that Jesus expects? It might seem daunting, we might be afraid or just plain busy. Or we may have been witnessing but not seeing the success we had hoped for. Don't worry, we are not alone, Jesus says He will go with us. "And they went out and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them and confirming the word** through the accompanying signs" (Mark 16:20). Let's look at someone else who was afraid, very busy, and not having the success he had hoped for.

2. Who else had a "great commission" from God? Gideon did. - In Judges 6-8, we can read about God giving Gideon a great commission. The people of Israel were being greatly oppressed by their enemies. The Midianites were stealing their herds and their food, leaving the Israelites impoverished and afraid. Gideon was hiding from the Midianites while threshing wheat and hoping it would not get stolen too. Suddenly, God sent an angel with a message, which really got Gideon's attention! Gideon saw the Angel of God, who told him he was to go drive out their enemies. After their conversation, the angel disappears! Gideon was afraid, but the Lord spoke to him, telling him not to fear, to have peace. "So Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it The-Lord-/s-Peace (Judges 6:24). That night, the LORD spoke to Gideon again and told him to tear down the altar to Baal, that his father had built, and offer a sacrifice to Him (Judges 6:25). Gideon was afraid, but obeyed and tore down the altar in the dark of night. Notice, first Gideon built an altar to God, worshiped the Lord, and gave an offering. Next, Gideon tore down the alter to Baal. Then Gideon follows the Lord's instructions and permanently drives out the Midianites, saving his people.

3. Gideon knew who his enemies were, but do we know who ours are? - "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood (*people*), but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against (*demonic*) spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*" (Ephesians 6:12). These demonic beings have invaded our land and are using people as pawns to oppress us, steal our freedoms, indoctrinate and mutilate our children, and lower our country's morals. How? Their lies deceive and confuse the minds of anyone who is not aware of their presence and reject God's standards. Look, they're out of their homes, actively involved. Unfortunately, they are both soldiers and prisoners of war in this spiritual war between good and evil, between God and Satan. They need to be rescued, to be saved. Most Americans don't know the Bible and God's standards of righteousness, so it's easy for them to be confused and deceived. We have let the demonic entities lead America into a backslidden state where most Americans are not Christians and are not following nor obeying God. But God has the answer! He has given us the Great Commission! Many of us are AWOL, Absent Without Leave, in this war. Listen, Jesus is calling us now to lead souls to Him to be saved.

4. Can't we just pray and fast for America? - Prayer is a powerful weapon in spiritual warfare. "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16). Fasting is also powerful. Referring to stubborn demons, Jesus said, "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:21). But prayer and fasting are not enough. The nation of Judah prayed and fasted, then fought and won a battle (Judges 20:26-30)! We've got to get up and physically get involved, following God's instructions. Everyday, many people make disastrous choices that hurt others and destroy their own lives. Everyday people die without the Lord. Many Christian leaders do feel a change in the spiritual atmosphere, a breakthrough. Revivals have broken out in 40 college campuses. But America needs more than a revival, we need the Third Great Awakening, a reformation of our society. America needs us to help the revival gain momentum and sweep across our nation. Jesus said, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few" (Matthew 9:37).

1





5. What did Gideon do first after receiving his commission? He built an altar. - There at his altar, he prayed, worshipped the Lord, and made a sacrifice to Him. How should we respond to the commission our Lord Jesus has given to us? We respond by building Him a “spiritual altar.” We find a place, pray, worship, and offer Him our offerings of joy, praise, and thanksgiving, and obedience

(Psalm 27:6; Jeremiah 17:26; Leviticus 7:13).

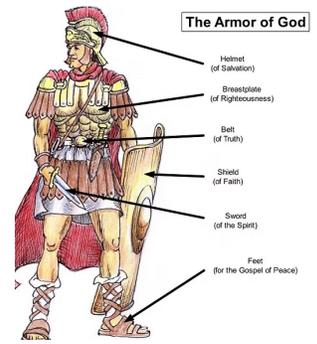
6. What did Gideon do next? He gave a sacrifice, the biggest one of all. - He obeyed God and went to war, fulfilling his “great commission.” We can obey too! We are in a spiritual war and need to go witness to others. That is a sacrifice, but Jesus will be with us and help us. The more we pray, fast, witness, and win souls, the more the spiritual climate of America will change. America will come back to God. America and the future of our children and grandchildren are worth it. Don’t worry, Jesus has “got this.” We just need to be faithfully obeying and trusting His plan. Those of us who are bold will explain how to be saved. Others will share their testimonies. Those of us who are shy, can just pass out tracts.

7. Why did the Lord tell Gideon to tear down the pagan altar? - Great question! The altars were where people worshiped idols (*demons*) and offered sacrifices to them. “They provoked Him (*God*) to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. They sacrificed to demons, not to God” (Deuteronomy 32:16-17). “They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons, And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with blood” (Psalm 106:37-38). In the New Testament, Apostle Paul said, “... the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons” (1 Corinthians 10:20). The presence of the demons and their altars polluted the land and had deceived many Israelites into turning from God to worshiping false gods. The altars also invited the demons to fill the land with their presence and sins. God always told His people to tear down the altars (Deuteronomy 12:2-3; Exodus 34:13; Psalm 106:37-38). We have many “demonic altars” throughout America and God wants us to tear them down. The blood of 60 million unborn babies and the blood of thousands of victims of violence pollute our land.

8. What are these altars and how are they built? - It might seem mysterious at first. When people have something, an object, person, or ideology, that they love more than God and make sacrifices for, that becomes their idol, their “god.” They are belief systems, “arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God” (2 Corinthians 10:5). These include: humanism, sexual perversion, materialism, abortion, addiction, socialism, pedophilia, human trafficking, racism, lawlessness, robbery, murder, rape, greed, etc. Their lifestyle builds spiritual altars. What they don’t realize is that they are being tempted and drawn away from the true God by demons and these demons are the “gods” that are now receiving their “worship” and are demanding increasingly larger sacrifices from them. Some seem harmless, focusing on your job, but ignoring your family, being too busy for God and church. Others are more sinister, where the individual joins groups and they oppress others. Hatred is an example. Hatred for an individual becomes hatred for a group, a race, then a nation. Next, the person starts marching, protesting, rioting, trying to spread their hatred to others, and oppressing all who disagree. They speak curses against others, against America, even against God. We need not fear curses if we are serving God, because we are protected. “Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight” (Psalm 26:2). We can cancel those curses from these individuals that they spoke against, and against America.

9. America has freedom of religion and of speech, so how do we tear down altars today? God sends someone to cry out against them. - “And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and (*King*) Jeroboam stood by the altar (*of Baal*) to burn incense. **Then he (*the man of God*) cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord**, and said, ‘O altar, altar! ... Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out!’” (1 Kings 13:1-3) and it happened! Altars become strongholds. We are to cry out against them in prayer and spiritual warfare. “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments (*ideologies*) and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). **2**





- a) Curses should be condemned/cancelled (Isaiah 54:17),
- b) Spiritual altars in America must be torn down (Exodus 34:13),
- c) Demonic powers in the the land cast out (Mark 1:8-13).

How? By declaring God's Word! Jesus is our example. When He and Satan had a confrontation, Jesus answered Satan by repeatedly saying, "It is written . . .", then He quoted the Bible (Matthew 4:1-11). If we have trouble memorizing Bible verses, it is OK

to write them down and read them aloud. Also, we don't have to get the wording perfect, the devil will recognize God's Word as we declare it. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit" (Proverbs 18:21). Declarations are powerful! They will clear our spiritual atmosphere. "Therefore submit to God, resist the Devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Souls and our society are at risk, we want both saved. With God's help, they will be! "...with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). Hallelujah!

10. What happens when the altars are broken down, the curses are cancelled, and the demons are cast out of the region? - The spiritual atmosphere changes. Many demons have left the area and people are more free to respond to the gospel. Jesus compared witnessing to sowing seeds (Mark 4:1-20). He explained that the seed is the Word of God. When some hear the Word of God, "Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts" (Mark 4:15). If we have broken down the altars and cast out the demons, they have more time to think about God's Word, understand it, and consider giving their life to Jesus Christ. Also, their hearts become tender so the Word has a chance to grow its roots down into their hearts. Jesus said that we soul winners can be very fruitful saving many souls: 30, 60, 100, ... (Mark 4:20)! Some evangelists even save thousands! Praise the Lord!

11. Tearing down altars requires first putting on the whole armor of God and declaring the Word of God against them. - "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and **having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace**; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:13-18). The armor is not only words that we quote, it is also our lifestyle and our thinking patterns. We are to line ourselves up with God's Word, living a life of truth, righteousness, and being prepared to peacefully share the gospel.

12. What did Jesus say to demons? - He quoted scripture and He also directly rebuked them and commanded them. We can read about one interaction in Matthew 4.

- a) Jesus rebuked them, "Be quiet and come out of him" (Luke 4:35).
- b) Jesus commanded demons to leave certain areas (Matthew 8:32).
- c) Jesus told a demon to come out and that he could not come back (Mark 9:25).
- d) Jesus commanded Satan to leave, "Away with you, Satan!" (Matthew 4:10).

13. While we put on the armor to protects us, we use God's Word like a sword, as our offensive and defensive weapon. - Satan doesn't play fair. We have to know God's Word, His promises, and our rights. "...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 Corinthians 2:11). We can personalize both defensive and offensive verses.

14. Verses to cancel curses, in Jesus' name -

- a) "How shall *(you)* curse *(me/God's children)* whom God has not cursed?" (Numbers 23:8).
- b) "*(God)* has blessed *(me/God's children)*, and *(you)* cannot reverse it" (Numbers 23:20).
- c) "For *there is* no sorcery against *(me, God's children)*, Nor any divination against *(me/God's children)*" (Numbers 23: 23).
- d) And every tongue *which* rises against (curses) *(me/God's children)* in judgment (*I*) shall condemn.

15. Defensive verses to declare at demons and to tear down altars, in Jesus' name -

We can personalize these to use for protection against the demons assigned to those altars. We might hear them accusing us, satan is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). Or they could be attacking us with fear or self-doubt. These verses protect us as a shield of faith "able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one" (Eph. 6:16). **"Satan, God's Word says ...**

- a) "Behold, *(Jesus Christ has)* given *(me)* **authority** to tread on *(you demons)* **3**



serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt *(me)*” (Luke 10:19).

- b) “The angel of the Lord encamps all around *(me)* who fears Him, And delivers *(me)* (Psalm 34:7). The Lord has placed a hedge of protection around me (Job 1:10).
- c) “No weapon formed against *(me)* shall prosper, And every tongue *which* rises against *(me)* in judgment *(I)* shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of *(me, a servant)* of the Lord, And *(my)* righteousness *is* from *(the Lord)*” (Isaiah 54:17).
- d) I do not stand in my own righteousness, but in the “righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ” (Romans 8:10).
- e) “the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen *(me)* and protect *(me)* from *(you)* evil one” (2 Thessalonians 3:3)
- f) “*(I)* will not fear *(you)* for the Lord *(my)* God is ... fighting for *(me)*” (Deuteronomy 3:22)

16. Offensive Verses to declare at demons and to tear down altars, in Jesus’ name - “Satan, God’s Word says . . .

- a) ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve’ ” (Matthew 4:10).
- b) I bind you in the name of Jesus (Matthew 18:18).
- c) I am “pulling down *(your)* strongholds” and altars” (2 Corinthians 10:4).
- d) “*(Jesus)* gave *(me)* **power** over unclean spirits, to cast *(you)* out” (Matthew 10:1).
- e) “I have submit(*ed*) to God and am resisting *(you)* devil, you must flee from *(me)*” (James 4:7).
- f) “I come against You in the name of the Lord” (1 Samuel 17:45).
- g) “‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).
- h) “But thanks be to God, who gives *(me)* the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).
- i) “In all these things, *(I am)* more than *(a)* conqueror through Him who *(loves me)*” (Romans 8:37).
- j) “*(I will)* conquer *(you)* by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of *(my)* testimony.” (Revelation 12:11).
- k) “the Son of God appeared to destroy *(your)* work” (1 John 3:8).

17. Other suggested commands we may use, in Jesus’ name -

- “Let loose your grip and hold.”
- “The blood of Jesus is against you.”
- “I send the fire of God against you.”
- “Come out now.”
- “Leave this region and do not come back.”
- “Lord Jesus, please send Your angels to bind these demons in everlasting chains (Jude 1:6) and bring them to the place of Your choosing.”

18. With great joy we will rejoice with the angels over the lost souls that Jesus helps us win (Luke 15:10). - This is our season of breakthrough! God says, “See, I have this day set you over the nations *(America)* and over the kingdoms *(states and cities)*, To root out and to pull down *(strongholds)*, To destroy and to throw down *(altars)*, To build *(God’s Kingdom and people’s lives)* and to plant *(the Word of God into their hearts!)*” (Jeremiah 1:10). When Jesus returns He will reward us for our obedience and faithfulness in witnessing to others. Jesus said, “And behold, I am coming quickly *(suddenly)*, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (Revelation 22:12). Okay, let’s get to work!

19. Prayer - “Dear Jesus, I realize that You have given me the Great Commission. I am asking You to please help me to witness and win souls to the best of my ability. I will depend on Your Holy Spirit to anoint, teach, and guide me. I know that You will be with me the whole time. Thank You for this opportunity to work with You to save souls. The angels will rejoice with us each time someone is saved. America is coming back to God! In Jesus’ name, Amen!

NationTakers Ministries

856 Cabrillo St., San Francisco, CA 94118 - Mail P.O. Box 27475, San Francisco, CA 94127

1(415) 337-7027 info@nationtakers.com www.nationtakers.com

Join us in person or on Sunday Livestream at 11 am PT on Facebook or YouTube.

www.facebook.com/nationtakers www.youtube.com/nationtakers

We sign for the Deaf.