

# Jesse Rich Ministries

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www.JesseRichMinistries.com

*"Reaching the World with the Word of Faith"*

## *Using Our Authority in God's Word*

Dear Friend and Partner,

Jesus said in Mark 11:23, **For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.**

In Matthew 4:1-11, It says, **Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.**

**But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.**

**Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.**

Ephesians 6:10-18 says, **Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

**Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 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, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

**Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11**

### **Resisting the Devil With the Word**

In these scriptures, we begin see that God wants us, as believers, to use our spiritual authority. He gave us His written Word and the Name of Jesus to come against the attacks of the enemy. Remember, Jesus said in John 10:10 **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

It's God's desire that each one of us, as believers, live an abundant life. We need to be sure that we stand on God's promises, keep ourselves built up spiritually, and keep our faith activated on God's Word. **How can we do that?**

One way is by speaking God's Word, holding fast to our confession of faith, and saying what the Word of God says about us. Notice in Matthew chapter 4, when Satan came to Jesus, Jesus said, **It is written ...** He spoke what was written in the Word. He used three verses from two chapters of Deuteronomy to resist the devil.

James 4: 7 says, **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

How are we going to resist the devil?

How did **Jesus** resist the devil?

What **is** resisting the devil?

Who is the devil? He's our enemy. 1 Peter 5:8 says, **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**

We need to stay built up in the Word of God, so when attacks like the curse of sickness, disease, tests, trials, or temptations come, our spiritual resistance will be strong. That's why God said in Ephesians 6:10-17, **...be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

Then He went on to say, **...Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:**

The sword of the Spirit is God's Word. What we've got to do is take the Bible, the Word of God, and speak it out of our mouth. It's a spiritual sword. In the natural, the military uses physical weapons in a battle. Spiritually speaking, God has given us His Word, and we need to use it as the sword of the spirit, by saying, *'It is written...'* When sickness tries to attack your body, just resist it, saying, *"Satan, I refuse this, for is written, by His stripes I was healed."*

Or, you can quote Matthew 8:17: **That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**

Quoting a verse of scripture is how you combat those thoughts and alarming symptoms that come to you. If it is poverty, lack, fear, or worry, begin to say what the Word says. Just begin to say, *"God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).* Using the Word, and using the Name of Jesus is how we resist the enemy.

### **A Testimony of Using the Name of Jesus**

When I was about four years old, my dad and I stopped at a gas station. The guy who owned the station had a chihuahua. When everybody was outside attending to business, I was inside eating a candy bar. I squatted down to pat the little dog, and he raised up and bit me on the nose and hung on like a rat! I started screaming, and my dad came in, and put me up on the counter to examine me. He was upset and blamed me for getting the dog to bite me. From then on, I had a huge fear of dogs, and it just stayed with me.

Then later on, after I got saved and filled with the Holy Spirit, I had a floor covering business. One day, I had to carpet the house of a guy who built a new house in the middle of a field. He had us do one room at a time, so we didn't get to do the house all at once. Normally, with new construction, you go in and do everything until the job is finished, but this guy was a little unusual.

This man did not put a construction road to the house, which made everything more difficult. The day we finally got to finish the job, the field was real muddy and I didn't want to pull the van in because it would get stuck in the mud. Tom and I decided we were going to try making one trip, so we loaded up the carpet on our shoulders, got the tool box in the other hand, and set off to walk across the plowed field.

The owner of the home was sitting outside on a porch swing hanging by chains from the porch ceiling. Right beside him, he had a timber wolf dog. It was about 2 1/2 times the size of the normal German shepherd. It was a huge thing, like something you'd order from *Soldier of Fortune* magazine that came pre-demon possessed.

Walking across the field, we had to be careful to step over the dirt clods so we didn't slip and hurt our backs with that heavy carpet. As we were looking down, all of a sudden, I heard the home owner on the porch say, *"Sic him!"* And that dog just bolted! He looked like a horse coming across that field, he was so big!

Now, I remembered getting bitten by that chihuahua, and how much that hurt - and I thought, if that was just a little dog, what would this dog do? Before I knew it, the dog was on me, and his mouth was coming around my leg to bite it!

Before all this happened, I had been taking scriptures and meditating on the Word, listening to faith building tapes, and marking scriptures in my Bible. I'd gotten a hold of some scriptures on the Name of Jesus, and I meditated on these scriptures and wrote them down on an index card and carried them around with me to work. I read them on my breaks, or when I'd get to work early. I'd pull them out and read them to myself. I did this, not knowing that one day this dog was going to jump on me.

So just when the dog was beginning to bite my leg, I yelled, *"Jesus!"* I didn't have time to say anything else! What I meant was, *'In Jesus' Name, stop!'* That's what I was trying to say, but my mind went blank.

What we store up in our hearts automatically comes out of our mouths. Jesus said in Matthew 12:34, **...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

When I yelled, "Jesus," that dog smacked his mouth together, and it was as if my leg was invisible. He backed up a few steps, looking at me with his tail between his legs, ran up to that porch and got under the porch swing where that man was sitting. The dog was so big, he jacked that man up when he got under the swing!

The next thing you know, that man got up off that porch swing and started cussing me out, accusing me of pepper spraying, or macing his dog. I said, "I didn't mace your dog-- I just used the Name of Jesus on him -- and why did you sic your dog on us?"

The point was, I didn't have any time to think that morning. You see, an accident may arise, and the first thing we say will either dominate and control us, or cause us to have victory and success.

In Mark 4:35-39, Jesus spoke to the wind and the waves. When He spoke to the wind and the sea, they calmed down. If Jesus had panicked like the rest of them were panicking, we would have lost Jesus and the rest of the disciples in that storm!

But Jesus maintained control. We, as believers, have to learn how to keep ourselves built up in God's Word so when problems arise, we take control over the situation. Panic comes to all of us. When it does, we will respond by doing what we're trained to do. That's why the military has basic training. They're training those men and women what to do when they go into battle and their mind goes blank. Spiritually speaking, God wants you and me trained in the Word, so we know how to use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

We don't wrestle with flesh and blood and we don't use carnal weapons. **(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10: 4, 5**

We have a battle. We have to fight the good fight of faith and cast down imaginations. We have to resist the devil. We don't see Satan physically, but he comes to our minds, emotions and intellect, just like he did to Jesus.

**What did Jesus do?** Jesus spoke what was written. So often, people go to God upset, asking, "Why did You let this happen to me?" "Why didn't You do something?"

In reality, we need to ask ourselves the questions, Why didn't **we** do something? Why didn't **we** use our authority? Why didn't **we** use the Name of Jesus? Either we didn't know how, or we didn't stay built up in the Word of God to act according to the Word when a problem came.

Tests, trials, problems, and crises in life come to everyone. It's the person that does the Word who's going to get the results. In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus told about a wise man and a foolish man. He said, **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

This shows that it is not up to God if the person gets through these tests and trials, it's up to the individual. So often believers who love the Lord end up dying with cancer, or dying prematurely, simply because they did not know how to appropriate God's promises. Attacks, tests, trials, and problems come to all of us. And just like Jesus said they would, they came to these two individuals. One heard the Word, and did it. That's like you building your house upon the rock. The storms come, and you're still standing after the storm. The other man heard the Word, and he didn't do it. Consequently, the storms took him out. And great was the fall of it. And then, everyone wonders what happened to Brother so-and-so and Sister so-and-so, or Pastor so-and-so, simply because the person wasn't doing the Word.

As believers, we don't do well if we're not doing the Word. God intends for us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only, as James 1:22 says: **But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

**What does it mean to be a doer of the Word of God?** Doing the Word is just acting according to the Word. Just act like God told the truth. When you hear about walking in love, and forgiving, and not holding ought against anyone, then just practice that. When you hear about giving, and tithing from the Word of God, then just practice that. When you hear about spending time with God in prayer, and putting the flesh under, God expects you to do it.

We may not be Word-perfect, but we strive for it. We are endeavoring to grow and develop spiritually. You can't wait until you are spiritually perfect and have everything in control before you start doing the Word, or before you start ministering, or before you start witnessing. Start right where you are, and allow God to work through you just the way you are. Then you will grow and develop spiritually. God wants us to grow from the baby stage to being spiritually strong. God said in 1 Peter 2:2, **As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:**

We need to be growing and developing spiritually. Many people go to church - *and thank God for church* - but many people have not grown and developed spiritually. Growing spiritually is using the sword of the Spirit, having a prayer life, and being led by the Holy Spirit so you know where you're supposed to be at the right time. Doing the Word of God is what pleases God, and faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). This is how we put our faith in action.

We all need to stand against the problems that come to us. If all the body of Christ would say what the Word says about every condition, every situation, every problem, we'd all be speaking the same thing (1 Corinthians 1:10). As believers, God wants us all to say the same thing. When we say what the Word says, that's what God wants us to say. We should talk the Word.

When David's father sent him to check on his brothers and take them food, David showed up and wanted to know what was going on. Goliath would come down twice a day, and taunt the armies of Israel. Goliath was head and shoulders above everyone else. David asked, *'Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of God?'* What did David do? He came against Goliath with the name of Lord God of Israel. (1 Samuel 17:1-51)

David wasn't using a physical weapon, yet God provided him with what he needed to kill Goliath. How did this happen? It happened by David acting upon his covenant. His brothers accused him of being prideful, and said, *'We know the pride and naughtiness of your heart, why don't you go and take care of those few sheep?'* David had already killed the lion and the bear with the covenant he had with God. And, as David told Saul, this uncircumcised Philistine would be no different.

All those men in Israel had the same covenant David had, but David was the one who acted upon it. It's just like Joshua and Caleb - they acted upon their covenant. They believed God was more than enough **through them** to take the promised land, the land that flowed with milk and honey.

The rest of the people didn't believe that. Consequently, they began to whine, moan and cry, saying they should have died in Egypt and they should have died in the wilderness. Then God said to take them back to the wilderness until they all died off. (Numbers 14:27-33)

While the children of Israel were in the wilderness, their clothes never wore out. That was supernatural, but it wasn't God's best. God's best for them was for them to be in the promised land that flowed with milk and honey, and where there was *too much*. Jesus came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Jesus is the God that is too much, and God wants us to have more than enough in every area of our lives. He wants us to have more than enough health and strength, more than enough prosperity, and more than enough victory in every area of our lives.

But for this to happen, we have to get into the Word and become fully persuaded. God is not cheap, and He doesn't want us to live in poverty or lack. He came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. Jesus, Himself, took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses, and by His stripes we were healed. He redeemed us from the curse of law, He delivered us, He wishes above all things that we prosper, and be in health, even as our soul prospers.

As we grow and develop spiritually and renew our minds to God's Word, and act on God's Word, we'll get results. But we won't get results if we just sit back and say, *'Whatever will be, will be, God knows what's best...'* Yeah, God knows what's best, but His best is not happening! His best was for the children of Israel to take the promised land! But they didn't do it. Then, they had to wait 40 years until everyone died off, except for Joshua and Caleb. The Bible said Joshua and Caleb had a different spirit - the spirit of *faith*.

And we, having the same Spirit of faith, call those things that be not as though they were. Every believer has to learn to talk their covenant if they're going to walk in divine health and victory, and if they're going to please God. God was displeased with the children of Israel because they fell in the wilderness. That was not God's idea. God met their need, He helped take care of them, but it wasn't His best. His best was for them to have more than enough.

God's best for us today is in His Word, and we've got to get into the Word. Religion came along, and got us to lay aside our faith, dominion and authority, and just let everything be up to God. Religion says, *"Let the will of the Lord be done."*

## A Case of Believing Religion over the Word

One time I went to visit a lady who'd apparently come to one of my seminars, and didn't like what I said and left. Finally, someone called and said she wanted me to visit her. The hospital had sent her home to die with cancer. She had a huge, dimly-lit home. I'd come in out of the snow, so when I got in the house, I could hardly see. They led me down a long hallway to a little room that looked like a den or sewing room that they'd converted into her bedroom.

She was in a twin bed pushed against the wall next to a tall window with a large sill. She was smoking in bed when I arrived, and got embarrassed because I came and saw her smoking. She was trying to hide her cigarette, so I turned until she could get rid of it.

She turned her television off, and I began talking to her -- just small talk at first. She'd been a member of a historical church for years -- her parents and grandparents had been members of the church all their lives. They lived as members and died as members. Well, you're liable to die and go to hell the member of a church, too, if you don't receive Jesus. I was trying to feel her out about where she stood with God. Finally, I asked her, *"Has your minister been here to see you?"*

She said, *"Oh, yeah, Brother Rich, he just left. I'm surprised you didn't see him on the way out."* I thought, *'As dark as the hallway was, we could have passed each other and not even see each other!'*. Then, I asked, *"What did he say?"*

She was all skin and bones and looked kind of scared. She shrank down into the mattress and said, *"Well, he said it was God's will that I have this cancer."* I said, *"Well, sister, what do you believe?"* With that, she got even more scared and intimidated and shrank down even more into her mattress. She said, *"I believe it's God's will that I be sick."*

She had all kinds of prescriptions from her five medical doctors lined up on her windowsill. I picked up as many of those prescriptions as I could, and I said, *"Sister, you're a liar."* She looked at me shocked. I said, *"If you believe that it's God's will that you be sick, why are you taking all of this medication if you believe God put this cancer on you? What are you going to the hospital and to the doctor for?"*

Thank God for hospitals and thank God for medicine and doctors, but she's saying it's God's will for her to be this way. If it is God's will, why are you trying to get out of it? Did your pastor/minister/priest pray the prayer of faith?

I said, *"We can't get you healed if you believe it's God's will that you be this way. If God wanted you to be sick, then why are you trying to get out of it? And if God wanted you to be sick, why did He lay your sicknesses and diseases upon Jesus so you could be free? You've been listening to all these other things, and now you're in the situation that you're trying to build your house in the storm. It's not that it's impossible. With God, all things are possible, but He's always going to work according to your faith."*

When she had come to my meeting to try the message out, she didn't know she was sick. Then, the cancer just took over. Cancer doesn't work a few minutes a day-- that disease is going to work on you night and day. That's why we've got to stay in the Word of God. First of all, we've got to keep ourselves built up so that we don't receive anything like that. And if a person does get themselves in that situation, they need to stay married to the Word of God. Don't do anything else, just stay in the Word 24/7.

That wasn't something she wanted to do. She had already made her choice. She chose not to believe God always heals, and she chose not to believe that sickness comes from the devil. But we have to realize that it was Satan who smote Job with sore boils: **So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.** Job 2:7

Jesus said in Luke 13:16, **And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?** This lady had been bowed over for eighteen years, like a hunchback. Jesus came and laid hands on her, and she got healed.

Acts 10:38 says, **How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**

If a believer -a born-again child of God - does not use their spiritual authority, and does counter Satan's attacks and talk back to Satan, they'll end up dying prematurely with something they'll wish to God that they never died with. We need to realize that God wants us to walk in divine health.

It's not what God can do that we're going to get. It's what we can believe God for. It's always going to be according to our faith.

We need to build up our faith, and faith comes by hearing the Word.

Someone might say, "Oh, I've heard the Word, I've heard the Scriptures." Are you acting accordingly? Are you doing the Word? God intended for every believer to walk in divine health.

Ever since the book of Acts and on down through the years, we've had people not receiving divine healing, so ministers started making up excuses like God doesn't always heal. That excuse has been in the church for the last couple thousand years.

We have not heard that God doesn't always save. If we've ever heard anything about salvation, we've always heard that it's God's will for everyone to be saved. But for the last couple thousand years, we've always heard, and people have always proclaimed that God does not always heal. Why? Because they prayed for someone, or ministered to someone, and that person didn't get healed.

When a person doesn't get healed after being prayed for, it doesn't mean that it wasn't God's will to heal them. It doesn't mean they can't receive healing, and it doesn't mean God doesn't want them healed, it just simply means they failed to receive. And when a believer fails to receive, they need to get into God's Word to find out why and where they missed it.

If you have a favorite radio program you listen to every day, and one day you turn it on and it's not there, you check the tuner. You wouldn't call up that radio station and tell them they're not transmitting today. You would just assume that someone changed your dial, or somehow it got bumped to another station, and you'd check that first. Well, spiritually speaking, we need to check up on ourselves. 2 Corinthians 13:5 says, **Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?**

God doesn't miss it. He's never failed one time. There's not one promise in the Word of God that God's ever failed to come through on. What we've had is **people failing**. So we need to keep ourselves walking in the God kind of love, being led by the Holy Spirit, and walking by faith. So often, a dear believer is counting on someone else to do their spiritual work for them and they don't do any spiritual work themselves.

Each one of us as believers, has got to take authority over the devil. When sickness, pain, fever, or anything else comes to you, or your family or loved ones, immediately say, "Oh no, Satan, you can't put that on us. We're redeemed from the curse of law, and no plague

will come nigh our dwelling, for it is written..." Then just quote what is written.

Follow the example of Jesus. Just do the Word of God. Jesus talked to the devil. He told us to resist the devil. He said in Ephesians 4:27, **Neither give place to the devil.**

We, as believers, always need to make sure we walk in the God-kind of love and make sure we don't hold anything against anyone. You won't walk in divine health if you have ought, bitterness, or resentment against any one, or if you sow discord among the body of Christ. You cannot do these things, and at the same time, enjoy the benefits of being a child of God. The first thing you lose when you sow discord or get out of love is your divine protection.

We have to keep confessing what the Word says over and over again. Say things like, *He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty, I will say He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in Him will I trust. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.* As we say the Word, faith will rise in our heart.

God gets blamed for every person that dies sick. He gets blamed for every hurricane, every tornado, and it was not God that did it. It wasn't God that caused it! It is man's failure for not doing the Word of God. We have authority over the devil. Jesus took authority over these things. Why shouldn't we? We were given His Name. Jesus said, right before he left in John 14:12, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**

If Jesus went to His Father as He said He would, He's at the right hand of God the Father. If He's at the right hand of the Father, we've got authority in this world in the Name of Jesus. Adam and Eve didn't use their dominion, they didn't use their authority, and they died over it. And every born-again child of God that doesn't learn to resist the devil, and doesn't stand against Satan, and doesn't take authority over him, ends up forfeiting their blessings.

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