

(NPF #1) Shootings in America and any evil attacks

The rise in shootings and acts of violence can be deeply distressing and prompt us to seek answers and solutions. From a Christian perspective, it's crucial to understand both the spiritual and practical aspects of this issue.

Why the Shootings? Why Acts of Violence?

The Bible teaches that the root cause of violence and evil in the world is sin and the influence of Satan and his demons. In Ephesians 6:12, Paul explains that our struggles are not merely against human adversaries but against spiritual forces of evil. This implies that behind the visible acts of violence, there are often spiritual battles taking place.

What Can the Believer Do About It?

Believers have been given authority in the name of Jesus Christ to combat these spiritual forces. Here are practical steps Christians can take:

1. **Prayer:** Persistent and earnest prayer is essential. Prayer not only seeks God's intervention but also aligns our hearts with His will and purposes. Colossians 4:2 encourages believers to be steadfast in prayer.
2. **Exercising Authority:** Believers are called to use the authority given to them by Jesus to stand against spiritual forces of darkness. This includes speaking against evil influences in the name of Jesus and proclaiming His lordship in various areas of life (Luke 10:19).
3. **Personal Responsibility:** Like law enforcement officials have a responsibility in the physical realm, believers have a responsibility in the spiritual realm. This involves actively opposing the works of Satan and being vigilant in areas such as their neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and other environments listed above.

Who is Responsible?

While believers are responsible for exercising spiritual authority, it's also important to recognize that earthly authorities, like police and government officials, have their roles. Romans 13:1-4 speaks about the importance of submitting to governing authorities as they are established by God to maintain order and justice.

Practical Applications:

- **Supporting Authorities:** Believers should support and pray for those in law enforcement and other governmental positions, recognizing the difficult and critical work they do.
- **Community Involvement:** Engage in community efforts to promote peace and address underlying issues that lead to violence, such as poverty, lack of education, and social injustice.

Biblical Examples:

- **Jesus' Example:** Jesus exemplified prayer and exercising authority. He prayed for His disciples (John 17) and rebuked Satan directly (Matthew 16:23). Believers are called to follow His example.
- **Satan's Influence:** Luke 22:1-6 illustrates how Satan influenced Judas to betray Jesus. This highlights that Satan can use individuals to carry out his plans. Recognizing this helps believers focus on the spiritual battles rather than just the human actions.

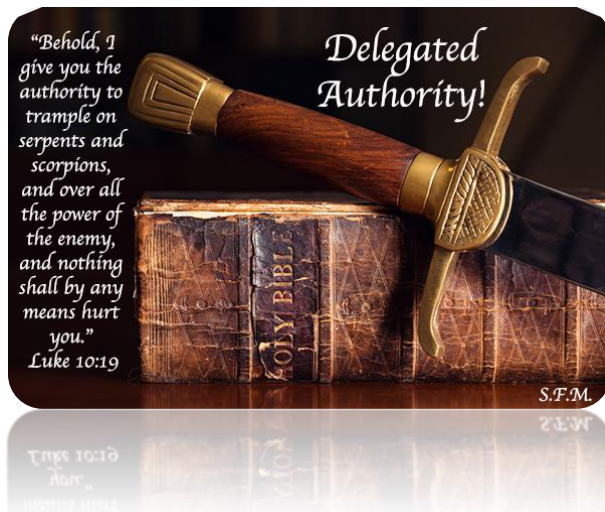
Conclusion

The increase in shootings and violence is a complex issue involving both spiritual and physical dimensions. Believers are called to be proactive in prayer and exercising their God-given authority to combat the spiritual forces behind these acts. They must also support and pray for earthly authorities and engage in community efforts to address the root causes of violence. By doing so, they can be instruments of God's peace and protection in a troubled world.

Encouragement:

- **Deuteronomy 31:6:** "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."
- **Psalms 44:5:** "Through You we will push back our adversaries; Through Your name we will trample down those who rise up against us."

By combining prayer, exercising spiritual authority, and practical involvement, believers can make a significant impact in reducing violence and promoting peace in their communities.



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