

# 10 New Wine in New Wineskins - How to Possess the Land Fully

by Zac Poonen

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*Zac Poonen's sermon highlights the importance of local leadership and the transformative power of the gospel in the lives of believers in Tamil Nadu.*

**Duration:** 1:04:53

**Scripture:** Genesis 13:14-17, Psalm 119:105, John 1:4-5, John 2:10, Philippians 2:9-11, 1 Timothy 3:15, James 4:7

**Topics:** "Holy Spirit", "Faith And Victory"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of living a godly life, standing firm in faith, and being filled with the Holy Spirit. It highlights the power of the name of Jesus in overcoming the forces of darkness, the need to believe in the promises of God, and the significance of being a pillar and support of the truth about Jesus coming in the flesh. The speaker shares powerful testimonies of deliverance and transformation through faith in Jesus Christ.

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## Transcript

So, as I said we will hear, I mentioned that we would like to hear five young brothers who are under the age of 50, who are elders in our churches, who have been elders for a number of years. All of them were elders by the time they were 30 or in their early 30s and some are in their 30s still, some are in their 40s. So, today we are going to hear a brother from one of our Tamil Nadu villages.

Most of our outreach work has been in the villages of Tamil Nadu and it's a great work that God has done there. I think 75% of our churches are there and many of them are from non-Christian backgrounds. Most of them don't know English at all, they don't speak a word of English.

Most of them are not college graduates or they are simple farmers working in the fields, some working as daily labor and struggling to survive, but God has shown them the way of the cross, the life and the fullness of the Holy Spirit. And in these churches that came up from nothing, God has raised up elders. The work in Tamil Nadu has gone on now for nearly 30 years, maybe 28 years.

And in these years, you know in many worldly churches, they appoint a pastor, they advertise, we want a pastor. And some guy comes from somewhere, it's just like these worldly companies saying, we want a CEO. And they advertise.

But you never see that in the New Testament. That's not new covenant, it's not even old covenant. In all of our churches, the elders have grown up from within the church.

That's how it was in the old New Covenant churches. Because they are fathers, the people in the church respect them because they have grown up there. And not one of our 70, 80 elders are paid one cent.

They don't take a salary, they don't take any money from the offering box. Like the Apostle Paul, they work and serve. People say that you can't do that because you've got to devote yourself to the ministry.

But these folks have devoted themselves to the ministry a lot better than most pastors I've seen, which exposes the life of people who say, you can't, how will you have time to prepare messages? Well, I heard more anointed messages from these working brothers than from many other people who spend all their time studying books. But the other thing is that for myself anyway, going to these village churches, to people who are not intellectuals like me, has been my salvation. It has brought me down to earth.

It has showed me that the things of heaven have got nothing to do with human intellect. It's life in the spirit. And I have been blessed by them and we have worked together as equals.

See, many of the missionaries who came here in past years, not all of them, there were some very godly missionaries who come to India and I highly respect those ones who came. I mean, today's missionaries are all tourists. I don't have any respect for any of them.

They come as tourists for what they call short-term mission programs paid for by others. It's like a tourist trip to India. I have zero respect for them.

But the old-time missionaries who came to India, some of them were very godly. But many of them, not all, but many of them were not brothers and sisters. They were benefactors because they came from western countries where they had such a high standard of living.

They had so much money. They could come here with money and give money to the poor people in India. And like that, a lot of people got attracted, not through Christ, but through money, through free education, through free medical treatment, through free trips to America or something like that.

That's how they attracted people and they attracted the wrong type of people. I spent nine years after I left my enabled job traveling all over India, looking at all the mission stations and I was disappointed with every one of them. Because all the Indians were just waiting for the foreigners to go so they could take over their big buildings and their cars and their Jeeps and everything else.

They had no interest in godliness. So these are the people whom Jesus said in Luke 22, 25, benefactors. Have you heard that word, benefactors? The Lord said to his disciples, among the heathen, the kings are called benefactors.

The kings go down to the poor people and bless them. The king doesn't think he's equal to them, but I bless them with money and grain and food. That is how most Western missionaries came to India, as benefactors.

They did a lot of good. Kings also do a lot of good to the poor people in their country, but they're not brothers. That brotherhood is so difficult to see.

And you don't have to be a Westerner. You can be a highly educated person in CFC, Bangalore, and be like a benefactor to these poor brothers in Tamil Nadu. You're also in the wrong boat.

But we have fellowship together as brothers, and that's a wonderful thing. These are my brothers. I highly respect them, value them, and they have an anointing and a word that brothers in CFC who got a PhD can sit at their feet and learn.

So today we're going to hear brothers say to, who is the elder, and he was also an elder by the time he was 30, and been an elder for 20 years or more, in a place called Nunnilam. The interesting thing about Nunnilam is, up till about 25-30 years ago, there was not a single Christian or church for 2,000 years in that village, from the time of Christ. Ours was the first, and as far as I know even today, the only living Church of Christ in that whole village.

And this brother has been an elder there along with others, and that church has grown so much. It's one of the first churches of ours, and we have conferences there with 1,500 people standing up and praising the Lord in a village where the praises of Christ were never heard for 2,000 years. And this is the first church of ours that grew so much that we had to split it up into three churches, because people had to come from a long distance.

You know, these poor folks don't have cars. They come by buses. They've got to walk long distances.

So we had to split it up into three churches where they could meet closer to their residential areas. And the wonderful thing is, God has raised up elders in these three churches. And Brother Setu comes from there, and we are very happy to have him share God's Word with us.

Brother Setu, he'll speak in Tamil, and Brother Michael will translate. I am so thankful to the Lord for bringing me to these meetings. Because I know that I am not worthy to be sitting among God's children like this.

But I am thankful to Jesus, because of Jesus, I have got that word to sit in this midst, in the midst of the meetings. Because I am a person who has been tossed to and back and forth in this life, and I was without rest in my life. I used to think that if we had money, then we'll be very, very much comfortable.

And I know that, I came to know that that was also wrong. I thought that whatever is great in the eyes of men, if I possess them, then I will be very happy. But I had to admit that all those thoughts were wrong.

I came to know that it is only Jesus Christ who can give me that peace and happiness in my life. Because the Prince of the air, Satan, he had blinded my eyes to see this truth. But because Jesus Christ enabled me to see this truth, I knew that all the attractions of this world was nothing.

And this is how for 4000 years, men were seeking for that peace and for that happiness in their life. But Satan is deceiving people saying that if you have a good education, good salary, and if you have comfort in this life, you will be happy. Because the ruler of this world, Satan, has deceived people, there are only very few people who can tell, Lord Jesus, we need you.

I believe that we have gathered together here as people who can say that Jesus, we need you. Even though there were many people who were in Israel, it was always written that there was a tiny remnant. That word remnant keeps on coming.

They are the people who know within their heart that they are not living a life as they want to and they are longing in their lives to live a life like that. Because we know that all of us as human beings have been born into this world once, we are going to live once and we are going to die once and go away. But I have to lead a purposeful and a meaningful life.

But I cannot live that on my own. Even if I desire that, I cannot live on my own. I have to desire but someone else has to help me.

If someone doesn't help me like that, then all my efforts are wasted. And that is why today, to help each one of us, God has sent his son into this earth. For example, I want to ask people to turn to John, John chapter 1 verse 4. 1 John 4 and 5. The word gave life to everything that was created and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it. Man had everything but he didn't have a good life. From the beginning until now.

Satan has blinded the eyes of people. He has hidden that part, that good part from people. Today we see that in this fashionable world, there are many gadgets which are drawing the young people.

And these things prevent them from knowing God they have created or his ways. Because these are the days when young people are going in a different path. But God has planned, determined that they should live a good life on this earth.

But this good life on this earth, we can get it only through Jesus Christ. Many things are written in this passage, but if we come to verse 9. The one who is the true light, gives light to everyone who is coming into the world. That light can change the life of any man.

It can make him burn brightly for the Lord and spread a good aroma for the Lord. Today we are hearing about the new wine and the new wine skin. The importance of this new wine is the good taste and the good smell.

The Lord has come to change our life so that we can be sweet and we can also smell very well. All these things are within Jesus Christ. Not outside Jesus Christ.

Those who can humble themselves and ask the Lord, Lord I am not sweet in my life. For them the Lord will make them sweet in their life. The Lord has sent into this world through his son Jesus Christ, a good life.

And he is forever the almighty God who can give a tasteful life for anyone wanting to live a life like that. He also desires that he can show forth his taste through human beings. Who can show that taste? We read that in the book of Genesis.

We don't have time for reading all that. We all know the Bible. We read there that they were created in the image of God.

But to destroy this image of God, the ruler of this world has done the trick even in those days. But the desire of God's heart was that man should reflect his nature. But the incident took place so that it went the other way.

But God wanted to restore that image to be reflected through human beings. So he made this way of salvation. And this is God's plan regarding every human being.

I want to show the nature of Jesus Christ the Son to all human beings. To all those who are around me, my parents, my family and the people around me, I have to give out this aroma of Christ. And in the days when I am living, I should not be hard on anyone.

I should be someone who is easy to get along. I should not close my heart so that people will not be able to approach me. And Jesus Christ was always ready for people to approach him, to speak to him.

And Jesus Christ came into this world to teach us this life so that we can be like that. He did not come just like that to come down, tell us and then go away. He came with a flesh like ours.

That is a glorious message. For many people who heard for 20-30 years, it has become an old story. But as we heard in the early meeting, the secret is in that place.

And Satan has blinded the eyes of many. We read in verse 14. That word became flesh.

And he made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

This priceless treasure that he came in a flesh like ours. The one who created the heavens and the earth, he became a man. Because of the love that he had on this man.

The life which had been spoiled, to set it right. The life which was stinking, to make it smell a good smell. And that one message that Jesus Christ came in a flesh like mine has changed my life.

There are many things in the Bible. And whenever I have been in need, the only thing which has given me a deliverance and happiness has been that Jesus Christ came in a flesh like mine. We read in verse 5. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it.

The ruler of this world, who is living in darkness, he is always ready. But that darkness could not affect the life of Jesus Christ. In front of the life of Jesus Christ, he could do nothing.

Because we read in the book of Acts of the Apostles, Satan says, I know Jesus Christ. Satan knows that Jesus Christ was in heaven. But when Jesus Christ lived on this earth as a man, Satan saw that.

And Satan did not like Jesus Christ coming in the human form as a man. And Satan does not want me also to know that Jesus Christ came in a flesh like mine. And that is why when Jesus Christ was in the womb, through Herod, he wanted to destroy Jesus Christ.

And when Jesus Christ was two years old, through Herod, he tried to destroy him. And that he has been trying to kill him physically, like pushing him from the mountain. And the fact that Jesus Christ came in a flesh like ours, Satan did not like it.

He did not know that he was a fool. He is the one who is always defeated. Beloved brothers and sisters, When we come to know that Jesus Christ came in a flesh like ours, our life will be changed so that we will have a good taste and a good smell.

Because people have been tossed about for 4,000 years or more years to have a good life. I want to tell for example a few men. The same John chapter 1 verse 40 and 41.

John is introducing Jesus Christ. In verse 36, John is saying, behold the Lamb of God. And we read here that in verse 37, two of John's disciples heard this and they followed Jesus.

In verse 41, Andrew went to his brother Simon and told him, we have found the Messiah. We have seen Jesus. He had also seen all the high priests and the scholars in the Bible.

But we have seen Jesus. We have seen the huge treasure, the precious treasure we have seen. And here there is a storm of fire which is starting to grow.

In verse 45, Philip went to look for Nathanael and told, we have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about. We have found out. We have seen this person who can give that good taste and good smell in our life.

We have seen that the life which was stinking can now become a life which is smelling good. You come and see him. We have seen him.

Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, we have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about. His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth. He says that you know, this is the person written about by Moses and the prophets but he is in Nazareth.

And for that he says, for Nazareth? Can anything good come from Nazareth? Can he give you the good life? Is he the person who can make my life into a tasty life? Is he the one who can make my life to smell good? Yes, you can come and see. It made him surprised. And as Nathanael approached Jesus, he says, no, here is a genuine son of Israel, a man of complete integrity.

These are the people who have, you know, had a lot of oppression and who were, you know, burdened with their sin and they were sort of sour in their lives. Now they have seen that this is the saviour of the world and that has become clear in their eyes. There were many people who could not see like that Jesus Christ.

Because they did not desire that they should live a good life. They are the people who wanted to hide inside the darkness. They are the people who will not want to come out from darkness, not only that, but they will hate the light.

One thing I have to examine about my life, do I come to the light? Maybe there are a lot of problems and confusion in our life. But we should be people who are always ready to come honestly before the Lord. Satan will always tell, you hide yourself.

Because the ruler of this world, the prince of darkness, he will always want to put us aside and keep us hidden. But Jesus Christ is light. And he is the one who shines in the darkness.

And he who comes to him, in no wise he will cast out. In whatever condition he is. He is the one who is almighty to change the one who is coming to him to have a tasty life and a good smelling life.

The saint will say, your life will not change. You be like that. You be satisfied with what you got.

That is enough. Just remain where you are. But the Lord would say, no, no, don't be satisfied with where you are now.

The land which you have to inherit is very vast. Don't remain only in that place. Satan is one who is cheating from the beginning till now.

The Lord is faithful to what he has promised. When Jesus Christ was born, the word came forth like this. We read here that there is a deliverance for people from all the fear.

The Lord gives a promise and sends it to us. We have to believe in these promises. We have to believe that Jesus Christ will give me deliverance and victory over sin.

I have to believe that I will receive this joy. Because the saint will want to hide the promises which God has given us. I want to turn to Genesis.

Chapter 13. Genesis 13, 14 and 15. Take your eyes and look to the north, south, east and west.

I will give you and your descendants the whole earth which you see. I will multiply your descendants like the skin of the earth. If you give me the skin of the earth, your descendants will be multiplied.

I will give you the length, width and breadth of the earth. Genesis 13, 14 to 17. After the Lord had gone, the Lord said to Abraham, Look as far as you can see in every direction, north and south, east and west.

I am giving all this land as far as you can see to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. And I will give you so many descendants that like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted. Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you.

For the people who were living in the Old Testament, for living in a land and conquering their enemies, that was their possession. But in the New Testament days, my enemies are all the evil rulers in the heavenly places. But in the New Testament days, my enemies are all the evil rulers in the heavenly places.

And all the land which I should possess is the nature of Jesus. So, in the bottom of my heart, I should say, Lord, I want to inherit your nature. So, in the bottom of my heart, with all my heart, I should long for this.

Lord, I want to inherit your nature. I have to take it as my birthright, all that which is the nature of Jesus Christ. Because in Him are treasures, plenty of treasures.

For to have a mind like Jesus Christ, an eyesight, a sight to look at people like that, and how He looks at the world and estimates the world. All these things are inside Jesus Christ. All these things I need.

I don't want to leave out even a small portion. The saint will say, no, you cannot have the mind of Christ in you. And the saint would say, you can see here, see there in your mind and you cannot have your mind like Christ.

Paul says that in Christ you will be victorious in every area. Not one inch I will give to Satan. To say that it is not possible is unbelief.

Many times we see ourselves. Many times when we look at ourselves, we will say, no, it is not possible to live that victorious life. Now I remember what Paul said.

I have nothing good dwelling in me. If I look at me in which no good thing dwells, then I will only become discouraged. But to be encouraged and to become joyful, there is one pure person.

Just look at Jesus Christ. It should be a revelation for me. Every day I want to see Jesus Christ who came in a flesh like mine.

I want to learn that heart which is in him. I desire to know what is in his mind. I am not talking about the photo or the statue of Jesus Christ which you see externally.

The Jesus Christ who came in a human body like mine. The one who makes me shine. And the stinking life of mine to smell like a perfume.

The life of mine which is tasteless to make it a very tasty life. Without him, no man can do anything. Without me, you can do nothing.

On this earth and in heaven, without Jesus Christ, there is no good life for anyone. The devil will always show me that I cannot inherit that life and will try to fool me. But I will never accept what Satan says.

For how many ever years it may take, I would always say, whatever Jesus has promised, I need it. It may take some time. But because of that, I shouldn't say that I will never get it.

In the villages, there are some stories. The fox which was jumping up to get the grapes, it said, because it couldn't get it, it said, oh this is very sour and it left. In our life, in our hearts, we should never think like that.

Lord, I will get it. Lord, I need the pure thoughts. I need pure eyes to see like you.

How many ever days it may take, we shall determine in our hearts. Maybe after we have determined, within 2 or 3 hours, we may have our eyes drawn to something, a good looking person or a good looking article. And Satan would say, no, you have already been defeated.

Satan would say, don't try for these things. I would always tell the Lord, Lord, it is true that I am defeated. Lord, you know that in my thought life, I have slipped.

Lord, I am not going to remain there. Lord, I need your thoughts, your mind. I will not take back my step which I have kept forward.

Even if it takes many days, I will definitely attain this life. Because the Lord is one who tests our desires to see whether it will remain like that. We can look at Joshua 13.

Joshua 13.1 When Joshua was an old man, the Lord said to him, you are growing old and much land remains to be conquered. Maybe Satan would have gone to Joshua and told him, you have conquered so much of land, you can really remain satisfied. We read in the previous chapter that he had defeated 24 kings.

We read in the previous chapter that he had defeated 24 kings. Maybe we had overcome many kings, bad habits like alcohol, chewing of paan, so many other things we could have overcome. Satan would say, you remain with that kind of victory you have got.

Satan would say, you remain with that kind of victory you have got. Wherever you are, I have promised for you divine life. You have to inherit north, south, east, west, the whole thing you have to inherit.

Again the Lord tells Joshua, there are many things in this chapter 13. It is written here in verse 2, all the regions. We will read in verse 5, all of the Lebanon mountain area.

In verse 9, it would say that all the plain beyond Medibah. We read in verse 11, the whole of Mount Hermon area. And in many places, it would be written, all the regions, all the regions.

I take all these things as something which is similar to the nature of Jesus Christ. And Satan would tell me, no, he will hide me from that and say that whatever you get, God is enough. If we are satisfied in our lives, then it is a deception of Satan.

Because the Holy Spirit is someone who is working in our lives, so that we will always be hungering and thirsting for righteousness. And he is one who is faithful to complete or fulfill all the promises that he has given us. But if I don't have that faith and hope, he cannot do it in my life.

For any day, he is able to fulfill the promise which he has given us. Every day, we have to glorify the name of Jesus Christ. That is the plan which he has for us.

We can turn to Joshua chapter 21, verse 43 onwards. So, the Lord gave to Israel all the land He had sown to give to their ancestors and they took possession of it and settled there. We read that emphasis, all the land.

And they took possession of it and settled there. I have to inherit all the nature of Jesus Christ. I don't desire to leave even one thing.

Even if I am an old man, even if I am a person who has grey hair and my hands are shaking, Lord, your mind and your nature, I want it. Verse 44, And the Lord gave them rest on every side. Just as He had solemnly promised their ancestors, none of their enemies could stand against them.

So, the Lord helped them to conquer all their enemies. We read in the Bible that those of us who believe, we enter into that rest. In the Christian life, faith is the most important thing.

And looking at this faith, Satan who operates in the second heaven, he will be scared, terrified. Without faith, we can never battle with Satan. Because faith is very essential.

Because only those who believe will enter into this rest. Because only those who believe can inherit all the nature of Jesus Christ. I have to battle and win against Satan.

The other very tasteful thing in Christian life is to battle with Satan. Because of looking at Satan, I knew that there is a God Almighty. Because if Satan exists, then I know what an Almighty God is there who created him.

And then my faith was strengthened in my young days. And when I was young and there were people who were brought who were demon possessed, and I used to cast out demons in the name of Jesus Christ, and the demons would go away, I would be surprised. And I would be so much surprised that how Satan has known Jesus Christ.

But I was surprised that I did not know Jesus Christ like that. And then I said, no, I want to know Jesus Christ like this, and that brought faith into me. Like that even Satan helps us to know God or know Jesus Christ more.

Maybe now it appears that Satan is doing harm to us. And God is one who changes all his evil into good for us. No, he is the one who helps us to come closer to the Lord.

Because he is one who is defeated all the time. No, I don't need to go and battle with Satan. We have to keep on telling him, you are one who is defeated.

And I have to keep telling this many times to Satan that I need this divine life, divine nature of Jesus Christ. That is why not one word which Jesus Christ has told will fall. Many years ago the Lord told Abraham, and the Lord told him, East, West, North, South, whole of this earth.

At that time he was dwelling in a tent. It was a place which belonged to someone else and he was staying there for free. And looking at that the Lord told, inherit everything.

To hear all these things would sound so amazing. Now I have come from Tamil Nadu to Bangalore. If someone tells me that tomorrow all this building is going to become yours, I will get a doubt as to whether this man is sane in telling these things to me.

The Lord told Abraham like that. He told him that you can inherit all these things. But he believed that I will be able to possess that.

He believed it just like that. Beloved brothers and sisters, the Lord's plan is that we should inherit everything in Jesus Christ. We should not leave out even one small thing.

Because the ruler of this world has darkened or blinded the eyes of many. He has blinded their eyes by making them look at things of the world. He has made them to be satisfied with good education, good salary and good comforts.

But many people don't have any concern that their nature of Jesus Christ, they have not received that and they are still lacking in that. We read about the marriage in Cana of Galilee. We read in John chapter 2, we read that the wine supply ran out.

We have to agree or accept that the wine of the old life has run out. If we accept that the old wine has run out, then we can come to the Lord. To get that new wine, I have to do only what He tells me to do.

I have to believe and obey. We read here that whatever He tells you, do whatever He tells you. Verse 5. If we do whatever He tells, it is enough.

Those who have a spirit of a servant, they will do like this. In verse 10, we say that after they have been satisfied, that life of satisfaction is there only in Jesus Christ. That good life I desire.

That life is for all of us in Jesus Christ. May the Lord grant it to each one of us. May the Lord grant it to each one of us.

1 Timothy 3, the verse that we looked at in the first session. 1 Timothy chapter 3, verse 14. Paul tells Timothy, I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long.

1 Timothy 3, verse 15. But in case I am delayed, I am writing so that you will know how one should conduct himself in the household of God. How should I conduct myself in God's church? This church is the church of the living God.

And this church is the pillar and support of the truth. In the olden days, the pillars in a building supported the roof and the building. You remember when Samson pushed down two pillars, the whole building collapsed.

That's how construction was in those days. The pillar and support of the truth. Which truth? What is the church to be the pillar and support of? Next verse.

That Jesus came in the flesh and was pure and righteous in his spirit. And even the angels could see that. That is what we have proclaimed among the nations.

Do you think the church throughout the world has been a pillar and support of this truth? No. They have gone away from it. And in fact, when we began to proclaim it, all Christians in India called us heretics and false teachers and blasphemers and making Jesus a sinner and all types of names.

And the Lord said to me, if even the few people who are with you get offended and go away and you're the only one left proclaiming this truth, will you stand? I said, yes. I don't care if I'm the only one in India believing this truth because it has changed my life. That's why I could say it.

Not because I'm convinced from study of the scriptures. It changed my life. It changed my family life.

But that was only God questioning me to see whether his truth was more important to me than the honor and approval of other Christians in India. Would it disturb me that I was called a heretic? Jesus was called a heretic. Paul was called a heretic.

Every genuine man of God in history has been called a heretic. It's only the next generation after he dies that recognizes that he was a prophet, not a heretic. But now I see.

I mean you hear this brother speaking here, you'd think I was speaking there. What a work God has done in so many people, how it has changed lives and what he has shared with you. Where did he get it from? He can't read the English books that all of us read.

No. He doesn't know English to be able to read English books. Where did he get all this revelation from? From the Holy Spirit.

Do you need to know English to understand all these things? Do you need to read such a lot of books to understand all these things? No. It's a revelation of the Holy Spirit. He's opened himself to the truth that he's heard in the church and it's produced results as I said.

So I praise God for brothers like this, simple brothers who understand what great PhDs cannot understand. And that's a great encouragement to us. Think of what he said about how many people have the question, why does God allow the devil to exist? Here's an example you heard just now.

He believed that there was a God because he's seen the work of the devil. I mean there's a devil, there must be a God more powerful than him. And I tell you that is a tremendous challenge.

When you see in the villages in India demon possessed people and people who believe in witchcraft and the power of witchcraft to do amazing miraculous things to harm people by the power of the devil. And Christians who don't believe in any supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, who don't know what to do when you meet a demon possessed person or some person coming with witchcraft. It's very sad if the church is powerless and the forces of the devil are so powerful.

That is why we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It's the devil's presence that gives us more faith in God. I remember a brother telling me, you know, even good believers can sometimes doubt the very existence of God and whether all these things we are believing about the Bible and Jesus Christ are true or not.

Because when we go through pressures and trials, we can doubt. Hey, is all this real? Is it real that what we are believing it's all written? I've never seen anything, never heard anything, but I read all this about Jesus and all that and there's so many voices in the world saying it's not true. And I remember this brother telling me, sometimes I'll be honest with you, I've doubted whether all this is true that we speak about Christ and the Bible.

But then I remember he said, once in a conference, and this happened I think nearly 30 years ago in our conference in our CFC building. He said, I remember while you were just starting a Bible study, a demon possessed person came crawling on the ground like a snake into the front while just about to begin the Bible study. And he said, Brother Zach, I remember how you rebuked that demon in Jesus' name and the fellow just lay down there flat till the meeting was over and got up only after the one hour Bible study was over.

I said, that strengthened my faith. There's such mighty power in the name of Jesus Christ. So God allows us to see such things to strengthen our faith.

The name of Jesus is the only name the devil is frightened of. I remember some time ago, not some time ago, when my children were small, we used to have many demons cast out in our own home. And next door to us there was a non-Christian family where the old man was sick and they got a witch doctor.

Because in that religion they had the belief that the witch doctor could do some magic and transfer the man's disease over the compound wall to the next house, that is our house. So we saw this man sitting in the garage there stirring the pots and all this. And I thought this is a great opportunity to teach my children about the devil.

I said, see that guy, we know what he's trying to do. He's going to transfer the sickness over to our house. But we're not afraid of Satan.

Satan's been defeated on the cross. And I said, just like there are genuine preachers who are in touch with God and fake preachers who are not in touch with God, who just pretend. There are genuine witch doctors who are in touch with the devil.

And there are fake witch doctors who just fool people, just like fake preachers, to collect money. How to find out if this guy is a genuine witch doctor or a fake witch doctor? I tell you he's fake. Because if he were in touch with the devil, the devil would have told him, don't try it on this house, try it on the other house, the other side.

He's trying it on us. That means he threw a pot one day, one morning, there was a pot there in our house, you know, and then people say, oh, don't touch it. It'll destroy you.

We just threw it away. There's mighty power in the name of Jesus. We're not afraid.

Of course, before the old man there died, I had an opportunity to give him the gospel and witness to him. So, we've got nothing against them. I mean, we don't hate people who try to harm us.

They are blind. They cannot harm us. Let them bring all the witch doctors in the world.

They cannot touch a hair on my head. Let them all gang up. All the Satanists and everybody else.

There's mighty power in the name of Jesus. There's a song we sing, take the name of Jesus with you. It'll protect you from everything.

I've even said to non-Christians when I give them the gospel and they don't accept it. I say, okay, you don't accept it. One day, when you're in trouble, call upon the name of Jesus Christ and he will deliver you.

Brothers and sisters, we have such a wonderful gospel. Don't ever be ashamed of the name of Jesus in your place of work. Be ashamed of Christ, of Jesus.

He was not ashamed to hang on the cross for you. Always let it be known, I'm a disciple of Jesus Christ. I stand true for him.

And if you suffer as a result of it, that suffering will turn out to be a blessing. I've known people who, when they were transferred to Bangalore from that church, they asked the leader in that church, which church shall I go to in Bangalore? They said, go to any church except Zak Poonen's church. So, the guy comes here, he says, why are these guys so much against this church? Let me go and see.

And he comes here and he gets gripped by the truth. Whom shall I thank for sending that brother to our church? Some guy who warned against us. God is a master at turning the tables on the devil.

And that is how God has brought so many of you here from so many places. I want to encourage you to pray a prayer. The need is very great.

There are believers in this land who are defeated by sin, oppressed by the devil. Churches that are dishonoring the name of Jesus Christ. Will you pray that first of all God will help you to really live a godly life? Walk as Jesus walked in your life, in your home.

Like David prayed in one of the Psalms, Lord help me to conduct myself righteously, especially in my home, he says. That's what you need to pray to, especially in my home. And then pray that God will bring you in touch with others who are hungering and thirsting to live a godly life.

Lord, bring us in touch with them. There may be only one here and one there. That's all I want to meet.

I don't want to meet the people who want to go to heaven. I want to meet the people who want to live for Christ on earth. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, while we bow before Thee, Almighty God, our Father, Ruler of heaven and earth, there are many words you speak to us through your servants, humble godly men whom you have brought into our midst. Help us to sit at their feet and learn what you have taught them, that our lives may be changed and that through us the influence can spread to many others in our locality. Bless the rest of the day to us.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/10-new-wine-in-new-wineskins-how-to-possess-the-land-fully/>

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