

Counseling and Spiritual Warfare: Helping Yourself and Others

2 Timothy 2:24–26

Spiritual Warfare Together

“It’s important to remember that spiritual warfare is done together, as the body of Christ. “We don’t want to envision a whole bunch of little individuals running around in armor.” Instead, envision of the body of Christ standing in battle together.”

David Powlison: Safe and Sound

Helping Others

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

Helping Others

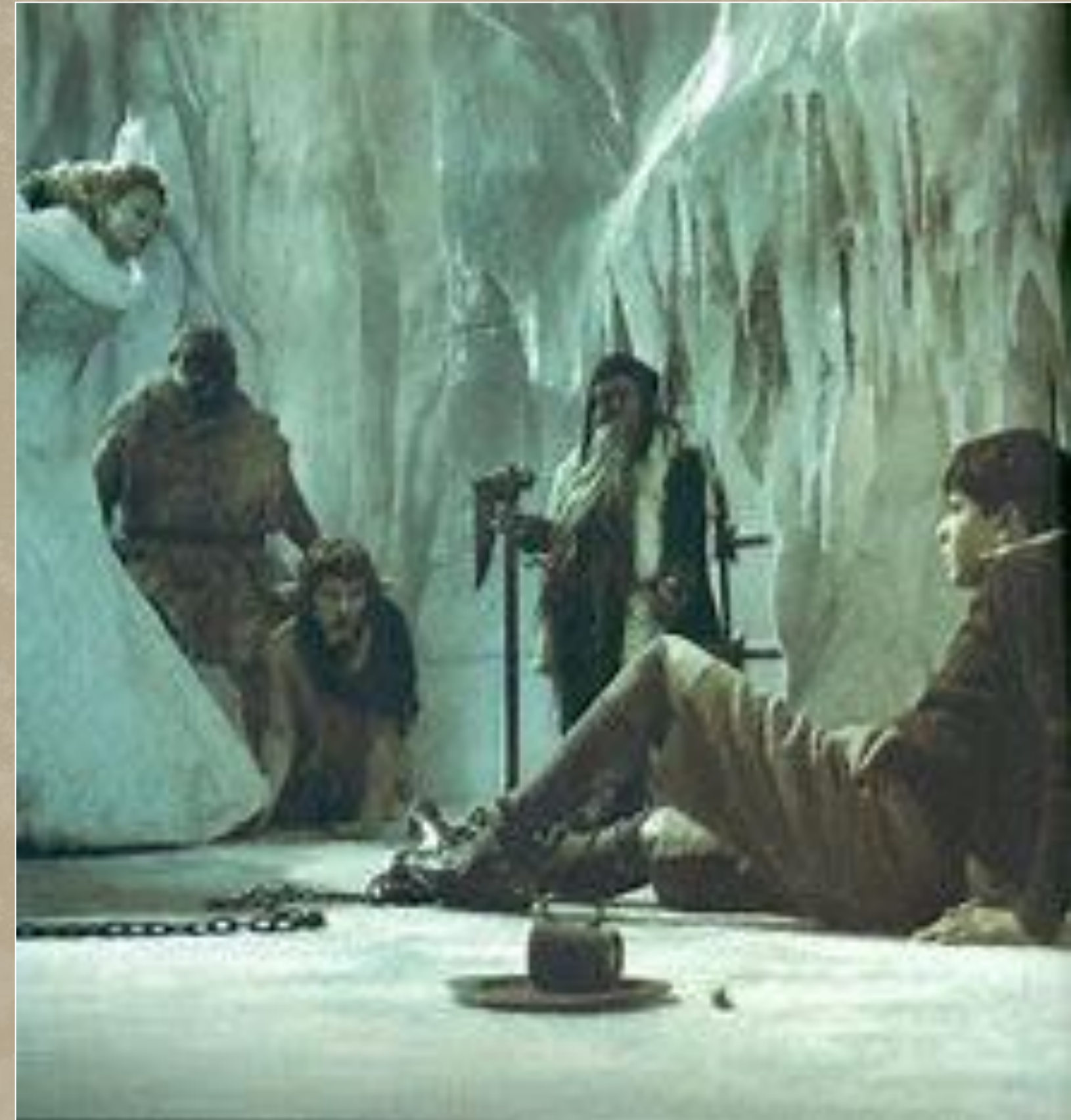
- Who are you ministering to?
- What posture are we called to maintain?
- What is the purpose of our ministry?

Helping Others: Who

Opponents.....who are ensnared by the devil, captured by him to do his will (v. 25-26)

Helping Others: Who?

Those ensnared by the devil, captured by him to do his will



Helping Others: Posture

- Kind (v. 24)
- Patient (v. 24)
- Gentle (v. 25)

Helping Others: Purpose

God's Responsibility: Change Hearts

25.....God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of truth, 26 and they may come to their senses

2 Timothy 2:25–26

I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 24:7

Helping Others: Purpose

Our Responsibility: Ambassadors

“The Lord’s servant” (v. 24)

We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:20–21

Helping Others: Purpose

Our Responsibility: Teach Truth (v. 24–25)

- Belt of truth (Ephesians 6:14)

“By nature and nurture, you and those you counsel have lie-darkened and lie-calloused hearts...these lies are always untruths about God, ourselves, and others.”

- Breastplate of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14)
- Shoes ready to take gospel (Ephesians 6:15)

Helping Others: Our Responsibility

Teach Truth (v. 24–25)

- Shield of faith (Ephesians 6:16)
- Helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:17)
- Sword of Spirit/Word of God (Ephesians 6:17)
- Prayer (Ephesians 6:18)

Helping Yourself

- Prayer
- Teach truth to yourself (v. 24-25)

“The main trouble in this matter of spiritual depression in a sense is this, that we allow our self to talk to us instead of talking to our self.” D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

- Engage the body of Christ