

Spiritual Warfare Encounter

True Story as related by Tina Tripp of Grace and Truth Ministry Consulting
Logan (9) Awana Sparks Club 4/21/04

Logan came for the first time as a guest of M-. My first impression was pleasant; he took my hand as I introduced myself to him. I asked him to come with me to get a Sparks Gate Book from the Secretary. As I gave it to him, I found out he attends another church sometimes. On initial presentation of the Gate Book, he seemed to have knowledge of Christ. We went over John 3:16 and I began to explain the meaning of the words. When I explained perish, he began to be fearful and inquisitive about hell. He did not know if he was going to heaven someday. At that point I left him to study the verse while getting my Bible and a Quiz Tract.

He failed the quiz. Upon explaining the reason he failed it, his reaction surprised me. He leaned forward with his face contorted angrily saying, "That's not true! You have to be good to get to heaven! You have to be!" I then narrowed my eyes (having the first suspicion of *whom* I was dealing with) and steadily told Logan that the Bible is God's Word which always tells us the Truth. At that point I proceeded to share the Story of the Wordless Book which I prefaced was a True Story from the Bible. He listened attentively. On the dark page, he became animated in talking about the devil and hell. I stopped him and asked, "Logan I need to ask you an important question. Are you reading Harry Potter books?" He then answered he was and began to very animatedly tell me that Harry was very, very good and about this most evil, evil guy. I then offered, "Do you mean lord Voldemort?" "Yes!" he answered and began talking a mile a minute about scenes from the book. I listened for awhile realizing that indeed this child was quite immersed in this 'world,' and then putting my hand up I cautioned him about what God says about wizards and witchcraft in the Bible. He said that there would be one thing if he could do it he would really want. I asked, "What is that?" He then answered, "Tell the future!" I then cautioned about that, but told him I really wanted to finish the Story. (I asked about five leaders to intercede for him, saying, "I really need you to pray!")

At one point he seemed distracted cupping his hands over his nose and mouth. I stopped telling the story to ask, "Logan, honey why are you covering your face? Is something wrong?" He replied, "It really stinks in here." "I don't smell anything. What do you smell?" He leaned forward and whispered, "Poop!" "Oh, I am so sorry. Let's go into the other room." (I believe the enemy was trying to distract Logan from hearing the Truth by overwhelming him with this smell.) Once then completing the Wordless Book, I asked him if he wanted to follow the ABC's to believe in Jesus. He tracked the A for admit you are a sinner (he somewhat

resisted this truth, but shared some sins he had done that day – lying to his mother, hurting M-'s feelings by not sharing candy with her and saying he wished that her head would be cut off and she be cast into the underworld). But when I asked him if B, he wanted to Believe in Jesus – that He died on the cross to wash all his sins away. He said, “That’s what I just can’t believe. I mean, why would someone have to die like that?!” Gently explaining and going into the Wheelbarrow illustration for further emphasis on grace, I then asked again if he would like to have faith to believe in Jesus to get him all the way to heaven. He then became wide-eyed saying in a fearful voice, “The devil won’t let me believe in Jesus. I’m afraid!” “Logan, honey – What are you afraid of?” “The devil is going to stab me a thousand times with a thousand knives!” I then took his hand, “No! Logan, listen to me. You do not need to fear the devil! The Bible teaches that God’s power is much greater than Satan’s power ‘Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.’ The Lord loves you! Jesus gave his life for you so you would not have to be punished for your sin, so you can become a child of God and have God living in you giving you power to say no to sin! You **can** make that choice!” He then stated again, “The devil won’t let me believe in Jesus.” I thought, ‘That’s it!’ (At that point I pictured myself rolling up my sleeves. I had been praying fiercely in the power of the blood of Jesus against the evil one’s claim on this child’s soul. Now it was time for reinforcements!)

Standing up, I asked Logan to come with me. He played the last 8 minutes or so of game time. I went to the office to find Pastor Jerry. Though he was in a meeting, I asked a secretary if she could tell him I needed his help.

After starting Council Time with a song ‘Nothing but the Blood,’ the Seven Steps and prayer, I then turned it over to a teaching leader that night. I then took Logan introducing him to Pastor Jerry who proceeded to lead him systematically in trusting Christ. At first, he told Pastor he didn’t believe that Jesus really died like that. One illustration that made sense to Logan was the bridge as the only way to get to God. Pastor confronted his unbelief with Truth getting him to admit level by level what he did believe as far as the Bible being the Authoritative Word of God until finally Logan physically trembling admitted, “Yes, I do want to believe in Jesus!” Pastor sat nearby as he asked me to lead him. Before doing so I asked if he had any further questions. He had one question about confession issues which I told him I would explain after we prayed. He prayed a very sweet ABC prayer, and his YES was strong as he told the Lord, “Yes! I do believe that Jesus died on the cross for me to wash my sin away!” He was excited to see his name and spiritual birthday date recorded on the bookmark!

Praise the Lord! He is not willing that **any** should perish (2 Peter 3:9)!