



PETRA PRAYER WARRIOR

DEVOTIONS

Book I

PRAAYER WARRIOR

PETRA

**THIS
MEANS
WAR!**

PRAYER WARRIOR

BOOK ONE

PETRA PRAYER WARRIOR WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Written by Dorla Schlitt

PRAYER WARRIOR

BOOK ONE



As you study the Prayer Warrior devotions, you will note many references to the lyrics from songs on PETRA's album "This Means War". This album is on the StarSong label and is available in LP, cassette, and CD format at local Christian music and book stores.

PRAYER WARRIOR

PRAYER WARRIOR DEVOTIONS

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FORWARD

PETRA's album THIS MEANS WAR!, is a call to Christians to take up the armour of God as He provides in His Word. There is a spiritual battle raging every day and each of us has a choice of being on the winning or losing side. That decision is for eternity.

We believe that prayer is the beginning of equipping oneself to be victorious in the battle. The Lord has laid on PETRA a calling to recruit young people to be Prayer Warriors in the battle. We are encouraging individuals and groups alike, to join together in prayer for their friends, family, church, other Prayer Warriors and the ministry of PETRA believing that unity in this effort will ensure that Satan will be powerless in the lives of each Prayer Warrior.

The weekly devotions in this book are not presented as the definitive study on prayer. They are, however, a scripturally sound approach to developing one's prayer life. By applying the principles presented here, and becoming Prayer Warriors, one will develop a stronger walk with the Lord.

The members of PETRA are grateful to Dorla Schlitt for the many prayerful hours spent in study for writing these devotions. We believe that the Lord has guided her efforts.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 1

BECOMING A PRAYER WARRIOR

This is the first of fifty devotions. We hope these devotions will help you learn more about prayer and make you a true "prayer warrior".

We, in PETRA, want you to know how important you are to the body of Christ — especially for the purpose of prayer. These weekly devotions are meant to help you. They are for you to use as you develop a closer walk with the Lord.

Through these devotions you will learn what a "prayer warrior" is and how to become one. Each will have scripture references given and will refer to songs off our newest album, "THIS MEANS WAR" as they relate to the subjects discussed.

Let's begin our study with the basics. When we made Jesus Christ Lord and Savior of our lives, our spirit was recreated and we became according to II Cor. 5:17 "a new creature" in Christ. God's divine Spirit indwells us (Jn. 14:17, I Jn. 4:4, Rom. 8:11, I Jn. 3:24). We are sons of God, joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:14, 17), a never before known creature.

In the physical realm, we are in the world, but not of it (Jn. 15:19). God's Word and His Holy Spirit are at work in us to lead us and help us yield to God (Heb. 4:12, Jn. 16:13,14, Phil. 2:13) and be conformed to Christ's image (Rom. 8:29, Phil. 1:6).

Only by willingly allowing Christ to do the work within us that He desires can we truly bring glory and honor to the Lord (Rom. 12:1,2). When we allow God's Word to work in our hearts (Jn. 17:17, I Thes. 5:23, II Tim. 2:21), to change us from the inside out, the "new man" comes forth bearing the fruit of God's Spirit (Gal. 5:22) revealing Jesus in us (Jn. 13:35).

The song "Dead Reckoning" off our newest album "THIS MEANS WAR" speaks about this "inward" work.

In the spiritual realm we have been made righteous and holy by the blood of Christ (II Cor. 5:21, Rom. 3:25, Heb. 10:10). We can come boldly before our Father God. He desires to communicate with us through prayer. According to Prov. 15: 8 "... the prayer of the upright is His delight."

There is a new depth in prayer the Lord is calling His people to. He is calling us to be "prayer warriors" for the kingdom of God. You can be sure that God is able and willing to equip us for such a job (Eph. 3:20). In Eph. 6:12, we are reminded of the spiritual war that is taking place in the heavenlies. We are not fighting flesh and blood "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

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BECOMING

A PRAYER WARRIOR

Just as the Bible tells us in John 4:24 that "God is a spirit", it also tells us in Eph. 2:2 that our adversary, Satan, is of the spirit realm and we must do battle with him in the spirit with the weapons God has given us (II Cor. 10:4).

The title song off our newest album "THIS MEANS WAR" addresses this truth.

Won't you join with us and become a "prayer warrior"? Ez. 22:30 says God sought for a man — won't you be that man or woman God is looking for?

We are asking that you start becoming a "prayer warrior" by committing to yourself and God to pray at least five minutes every day for the ministry of PETRA and for your closest friends.

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WEEK 2

THE PRAYER WARRIOR'S JOB

We have discussed the fact "though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh" (II Cor. 10:3), but according to Eph. 6:12 we wrestle against "principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

This devotional topic is "The prayer warrior's job". A "prayer warrior" is someone who fights this spiritual battle described in Eph. 6:12 through prayer (Eph. 6:18a). Let's look into scripture to find out what a "prayer warrior" does.

Two scriptures give us the first characteristic of a "prayer warrior". John 15:13 says "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Phil. 2:5,7 says "let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...But made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant."

So we see the first characteristic of a "prayer warrior" is someone who is willing to put aside or lay down his own activities, wants, desires and give his time to prayer for others.

The second characteristic of a "prayer warrior" is found in Ez. 22:30. "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it ..."

A "prayer warrior" is someone who is willing to confess and ask forgiveness for not only his own sins but the sin of others. He intercedes for them, asking and petitioning for God's mercy to be poured out upon them, so that their hearts can be turned toward God and they can receive salvation.

Job 22:30 from the Amplified Bible tells us "He will even deliver the one for whom you intercede who is not innocent; yes, he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands." We can stand in the gap and pray. God is searching for those who will. II Chronicles 16:9 tells us, "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him..." for according to II Peter 3:9 "He is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

The "prayer warrior" plays a major part in God's will being able to be manifest on earth. Are YOU willing to stand in the gap and be a prayer warrior?

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WEEK 3

“PRAYER WARRIORS” FROM THE BIBLE

We have learned that a “prayer warrior” is someone who is willing to set aside or lay down his own life — his activities, wants, and desires — and give his time to prayer (Jn. 15:13, Phil 2:5,7). He stands in the gap and intercedes on the behalf of others before God (Ez. 22:30).

Many examples of “prayer warriors” can be found in the Bible. These men and women gave themselves to prayer for specific individuals or on behalf of their nation.

In the Old Testament some examples of “prayer warriors” who prayed for the needs of specific individuals include: Abraham in Gen. 20:7, Elisha in II Kings 6:17, and Job in the book of Job, chapter 42, verse 10.

Four examples of Old Testament “prayer warriors” who stood in the gap for their nation are: Moses in Numbers 21:7, Samuel in I Samuel 7:8,9, Nehemiah in Nehemiah 1:4-11, and Jeremiah in Jeremiah 42:2-4.

Examples of “prayer warriors” from the New Testament include: Anna in Luke 2:37b, Paul in Romans 10:1-3, and the body of believers or the church in Acts 3:1 and 12:5.

Perhaps the most important example of a “prayer warrior” for us to examine is that of Jesus. As He walked the earth, He consistently made prayer a part of His daily life. In John 17:9-16, Jesus prays for those whom the Father has given Him and for those who shall believe on Him through their word. Even after His death and resurrection He continues to make intercession for us before the Father according to Hebrews 7:25. Jesus is our example and if He is interceding for us, then it follows that each of us should intercede for others. II Corinthians 5:18 in the Amplified Bible tells us that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation — that by word and deed we might bring others into harmony with Him. Prayer begins the reconciliation process.

One example of this that you might want to read and meditate upon is found in Luke 15 — the story of the Prodigal Son. This story is often used to show the love and acceptance of the Father for the repentant son. If you will look specifically to verse 17, it states “And when he came to himself”. This is the kind of miraculous turnaround that prayer can produce.

Each of us is a product of someone giving priority to prayer. Aren’t you glad they did?!

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WEEK 4

ONE OR MANY?

We have found many examples of "prayer warriors" in scripture who interceded for other individuals or for a nation of people. In this devotion, we will see how one individual or a group of people can "wage war" through prayer.

Many of the examples given in the last devotion were individuals who interceded before God. "The fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). When a believer asks in faith, nothing wavering (James 1:6), being fully persuaded that what God has promised, He is also able to perform (Romans 4:21), much can be accomplished in the spiritual realm through his prayers.

Every believer who prays in this manner can be assured that even though it appears in the physical he is alone, in the spirit his prayers are in agreement with other believer's prayers and with God's Word. Ecc. 4:12 says, "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a three-fold cord is not quickly broken" — you, the Holy Spirit, and God's Word. There is power and strength in your prayers.

Now, let's examine what happens in united prayer. God's power can flow through unity. This is exemplified best in Gen. 1:26 where the Godhead, the Trinity, was in agreement and God's unfathomable power was released for creation.

Mat. 18:19, 20 tells us "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven, for where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." These scriptures tell us that believers are not just to be in agreement with each other, but most importantly, they are to be in agreement with the Lord — in unity. By laying down our ideas of what God's will is and seeking to pray according to God's Word, we can be in unity.

When unity is established, power can come forth. As in Deut. 32:30 with the Rock on our side one can chase a thousand of the enemy while two would put ten thousand to flight. The Rock is Jesus — the living Word of God (I Cor. 10:4, John 1:1-14). When we pray in unity according to the Word of God, God's power doesn't just double or triple but it explodes! No wonder Satan wants to plant discord and contention within the body of Christ. He wants to keep us from unity.

An example of a group making intercession is found in Acts 12:5. The church made intercession for Peter who was in prison. Individually, these people hadn't enough faith for his release as evidenced when he came to the door and no one there believed it was him. But their combined faith could reach an intensity beyond their individual

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faith or understanding.

The New Testament Church in the Book of Acts was full of power. They were with one mind continually devoting themselves to prayer (Acts 1:14). Over and over again, they came together in one accord (Acts 2:1, 46, 4:24, 5:12, 7:57, 8:6, 15:25). We are exhorted in Phil. 2:2 to be "of one accord, of one mind."

An individual prayer warrior can do much through prayer, but if the Body of Christ can unite in prayer, imagine how much more we can accomplish. We need to act now. We need to redeem the time (Eph. 5:16).

Unite together in prayer. Some youth groups are forming "Charge" groups for the sole purpose of charging forth in prayer.

Every believer is called to pray whether individually or in a group. You are an important part of the army of God — be a prayer warrior!

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WEEK 5

GETTING STARTED

This devotion begins the subject "Getting Started."

First, let's establish the fact that there are many excellent books on prayer. We are not professing by any means to tell you everything there is to know. The things we do bring forth will hopefully stir you to study and grow in understanding. We do want to offer sound scriptural guidance to becoming a "prayer warrior" for the Lord.

Let's read Romans 6:13b to find the first requirement in becoming a prayer warrior, "... Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness." The first requirement is yieldedness to God.

Are you willing to let God use you — not you use God? Are you willing to commit yourself, to make prayer a priority? If you answer "yes", Psalm 10:17 tells you the Lord hears your desire and will prepare your heart.

Let's look further into the scripture and see what we are to yield to God. It speaks of yielding our "members as instruments of righteousness." We need to yield our entire being. We know according to I Thes. 5:23 we are a spirit with a soul housed in a body.

Our spirit having been recreated (Ez. 36:26) by God is that part of us that bears witness with the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:16) that we might know the things of God (I Cor. 2:12). It is always ready to do God's will.

Our soul is our mind, will, intellect, and emotions. God can use our soul to communicate with us, but to worship Him John 4:24 tells us that "God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth."

Like a soldier trains for battle, our soul must be trained in the ways of God. Our mind must be renewed to God's Word (Rom 12:2, Eph. 4:23). Our will must come into agreement with God's will rather than our own (Matt. 6:10). Our intellect or ability to perceive and understand must be used to study God's Word so that we might rightly divide it (II Tim. 2:15). Our emotions or feelings must also come into agreement with God's Word which tells us that we walk by faith and not by sight (II Cor. 5:7) — or feelings. As we yield our soul daily to God's training by reading and meditating on His Word, we'll grow and mature in Christ and become more effective "prayer warriors".

We have discussed the spirit and the soul and now the physical body must be yielded to God for prayer. Perhaps the most difficult and most important member

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is our tongue. The "prayer warrior" must learn to yield his voice in prayer. For some this is more difficult than for others. The more we pray out loud in a group or in private prayer the easier it becomes.

Even as Jesus spoke to the disciples in Mark 14: 37 and 38, He speaks to you and I today: "Couldst not thou watch one hour?"

The song entitled "I Am Available" off our newest album "THIS MEANS WAR" addresses the subject of being yielded to God.

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WEEK 6

KNOWING WHO GOD IS

This devotion continues our subject of becoming a "prayer warrior" by discussing "Knowing Who God Is".

How do we go about learning who God is? First of all, don't seek an experience with God — seek God and you'll experience Him! His Word promises it.

Heb. 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Jer. 29:13 says, "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

God wants to reveal Himself to us. He has given us His son, Jesus, who, according to Col. 1:15, is the image of the invisible God. He has given His Word and He has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth and reveal Jesus to us (John 16:13-15).

As Paul said in Phil. 3:10, let my desire be "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection." As a prayer warrior, I must "set my face like a flint" (Is. 50:7) to know the God in whom I believe and serve. As I read and meditate on His Word, my faith in Him will grow (Rom. 10:17).

Here are some scriptures for you to begin to meditate upon and get down into your spirit on who God is. We'll be discussing this further at a later time. Begin now to search the scriptures and seek God.

I John 4:8 "God is love."

Deut. 7:9 "Know therefore that the Lord thy God; He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations."

Ps. 119:90 "Thy Faithfulness is unto all generations."

Ps. 103:8 "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy."

Num. 23:19 ".. that God is not a man, that He should lie."

Luke 18:27 ".. the things which are impossible with man are possible with God."

Rev. 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

Mal. 3:6 "For I am the Lord, I change not..."

James 1:17b ".. Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of

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turning."

Col. 3:25 "... there is not respect of persons." (With God, there are no favorites!)
These are just a few. You should add to this and use it in learning to praise and thank God for who He is and not just for what He has done.

Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal Himself to you. Use Eph. 1:17-19 as your prayer. Personalize it by saying "me" wherever Paul said "you".

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto "me" the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; the eyes of "my" understanding being enlightened that "I" may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to "me" who believes, according to the working of His mighty power."

Begin seeking God and remember from our first scripture, Heb. 11:6, "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

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WEEK 7

KNOWING WHO I AM IN CHRIST

In the last two weeks, we have found that in order to become an effective prayer warrior, we must first be yielded to God and committed to serving Him through intercessory prayer. Secondly, we must be willing to seek Him and grow in the knowledge of Him so that our faith will “not stagger at the promises of God through unbelief but we can be strong in our faith, giving glory to God, being fully persuaded that what He has promised He is also able to perform.” (Rom. 4:20,21)

This week we’ll look into the scriptures to find out who we as believers are in Christ. Our first scripture is in John 15, where Jesus is speaking to His disciples about abiding.

Verse 7 says “If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” So we see that another very important requirement for a prayer warrior to have his prayers answered is that he abide in Christ. The word “abide” means “to dwell, endure, remain, persevere, to tarry.” A believer abides in Christ by not only having faith in God but also being obedient to His Word. As Paul says in I Cor. 15:31 “I die daily.” We must daily “die” to our own selfish personal desires and continue to yield ourselves and be obedient to God’s Word for “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:17). We find that by submitting to God we overcome in this world.

As we abide in Christ, two very interesting things happen. One is in the physical and one is in the spiritual realm. Both are paradoxical. Let’s examine the physical first. If we truly desire to abide in Christ and be obedient to His Word, then Phil. 2:5-7 begins to come forth in our lives — a servant’s heart. We begin to care for others, to want to serve others by ministering to them or by praying for them. By walking in love, giving of ourselves, and laying down our lives for others, we become the hands and feet of Jesus. People around us see Jesus — the King of kings, Lord of lords, in us!

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WEEK 8

AN INHERITANCE IS OURS

Last week we found that abiding or continuing in Christ is a requirement for having our prayers answered (John 15:7) as a "prayer warrior." We also found that in the physical, those in Christ are called to walk in love (Eph. 5:2, John 13:35) and serve others (Phil. 2:5,7, Gal. 5:13, Luke 22:25-27). The spiritual position of the believer is our topic for this devotion.

If you remember from our first devotion, we found that God has delivered us as believers from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13). Because of the blood of Jesus, we have been made "the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus" (II Cor. 5:21). God no longer looks at us as "sinners". According to Rom. 8:10 "if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but your spirit is alive because of righteousness" and according to Rom. 8:16-17, God's Spirit testifies with your spirit that we are God's children, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. Because of this, Col. 1:12 tells us God has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Let's look at two very important words within these scriptures: heir and inheritance. An heir is anyone who inherits another's property. An inheritance is something inherited — any blessing or possession coming as a gift. What is the believer's inheritance spoken of in Col. 1:12? Yes, we have the promise of eternal life (I Jn. 2:23-25) and according to II Cor. 1:20, ALL the promises of God are "Yes" and "Amen" in Christ.

ALL the promises of God are our inheritance as heirs of God and joint-heirs in Christ. They are a gift. We certainly didn't or can't earn them. Only by our right standing with God through Christ Jesus are they ours.

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WEEK 9

GOD PROMISES US

In this devotion we will continue to study the subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am In Christ" by looking at the promises of God.

As "prayer warriors" we need to know what God has for His children — what He wants them to have. What is our inheritance and how do we claim it? We must become diligent people who study God's Word and He will reveal His promises for us and for those we pray for.

Some of the promises of God are conditional. This means they require us to do something before they can be fulfilled. Here are some examples of promises with conditions: See if you can figure out the condition to be met.

Jer. 29:13; Acts 2:38,39; Mark 16:16-18; John 14:12; I John 2:23-25; Luke 6:38; I John 1:9, Eph. 6:2,3.

Some of God's promises are without conditions. For example: 2 Peter 3:9; Heb. 13:8; Gal. 3:14; I John 4:4; Phil. 1:6 and many more. You might begin keeping a record of promises as you read God's Word.

God is willing to bless us with all that He has promised us. We must become so rooted and grounded in His Word that like Abraham we do not stagger at the promises of God through unbelief but we become fully persuaded that what He has promised He is also able to perform (Rom. 4:20, 21).

This is where the battle can come. It's not a battle with God to give us the promises. It's a battle with Satan and his demonic forces. For John 10:10 tells us he comes to steal what's ours, destroy what's ours, and to lie to us concerning what is ours. What can we do?

Next week we will continue our subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am in Christ" by discussing "Our Spiritual Authority in Christ".

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WEEK 10

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

This week we will continue our subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am in Christ" by discussing "The Believer's Spiritual Authority in Christ".

In our last devotion we began looking into the promises of God. As "prayer warriors" we must be knowledgeable of God's Word and what He wants for His children. We also found that our adversary, the devil, wants to lie to us, steal from us, and destroy what is ours.

The devil will fight to keep us from understanding what belongs to us and keep us from it. He wants to keep us in unbelief and in the realm of reason instead of in the realm of faith and the Spirit (Phil. 2:9,10). The Holy Spirit will reveal truth (John 16:13) and the truth will set us free from the devil's lies (John 8:32). We will never only understand God's Word with our heads. We must understand it with the help of the Holy Spirit in our heart. John 6:63 tells us "the words I speak are spirit and they are life."

What can we do?

We look to the Bible for our answer. Col. 2:15 tells us that Jesus defeated Satan and dethroned him. Satan is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). He is running the world's system. But we are in Christ. Our lives are hid with Christ in God (Col. 3:3, 1:13). As new creatures in Christ we inherit the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and we can use it in prayer against the enemy. We also have authority over the enemy delegated to us from Christ Jesus. We are to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Eph. 6:10) — not our own.

Jesus is ascended and seated at the right hand of God. In Mat. 28:18, Jesus says, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Jesus is the Head of the Body. Eph. 2:6 tells us that we as believers and the Body of Christ have been raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. The Body is connected to the Head. In Luke 10:19, Jesus told His disciples He gave them power over all the power of the enemy. We have the authority over Satan as part of Christ's Body (Eph. 1:18-23, I Cor. 12:12-14). Jesus took the keys of hell and death (Rev. 1:18) and spoiled the prince and powers. (Col. 2:15). He's given the keys of the kingdom to the Body of Christ and the gates of hell shall not prevail against His church (Mat. 16:18,19). He has done all. We as His Body are to carry out His will on earth by exercising our authority in the heavenly realm.

It is a paradox that we are called to serve in the physical and to reign as kings (Eph.

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2:6) in the spiritual realm. We reign by Christ Jesus.

We must begin to build truth into our lives and meditate upon God's Word. As a result, faith will rise up in our spirits of who we are in Christ. Our intercession will pull down strongholds of the enemy when we do (II Cor. 10:4).

In our next devotion we will complete the subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am In Christ" by discussing "How Do I Use The Authority Given Me in Christ"?

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WEEK 11

USING SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

This devotion concludes our subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am in Christ" by discussing "How Do I Use the Authority Given Me Through Christ Jesus?"

In our last devotion we found that like a policeman has authority and is backed up by the law, we as the Body of Christ have authority over Satan because of what Jesus has already done. We have the authority to use the name of Jesus (Mark 16:17). We are backed up by God and His Word. Satan has to recognize the name of Jesus (Phil. 2:9). Phil. 2:10 tells us "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."

For so long many Christians have neglected the power and authority God has provided for us to use. How do we lay hold of it and go about using it?

First, we must have God's Word about authority down in our spirit so that it produces faith.

Secondly, we must realize that according to 2 Cor. 5:7, we walk by faith, not by sight. Faith is based on what the Word of God says, not on some manifestation or lack of it. As we exercise our authority as believers we must not be moved by what we see or feel, but what we believe. We must stand our ground (Ps. 16:8). God's Word is true.

Thirdly, we must remember that God's will, another person's will, and our authority over Satan are all important when we pray.

If we truly desire to be knowledgeable and effective with our authority over Satan, we must study God's Word and learn from those in the ministry whom God has raised up to teach the Body spiritual truths. Our minds must be renewed to God's Word and our hearts must be teachable.

Study Helps:

Hagin, Kenneth E., "The Believer's Authority", Faith Library Pub., 1984.

Hagin, Kenneth E., "The Interceding Christian", Faith Library Pub., 1983.

Word Ministries, Inc., "Prayers That Avail Much, An Intercessor's Handbook of Scriptural Prayers", Harrison House Pub., 1980.

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WEEK 12

HOW TO PRAY

This devotion concludes our lessons of "How Do I Become A Prayer Warrior?" by discussing "The Importance of Knowing How to Pray".

In the last few lessons we have been discussing the importance of God's Word to the "prayer warrior". We have stated over and over how important it is for the believer to be rooted and grounded in it. For not only does it cause us to mature in Christ but it enables us to be more effective in prayer.

Remember that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12). It is a spiritual war. Our weapons will be spiritual weapons (II Cor. 10:4). John 6:63 tells us that the Word of God is spirit. It is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12). We are to use it when we pray. God's Word is His will for it is truth (John 17:17). According to Ps. 138:2, God has magnified it above His name. Let's examine some more scriptures concerning God's Word. Look these verses up and meditate upon them: II Tim. 2:9; Is. 55:11; Jer. 1:12; Ps. 119:130; Is. 40:8 and Heb. 1:3"b".

If we remember to pray God's Word, we will not be dwelling on the problem but looking to the solution. Mark 11:24 says "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." We are to be specific and definite.

We must remember when we pray for others that the "will of an individual can only be changed by God dealing with the heart. Phil. 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do His good pleasure." We cannot "robotize someone with the Word of God". God can put a desire in their heart and He can bring forth out of their heart. The individual has the ultimate choice whether to obey or rebel. We "stand in the gap", intercede, and do warfare on behalf of that individual's need.

We must always remember that we are to pray God's will — not our own will. As prayer warriors it is our duty to search God's Word to find out His will.

And finally, as we discussed earlier, we must become aware of what is ours in the way of promises from God and as a result of Jesus redeeming us from the curse of the law. Then we can attack demonic forces with God's Word and make demands on the kingdom of darkness by the authority given us in the name of Jesus.

Knowing how to pray is important in being an effective "prayer warrior". Becoming skillful with God's Word is a very important part of intercession.

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 13

THE ARMOUR OF GOD

This devotion is the first of six which deals with "What I Need to Wage War in Prayer". This lesson discusses the armour of God and why it is so important.

It is imperative that the Christian understand the victory that is manifest in the physical is a result of the battle in the spiritual realm — through persistent faithfilled prayer (See Dan. 10:11-14, James 5:16). Just as a soldier goes into battle prepared and equipped, so must the intercessor be prepared and equipped for battle in the spiritual realm.

Let's find out how we become equipped. The first part of Eph. 6:11 tells us "Put on the whole armour of God." The second part tells us why — "That we might be able to stand" against the wiles or deceits of the devil. The armour of God is not just for prayer but is meant for our daily walk. We are to be equipped and prepared daily to stand against the enemy. "To stand" in Greek means to hold up, abide, or continue.

Ephesians 6:14 tells us to stand having our loins girt about with truth. God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Just as a soldier wears a strong belt to hold his armour in place, God's Word holds us in place — assured, full of courage, and able to trust God. The loins are the region of strength and procreative power. Our strength is being in Christ for Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

Secondly, we are to have on the breastplate of righteousness. Just as a breastplate covers and protects the body in battle, our righteousness in God through Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:21) gives us authority and protection. We have the authority to use the name of Jesus (Mark 16:17).

We have protection over our heart for the Lord gives us His Word and understanding to prevent wounds of bitterness and unforgiveness. His Word also encourages our heart to remain strong (Is. 40:31) and assured of our eventual victory (I Cor. 15:57).

Our feet are shod with the gospel of peace. Just as a soldier would walk into enemy territory we are to go into the world with the gospel of peace (Eph. 2:14). We are to take Him to the lost in word and in our good deeds. We are to be peacemakers (Mat. 5:9). Jesus is our peace, our readiness, at all times (Jn. 16:33).

Above all, we are to take the shield of faith wherewith we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Our faith in God's Word and presence protects us from the deceits and lies of the devil. Knowing God's continuous presence in our life

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THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

acts as a protecting calm or shield. Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39).

Next we take the helmet of salvation. Just as a helmet protects the head, our mind is continually being renewed to God's Word (Rom. 12:2, Eph. 4:23, Col. 3:10) and His ways which protects us from the enemy's lies. God's Spirit gives us spiritual understanding, godly wisdom, and quickens our mind to His truth which gives us hope (Jn. 14:26, 16:13).

Next week, we will continue with the armour of God by discussing the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

Information on armour from: "The Whole Armour of God", Ralph W. Sockman, Abingdon Press, 1955.

NOTES

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 14

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

In our last devotion we discussed the importance of being girt with the truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, our feet shod with the gospel of peace and taking the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation. All of these are defensive in nature for we are to "stand, abide, hold up, and continue" against the wiles of the devil and be able to withstand or resist him.

This devotion and the next two will be examining the offensive part of the armour — the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. First, let's see what God tells us about His Word. Just like you began a study of scripture to learn more about who God is and what His character is like, you should also begin to find out what God says about His Word. Here are some scriptures to get you started. Jot them down.

- John 17:17 Thy word is truth.
- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- II Tim. 2:9 ... the word of God is not bound.
- Ps. 138:2 Thou has magnified thy Word above all thy name.
- Is. 55:11 So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth; it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
- Jer. 1:12 ... for I will hasten my Word to perform it.
- Ps. 119:89 Thy Word is settled in heaven ...
- Prov. 30:5 Every Word of God is pure ...
- Is. 40:8 .. Word of our God shall stand forever ...
- Ps. 119:130 The entrance of Thy Words giveth light, it giveth understanding unto the simple.
- Prov. 4:20-22 My son, attend to My words; incline thine ear unto My sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
- John 6:63 ... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.
- Rev. 19:13 ... His name is called The Word of God.

PRAYER WARRIOR

HOW TO USE THE SWORD

Begin to meditate on God's Word. Spend time praising God for His Word that He has given to nourish us (I Peter 2:2, Mat. 4:4, Heb. 5:11-14, Ps. 19:10), to guide us (Ps. 119:105), to cleanse us (Eph. 5:26), to refine and convict us (Jer. 23:29, Heb. 4:12), and to heal us (Prov. 4:20-22). Most of all remember He gave us Jesus, the Living Word, the Word made flesh and His Spirit indwells you. Greater is He that is within you than He that is in the world (I John 4:4).

Next week we will continue looking at the Sword of the Spirit — God's Word and see how we use it as part of the armour.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 15

HOW TO USE THE SWORD

In last week's devotion we began to study the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God by examining the scriptures. We found that the Word of God is truth (John 17:17) and that it is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12) and will stand forever (Is. 40:8). Most importantly we found that Jesus is the Living Word and that as a believer His Spirit indwells us (John 1:14, Col. 1:27).

This week we will look at God's Word and begin to learn how we as prayer warriors must use it. Eph. 6:17 tells us that this offensive part of the armour of God is called the Sword of the Spirit. Just as a soldier goes into battle with a sword as his weapon, we have been given the Word of God to use in spiritual battles to bring down strongholds of the enemy (II Cor. 10:4). We attack with the Word of God. With the combination of God's Spirit living within us and the Word of God coming forth out of our mouths, spoken in faith and in the name of Jesus, the devil has to flee (James 4:7) as he did when Jesus spoke the Word of God in Matt. 4:1-11. Satan recognizes the power (Heb. 4:12) and the authority (Heb. 1:3b) of God's Word.

Just as a soldier skillfully wields his sword against the enemy, we as prayer warriors, will do the same as we become skillful with God's Word.

Another reason the prayer warrior should be knowledgeable of God's Word is given in Is. 43:26, where God tells us: "Put Me in remembrance; let us plead together; declare thou, that thou mayest be justified." As we studied the promises of God earlier in previous devotions, we can now see their importance. These promises tell us what is rightfully ours as believers and reveal God's will for our lives and for those we pray for. If we are careful to satisfy any conditions of the promise, God will be faithful to fulfill it in His time, for as we remind God of His promises toward us, we are holding His Word up before Him and He sees Himself in it. Jeremiah 1:12 tells us that God watches over His Word to perform it. The battle comes in standing not wavering, believing not doubting, expectant and not fearful, in thanking God for His promise to you or for whom you pray for, and standing on God's Word and battling in the heavenlies.

Another area we discussed earlier concerning God's Word was the fact that we can ask God to put a desire in someone's heart or to bring forth out of their heart. Phil. 2:13 tells us "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." We can see in God's Word what God desires for us and others and begin to pray that His will come forth. For example, in Heb. 13:18, we can ask God to bring

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forth "A good conscience in all things willing to live honestly."

We will be developing all of these areas at a later time and give you many examples of scripture for you to use in prayer.

Next week we will finish the Sword of the Spirit — God's Word — by presenting a prayer for you to use for yourself concerning studying and knowing God's Word. You will begin to see what it means to pray God's Word.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 16

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

For the last two weeks, we have been discussing the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. We have begun a search of the scriptures to see what God has to tell us about His Word and we have discussed how prayer warriors use God's Word in prayer.

This week we will conclude the armour of God by sharing with you a prayer of commitment to God's Word and prayer life. This will begin to show you how to pray God's Word. You'll probably want to jot it down and begin to pray it from your heart. You'll find as you speak forth God's Word your faith will begin to rise! (Rom. 10:17)

"Father, in the name of Jesus, I desire to know and to walk in Your Word. Your Word in me is life.

"I thank You that Your Word is truth (John 17:17), it is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12) and it will endure forever (Is. 40:8). I thank You that the Incorruptible Seed, the Living Word, the Word of Truth is within me (I Peter 1:23) changing me (Rom 8:29) producing Your nature within me (Gal 5:22). I thank You that Your Word guides me, protects me and is my weapon in battle (Eph. 6:17). Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Ps. 119:105). It makes my way plain before me.

The Holy Spirit leads and guides me into all truth (John 16:13). He gives me understanding, discernment, and comprehension (Col. 1:9) so that I am not ignorant of Satan's devices (II Cor. 2:11).

"Father, Your Word tells me in I Peter 3:12 Your eyes are over the righteous and Your ears are open to my prayers. I desire to be a person of prayer and commit myself to give time to prayer. I desire to be serious and consistent, alert and fixed in my praying. I am — a prayer warrior. My prayers avail much in the name of Jesus (James 5:16).

I thank You that according to Phil. 2:13, You are at work in me now both to will and to do all Your good pleasure.

"I know Your Word is truth. I choose to agree with Your Word. I desire Your spirit to help me recognize and cast down any thought contrary to Your Word (II Cor. 10:5).

"I thank You and praise You for Your Word for You reveal Yourself to me through it (Jn 14:17,26 and Jn 16:13) and I desire to hunger and thirst for it that I might be filled (Mat. 6:5). In Jesus name. Amen."

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WEEK 17

SPIRITUAL WEAPONS

II Cor. 10:4 tells us that the weapons or tools of our warfare are not carnal, temporal, fleshly or of human wisdom, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. From this we see our weapons are not physical in nature nor are they mental, but they are spiritual.

Having finished our study of the armour of God, we now know that one of our most powerful weapons for the spiritual battle is the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Satan recognizes its power and authority.

Another source of power available to the prayer warrior is the weapon of praise. Two examples you need to read and study of the power of praise are found in II Chronicles 20:22 and Acts 16:25,26. Examples in both Old Testament and New show us that when God's people put their trust in Him and begin to praise Him, they see mighty manifestations of His power. There is no need to draw swords or use physical weapons. The enemy is defeated and they are delivered. This happens because Ps. 22:3 tells us that God inhabits the praises of His people. When we couple prayer with praise, letting "God arise", Ps. 68:1 tells us God's enemies are scattered.

Another source of power God has given us to draw upon is the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:10-13, Acts 2:38,39). The Bible tells us in Rom. 8:26 that "we know not what we should pray for as we ought." Obviously, we as intercessors do not know everything about a person or a situation — only God knows. We can pray with our understanding according to God's Word (Luke 11:10-13, Acts 2:38,39) and His Spirit can make intercession for us as well. John 14:26 tells us the Holy Spirit is our Comforter or Helper. Three Greek words are involved in the English word translated "helpeth". One of the Greek words means "to take hold together". Another means "with". And the third means "against". The three together mean "to take hold together with against". When we allow God's Spirit to make intercession for us with "groanings which cannot be uttered", Romans 8:26,27 assures us we are praying God's perfect will.

We have only begun to touch on each of these sources of power available to the prayer warrior. In all that we have covered though, we see that it's not by our might, nor by our power, but by God's Spirit the enemy is defeated (Zech. 4:6).

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WEEK 18

PRAYER WARRIOR'S BATTLE PLAN

The Old Testament is rich with examples of how physical battles were fought. Let's look at some examples and see what we can apply to our spiritual ones.

In II Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat had a great multitude coming against him and he was afraid. Verse three tells us that the first thing he did was to seek the Lord and set a fast throughout his land. They all asked help of the Lord. There was unity. When Jehoshaphat sought the Lord, the Lord gave him a battle plan. He and his people obeyed and trusted God. They began to praise God and their enemies were defeated. They were even able to take the spoil of the enemy.

From this example we see several important elements for our battle plan as prayer warriors. First seek God for His direction (Jer. 33:3, I Cor. 2:10-16). Be in unity with one another and with God's Word (Mk 3:24, James 1:6-8). Submit to God by trusting and obeying His Word (James 4:7) and begin to praise Him for the victory (I Thes. 5:18, I Cor. 15:57).

Just as God told Jehoshaphat in verse 17 that they would not need to fight but were to set themselves and stand, so are we as prayer warriors to stand — stand in faith on God's Word resisting the devil.

Just as Jehoshaphat and his people were able to carry away the spoil of the enemy, we are able to reclaim what Satan has robbed or held captive and render him useless because of what Jesus has done for us (Cor. 2:15).

Another example of battle we can learn from is found in Judges 7. God used only a small number of men to defeat their enemy to show His strength and power. Verse 20 says they blew trumpets and carried lamps in their hands calling, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon", and each man was in his place round about the enemy's camp.

This example shows us that there need not be many warriors if they are standing in unity, praising the Lord and allowing the light of God's Word to lead them.

Our last example is found in Dan. 10:10-13 and II Kings 6:17 where God revealed the supernatural presence of warring angels that do battle in the heavenlies on our behalf. Heb. 1:14 tells us that God will send forth these ministring angels as we pray.

We can again see that in both the Old Testament and the New Testament it is not by might nor by power, but by God's Spirit that the victory comes (Zech. 4:6).

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WEEK 19

WHO TO PRAY FOR

Our answer is found in scripture. Let's turn to I Tim. 2:1-3 and read it:

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour."

So we see that our first priority is to pray for all men — both lost and saved. Secondly, we are to pray for kings and all those in authority. This includes the office of President and those in leadership positions at the national, state, and local levels regardless of political party.

Let's first examine praying for the lost. We know from this scripture it is God's will to pray for their salvation. Rom. 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and we know from Rom. 6:23 that the wages of sin is death — spiritual death. God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (II Peter 3:9). Repentance is a gift from God as well (II Tim. 2:25). Proverbs 16:1 tells us that it is God that prepares the heart and God has already sent the Holy Spirit into the world to reprove it of sin (John 16:8). All the elements for salvation have been established and given. Our job as prayer warriors is to intercede on behalf of these individuals that God will prepare their hearts to be reprov'd of sin and be drawn to Jesus (John 6:44) so that repentance can come forth when the gospel is preached to them (I Peter 1:23). Then their eyes can be opened "to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God that they may receive forgiveness of sins" (Acts 26:18) and be born again (John 3:3,6). Our job in praying for and witnessing to the lost is our most important commission from God (II Cor 5:18, Mat 28:19,20 and 1 Tim 2:1-4).

Next, let's examine praying for the Body of Christ. Why do we need to? The Bible tells us in Ephesians 5:26,27 that Christ desires a "glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Individually we are to grow up into Him in all things (Eph. 4:11-13) that Christ be formed in us (Gal. 4:19) that we be a people ready for the Lord (Luke 1:17) as a bride prepared for her husband (Rev. 21:2).

Corporately, we are to come into unity of faith and of the knowledge of God, unto maturity (Eph. 4:11-13). There should be no schism in the Body according to I Cor. 12:25.

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EVERY DAY BASE PLAN

We the Body are also to be like the army spoken of in Joel 2:11 taking the gospel to the lost (Mat. 9:37,38) and giving them warning (Col 1:27,28). Joel 3:14 tells us that multitudes are in the "valley of decision" and the time is short. We must redeem it (Rom. 13:11-13, Eph. 5:16). We must awake from our sleep — our apathy, complacency, and self centeredness. There is much to be done — through prayer.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 20

PRAYING FOR LEADERS

Last week we began looking into Scripture to see who we are to pray for. We found in I Tim. 2:1-3 our first priority is to pray for all men — both the lost and the saved.

After we have made supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks for all men, we are to pray for kings and all those in authority. This includes the office of President and those in leadership positions at the national, state and local levels regardless of their political party. Our intercession will be for the good of the country, not the good of the party.

Why is it important for us to pray for our country and its leaders? The Scriptures give us lots of answers. Let's examine them:

- I Tim. 2:2 ... that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- II Chron. 7:14 If My people which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
- Ps. 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.
- Prov. 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people (Pr. 21:4 says pride, lust, and evil actions are all sin).
- Prov. 28:2 When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily but with honest sensible leaders, there is stability. TLB.
- Prov. 11:14 Without wise leadership a nation is in trouble, but with good counselors, there is safety. TLB.
- Prov. 20:28 If a king is kind, honest, and fair, his kingdom stands secure. TLB.
- Prov. 24:3-4 Any enterprise that is built by wise planning becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts. TLB.
- Prov. 28:5 Evil men don't understand the importance of justice, but those who follow the Lord are much concerned about it. TLB.
- Prov. 28:15 A wicked ruler is as dangerous to the poor as a lion or bear attacking them. TLB.
- Prov. 28:16 Only a stupid prince will oppress his people, but a king will have a long reign if he hates dishonesty and bribes. TLB.

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PRAYING FOR LEADERS

- Prov. 29:2 With good men in authority, the people rejoice, but with the wicked in power, they groan. TLB.
- Prov. 29:4 A just king gives stability to his nation but one who demands bribes destroys it. TLB.
- Prov. 29:7 The good man knows the poor man's rights, the godless don't care. TLB.
- Prov. 29:12 A wicked ruler will have wicked aides on his staff. TLB.
- Prov. 29:16 When rulers are wicked, their people are, too; but good men will live to see the tyrant's downfall. TLB.
- Prov. 29:18 When there is ignorance of God, crime runs wild; but what a wonderful thing it is for a nation to know and keep His laws. TLB.
- Prov. 29:26 Do you want justice? Don't fawn on the judge, but ask the Lord for it! TLB.
- Prov. 11:28 Trust in God and flourish as a tree. TLB. (Our money says "In God We Trust").

We as prayer warriors for our country and its leaders have an important job. It is a job that few people will recognize. Intercession will not bring fame and fortune by the world's standards, but you can be assured God sees what is done in secret and according to Mat. 6:18, He will openly reward you in His time and in His way.

The next devotion series will help us get started in prayer.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 21

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

To learn how to begin prayer, let's examine the Old Testament and what it has to teach us about coming into God's presence. The Old Testament deals with physical examples to apply to the spiritual truths of the New Testament.

In the Old Testament, Moses was instructed in Ex. 25:8-9 to build a tabernacle that God might dwell among His people. The tabernacle basically consisted of three courts: the outer court, the inner court and the holiest of holies, where God's presence was (Ex. 26:33, Ex. 27:9-15). Only the priest could enter the holiest of holies (Ex. 28:35).

The New Testament tells us that we are God's temple and that His Spirit indwells us (I Cor. 3:16). I Peter 2:9 tells us we have been made priests (Rev. 1:6, Rev. 5:10) to minister to God. Our body is like the outer court. Our soul is like the inner court. The holiest of holies is like our spirit where God indwells us.

You may want to make a more indepth study of the tabernacle as it relates to the New Testament, but for our use, we will consider only what it has to teach us about coming into God's presence.

In the Old Testament, the priest would clothe himself in special garments (Ex. 28:1-8) and come into the outer court to prepare himself for entering the holiest of holies. When we begin our prayer time, we must prepare ourselves physically. We must discipline our bodies for a regular daily time of prayer. If we are a part of an intercessory group, we must be committed and responsible to be there. Every joint supplies (Eph. 4:16). The next step is to quiet ourselves physically and set ourselves to pray by an act of our will — to not let contrary thoughts interrupt our determination to pray (II Cor. 10:5).

Secondly, just as the priest would offer a burnt sacrifice (Ex. 29:18), we offer ourselves to be used by God for intercession (Rom 6:13). After this the priest would wash himself in the brass laver (Ex. 30:18). We, too, must be cleansed before we enter God's presence. Ours is a spiritual cleansing. We ask God to search our heart and reveal sin (Ps. 139:23). We also, according to Mark 11:25, are to forgive any person we have ought against. Then we can apply I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We can now stand before God clean and clothed with the "garments of salvation" and covered with the "robe of righteousness" (Is. 61:10). We can come boldly before God (Heb. 4:16).

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WEEK 11 PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

The last part of our preparation for prayer is for warfare. We must have on the armour of God. To insure you are prepared and equipped, it is a good idea for you or the leader of an intercessory group to verbally go through Eph. 6:10-18. When this is finished, everyone's attention should be diverted from the physical circumstances they might have encountered that morning, to the spiritual readiness they now have to progress to the next step — the inner court.

Next week, to give you a clearer idea of this preparation for intercession, we will present an example prayer of dedication.

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WEEK 22

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Last week we began to prepare ourselves for intercession by discussing the need to quiet ourselves physically, repent of any sin that would hinder our prayers and finally equip ourselves with the armour of God. All of these actions take place by an act of will. When we have prepared physically, we are ready to progress to the inner court where our soul will be prepared.

Today, we would like to share with you an example prayer of dedication. Each of the areas we discussed earlier should be included, but you may choose to word it differently. Maybe this will help you.

"Father, we thank You that You have called us to pray (I Thes. 5:17, Luke 18:1) to intercede and lay down our lives for others. We thank You that as we are obedient to Your Word, many will be saved (1 Jn 5:14,15). We dedicate this time of prayer to You. We desire Your Holy Spirit to lead us, quicken us and join with us, that we might pray according to Your will. We yield our spirit, soul and body to use for intercession.

"Father, we desire for You to search our hearts and reveal to us any sin that would hinder our prayers. We ask You to reveal any person that we need to forgive so that our prayers will not be hindered (Mk. 11:25). We thank You that according to I John 1:9 — if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Allow time for the Holy Spirit to bring to your remembrance of any sin you need to confess so that you can be forgiven.)

"Father, we desire to be strong in You and in the power of Your might. We purpose to put on the whole armour of God, that we might be able to stand, continue, persevere against the wiles of the devil. For we know that we "wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph. 6:12)

"Therefore we take unto us the whole armour of God that we might be able to withstand and resist. We girt our loins with the truth. God's Word is truth (Jn. 17:17). Just as a soldier wears a strong belt to hold his armour in place, God's Word holds us in place — assured, full of boldness and courage. We put on the breastplate of righteousness. Jesus is our righteousness (I Cor. 1:30). Just as a breastplate covers and protects the body, we are hid in and protected by Jesus (Col. 3:3, Ps. 91). Our right standing with God encourages us to know the victory is eventually ours (I Cor. 15:57,

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

I Jn. 5:4).

“Our feet are shod with the gospel of peace. Jesus is our peace (Eph. 2:14) — our readiness. We determine to take Him to the lost through prayer.

“Above all, we take up the shield of faith for faith in God’s Word protects our heart (Prov. 4:23) and mind (Rom. 12:2) from the lies and deceits of the devil. We choose to pray and believe according to His Word and not by our feelings or by what we see (II Cor. 5:7, Heb. 11:1).

“Next, we take the helmet of salvation — Jesus is our salvation. We thank You that Your Holy Spirit is continually at work to renew our minds to Your Word and Your ways. You give us spiritual understanding, godly wisdom and make known Your truth giving up hope (I Cor. 2:10-16, Jn. 14:26, 16:13,14). And we take the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. We thank You that Your Word is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12).”

Take some time to praise God for His Word. Use what you found from Scripture to thank Him.

When you have finished with this part, you have gone from the outer court where we prepared physically, to the inner court, where praise begins.

The next study we take a look at the subject of praise; when we use it, where we use it, and why we use it.

NOTES

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 23

PRAISE IN PRAYER

The last two weeks we have spent learning how to come into God's presence for intercessory prayer by looking at the Old Testament example of the priest preparing to minister to God in the tabernacle (Ex. 28:1-8, Ex. 29:18, Ex. 30:18). We found that we must first prepare our physical body — our outer court. We must discipline our body for prayer (Rom 6:13). We also went over the importance of being cleansed of sin (Is. 59:2, Mk. 11:25) and putting on the armour of God (Eph. 6:13-17).

When we have finished this portion of prayer dedicating our time and our being for intercession, we are ready to prepare our soul — our inner court. Our soul is the mind, will, intellect and emotions. Our soul is prepared through praise. By an act of our will, we determine to center our thoughts on God (II Cor. 10:5) and bring our emotions into line with God's Word (I Chr. 22:19, Deut. 11:13). We choose not to let our emotions rule or divert us but through praise unto God, our emotions are released in thanksgiving.

Praise is the response to God's love. It is an outward manifestation of the inward trust. Praising God is an act of our will. We do not have to feel like praising Him, we do it in obedience to His Word. The Bible tells us in Ps. 149:6 "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth and a two-edged sword — the Word of God — in their hand" and in Ps. 150:6 "Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord."

There is much to learn about the subject of praise. You may want to do a study of it, but let's see what part it plays in coming into God's presence.

Ps. 100:4 has the answer: "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name."

We enter God's presence through praise. It begins in our soul and as we yield our members, we come into the realm of worship which is the holiest of holies — God's presence. True worship does not come from the mind nor from the emotions, but from our spirit. John 4:24 tells us "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Once again, the Old Testament shows us an example of this progression in II Chron. 20. Jehoshaphat began prayer in verse 6 with praise for all that God had done and by verse 18 he had progressed to worshipping God.

Praise is also used to precede God's presence in the physical battles of the Old Testament. One example is found in I Chron. 15:14-29. The song "Kenaniah" off our newest album "THIS MEANS WAR" is about this Levite who led the people in praise.

In Book II, we will look at what the New Testament has to teach us about praise bringing us into God's presence for prayer and intercession.

PRAYER WARRIOR

PRAYSE IN TRAVEK

Please send _____ copies of the Prayer Warrior Devotions Book II at five dollars (\$5.00) each or three dollars and fifty cents (\$3.50) each if ten (10) or more are ordered. (Add .50 per book to a maximum of two dollars (\$2.00) for postage and handling.) Make checks payable to Leisure Time Ministries. Mail payment and form to:

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PRAYER WARRIOR

HELPFUL READING

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