

THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE #5 PRAYER

We have examined the mighty weapons of our warfare; the blood of Jesus, the Sword of the Spirit-the word of God, the word of our testimony, and faith.

Luke 11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

Rev. 8³ And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.⁴ And the smoke of the incense, *which came* with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.⁵ And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. KJV

With prayer you get what you ask for.

Cadillac Dealer

An auto dealer, facing bankruptcy, was walking along a beach when he kicked a bottle and out popped a genie.

"Thanks for setting me free," said the genie. "To show my appreciation, I'll grant you one wish."

"Okay," said the auto dealer, "I want to be the only foreign car dealer in a major metropolitan market."

"Done!" cried the genie.

Immediately, the dealer found himself in a glass-walled office looking out over a major city. "Quick," he said to his secretary, "tell me who I am."

"You're the only Cadillac dealer in downtown Tokyo," said the secretary.

The Jokesmith, Bits & Pieces, November 10, 1994, p. 4

I. Prayer precedes any action of God

A. 2Ch. 7¹⁴ **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.** KJV

B. James 4:2 ...Ye have not because ye asked not.

The Almighty God has limited himself to prayer.

If we will pray the word instead of the problem then we are praying the will of God. We will not be asking amiss.

Prayer is like leaking vapor less gas. It fills the room. Nothing will happen until there is a spark. We must send forth our prayer in faith that in time it will be ignited. That is when the answer comes.

Prayer is like a scout or reconnaissance team sent out to find information that can be used for penetrating enemy lines.

Prayer sets the stage to where, when, or how the battle will be fought.

II. Prayer prepares the environment for victory.

A. Prayer prepared the environment for Pentecost.

What were they doing those 10 days in the upper room before “fire came from heaven”?

Acts 1 ¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, ...KJV

Acts 4 ³¹ **And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.**

B. Prayer prepares the environment for our spiritual understanding.

It opens our eyes and mind.

Eph. 1 ¹⁶ Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the **spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸ **The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ **And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward** who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, KJV

III. Elisha prays that the eyes of his servant to be opened to see the invisible army of God because he is only seeing the army of Assyria.

ILL. Mau Mau Uprising

During the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya in 1960, missionaries Matt and Lora Higgens were returning one night to Nairobi through the heart of Mau Mau territory, where **Kenyans and missionaries alike had been killed and dismembered**. Seventeen miles outside of Nairobi their Land Rover stopped. Higgens tried to repair the car in the dark, but could not restart it. They spent the night in the car, but **claimed Psalm 4:8: “I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”** In the morning they were able to repair the car.

A few weeks later the Higgenses returned to America on furlough. They reported that **the night before they left Nairobi, a local pastor had visited them**. He told **how a member of the Mau Mau had confessed that he and three others had crept up to the car to kill the Higgenses, but when they saw sixteen men surrounding the car, the Mau Mau had left in fear**. “Sixteen men?” Higgens responded. “I don’t know what you mean!” **While they were on furlough a friend, Clay Brent, asked the Higgenses if they had been in any danger recently**. Higgens asked, “Why?” Then **Clay said that on March 23, God had placed a heavy prayer burden on his heart. He called the men of the church, and sixteen of them met together and prayed until the burden lifted. Did God send sixteen angels to represent those men and enforce their prayers?**

Touch the World Through Prayer, W. Duewel, OMS, pp. 85-6

III. Persistent prayer becomes a battering ram-

Jesus gave the parable of a man knocking on his neighbor’s door until he got up and gave him bread.

He told us in **Matt. 7⁷ Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸ For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. KJV**

Pray
Until
Something
Happens

We must PUSH! To often we cease praying too quickly. We must be persistent.

III. Daniel after 21 days of fasting, mourning for Israel's sin, and seeking God for answers has a vision and an angel appears...

Dan. 10¹² Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. KJV

IV. Prayer poses a problem for the enemy.

It ushers in the power of God

A. Prayer ushers in the power of God for healing

Gen. 20 17 Abraham prayed for a king and God healed him.

1Sa. 1 27 Hannah "for this child I prayed"

B. Prayer ushers in the power of God for deliverance.

Job 42 10 **The lord delivered Job** after he prayed for his friends.

Acts 16 25 Prison doors are shaken open for **Paul and Silas**.

Acts 12⁵ **Peter therefore was kept in prison:** but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

⁷ And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

¹¹ And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that **the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod**, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

C. Prayer ushers in the power of God for binding and loosing.

James 5¹⁷ **Elias** was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he **prayed earnestly that it might not rain:** and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. ¹⁸ And **he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain,** and the earth brought forth her fruit. ¹⁹ Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

Why do we not pray? The devil does not want us to us this weapon because the power of God is released against his plan and work!

Therefore "Pray without ceasing"