

# **Principles of Effective Prayer**

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# Principles of Effective Prayer

## Part II: Combat of Prayer

- Spiritual Warfare
- Spiritual Weapons
- Spiritual Watchmen



“I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men.” 1 Tim 2:1

## **A. Spiritual Warfare**

**“Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. ”**

**Eph 6:10-12 NLT**

# Overview on War

- **Definition of War**
  - Violence to compel submission
  - Employs the utmost use of force
- **History of War Against God**
  - The reality – war declared
  - Began in creation, Gen 3:1; Ezek 28:15-16
  - Unseen as well as seen, Rev 12:7, 17
  - Continues until the end, Dan 9:26
- **Resources for Study**
  - Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*, 6<sup>th</sup> Cent. BCE
  - Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, 1832
  - Henry Morris, *The Long War Against God*
  - Kurt Koch, *Occult ABC*

# Key Ideas

- **6:10 – The royal power**
  - **Emphasized three ways**
    - Be strong – be empowered
    - Mighty – might
    - Strength
- **6:11 – The right equipment**
  - **Note military terms**
- **6:12 – The real enemy**
  - **“Not flesh and blood”**
  - **Paul suffered at the hands of men**
  - **Cause: powers of darkness**

# What is Spiritual Warfare?

- **Spiritual – pneumatikos, Eph 6:12**
  - Occurs 26 times in NT
  - The noun is plural
  - Only here is it connected to evil
  - “Spiritual” never occurs with “war”
  - Intention likely refers to evil spirits
- **Common Definition**
  - Evil powers opposing God
  - Soul struggles against evil
  - Manifested in multiple ways, including
    - Demonic possession or oppression
    - Attacks on a person's life with God
  - Yet, spiritual warfare is broader in scope

# A War on Multiple Fronts

- **Supra-terrestrial**
  - Satan's forces, Eph 2:2; 6:12; Col 2:15
  - War in the heavens, Rev 12:7
- **Unregenerate world**
  - World system, Acts 4:26; Eph 6:12; 1 John 5:19
  - Unbelievers, Matt 10:36 ; 2 Cor 4:4; Phil 3:18
- **Within our relationships**
  - Eph 5:1 – 6:9 (Jam 4:1-2)
  - Community, congregation & home
- **Within ourselves**
  - Conflicting desires & priorities, Rom 8:5-8
    - Yetzer tov vs. yetzer ra

# The Conduct of War

- **Opposing Purposes**
  - God: Crown Yeshua as King, Phil 2:10
  - Satan: be equal with God, Isa 14:13-14
- **Opposing methods to conduct war**
  - Means: destroy warmaking ability
  - God: destroy sin, 1 John 3:8
  - Satan: destroy people, John 10:10
  - Tactics: Different weapons, 2 Cor 10:3
- **Order of Battle**
  - Each side is highly organized to plan and fight the war, Eph 6:12; Heb 12:22-24
- **Principles of War (See Sun Tzu & Clausewitz)**
  - Following principles determine success



# Principles of War (Clausewitz)

- **Objective**
  - Direct efforts toward a defined, decisive and attainable objective (Matt 10:5-6; Acts 1:8)
- **Offensive**
  - Seize, retain & exploit the initiative (Matt 28:19-20)
- **Mass**
  - Concentrate overwhelming power at the decisive place and time (Acts 12:5; Eph 6:18)
- **Economy of Force**
  - Employ all personnel effectively (1 Cor 12:4-7)
- **Simplicity**
  - Prepare clear, uncomplicated plans (Matt 10:7-14)

# Principles of War (cont.)

- **Maneuver**
  - Flexible use of military power (Luke 14:31; Acts 16:6-10; 1 Thess 2:18-3:3)
- **Security**
  - Don't allow the enemy unexpected advantage (Eph 4:27; 1 Tim 3:7)
- **Surprise**
  - Strike when and where or in a manner for which the enemy is unprepared (Col 2:15; 1 Pet 4:12)
- **Unity**
  - There must be unity of command and effort (Matt 28:18; John 17:20-23; Eph 4:3)

# Stratagems

**“All warfare is based on deception” Sun Tzu (544-496 BCE)**

- **Deception of Satan**
  - **Satan is a liar and father of lies, John 8:44**
    - **“The serpent deceived me,” Gen 3:13**
  - **An angel of light who “deceives the whole world,” 2 Cor 11:14; Rev 12:9**
- **God does keep secrets**
  - **“The secret things belong to God,” Deut 29:29**
  - **“that day and hour no one knows,” Matt 24:36**
  - **Yeshua did not trust unbelievers, John 2:24**
  - **Yeshua went to the feast secretly, John 7:10**
  - **Beware of those who predict the future; God’s sovereign plans are secret for a reason.**

# Levels of Spiritual Warfare

Military theorists classify war according to intensity.

- **Low-intensity war (Guerrilla warfare)**
  - Temptation, Matt 4:1; 1 Cor 7:5
  - Accusations to God, Job 1:9; Zech 3:1; Rev 12:10
  - Snatches seed sown & sows tares, Matt 13:19-39
  - Hindering plans, 1 Thess 2:18
  - Disturb confidence, 2 Thess 2:2
- **Mid-intensity war (limited objectives)**
  - Opposing God's plans, Matt 16:23
  - Lying to the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:3
  - Occult oppression, Acts 5:16
  - Terrorizing, 1 Sam 16:14; 1 Pet 5:8
  - Physical afflictions, Luke 13:16
  - False doctrines, 1 Tim 4:1

# Levels of Spiritual Warfare

- **High-intensity war (full-scale war)**
  - **Demonic possession, Matt 8:16, 28; 9:32; 12:22**
  - **State-sponsored persecution, Matt 24:9; Acts 7:9-10; 20:23; Rev 13:7**
  - **Pre-millennial War, Rev 17:14; 19:11-19;**
  - **Post-millennial War, Rev 20:8**

# Impact of Spiritual Warfare

- **Strategic Level**
  - Requires God to work in secret, Matt 24:36
  - Requires God to reveal only partially, 1 Cor 13:12
  - God still works all things together, Rom 8:28
- **Congregational Level**
  - Fosters indecision
  - Threatens unity, 1 Cor 1:10; James 4:1
  - Impedes outreach, 2 Cor 4:4
- **Personal Level**
  - Threatens confidence in God, Jam 1:5-8; 1 Pet 1:16
  - Weakens discipleship, Jam 1:12-16

# How should we respond to this war?

- **Congregational Level**
  - Task organize leadership
  - Edify the disciples, 1 Cor 14:3, 8
  - Recognize & facilitate spiritual gifts
  - Make plans to support the Mission
  - Strengthen unity
- **Personal Level**
  - Recognize the cost
  - Stand firm: no denial; no appeasement
  - Commit to victory over sin
  - Develop spiritual disciplines

## **B. Spiritual Weapons**

**“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Eph 6:13-17 NASB**



# Keys to Victory

- **Begin Preparation**
  - Know yourself & know the enemy, 1 John 5:19
  - Obtain guidance, Prov 20:18; 24:6; Eccl 9:18
  - Engage in training, Ps 144:1
- **Believe in Victory**
  - Present victory, 1 Cor 15:57; 2 Cor 2:14; 1 John 5:4
  - Future victory, Rom 16:20; Rev 17:14; 19:11
- **Believe in the Commander, Ps 27:1-3**
  - Adonai is our Light
  - Adonai is our Salvation
  - Adonai is our Defense

# Ready for War

- **Cohesive Organization, Eph 5:1–6:9**
  - Rank structure in God's plan
  - Submission to levels of authority expected
- **Defensive weapons, Eph 6:10-17a (cf. 2 Cor 6:7; 10:4)**
  - Girdle – Truth
  - Breastplate – Righteousness
  - Sandals – Readiness to offer shalom
  - Shield – Trusting in God's faithfulness
  - Helmet – Assurance of salvation
- **Offensive weapon, Eph 6:17b (cf. 2 Cor 6:7; 10:4)**
  - Sword – Word of God (cf. Heb 4:12)

## **C. Spiritual Watchmen**

**“With all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. ” Eph 6:18b-20 NASB**

# Ministry of Intercession

- **Communicate with the Commander**
  - Weapons must be employed with prayer
  - Note: “all” occurs four times (or every)
    - With all prayer and petition (or “every kind”)
    - In every time in spirit
    - With all perseverance
    - For all the saints
- **Connect the Commander to Others**
  - To bridge heaven and earth, Deut 5:5
  - To appeal to God on behalf of someone, Isa 62:6
  - To bear burdens, Gal 6:2
  - To protect the weak, 1 Thess 5:14; Heb 12:12-13
  - To preserve shalom, Jer 29:7; 1 Tim 2:2

# Weakness and Strength

- **Our weakness, Romans 8:18-26**
  - We groan for redemption
  - We have physical limitations
  - We have vulnerabilities
  - We don't know what others really need
  - We don't know the future
- **His strength, Eph 6:10**
  - He works through us, Heb 7:28; 11:34
  - His power increases through our weakness, 2 Cor 12:10
  - Intercession of the Ruach, Rom 8:26
  - Intercession of Yeshua, Rom 8:34

# Divine Intercession

- **Ruach HaKodesh, Rom 8:26-27**
  - Present with us
  - Intercession depicts rescue
  - Helps us to pray in our weakness
  - Pleads on our behalf
  - Translates the groanings of our spirits
- **Yeshua, Rom 8:34**
  - Seated in heaven
  - High priestly ministry, Heb 2:17; 7:25
  - Prays for victory over attacks, Luke 22:32
  - Sympathizes with our weakness, Heb 4:15
  - Pleads for development of virtues, John 17
  - Advocate if we sin, 1 John 2:1
  - Provides perpetual atonement, Heb 7:27

# Combat Intercession

Four kinds of intercession may be identified:

- **Community Intercession**
- **Spiritual Intercession**
- **Ministry Intercession**
- **Deliverance Intercession**

# Community Intercession

- **For rulers & government**
  - 1 Tim 2:1-4
  - For their salvation
  - For a quiet life
- **For the community shalom**
  - Jer 29:7
  - “its welfare is your welfare”
- **For the reputation of disciples**
  - Heb 13:18



# Spiritual Intercession

- **For God's people**
  - Job, Job 42:7-10 ("friends")
  - Moses, Ex 32:31-32; Num 11:1-3 (Israel)
  - Daniel, Dan 9:3-21 (Israel)
  - Paul, Rom 10:1 (Israel)
- **For God's presence**
  - Moses, Ex 33:11-17
- **For God's power**
  - Moses, Num 11:29
- **For God's perfection**
  - Paul, Col 4:12

# Ministry Intercession

- **For ministry opportunities**
  - 1 Cor 16:9; Col 4:3-4; 2 Thess 3:1; Rev 3:8
- **For ministry workers**
  - Matthew 9:37-38; Acts 6:6; 13:3
- **For ministry boldness**
  - Eph 6:19-20 (cf. Acts 4:29)
  - For mystery of the *besorah*
  - For appropriateness of speech
- **For ministry safety**
  - Rom 15:30-31
- **For ministry unity**
  - 1 Tim 2:8

# Deliverance Intercession

- **Deliverance from temptation**
  - Matthew 6:13; 2 Pet 2:7-9
- **Deliverance from Satan's schemes**
  - Dan 2:17-18; Luke 22:32; John 17:15; Phil 1:19
- **Deliverance from persecution**
  - Acts 12:5-16; 16:25-26; Phil 1:19
- **Deliverance from occult oppression**
  - Mark 9:29
- **Deliverance from deception**
  - 2 Sam 15:31; Eph 1:18

# Keys to Effective Prayer



- **Pray with authority**
  - Pray in the name of Yeshua, John 14:6, 12-14
  - Not a magic formula
  - The promise is for disciples
- **Pray boldly**
  - Pray big and aggressively
  - Gen 18:27; Ex 32:32; Luke 11:5-9; Acts 4:24-31
- **Pray alertly**
  - Expect the struggle, Col 4:12
  - Exercise self-control, 1 Pet 4:7

# Keys to Effective Prayer



- **Pray in the Ruach (Spirit)**
  - **Worship in the Spirit, John 4:20-24**
  - **Intercession of the Spirit, Rom 8:26; Eph 2:18**
  - **Illumination of the Spirit, John 15:13; Rom 8:5-6**
  - **Inspiration of the Spirit, Eph 6:18; 1 Cor 2:10-16**
- **Pray in Unity**
  - **Yeshua's priority, John 17:20-22**
  - **Heaven responds to unity**
    - **"if two agree," Matt 18:19-20 (solutions; Deut 1:17)**
    - **"strive together in prayer," 2 Cor 1:11 (deliverance)**
    - **"that God may open a door," Col 4:3 (opportunities)**

# Keys to Effective Prayer



- **With b'rakhot**
  - God's power is released by praise
  - Phil 4:6; Col 4:2; 1 Tim 2:1; Heb 13:15
- **Pray with fasting**
  - **Definition**
    - "Afflict one's soul," Lev 16:29
    - Not just abstaining from food
  - **Intensive Prayer**
    - "Prayer and fasting" means "prayer and more prayer"
  - **Reasons to fast**
    - To humble oneself
    - To mourn over sin and seek divine mercy
    - To prevent or deliver from calamity

# Pray with Power

- **An Army of one**
  - Elijah, Jam 5:17
  - Anna, Luke 2:37
- **Small team prayer – 2 or 3**
  - Daniel and 3 friends, Dan 2:17-18
  - Isaiah & Hezekiah, 2 Chron. 32:20,
  - Yeshua, Peter, John, & Ya'akov, Luke 9:28
  - Paul & Silas, Acts 16:25
- **Large group prayer**
  - 120+, Acts 1:14
  - Community, Acts 2:42; 4:24; 12:5, 12

**Remember – we're on the  
winning side!  
So, pray and keep on praying!**

