

“THE WEAPON OF PRAYER”

(HOW THE WEAPON OF PRAYER PULLS DOWN ENEMY STRONGHOLDS)

II Corinthians 10:3-5

Introduction

Question: How many of you have a loved one that needs to be saved?

Question: How many of you know that some people are hardened against the gospel?

Question: How many of you know that your salvation is the result of somebody's prayer

I, The Warfare of Prayer

*“For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war after the flesh.**” (v. 3)*

Fact: We are not in conflict with natural forces (people).

Fact: We are in conflict against spiritual forces.

(Understand this warfare)

1. Satan was once the chief angel, the anointed cherub, the star of the morning – until he rebelled against his creator and tried to usurp His power and glory.
(Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:1-10, Revelation 12:7-9)
2. Satan now stands opposed to God, God's work and God's people (he is known as..)
 - “The ruler of demons” (Luke 11:15)
 - “The ruler of this world” (John 16:11)
 - “The god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4)
 - “The prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2)
 - The dragon, a roaring lion, the vile one, the tempter, the accuser and the spirit working in the sons of disobedience.
 - 52 times he is called satan (which means “adversary”)
 - 35 times he is called the devil (which means “slanderer”)

(Understand your enemy)

1. This fallen archangel and his fallen angels who became demons are the enemy.
2. They have been tempting and corrupting mankind since the fall.
3. They are evil, formidable, cunning, powerful and our foe in this battle.

(We see the enemy)

1. Opposing God's work (Zechariah 3:1)
2. Perverting God's word (Matthew 4:6)
3. Hindering God's servant (I Thess. 2:18)
4. Snaring the wicked (I Timothy 3:7)
5. Hindering the gospel (II Cor. 4:4)
6. Fighting with the archangel Michael (Jude 9)
7. Appearing as an angel of light (Cor. 11:14)

We see the enemy at work now:

1. Through attacking the family order.
2. Through the “new morality” (which is no morality).
3. Through the perversion of sexuality as God intended.
4. Through the propagation of pagan and apostate cults.

5. Through the denial of Jesus' deity, miracles, resurrection and atoning sacrifice
6. Through false christs and false prophets
7. Through the temptations of God's people towards worldliness, pride, self-reliance, hypocrisy, entertainment, unforgiveness and praylessness.

The warfare is clear (in Eph 6:12)

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12)

The enemy is exposed (In Eph 6:12)

1. **Principalities** (ARCHAS) means: "rulers" or a high order of demons.
 2. **Powers** (EXOUSIAS) means: "authorities" of another rank.
 3. **Rulers of darkness** (KOSMOKRATORAS) means: rulers in the dark world (possibly demons who have infiltrated various political systems of the world).
 4. **Spiritual wickedness in high places** (PNEUMATIKA) means: highly organized and structured armies of demons which promote the most vile and wretched immoralities.
- ◆ Beloved, don't waste your prayer time fighting and contending with people.
 - ◆ The real enemy is unseen, who controls and uses people to oppose God's work.

II. The Weapons of Prayer Is The Good News

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." (v. 4)

What is a "stronghold"?

The word "stronghold" (OCHUROMA) means three things:

1. "To have or to hold"
2. "The place from which to hold something strongly"
3. "A fort, castle or prison"

Fact: Strongholds are not demons or evil spirits

Fact: Strongholds are simply the places from which they rule and work from.

Question: What are the "strongholds" the devil works from?

Question: What causes an unsaved person to still be unsaved?

(The three strongholds exposed in v. 5)

Stronghold #1

Imaginations (LOGISMOS) which means:

- The sum total of information learned over time.
- Accumulated wisdom, reasoning and logic.
- The beliefs of someone (their own mind set)
 - ◆ This could be humanism, Atheism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, materialism, or anything that causes a person to think a certain way.

Fact: The mind that hears the gospel must filter the gospel through years of processed information.

Fact: This means, an unbeliever doesn't hear the gospel preached or your witness alone, they hear the gospel **plus** whatever else they already believe and have learned up to that point.

Fact: Praying against this stronghold (beforehand) is God's way of opening the heart of your listener.

Stronghold #2

Pride (HUPSOMA) which means:

- Every high thing
- Any elevated place or thing
- That desire to be your own boss in life

Fact: Pressuring someone who is proud will only make things worse for you

Fact: The root of pride will rise up and say, "I don't want you telling me what to do."

Fact: This stronghold of pride rises up and defends itself, but can be "pulled down" in prayer. Prayer will tear down this stronghold so the unsaved person can humble themselves and cry out to God to be saved.

Stronghold #3

Temptations (NOEMA) which means:

- Plans, schemes, devices or plots.
- Those thought patterns and temptations satan uses to assault an unbeliever.
 - It is all the evil schemes of satan to lead someone further into sin and darkness. But in prayer we can bind satan's plans, and pray that God will shield our loved ones from satan's schemes to devour them.

What weapons do we use in prayer?

1. The Name of Jesus

- Which announces His presence and gives you your **authority**.
- Which represents the person of Jesus and all that He stands for.

2. The Blood of the Cross

- Which represents the death of Jesus at Calvary that defeated satan.
- Which broke satan's power to rule your life.
- Which gives us **access** to the throne of God in prayer.

3. The Word of God

- Which is our resource manual for battle.
- Which is our promise of final victory our **assurance**.
- Which is our guarantee of heaven's power to us.
- Which is our source of faith to remain faithful.

III. The Winning of Prayer

"For the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God. (v. 4)

Fact: The word for "mighty" is (DUNATOS) which means:

1. Miracle
2. Divinely powerful
3. Possible now

Question: Have any unsaved relatives that seem impossible?

Question: Will it take a miracle in your mind to save them?

Question: Do you believe that prayer can pull down every stronghold?

Let's believe God

1. Let God plant faith in your heart today.
2. Let God show you His power in prayer.
3. Let God provoke you to do battle in secret.

What will prayer do?

“Pull down” (v. 4) and “cast down” (v. 5)

Fact: The words “pull down” and “cast down” mean:

1. “To demolish” and
2. “To destroy”

In other words

1. In prayer, we “demolish” the three strongholds that ensnare our loved ones.
2. In prayer, we “destroy” the prisons that hold our families.
3. In prayer, we “pull down” and “cast down” the fortress where the enemy works from.

In other words

- You have power with God in fervent prayer!
- You have the weapon that wins in secret!
- You have the privilege of capturing rebels for God!

It’s only in prayer...

1. That we enforce what Jesus has already purchased!
2. That we represent Jesus and what He completed!
3. That we drive back the forces of evil!
4. That we disappoint satan’s efforts against God!
5. That we obtain God’s objective by releasing his spirit to go to work!

Putting God’s Word Into Practice In Prayer

1. Pray that God will “pull down” (demolish) the stronghold of pride over your loved ones.
2. Pray that God will “pull down” the thought patterns formed in their minds that are against God.
3. Pray that God will protect your loved ones from the evil thoughts and temptations.
4. Pray that God will hover over them by His spirit to protect them until they humble themselves before God.
5. Pray that God will send godly people into the pathway of your unsaved loved ones each day, to sow the seed of life.

And finally, remember that satan exists against you as a believer.

1. To keep you from this weapon of prayer shorten your prayer time and distract you.
2. To encourage you to quit and give up before the answer comes.

(Oh, what a promise from the living Bible.)

“These weapons can break down every proud argument against God and every wall that can be built to keep men from finding Him. With these weapons I can capture the rebels and bring them back to God, and change them into men whose hearts desire is obedience to Christ.” (v. 5 Living Bible)

Amen
Bill Kirk

P.S. The only thing that lies outside the power of prayer is that which lies outside the will of God!