

# PRAYER & SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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## **Prayer Defined:**

- Prayer is defined as two-way communication with God.
- We are to pray and make our request to God.
- We also are to listen to God in our prayer time.

Quiet time with God is necessary for us to hear God as He communicates to us during our prayer time. It is often a quiet unction in our spirit-man that tells us what God wants us to know.

## Benefits of Prayer:

- Prayer reminds us of God's power
- Prayer helps to strengthen our faith.

The more we see our prayers answered, the more we'll be able to believe that they will be answered.

"Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24)
- Prayer strengthens our relationship with God.

Imagine you are granted an audience by a powerful king. Would you show up? What if he promised to listen to ***all*** your requests and grant you the desires of your heart as he saw fit?

## **Prayer Grants Us Access To God's Throne Room**

- We get to be in the presence of the Supreme King, God the Father.
- God genuinely loves us and HE wants to cultivate a relationship with us.
- Do we show up to pray with God and build a closer relationship with God the Father?

**Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

## **Praying the scriptures is key as we seek God**

“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

*(Isaiah 55:11 NKJV)*

- The key to praying is to use God's Word. It is His Word that shall not return void!
- There is power in praying God's Word!
- We are to use our Bible as we pray the scriptures to cover our needs.

James taught: "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective"

*(James 5:16).*

## **Spiritual warfare defined:**

Spiritual warfare is a spiritual battle in which the enemy opposes us and tries to stop us from accomplishing our God-given assignment.

It refers to the ongoing struggle of living our lives in a way that puts pleasing God before pleasing ourselves or others.

It is a battle in the spiritual realm.

It is good vs. evil.

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In Spiritual warfare the enemy, the devil, is battling to pull us away from God.

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The devil doesn't fight fair.

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Satan will use trickery; he uses people in our lives, and he sends counterfeits to deceive us.

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For some of us, the hardest battles of spiritual warfare are fought within ourselves.

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We are constantly battling between what we want to do versus what we know the Lord wants us to do.

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## **Ephesians 6:12 NKJV**

<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [c]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

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## **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJV**

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not [a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

*Ephesians 6:12* and *2 Corinthians 10* both help us understand that we don't battle against the flesh.

- Our spiritual battle is not against other people.
- We must realize that the enemy may use our spouse, family members, friends, and others to deceive us and to try to stop us from fulfilling God's plan for our lives.

### **How do we win the Victory in Spiritual Warfare?**

- God's Word tells us to put on the full Armor of God.
- We are to put on the Armor of God daily.

## The Whole Armor of God

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the [b]wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [c]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

*(Ephesians 6:10-15)*

<sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. The armor of God is mostly defensive weapons that we have been equipped to use to battle against the enemy. –

*(Ephesians 6:10-18, NKJV)*

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Only one piece of the armor of God is an offensive weapon – that piece is the Word of God.

We Stand in Faith (verse 13) that God will see us through whatever we face.



## Armor of God

### Belt of truth

<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

- Jesus is our truth and we are to know the Word of God that gives us the truth.
- In John 8:32, Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”

## **Breastplate of Righteousness (verse 14)**

- Proverbs 4:34 says, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life”
- We are the imputed righteousness of Christ according to Philippians 1:11\_ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
- Understand that the righteousness of Christ covers and protects our heart as a breastplate.
- We have been made righteous through the Righteousness of Jesus Christ!

## **Feet are shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace** (*Ephesians 6:15*)

- We walk in God's peace
- And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7)

In *John 10:27*, Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, . . . and they follow Me..."

## Take up the Shield of Faith to quench the fiery darts of the enemy (Ephesians 6:16)

- As we stand in the faith of God, we stop the attacks of the enemy.
- We must believe in faith and not quit in the face of attacks.
- If God said to do it, He provides a way, and He brings the provision.
- Don't let the enemy cause you to doubt you can win.
- Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you *(James 4:7)*



## **Helmet of Salvation (*Ephesians 6:17*)**

<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

- We are saved by grace and we receive Jesus as our Savior.
- The helmet covers our head and it is important that we are covered by the salvation of Jesus Christ.

## **Sword of the Spirit, which is God's Word (*Ephesians 6:17*)**

- God's Word is truth
- His Word will not return void

*(Isaiah 55:11)*

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The power of God's Word is the key to our victory in spiritual battles.

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If the enemy says we cannot do what God called us to do, then we respond:

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I can do all things through [f](#)Christ who strengthens me.  
*(Philippians 4:13)*

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God has not given us the spirit of fear for His Word says---

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For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.  
*(2 Timothy 1:7)*

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Sometimes you might need to repeat that scripture over yourself to walk into what God called you to do.

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The enemy tries to block us with fear but don't let the enemy stop you.

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I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.  
*(Luke 10:19)*

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.  
*(Isaiah 54:17)*

When we use God’s Word as our offensive weapon, we can win and be as successful as God said we are – more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.

## Prayer and Supplication in the Spirit

<sup>18</sup> Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

- Prayer is key to our lives daily.
- We can only win in spiritual warfare if we have an active prayer life.

## **Confidence and Compassion in Prayer**

<sup>14</sup> Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

<sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. When we humbly go to God in prayer, He hears us and is willing and able to grant us the desires of our hearts according to His will.

*(1John 5:14-15)*

## ***Psalms 91:9-15***

<sup>9</sup> If you say, “The LORD is my refuge,” and you make the Most High your dwelling, <sup>10</sup> no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. <sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

<sup>12</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. <sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup> “Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. <sup>15</sup> He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

**We are to Put on the Armor of God daily to go out into the world protected!**

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**Belt of Truth**

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**Helmet of Salvation**

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**Breastplate of Righteousness**

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**Sword of the Spirit = Word of God**

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**Feet Shod with Gospel of Peace**

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**Shield of Faith**

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**PRAYING Always!**