

Spiritual Warfare, Part 7—Our Secret Weapon

With Chip Ingram

The Missing Ingredient in Spiritual Warfare is Intercessory Prayer

We are in an Invisible War

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:10-12 NKJV

We are to prepare ourselves for Battle.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:13-15

When we Resist the Enemy, He will flee from us.

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

Ephesians 6:16-17

Intercessory prayer is pivotal and essential for corporate and individual deliverance

¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:18-20

Summary of Ephesians 6:18-20: The means by which believers are to withstand and overcome the attacks of the enemy in spiritual warfare is by consistent, intense, strategic prayer for one another in conjunction with the personal application of the armor of God.

1. Intercessory prayer is our most _____ and _____ corporate weapon in spiritual warfare.

- Prayer has a direct impact on spiritual warfare.

*And He said to them, "this kind cannot come out by anything but prayer."
Mark 9:29 NASB*

- Prayer provides and assists in the deliverance of others who are undergoing spiritual attack.

*"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat;
but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you,
when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."
Luke 22:21-32 NASB*

- Power falls where prayer prevails

- Acts 1:14; 2:42; 3:1; 4:24-35; 6:4-8; 8:14-16; 9:40-42

2. What kind of prayer brings God's deliverance and power?

_____ prayer

"With all prayer and petition:" all kinds of prayer

- A: Adoration
- B: Confession
- T: Thanksgiving
- S: Supplication

"Pray at all times:" prayer on all occasions

_____ prayer

"Be on the alert:" without sleep, vigilant

"With all perseverance:" not giving up

"Prayer is the battle, and the ministry is the spoils," –Haddon Robinson

_____ prayer

"For all the saints:" that God's messengers will be bold

"Utterance may be given:" that God's message will be clear and have opportunity.

Summary

The missing ingredient in most Christians' lives and in most churches is the commitment and regular practice of intercessory prayer. Scripture indicates that consistent, intense, and strategic intercessory prayer (individual and corporate) will in fact deliver us from the evil one.

"The great people of the earth today are the people who pray I do not mean those who talk about prayer, nor those who say they believe in prayer, nor yet those who can explain about prayer; But I mean those people who take time and pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important. Very important, and pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer." –S.D. Gordon

Think It Over

1. Chip began today's session with a true story of a missionary who was working as a field medic in Africa. What thoughts ran through your heads the story unfolded and, one by one, the twenty-six men stood up? Does this man's story influence how you view the power of prayer? How?
2. Have you experienced a time when God brought someone to mind and you felt compelled to pray for that person? Explain.
3. Has God answered specific prayers in your life or the life of someone you know? How did God work?
4. What is intercessory prayer, and why is it our most powerful corporate weapon in spiritual warfare: Who can you meet with for prayer this week? Invite those God brings to mind for prayer and coffee.
5. What would it look like for you to develop a more consistent prayer life? Who do you know that could help you learn to pray more intensely and strategically? Ask to meet with them and learn from them.

Live It Out

The missing ingredient in our lives is often a commitment to consistent, intense, and strategic prayer. It is the means in which we can withstand and overcome the attacks of the enemy. We tend to pray small, self-focused prayers instead of big, God-centered prayers. This week ask God for big things that you know are on His heart, and watch what He does.

Practice the ACTS method of prayer this week, and with each step, write down what God brings to your heart and mind.

1. Adoration:

2. Confession:

3. Thanksgiving:

4. Supplication:

Diving Deeper

1. Review the verses in Acts regarding prayer and the power that follows:
 - Acts 1:14
 - Acts 2:42
 - Acts 3:1
 - Acts 4:24-35

 - Acts 6:4-8
 - Acts 8:14-16
 - Acts 9:40-42