



SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Presented by Paul and Jan Mitton

**What is this unseen battle being waged daily throughout our world?
What weapons do we have and how do we fight an unseen enemy?**

***For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers,
against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and
against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

Ephesians 6:12 NIV

**This booklet holds a sampling of biblical truths about spiritual warfare,
our weapons, and how to overcome the enemy.**

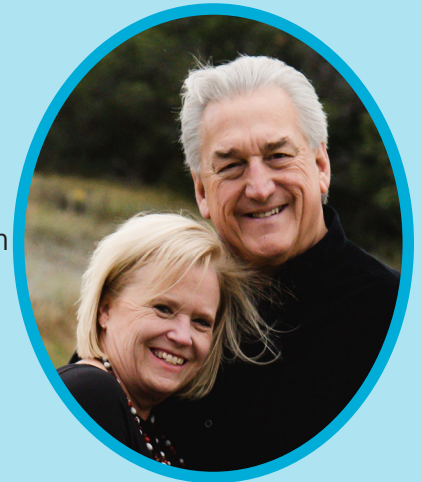
ABOUT PAUL AND JAN MITTON

Paul is the President of Converge Rocky Mountain, a movement of transformational churches of which Mission Hills is part. Converge churches partner to strengthen existing congregations, start new churches, and send believers across the street and around the world to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Janelle (Jan) is the Practice Administrator for CU Head and Neck Specialists, located in Highlands Ranch. She has an incredible gift of spiritual discernment.

Paul and Jan have two married children and four grandchildren, with a fifth due in June. One of their hobbies is showing Boxers and English Bulldogs at dog shows which is great fun for them. Paul is the informal chaplain of the Colorado Boxer Club, and the Denver Bulldog Club.

When asked how they became involved in the arena of Spiritual Warfare, Paul responded, *“About 30 years ago, one of my AWANA leaders in a Converge Church contacted me about a strange encounter that had happened at her house. While ministering to her and her husband, it became obvious that the kingdom of darkness was at work. We confronted enemy forces and saw the amazing power of God Almighty at work. That opened the door to research and study in this area and multiple encounters with oppressed or possessed individuals. Most found freedom in Christ through embracing his truth.”*



ON GUARD AND IN THE GAP

WARFARE STUDY NOTES

TWO DANGERS WHEN IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

1. Believe it doesn't **EXIST**
2 Corinthians 2:11
2. Become preoccupied with the **KINGDOM** of **DARKNESS**

“
...And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

– Hebrews 12: 1-3

THE BATTLE

“
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”

–Ephesians 6:10-13

Spiritual battles fought through God's **MIGHTY POWER**.

Spiritual armor describes facets of a **RIGHTEOUS LIFE**.

BATTLE FRONTS:

- Physical/Emotional Make Up
- Our Flesh
- Our Fallen World
- Satan and His Demonic Forces

A BIT ABOUT THE ENEMY...

BACKGROUND

Satan's Titles (Schemes)

1. **ADVERSARY** Job 1:6-7 and 1 Thessalonians 2:18
2. **SLANDERER** 1 Peter 5:8
3. **LUCIFER** Isaiah 14:12
4. **BEELZEBUB** Matthew 12:24
5. **CORRUPTER** 1 John 5:19
6. **TEMPTER** 1 Thessalonians 3:5 and Luke 4
7. The **PRINCE** of this world. John 12:31

“...the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”

—1 John 5:19b

DON'T FORGET

1. Created angelic being
2. Wanted to be God but isn't
3. Not all knowing
4. Not all-powerful
5. Not all present
6. Coordinates and utilizes battle fronts against people

Who are demons?

SATAN'S MISSION

1. Unbelievers- Blinds them to their need for a **SAVIOR**.
2 Corinthians 4:4
2. Believers- Blinds them to their new **IDENTITY** in Christ and seeks to gain illegal control in their lives.

Demon oppression?

Demon possession?
John 4:4

A BELIEVER'S WEAPONS IN WARFARE:

1) OUR WARRIOR KING

The greatest weapon we have is the person, the name, the blood and the authority of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.*

– Revelation 19: 11-16

“*Therefore God exalted Jesus to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

– Philippians 2:9

Jesus came to earth to invade ENEMY TERRITORY

John 10:10, 1 John 3:8

Greatest victory won on the CROSS

Colossians 2:13-15

Jesus' death and resurrection, his shed blood on our behalf, his ultimate authority over everything provide the victory when we confront the powers of darkness. **So get out of the way and let Him work!**

2) THE WORD

John 8:32

The pure truth of God's Word will stop the deception of the enemy dead in its tracks.

RESOURCES:

Who I Am in Christ – Neil T. Anderson

Affirmations – Sherica A. Matthews

3) PRAYER

Ephesians 6:18

Prayer is not the prelude to the battle...Prayer is the battle.

Nothing unleashes the power of God more fully than the ongoing, authentic prayer of his people.

RESOURCES:

- *16 Ways to Pray for Missionaries* – David Platt (see page 15)
- *Three Strategies for Warfare Prayer* – Barbara Hitchings (see page 13)
- *Warfare Prayer* – Mark Bubeck (see page 11)

4) WORSHIP

2 Chronicles 20

“ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

–Ephesians 5:19-20

Worship **ALIGNS US** with the Kingdom of God

Worship keeps battles in **PERSPECTIVE**.

God **INHABITS** the praises of his people.

Psalm 22:3

TRUTH ENCOUNTER PATHWAY

1) BEFORE THE MEETING

PERSONAL PREPARATION

Confession, Fasting, Scripture Study, Prayer, Hedge of protection around you and your family

WHERE TO MEET

At the person's house, in a church setting, or outdoor site.

2) DIAGNOSIS

After making introductions, talk to the person, or couple, and listen for specific things.

- What's their story? What's been going on?
- What's life currently like for them?
- Has anything strange or odd been happening?
- Why did they ask to meet?
- Ask about their physical well-being.
- Have they been sick?
- Any sin footholds or strongholds they may be hiding?

GO A LITTLE DEEPER:

- Have they had any occult involvement, psychics, Ouija boards?
- Have they had feelings of being choked or incredible pressure on their chest?
- Ask about heavy drug use or sexually immoral behaviors.
- Has there been involvement with water witching?

ASK ABOUT NIGHTMARES:

- Are you having trouble sleeping?
- Do you wake up in a state of extreme terror or emotional heaviness that does not clear up quickly.
- Is there a distinct evil presence felt when you wake up after your dream?
- Do you feel disconnected from God's peace—confused and fearful?
- Are there satanic symbols, faces, or verbal threats in your dreams?
- Do the negative symptoms remain when your spouse or a friend pray?
- Is there physical paralysis?

It's important to take time to properly diagnose because appearances can be deceiving.

3) SET THE STAGE WITH SCRIPTURE

- Use Scripture throughout the truth encounter. There are many listed in this booklet.
- Scripture is a powerful weapon in the battle, and so is worship.
- Sing or give spoken words of praise.

4) PRAYER INTRODUCTION

- After a time of confession, invite God to lead the process.
- Intentionally get out of the way.
- Ask the Spirit of truth to lead the process and reveal anything hiding in the darkness.

5) UTILIZE SCRIPTURE AS IT COMES TO MIND

- Pray as people are led.
- Keep prayers short, focused, and concise.

6) REVEALING A DEMON

- If a demon is revealed, **look at it**, take authority over it in Jesus' name and claim His shed blood on the cross.
- Bind the demon from physically harming the person.
- Command it to be mute and paralyzed.
- To name the demon can be helpful but not necessary.
- Talk in normal tones. Demons are not hard of hearing.

7) WHAT TO EXPECT

The typical pattern of the demon will be to try and intimidate and scare you...its all an act and a lie. Greg Speck said, "If fear doesn't make you afraid, it has no power over you." The demon will then often bargain with you to try and stay. The demon will then sometimes go into hiding. It seems to be gone but it's still there. Ask God's Spirit to reveal truth. The demon will then start to cry and whimper. You have to remind them they have no right to be in the person's life. Let the battle rage in the Heavenlies.

8) DON'T RUSH IT

- Take breaks to talk with the person and see what they are feeling.
- Have them command the demons to leave.
- Have them affirm their identity in Christ.
- If married have their spouse take authority over the demon/s and rebuke them in Jesus' name. The two shall become one.

9) IT'S OKAY TO BE QUIET

Silence is not a bad thing. Let the spiritual battle take place.

10) REBUKING THE DEMON

- As you pray, command the demon to leave in Jesus' name. I usually cast them to the feet of Jesus. But if they are stubborn, I cast them to the pit of hell.
- Sometimes they are crushed internally and disappear.
- Sometimes they come up the person's throat and out their mouth. Have a waste can close by.
- It's not uncommon for the person to feel claw marks in their throat.
- There may be more than one.
- The weak ones go first, the stronger ones hang back.
- Don't be surprised if they don't leave when you first rebuke them. It's a battle that can take hours.

11) IT'S OKAY TO STOP

- Don't feel bad about stopping the prayer time and coming back another night. The war will still be engaged in the Heavenlies.
- Sometimes you need to power up spiritually. Jesus said in Matthew 17:21 some demons only come out through prayer and fasting.

12) PRAYER AND CLOSING

Once the demons have left, pray and close up any reentry points. Note Jesus' admonition in Matthew 12:43-45:

When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

13) GIVE GOD THE GLORY

Give God the glory for what He has done.

14) FOLLOW UP

Once the demons are gone, the person still may need to address the wound or behavior that gave the enemy a foothold in their life. Ongoing accountability and discipleship will also be important.

HEALING | TRUTH ENCOUNTER

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Healing ministry may deal with the physical, emotional or spiritual dimensions of a person's life. Sometimes it's a combination of several dimensions. Almost all deliverance healing must be followed up with emotional counseling. A trained counselor can help a person uncover the root causes of a personal stronghold. The root cause is often found in a wound inflicted on and buried in a person's life. The keys to freedom and victory will be found in bringing the wound into the light and trusting that Jesus will be enough to bring about complete healing through his Spirit. A key question for all those seeking to overcome strongholds is found in Jesus' interaction with the man by the pool of Bethesda in John 5:6: "When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, 'Do you want to get well?'" If the answer is yes, Jesus stands ready to help.

GOD ALMIGHTY

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty--he is the King of glory. Selah

—Psalm 24:7-10

*In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! **Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

— Philippians 2: 5-11

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords.

— Revelation 19:11-16

REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

– Ephesians 6: 10-18

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

– 1 John 3:8b

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

– John 10:10

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

– Colossians 2:9-15

EXAMPLES FROM JESUS' MINISTRY

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out.

– Luke 8:1-2

EXAMPLES FROM JESUS' MINISTRY

“*When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.” He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.*

– Matthew 8:28-33

“*The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

– Luke 10:17-20

“*So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house.”*

– Mark 3:23-27

“*When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, “I will return to the house I left.” When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.*

– Matthew 12:43-45

“*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

– Romans 8:38-39

“*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

– Matthew 28:18-20

MEDIUMS, PSYCHICS, OCCULT AND NEW AGE PRACTICES

“
Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God.
– Leviticus 19:31

“
I will set my face against anyone who turns to mediums and spiritists to prostitute themselves by following them, and I will cut them off from their people.
– Leviticus 20:6

“
When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God.
– Deuteronomy 18:9-13

“
[Saul and the Medium at Endor] Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.
– 1 Samuel 28:3

“
But the woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?”
– 1 Samuel 28:9

“
He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing his anger.
– 2 Kings 21:6

“
Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. This he did to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the temple of the Lord.
– 2 Kings 23:24

“
He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing his anger.
– 2 Chronicles 33:6

“
When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?
– Isaiah 8:19

“
The Egyptians will lose heart, and I will bring their plans to nothing; they will consult the idols and the spirits of the dead, the mediums and the spiritists.
Isaiah 19:3

“
So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums or your sorcerers who tell you, ‘You will not serve the king of Babylon.’
Jeremiah 27:9

THE WARFARE PRAYER

MARK BUBECK

Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before You. I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as my protection during this time of prayer. I surrender myself completely and unreservedly in every area of my life to Yourself. I do take a stand against all the workings of Satan that would hinder me in this time of prayer, and I address myself only to the true and living God and refuse any involvement of Satan in my prayer.

[Satan, I command you, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to leave my presence with all your demons, and I bring the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ between us.]

Heavenly Father, I worship You, and I give You praise. I recognize that You are worthy to receive all glory and honor and praise. I renew my allegiance to You and pray that the blessed Holy Spirit would enable me in this time of prayer.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father, that You have loved me from past eternity, that You sent the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to die as my substitute that I would be redeemed. I am thankful that the Lord Jesus Christ came as my representative, and that through Him You have completely forgiven me; You have given me eternal life; You have given me the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ so I am now justified. I am thankful that in Him You have made me complete, and that You have offered Yourself to me to be my daily help and strength.

Heavenly Father, come and open my eyes that I might see how great You are and how complete Your provision is for this new day. I do, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, take my place with Christ in the heavenlies with all principalities and powers (powers of darkness and wicked spirits) under my feet.

I am thankful that the victory the Lord Jesus Christ won for me on the cross and in his resurrection has been given to me and that I am seated with the Lord Jesus Christ in the heavenlies; therefore, I declare that all principalities and powers and all wicked spirits are subject to me in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am thankful for the armor You have provided, and I put on the girdle of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the sandals of peace, the helmet of salvation. I lift up the shield of faith against all the fiery darts of the enemy, and take in my hand the sword of the spirit, the Word of God, and use Your Word against all the forces of evil in my life; and I put on this armor and live and pray in complete dependence upon You, blessed Holy Spirit.

I am grateful, Heavenly Father, that the Lord Jesus Christ spoiled all principalities and powers and made a show of them openly and triumphed over them in Himself. I claim all that victory for my life today. I reject out of my life all the insinuations, the accusations, and the temptations of Satan.

I affirm that the Word of God is true, and I choose to live today in the light of God's Word. I choose, Heavenly Father, to live in obedience to You and in fellowship with Yourself. Open my eyes and show me the areas of my life that would not please You. Work in my life that there be no ground to give Satan a foothold against me.

Show me any area of weakness. Show me any area of my life that I must deal with so that I would please You. I do in every way today stand for You and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in my life.

By faith and in dependence upon You, I put off the old man and stand into all the victory of the crucifixion where the Lord Jesus Christ provided cleansing from the old nature. I put on the new man and stand into all the victory of the resurrection and the provision he has made for me there to live above sin.

Therefore, in this day, I put off the old nature with its selfishness, and I put on the new nature with its love. I put off the old nature with its fear and I put on the new nature with its courage. I put off the old nature with its weakness and I put on the new nature with its strength. I put off today the old nature with all its deceitful lusts and I put on the new nature with all its righteousness and purity.

I do in every way stand into the victory of the ascension and the glorification of the Son of God where all principalities and powers were made subject to Him, and I claim my place in Christ victorious with Him over all the enemies of my soul. Blessed Holy Spirit, I pray that you would fill me. Come into my life, break down every idol and cast out every foe.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father, for the expression of your will for my daily life as you have shown me in your Word. I therefore claim all the will of God for today.

I am thankful that you have blessed me with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I am thankful that you have begotten me unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I am thankful that you have made a provision so that today I can live filled with the Spirit of God with love and joy and self-control in my life. And I recognize that this is your will for me, and I therefore reject and resist all the endeavors of Satan and of his demons to rob me of the will of God.

I refuse in this day to believe my feelings, and I hold up the shield of faith against all the accusations and against all the insinuations that Satan would put in my mind. I claim the fullness of the will of God for today. I do, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, completely surrender myself to you, Heavenly Father, as a living sacrifice. I choose not to be conformed to this world. I choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind, and I pray that you would show me your will and enable me to walk in all the fullness of the will of God today.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father, that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, to the casting down of imaginations and every high thing that exalted itself against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore in my own life today I tear down the strongholds of Satan, and I smash the plans of Satan that have been formed against me. I tear down the strongholds of Satan against my mind, and I surrender my mind to you, blessed Holy Spirit.

I affirm, Heavenly Father, that you have not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. I break and smash the strongholds of Satan formed against my emotions today, and I give my emotions to you. I smash the strongholds of Satan formed against my will today, and I give my will to you, and choose to make the right decisions of faith. I smash the strongholds of Satan formed against my body today, and I give my body to you, recognizing that I am your temple; and I rejoice in your mercy and your goodness.

Heavenly Father, I pray that now through this day you would quicken me; show me the way that Satan is hindering and tempting and lying and counterfeiting and distorting the truth in my life. Enable me to be the kind of person that would please you. Enable me to be aggressive in prayer. Enable me to be aggressive mentally and to think your thoughts after you, and to give you your rightful place in my life.

Again, I now cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and pray that you, blessed Holy Spirit, would bring all the work of the crucifixion, all the work of the resurrection, all the work of the glorification, and all the work of Pentecost into my life today. I surrender myself to you.

I refuse to be discouraged. You are the God of all hope. You have proven your power by resurrecting Jesus Christ from the dead, and I claim in every way your victory over all satanic forces active in my life, and I reject these forces; and I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ with thanksgiving. Amen.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND MISSION

BY BARBARA HITCHING

When I first became a missionary, I had no concept of spiritual warfare. My associates and I had a deep passion for the lost and longed to share Christ with them, but we were naive about the demonic activity we would face and how to respond. One night during my year in Nepal, hearing noises outside, my friend Marigold and I went out on the balcony to investigate. Below, two shamans with frightening masks danced and shouted chants. We were terrified and crept inside to hide in the bedroom. We hid, unaware we needed to turn to prayer to find safety in Jesus and to reject the curses being spoken against us. It was my first experience with a spiritual assault of this nature.

Not all spiritual warfare is so blatant. I recall a situation when spiritual warfare shook our team from within. I was living in the Middle East with a wonderful group of young people. A personality conflict arose between the two of them. In their anger, they began to see each other as the enemy, unaware they were under spiritual attack. They lacked the experience and discernment necessary to recognize the enemy was at work. Rather than talking and praying together, it escalated into a fistfight.

WALK IN WISDOM

I have seen homes broken, lives shipwrecked, children lost into the world, illness, untimely death, and personality conflicts undermine God's work. No one on the field is immune. And neither are we, here on the home front. You may not face curses from shamans or get into fistfights with coworkers, but you will still face spiritual warfare in your life. It's important to be equipped to discern and to stand against spiritual warfare. When an army goes to war, they need to know and understand their enemy to discern tactics and strategies. The same is true for believers. This will help protect you from exposure to unnecessary dangers or fighting each other instead of the real enemy.

WE ALL FIGHT THE SAME BATTLES

Whether you are a missionary or not, you can pray for those on the front lines. In fact, your prayers may become a lifeline for your missionary, their family, and their team.

Missionaries go through the same struggles we do. It's just in a different environment and often is more intense. They are frequently alone or even isolated from other believers. Our prayers are vital as the enemy often assaults their spiritual and emotional well-being.

STAND STRONG IN GOD'S STRENGTH

As you begin to engage in spiritual warfare, remember this: if you come against the enemy in your own strength or wisdom, you will fall. It's true, you can accomplish much in your own strength, but you will be powerless against your enemy. In fact, relying on your own wisdom can actually strengthen the strongholds of the enemy.

My dear friend, only what is done by faith and through the empowering of the Holy Spirit will stand the test of time. Peter would tell you, "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Paul would also encourage you to be present in the moment. "Cast down every proud thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

As you face spiritual attacks, practice faith, stay alert and present in the moment, and remember your thought life is also important. The battle is most often won or lost in the area of the mind. You have been given the mind of Christ; repentance, prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and memorization of Scripture help to strengthen your inner man so your thought life glorifies the Lord. This helps equip you for battle. Scripture help to strengthen your inner man so your thought life glorifies the Lord. This helps equip you for battle.

THREE STRATEGIES OF THE ENEMY

To be further equipped for battle, be aware of the strategies of the enemy. These are three key strategies the enemy uses:

1. **The enemy is an expert at camouflage.** He loves to distract and cause confusion as he seeks to steal the missionaries' time, energy, and resources.
2. **The enemy wants to conquer you;** like Peter, he will sift you trying to shake your faith and cause you to fall. (Luke 22:31)
3. **The enemy wants you to think people are the enemy.** But Paul said, our struggle isn't against flesh and blood; it is against the ruler and authorities of the unseen world; against the cosmic powers of the darkness, and against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. (Ephesians 6:12)

THREE STRATEGIES FOR PRAYER

Just as the enemy has a strategy, you need a strategy to stand strong! Learn how to pray for missionaries by being aware of what you personally need prayer for.

LEARN TO SEE.

- Pray in Jesus' name for your missionaries to be protected from the assaults of the evil one, that they are able to quickly discern any tactics operating against them.
- Pray they think with clarity and have spiritual wisdom to move instantly into prayer.
- Pray the Holy Spirit will expose any deception and enable them to walk in truth and love.
- Pray your missionaries be set free from accusations that rob them of freedom in Jesus.
- Pray strongholds be broken down in the name of Jesus.

LEARN TO STAND.

- Pray the Lord helps you to daily take up the whole armor of God so you are able to withstand the enemy.
- Pray for your missionaries to be fully covered with God's armor so no matter what evil comes against them, they remain standing in integrity. (Ephesians 6:13)

LEARN TO FORGIVE.

- Pray you are quick to forgive those who sin against you.
- Pray your missionaries are quick to forgive themselves and others.
- Pride is subtle and deadly. Pray they do not take up offenses against each other but walk in humility and love.

FIVE BONUS STRATEGIES TO BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE IN PRAYER

As you stand against the strategies of the enemy, here are five tips to help you become more effective in prayer:

1. Put on the armor of God so we aren't deceived by the devil.
2. Give the Holy Spirit permission to show us any lies we believe, then give us the courage to reject the lie and embrace the truth.
3. Take time to meditate and be with the Lord. As you learn to rest in the Lord's presence, He covers and equips you for battle.
4. Learn to stand in the power of the Lord's might and pray Scriptures so you remain in godly authority.
5. As you are faithful, you have the power to intercede for the missionaries to be protected from deception and to stand in wisdom and faithfulness

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL PROMISE

The Apostle John encourages us in Revelation 12:11, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." In closing, may you be quick to remember our victory is in Jesus. As you pray for your missionaries, may you stand in the wonderful truth - you are overcome by the precious blood of the Lamb and by the spoken word of your testimony. God bless you!

16 WAYS TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

DAVID PLATT

Today, our prayers remain the greatest way we can support those we are sending out, invoking the very power of God to intervene in ways that are beyond our human limitations to save the lost. So, I'd like to lay out sixteen ways I see in this passage of Scripture to pray for our missionaries continually.

1. Pray that they would be confident in God's Word (Acts 13:4-5).

Missionaries are sent not just to learn culture or do humanitarian relief but to confidently proclaim the Word of God.

2. Pray that they would be filled with God's Spirit (Acts 13:6-9).

Believers already have the Holy Spirit in them, but at times the Spirit fills someone in a special way to enable him or her to proclaim God's Word.

3. Pray for their victory in spiritual warfare (Acts 13:10-12).

When our brothers and sisters take the gospel into the nations, they are going into a war. The devil is dead set on destroying souls and diverting mission.

4. Pray for their success in gospel witness (Acts 13:12).

Pray that many would come to know Christ in all walks of life from the faithful witness of our missionaries.

5. Pray for peace with other believers (Acts 13:13).

Satan attacks from all angles, both inside and outside. Pray for peace within families, in marriages, with children, and with companions and ministry partners.

6. Pray for favor with unbelievers (Acts 13:14-15).

Nonbelievers are blind to the gospel, and many are violently opposed to its message. Pray that missionaries would find favorable opportunities to share the gospel with them.

7. Pray that the gospel will be clear through them (Acts 13:16-47).

Although cross-cultural communication is difficult, pray that missionaries, by grace, would clearly communicate the character of God, the sinfulness of man, the sufficiency of Christ, the necessity of faith, and the urgency of eternity.

8. Pray that God will open hearts around them (Acts 13:48).

God alone draws people to himself. Pray that he will open hearts and minds to believe and be drawn to eternal life with Christ.

9. Pray for their joy in the midst of suffering (Acts 14:1-2).

Missionaries often face various forms and levels of suffering in their work. Pray that they would experience the joy of intimacy with Christ in the midst of it.

10. Pray for their kindness in the midst of slander (Acts 14:1-2).

Though missionaries face suffering and difficulty, pray that the character of Christ and the power of his Spirit enable them to respond with grace.

11. Pray for supernatural power to accompany them (Acts 14:3).

Pray that missionaries would speak the Word with boldness and that supernatural power would accompany its proclamation.

12. Pray for Christlike humility to characterize them (Acts 14:4-18).

Pray that missionaries would overcome the temptation to be prideful in their work by the power of the Spirit.

13. Pray for their patience (Acts 14:8-18).

Missionaries face ups and downs and wins and losses in their work. Pray that they might respond with long-suffering.

14. Pray for their perseverance (Acts 14:19-20).

In 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 Paul wrote, "We are . . . struck down but not destroyed." Pray for missionaries to persevere through setback after setback, beat-down after beat-down, and struggle after struggle.

15. Pray that God would use them to make disciples (Acts 14:21-23).

Pray that missionaries would see fruit in their ministries as they seek to make disciples among the nations.

16. Pray that God would use them to multiply churches (Acts 14:24-28).

Pray for the multiplication of churches filled with people who know the Word led by pastors who teach the Word.

We know this: joining God on his mission will not be easy, but it will absolutely worth it. Let's send out all those whom God has called with faithful support in prayer.

THE DAILY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

DR. MATTHEWS

The Daily Affirmation of Faith was written by Dr. Matthews to provide a concise, clear statement of the truth of the Word of God as it applies to our victory.

“Today I deliberately choose to submit myself fully to God as he has made Himself known to me through the Holy Scripture which I honestly accept as the only inspired, infallible, authoritative standard for all life and practice. In this day I will not judge God, his work, myself, or others on the basis of feelings or circumstances

1. I recognize by faith that the triune God is worthy of all honor, praise, and worship as the Creator, Sustainer, and End of all things. I confess that God, as my Creator, made me for himself. In this day I therefore choose to live for him (Revelation 5:9,10; Isaiah 43:1,7,21; Revelation 4:11).
2. I recognize by faith that God loved me and chose me in Jesus Christ before time began (Ephesians 1:1-7).
3. I recognize by faith that God has proven his love to me in sending his Son to die in my place, in whom every provision has already been made for my past, present, and future needs through his representative work, and that I have been quickened, raised, seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenlies, and anointed with the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:6-11; 8:28; Philippians 1:6; 4:6,7,13,19; Ephesians 1:3; 2:5,6; Acts 2:1-4,33).
4. I recognize by faith that God has accepted me, since I have received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:6); that he has forgiven me (Ephesians 1:7); adopted me into his family, assuming every responsibility for me (John 17:11,17; Ephesians 1:5; Philippians 1:6); given me eternal life (John 3:36; I John 5:9-13); applied the perfect righteousness of Christ to me so that I am now justified (Romans 5:1; 8:3,4; 10:4); made me complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10); and offers himself to me as my daily sufficiency through prayer and the decisions of faith (I Corinthians 1:30; Colossians 1:27; Galatians 2:20; John 14:13,14; Matthew 21:22; Romans 6:1-19; Hebrews 4:1-3,11).
5. I recognize by faith that the Holy Spirit has baptized me into the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13); sealed me (Ephesians 1:13,14); anointed me for life and service (Acts 1:8; John 7:37-39); seeks to lead me into a deeper walk with Jesus Christ (John 14:16-18; 15:26,27; 16:13-15; Romans 8:11-16); and to fill my life with himself (Ephesians 5:18).
6. I recognize by faith that only God can deal with sin and only God can produce holiness of life. I confess that in my salvation my part was only to receive Him and that he dealt with my sin and saved me. Now I confess that in order to live a holy life, I can only surrender to his will and receive Him as my sanctification; trusting Him to do whatever may be necessary in my life, without and within, so I may be enabled to live today in purity, freedom, rest and power for his glory (John 1:12; I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 9:8; Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 4:9; I John 5:4; Jude 24).

Having confessed that God is worthy of all praise, that the Scriptures are the only authoritative standard, that only God can deal with sin and produce holiness of life, I again recognize my total dependence upon Him and submission to Him. I accept the truth that praying in faith is absolutely necessary for the realization of the will and grace of God in my daily life.

Recognizing that faith is a total response to God by which the daily provisions the Lord has furnished in Himself are appropriated, I therefore make the following decisions of faith:

1. For this day (Hebrews 3:6,13,15; 4:7) I make the decision of faith to surrender wholly to the authority of God as he has revealed himself in the Scripture to obey him. I confess my sin, face the sinful reality of my old nature, and deliberately choose to walk in the light, in step with Christ, throughout the hours of this day (Romans 6:16-20; Philippians 2:12,13; I John 1:7,9).
 2. For this day I make the decision of faith to surrender wholly to the authority of God as revealed in the Scripture--to believe him. I accept only his Word as final authority. I now believe that since I have confessed my sin he has forgiven and cleansed me (I John 1:9). I accept at full value his Word of promise to be my sufficiency and rest, and will conduct myself accordingly (Exodus 33:1; I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 4:19).
 3. For this day I make the decision of faith to recognize that God has made every provision so that I may fulfill his will and calling. Therefore, I will not make any excuse for my sin and failure (I Thessalonians 5:24).
 4. For this day I make the decision of faith deliberately to receive from God that provision which He has made for me. I renounce all self-effort to live the Christian life and to perform God's service; renounce all sinful praying which asks God to change circumstances and people so that I may be more spiritual; renounce all drawing back from the work of the Holy Spirit within and the call of God without; and renounce all non-biblical motives, goals, and activities which serve my sinful pride.
- I now sincerely receive Jesus Christ as my sanctification, particularly as my cleansing from the old nature, and ask the Holy Spirit to apply to me the work of Christ accomplished for me in the crucifixion. In cooperation with and dependence upon Him, I obey the command to "put off the old man" (Romans 6:1-14; I Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 6:14; Ephesians 4:22).
 - I now sincerely receive Jesus Christ as my sanctification, particularly as my enablement moment by moment to live above sin, and ask the Holy Spirit to apply to me the work of the resurrection so that I may walk in newness of life. I confess that only God can deal with my sin and only God can produce holiness and the fruit of the Spirit in my life. In cooperation with and dependence upon Him, I obey the command to "put on the new man" (Romans 6:1-4; Ephesians 4:24).
 - I now sincerely receive Jesus Christ as my deliverance from Satan and take my position with Him in the heavenlies, asking the Holy Spirit to apply to me the work of the ascension. In his Name I submit myself to God and stand against all of Satan's influence and subtlety. In cooperation with and dependence upon God, I obey the command to "resist the devil" (Ephesians 1:20- 23; 2:5; 4:27; 6:10-18; Colossians 1:13; James 4:7; I Peter 3:22; 5:89).
 - I now sincerely receive the Holy Spirit as my anointing for every aspect of life and service for today. I fully open my life to him to fill me afresh in obedience to the command to "be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18; John 7:37-39; 14:16,17; 15:26,27; 16:7-15; Acts 1:8).

"Having made this confession and these decisions of faith, I now receive God's promised rest for this day (Hebrews 4:1-13). Therefore, I relax in the trust of faith, knowing that in the moment of temptation, trial, or need, the Lord Himself will be there as my strength and sufficiency (I Corinthians 10:13)."

WHO I AM “IN CHRIST”

- I am a saint. Ephesians 1:1
- I am blessed with every spiritual blessing. Ephesians 1:3
- I am holy, blameless, and covered with God's love. Ephesians 1:4
- I am chosen. Ephesians 1:4,11
- I am God's child. Ephesians 1:5
- I am redeemed and forgiven. Ephesians 1:7
- I am identified by the Holy Spirit in me. Ephesians 1:13
- I am God's masterpiece. Ephesians 2:10
- I am near to God. Ephesians 2:13
- I can come into God's presence with freedom and confidence. Ephesians 3:12
- I am a minister. Ephesians 4:12
- I am a member of Christ's Body – the church. Ephesians 5:29, 30
- I am declared not guilty. Romans 3:24
- I can no longer be condemned. Romans 8:1
- I am set free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2
- I am born of God and the evil one can't touch me. 1 John 5:18
- I am a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- I am Christ's friend. John 15:15
- I am complete. Colossians 2:10

“ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Ephesians 1:17-19a



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