

Prayer As Spiritual Warfare

How do we exercise our God-given authority in Christ? How do we address the devil in our prayers? (We certainly don't pray to him.)

Weapons

God has clearly given us "Weapons of our warfare" for the pulling down of strongholds. Our weapons (the word literally is "strategies") *are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself above the knowledge of God, and brings every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)

Words

The sword of the Spirit, is the Word of God. God's word is that which we use as our offense. It cuts, penetrates, convicts, declares, exposes, and casts out the enemies of God. Jesus said, "*All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*" That is why whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven. (Matt. 16:19, 18:18) That authority is in his word, his ultimate authoritative command. We simply wield the sword. Just point it in the right direction.

Prayers

Our prayers are not puny, but mighty to God to the pulling down of stronghold. Someone once said, "Satan trembles when the weakest Christian prays." It is true. So let us be confident.

"Boldly to the throne of grace" - Hebrews 4:16

"Be strong" be bold, courageous, un-intimidated - Eph 6:10

"A hand upon the throne" - Exodus 17:16

"A hedge of protection" - Ezekiel 22:30

War In The Heavenly Places

STRONGHOLDS

Strongholds are areas of resistance to the will of God. They are areas that have been invaded and occupied by the enemy. They are places where Satan has been given his way through surrender of some area of life that rightfully belongs to God. Strongholds can infiltrate our personal lives, our churches, our families, and our organizations. Wherever Satan is allowed to play becomes a stronghold. If we allowed bees to nest in the walls of our house they would soon multiply and occupy the entire house. So it is with Satan. Give him an inch, and he will take a mile.

IDENTIFY THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLDS

(Obstacles, hindrances, sicknesses, oppression, fears, torments, etc.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SPIRITUAL WARFARE EXERCISES

1. PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD Ephesians 6:11-18
2. BE STRONG IN THE LORD! Ephesians 6:10
3. BIND THE ENEMY Matthew 18:18-20
4. RESIST THE DEVIL James 4:7
5. CLAIM THE BLOOD Revelation 12:11
6. LOOSE THE CAPTIVES Luke 4:18
7. PULL DOWN STRONGHOLDS II Corinthians. 10:3-5
8. PUT A HEDGE OF PROTECTION Ezekiel 22:30
9. COMMAND HIM TO LEAVE Matthew 10:1
10. REBUKE HIM IN JESUS Matthew 17:18

Pray Against Strongholds?

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The enemy leaves behind some telltale signs. Jesus said the thief comes "The thief doesn't come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" - John 10:10 He always leaves destruction in his wake.

1. TRIALS - Attacked & Sieged by enemy

- people - enemies persecutors
- finances - devouring worm, waster
- family - disintegration, scatters
- marriage - destroyer, conflicts
- problems - flood of bad events
- physical - health attacks "buffeting"

2. TORMENTS - Oppression of the enemy

- depression - prolonged emotional attacks
- physical - spirit of infirmity
- moral - obsessive temptations
- fears - unfounded fears, anxieties, panics
- anger - hatred, bitterness, temper, rage

3. TRAGEDIES - Bondage to the enemy

- drugs/alcohol etc. - under the power of substances
- sexual deviations - porno, homosexuality, immorality
- backsliddings - apostate deliberate willful turning away
- abusive behavior - destructive, assaults, language
- insanity - uncontrollable mind, psychosis
- occult involvement - consulting psychics, palm readers etc
- cults - blinded to the truth, choose to believe a lie

How To Pray In The Spirit

Adapted from YWAM by Richard W. LaFountain
(I Cor 14:15, Eph. 6:19, Jude 1:20)

My Part (Internal)

Deal with Sin - (Me) Words, Actions, Thoughts, Attitudes, (W.A.T.A.)
(Psalm 66:18, Ps 139:23-24, Is 59:1,2, Mt 5:23-24) *Put on "sin-block"*

Deal with Self & Flesh - (Myself) *"The spirit is willing, the flesh is weak"*
Matthew 26:41 (who's on first? Who is on the throne?) Selfish desires and wants must be laid down. Breathe in the Holy Spirit. Ask for the Holy Spirit to take control of desires. Be in the Spirit, worship in the Spirit and pray in the Spirit. (Romans 8:8, 8:27, James 4:3, Gal 5:16,25)

Deal with Thoughts - (I) Reign in the wandering mind. His thoughts are not Your thoughts. (Is 26:3, Is 55:8, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4) *"Bring every thought into the captivity of Christ."*

Devil's Part (External)

Deal with the Devil - He is the hinderer, thief, liar, destroyer, murderer, deceiver (Daniel 9, Zech 3, I Pet 5:9, Rev 12, Eph 6) Resist him steadfastly. Having not dealt with him we are hindered by him. He is allowed to go unchecked, unfettered, un-gagged. *"We wrestle not against flesh and blood but principalities and powers."*

God's Part (Eternal)

Agree with God - *"We know not how to pray as we ought."* Romans 8:26-27, Proverbs 3:5, Luke 22:42 *"Nevertheless not my will but thy will be done."* Matthew 6:10 *"Thy will be done..."*

Believe God - Believe and expect God to lead you by His voice and revelation. (Rom 8:14) Believing prayer is acceptable to God. Wishing and hoping are not the same as confident believing prayer. (James 1:6-7, Hebrews 11:6, Romans 4:20)

Wait for God - Wait on God. Wait patiently for His burden and direction (Stand Still, be still, keep silence) Psalm 46:10, Psalm 27:14, Ps 37:7, Is 40:31

Too often we pray with prepared lists of requests in our hands. There is a place for the lists as reminders of immediate needs, but too much leaning on the fleshly mind will miss the mind of the Spirit. The Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be articulated (or listed). Seek to pray the heart of God – which is the mind of the Spirit.