

WINNING THE WAR

by Successful Kingdom Warriors

CONFERENCE NOTES



*School of the Word
with Alan Vincent*

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Ecc. 8:5-6 We must discern the times (Matt.16:2-3; Luke.12:54-56).

Ecc. 3:2 There is a time for Sowing and a time to harvest what has been planted.

Ecc. 3:8 There is a time of War and a time of Peace.

1 Cor. 7:26 In a “Present time of Distress” priorities have to change.

It’s a time for War not for Peace!

Prophetic Words recently spoken:

This seventh Year of the New Millennium has been declared by a number of reliable prophetic voices as a year for war, a time for show down with the enemies of God’s Kingdom (See attachments).

Also it is a Time for Harvest.

It has also been declared to be a time to reap a great harvest in the Earth. This requires laborers, not spectators (See attachments).

What the Spirit is saying

Gen 26:18 A Time to dig again the wells of your forefathers as Isaac did to Abraham s wells 100 years later which the Philistines had filled with earth and stones. He called them by the same names. Beer Shebah was the last well. It was the “well of seven and the well of covenant” (Gen. 21:22-34; Gen. 26:1-33).

It is 100 years since Azusa St. and the beginning of the Pentecostal Revivals.

A Call to War

We Must be a Kingdom and a Priesthood that is Ready for War

Exodus 19: 1-8. *'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine...'* (v. 5)

How much of the Earth is God's? All the Earth! You see, even then God's call was not just a call to possess the "Promised land", it was a call to possess the whole Earth. This call came within three months of leaving Egypt.

Verse 6, "***and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation***". The whole nation was called to be a Kingdom and Priesthood. This was said long before the Levitical priesthood existed. The Levitical Priesthood came years later as a second best. Here the whole nation was being invited to be God's Kingdom and God's Priesthood and to be His world conquering Army. There were only two conditions, complete obedience and faithfully keeping His covenant.

Verse 7. "These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel". So Moses came and called the Elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. And all the people answered together and said, '***All that the LORD has spoken we will do!***' ***And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD***" (v. 6-8).

Now this sounds like fantastic, total, complete obedience. If they had only meant what they said then the Kingdom of God would have been established over the whole earth thousands of years ago.

There was one thing above everything else that caused that generation to turn back and die in the wilderness. They were not prepared to become warriors and go to war.

Ex.13:17, "Now it came about when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near; for God said, "***Lest the people change their minds when they see war, and they return to Egypt***".

He couldn't take them by the straight direct way which would have taken them only eleven days (Deut.1:2), because they would have seen war and they would have immediately turned back. So God gave them a taste of the wilderness.

At Kadesh Barnea, when He tried to get them to go into the Promised Land 18 months later they still said, "It is too hard. We can't do that. The giants are too big and the cities are too fortified". Ten spies brought a bad report. Only Caleb and Joshua brought a good report (Num. 13:25-Num. 14:12).

Almost identical words to Exodus 19:5-6 were spoken by Peter to the multi-national Church thousands of years later as the storm clouds of violent persecution began to gather against the Church, “But you are ***a (single) Chosen Race, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a People for God's Own Possession***, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...” “Once you were not a people, but now you have become the people of God” (1 Pet. 2:9-10).

Joshua's Leadership: A Second Chance for a Kingdom & Priesthood Ready for War

Joshua 1:1-3: The Hebrew word for ‘*tread*’, the place where you put your foot, is ‘*darak*’. This same word is often translated “to bend a bow” using the foot to string it ready for action. Sometimes it meant “to lock and load your weapons” in preparation for battle. So God is saying, “That for which you prepare your weaponry and move onto as an aggressive possessing army, that is what I have given to you”. In other words, you won't get a square inch of this land without being ready and prepared to go and fight for it. “I've already given it to you, but you won't possess any of it without a fight”.

So here they were, back again in exactly the same position that their fathers had been in forty years earlier with Moses. Joshua then started to exhort them. He told them many times not to be afraid, but to be strong and to take good courage.

He said that they would have to fight until the Lord God gave them rest. Their response is recorded in verses 16-17, “And they answered Joshua, saying, ‘All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Notice particularly verse 17, ***Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you...***” What? Was that a joke or were they serious?

This new generation was being given a new opportunity but they were speaking exactly the same language as their parents. They seemed to understand how disobedient their parents had been.

We need to see that the generation of charismatic Christians who were baptized in the Spirit between 1960 and 1990 by and large has also failed to go to war and possess their possessions. It's not a matter of age, but a matter of spirit. Joshua and Caleb were also of that failed generation but they had a different spirit and in spite of their age they were a thousand times more warriors than most of the new

generation which they were about to lead over Jordan to begin to possess the land.

The Kingdom Imposed but not Imparted

As long as Joshua was alive, and as long as the Elders that walked with him and who carried the same spirit were still alive, they caused the people to come into at least a portion of their inheritance, but only about 20% was occupied.

This whole generation was being driven by the spirit of a few zealous leaders and they were not really being motivated by a fire and zeal for God and His Kingdom from within their own hearts. They had never really received the same spirit as Joshua and Caleb; it was just temporarily imposed upon them.

The moment these men who really knew God had died and were no longer leading the people in God's way, the true heart of the people was immediately revealed. They quickly backslid into the worst period of gross sin and idolatry ever recorded in the history of God's people.

There is a verse that appears several times in the last chapters of the book of Judges. It summarized Israel's condition. "There was no King in Israel, and each one did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25, etc.).

Let us Fear lest we come short of it - Heb. 4:1-3

I want us to hear and fear what we read. When the Pentecostal movement struck Europe, America, Korea and North East India in the early 1900's, some of the greatest revivals in the history of the Church hit these nations. Amazing things happened. But the Christians did not go to war in the spirit of obedience and take possession of their land and occupy every gate of our secular society and change it for God and for His Kingdom.

In fact, in political, social, secular and moral areas, things deteriorated and got much worse during this period. Today, every kind of sin that is described in the book of Judges is now openly taking place in our Western society and tragically, it is often found in many of our churches and in our Christian leaders.

The Kingdom prophesied in the Old Testament

Let's now look at 1 Cor. 10:1-11. Here Paul is going back to the days of the Jewish

people when they crossed over the Red Sea. One of the things I want us to

understand is why such detailed history of the nation of Israel is included in our Christian Bibles. Why learn all this history and what profit is it for us today? In these few verses we are given an explanation. ***We are to learn from their example and take warning from the way God punished them.*** (v. 11) The God of the ethnic nation of Israel is the God of all the Earth and is the same God we serve today. Although there is a New Covenant there is not a different God.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

In Daniel Chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that Daniel interpreted. He saw a stone, cut without hands, thrown against a great statute that Nebuchadnezzar was dreaming about. That statute represented various forms of government that have been tried in the history of mankind without any of them really working.

The Head of Gold

It pictured Nebuchadnezzar first of all as the head of gold. Surprisingly, we are told, as Daniel begins to interpret the dream, that this totally despotic King had the right structure of government. But, it did not work because he had the wrong kind of heart and spirit. The system of government was perfect but it would only work properly when it had a perfect Head. Someone was necessary who was perfectly righteous, perfect in love and compassion, and was also perfect in wisdom and power so as to always make the right decision and be able to implement it.

So the solution was not to change the form of government but to change the Head to the only One who has that perfect power, wisdom and character, namely Jesus. He is the only one suitable for that perfect despotic rule. Then we would have the perfect Kingdom and live under His perfect government.

The Shoulders of Silver

As we go down the great statue that Daniel saw, we are shown other inferior forms of government starting with the Persian-Median Empire. This was ruled by the principle of Law. It was ruled by passing and obeying laws. In that Empire, once laws had been passed, they became permanent and more powerful than the King. Even the King could only amend or add to existing laws. He could not radically change the laws or simply repeal them. He could only amend them within certain

limits or add additional clarifying laws. Once passed, even he was subject to them and had to obey them. This system has many weaknesses because man made laws and their interpretation are never perfect. We are seeing something similar to this system ruining the United States Constitution and our democracy in America today.

The Thighs of Bronze

These represented the Greek Empire which was characterized by debate and the interplay of human intellect. The theory was that if intelligent, educated people discuss a thing long enough they will come, through consensus and compromise, to the right and best decision in the circumstances. The fallacy of this system was that it believed in the inherent goodness of man. It assumed that man was able to discern what was good, just and right and that the vast majority would always want to choose it. Another limitation was that the best of human wisdom sometimes didn't have an answer to the complexity of the problems confronting them.

The Legs of Iron

These represented the Roman Empire which is characterized as ruthless efficiency. This governmental system of Colonialism, held the theory that there is a master race that is efficient, superior, better organized and more able and therefore has the right and power to rule over other races and nations for their good. It was believed by this "master race", that it was to the benefit of all other peoples that they should be ruled over by this superior race because they knew better how to do it and as a result everybody would be better off. This system was probably seen at its best in the efficiency of the Roman Empire and the superior paternalism of the British Empire. It was seen at its worst in the cruelty of Fascism and especially in the Third Reich of the Nazis.

The Feet of Iron and Clay

The bottom of the statute ended in confusion with feet that were a mixture of iron and clay that would not stick together and, as a result it became a totally confused mess with no effective government at all. This is where we are today in many parts of the world. You can see weak democracies or fragile coalitions in some parts of the world, represented by the clay. Here we find weak ineffective leadership and no effective government at all with everyone doing what is right in their own eyes.

You also can see in other parts of the world small local dictatorships, represented by the pieces of iron, ruling their little local “empire” with cruelty and oppression. As I write, Italy, France, Canada and Germany would be examples of the clay and

Zimbabwe, Libya, Cuba and Venezuela would be present examples of this iron kind of government.

God’s Stone is thrown and it Destroys the Statue

In the vision, Daniel saw God throw a special Stone into the middle of the governmental structures. The whole Statue collapsed, turned into dust and was blown away by a mighty wind. The Stone cut out by God then grew to become a great mountain that filled the whole earth. We are told that this mountain is God's Kingdom and the Stone, clearly referred to in several Scriptures, is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then it was prophesied that at such a time, His Kingdom would fill the whole earth and all other kingdoms would be blown away. Only God’s Kingdom would remain. (See Daniel 2:19-49; Heb. 12:25-28; Hag. 2:6-9).

One of the disturbing things about studying these forms of government, which are described in Daniel’s Statue and rejected by God, is that at this present time you can see men trying to make them work, not only in the world, but also in the Church.

Deploying the King’s Air Force - the Right Strategy for Spiritual Warfare

We have become His resurrection and must understand our authority and ability to go into the heavens and rule in His Name. Then we can deal with principalities and powers in the heavenly places as well as on Earth. Let me use a military analogy, to make my point.

Ground forces alone are not enough

To try to advance the Kingdom by praying and warring only at the earthly level is like trying to win a war using only infantry or ground troops without using air power as well. In the natural this would be extremely foolish. If an army was advancing up a valley and failed to use it’s air force to target and remove the enemy’s gun positions in the hills on either side, it would be a crazy military strategy. If the army tried to advance with only ground troops, those enemy

positions in the hills would rain down artillery shells on these troops and cause heavy casualties.

That is what the Church has been doing for a long time. She has been so earth bound and has not seen her potential and power in the Heavens and has never used her heavenly air force strategically. In fact, some teachers even deny that such a role is available to the Church. But it is only when we learn to remove those demonic heavenly principalities that we begin to see the breakthrough on Earth.

The Structure of Satan's Hierarchy

We must spend a little time looking at the structure of the strongholds of the kingdom of darkness so that we can learn how to overcome them more effectively.

It was only after Adam fell into the trap of independence that Satan was able to establish his own kingdom on Earth. But Satan has to work through man as his delegated authority. Satan has to deceive men and bring them under his power, consciously or unconsciously, so that he can maintain his kingdom. The influence that keeps so many people captive to the devil is an influence that comes from the heavenly or spiritual realm, working through the pillars of our society and it particularly targets the mind. We must learn to deal with that heavenly realm and win the battle of the mind so that these prisoners can then be freed.

Satan has a hierarchical structure of arch-demons that serve him. We meet two of them in the book of Daniel, the Prince of Greece and the Prince of Persia. As Daniel began to pray for the prophetic words of Jeremiah and Isaiah to be fulfilled, warfare broke out immediately in the heavens. In the battle for Europe in the early church, Ephesus was the key City and Diana or Artemis was the major principality.

Winning the Legal Battle - Luke 18:1-8

Jesus taught two parables in Luke on persistent prayer. He represents God first as a friend, then as a judge. In each case, He appears to be indifferent and uncaring towards our petition. God is not really like this, but He may seem to be that way.

In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus said the purpose of the parable was to teach us that we should persist in prayer and never lose heart because of delay. One of the strange things about spiritual warfare is the long delay we often experience. From our perspective it seems like God isn't very interested in the thing we are praying for,

or else He seems powerless to intervene.

That is not the true situation at all, but something is being wrestled through in the spirit realm and it is absolutely essential that we stay in the spiritual court room

pleading our case until the verdict is finally given, even if the Judge seems indifferent. That is why Jesus taught this parable so that we would persist and not give up.

The Legal Victory Must Come First

Once someone begins to pray like this, things begin to happen in the heavenly realm. Spiritually speaking, we must learn how to fight and win the legal battle before we commence the military battle.

If we begin to fight a military battle before we have won the legal battle we make it very difficult for ourselves. When you fight the military battle, numbers are very important, but when you fight the legal battle then one or two is enough. You don't even need two. Jesus taught that one frail widow woman is enough, providing she is willing to persist until she gets a favorable verdict.

That is what happened to us in Mumbai all those years ago.

In the 1970's, the Spirit of God taught Eileen and I how to fight that kind of battle. There were no tapes and books in those days. We had to learn directly from God. Thankfully there were two of us but only one is enough.

Omar Cabrera had already powerfully demonstrated this single handed by in a number of cities in Argentina from the late 1950's through till the 1980's at the beginning of that great Argentinean revival.

Asking a Friend for a Friend Luke 11:5-10

There are very clear reasons why prayer gets delayed. In Luke 11 we are taught to pray for the things that our friends have need of. This realm is not yet real spiritual warfare, but it is often where we begin to learn to get things from God on behalf of others and it is a good training ground. After teaching us how to get our own needs met in verses 1-4, Jesus then says in verse 5, "Which of you will now go a stage further in prayer and learn to get things for your friends as well as for yourself?"

Now we are getting into the real spirit of prayer to God. We learned these lessons first of all in the City of Mumbai before we got into real warfare. **We obtained healings; we obtained jobs for people and homes for people to live in.**

We learned to become so expert in these prayers that we never had any long term unemployment in our Church although there was permanent 40% unemployment in the City. Just as the economy of Goshen was different to Egypt, so the economy of the Kingdom is different to the economy of the world. God taught us some important lessons. Sometimes He deliberately delayed some answers in order to train us in persistence and develop our spiritual muscles.

The Reasons for Delay in Answered Prayer

Four reasons why God sometimes deliberately delays answers to prayer:

1. **To train and strengthen us in our persistence** in prayer. We must be prepared for the long term battles of real warfare that lie ahead.
2. **Sometimes to purify our motives.** A wife may pray for her unconverted husband, “Oh God, change my husband” God may then ask, “Why?” She may have to get honest and confess, “Because I can’t stand him the way he is”! What is really concerning her is not his salvation but the unpleasantness of his unsaved state.

Sometimes people pray for their city like this because they want a nicer city to live in for their own enjoyment. It’s not really the burden of lost souls that is motivating them. So sometimes there must be a purification of our motives in prayer until we are praying for the right things for the right reason.

3. **To sharpen the focus of our prayers.** People often came to Jesus with a very general prayer, “Oh, Lord, help me! Please Lord, do something!” Whenever people spoke to Jesus like that He would come back and ask them, “What exactly do you want me to do for you”? He made them become very specific.
4. **To Insure we Pray Prayers of Faith.** Sometimes our prayers are only prayers of hope; “Well, let’s ask Jesus, and see if He is able and willing to help us. If He doesn’t immediately answer, we’ll try something else instead”. But if He is our only hope we have no other place to go and we

have to stick in there and get really desperate in our prayers like the Canaanite woman. She would not give up or let go until Jesus answered her (Matt. 15:21-28). If there is not real faith there cannot be true persistence. That is another way God tests the way we pray.

In Mark 9:22-23, a man came to Jesus with a demonized son saying, “Lord, if you can do anything, please, help me”! Jesus threw it straight back at him and said, “If I can do anything? ... If you can believe! All things are possible to him that believes” So sometimes delay is a means of perfecting our faith.

Learning the prayer tactics of Spiritual Warfare

As we come into Luke 18, we are no longer praying to our Friend for things our friends may need, but we are entering into real spiritual warfare. We have an adversary. He has been trying to harm us, and we want vengeance. We want our legal Kingdom rights. There is mutual enmity between him and us! Once again, Jesus portrays the judge as someone that doesn't seem to be concerned about justice. Instead, he just wants this persistent widow to stop bothering him all the time. Notice that again, there has to be persistence. It's not really because of indifference on God's part, as Jesus goes on to explain, “If the unjust judge finally gives the widow woman her rights, how much more will your righteous heavenly Father avenge those who cry out to Him day and night, and this He will do right speedily” (Luke 18:6-8).

God is Perfectly Righteous

Sometimes it is hard to understand the righteousness of God. He is so righteous that He has to be perfectly right in everything He does, even in His dealings with the devil. God cannot directly intervene on Earth in this dispensation without a human agency because if He did so it would precipitate the Final Judgment. He has left this world in the hands of men so they can still have the chance to be saved. Legions of angels are available to Him and ready to help His saints on Earth but they need to be legally released. If we learn to fight these legal battles successfully, then we can come to a place where these legions of angels can be released to come and help us when the actual conflict with the enemy and his hosts begins. If we don't win the legal battle first and get these angelic hosts legally released to help us fight, then we end up fighting the devil and his hosts on our own which is not a good way to fight.

This little widow woman had a strong adversary who had sought to do her much harm. She wanted vengeance; literally she wanted her legal rights. Jesus does not paint a picture of some strong Superman kind of person, but a single weak widow woman. Jesus is saying, “Look, it doesn’t matter how small or how weak you are. It doesn’t matter how insignificant you are. If you learn how to pray and persist you can get powerful answers to your prayers in the heavenly realm”.

In the legal battle it only takes one person. You could pray for your city to be transformed on your own and your prayers alone could cause the Father to release powerful angels to change that city. In verse 8, Jesus asks, “So when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the Earth?” Jesus is giving an example. Here is one weak widow woman with no influence, no money, and no power. All she had was persistence, but Jesus said that was enough to get an answer providing she had real faith. So why the delay? Why does it take so long? Because something is being wrestled through in the spirit realm.

If we are asking for the throwing down of some powerful demonic adversary we have to go to the Courts of Heaven where Almighty God sits. Our request has to be proved to be legal and righteous before God so He can righteously release the angelic hosts to make it happen.

The Essential Conditions

There has to be at least one human being who is born of God, and who has sat down with Christ on His heavenly throne. He must know he has been given authority in His Name and power to reign with Him.

He must believe that in Jesus’ Name he has a legal right to plead his case, rob the devil of all his goods and take possession of any part of the whole world on Christ’s behalf. But his authority is ambassadorial not absolute.

As the result of their legal standing as a redeemed human being, the case will be heard in the ultimate Heaven where God’s throne is. There is no higher court.

God, the Judge, is already on your side, but He cannot give you the verdict just because He loves you. He can only answer you when it has been proved to be legally righteous.

The devil will attempt to present counter arguments as to why he should not be thrown out of the City. That is where the battle in the heavens is going on. During this time he may come and attack you. He will try to intimidate you and try to stop you from praying. If you don't persevere until the judgment is given, even if you have a perfectly valid case, then you will still lose because you didn't persist.

Many Christians start praying for a legitimate cause but they don't get the answer because they don't persist until the answer comes. In these kinds of prayers, after some long time of waiting, the answer can suddenly come!

God, we are told, is righteous and longing to avenge us, but He must have a righteous human being who is prepared to see the case through to the end.

A day will come when you get the judgment of God on your behalf. At that time legions of angels are joyfully released to come and fight with you and enforce the judgment God has given. Oh! How these angels are longing and waiting for Believers who will persist in prayer and open the way for them to legally enter into the battle. Then you become workers together with angels as well as with God, and what a beautiful thing it is when you see that happen!

The "Military" Battle takes place primarily on Earth and means Action and needs Numbers

Once the verdict has been obtained, the next phase is to enforce what has been judicially granted to you on Earth.

Once you come to the enforcement stage, you don't just stay in the prayer room but you get out into the streets and into action. That is the military phase.

This is where we go and cast out demons, heal the sick, and loose people from their demonic bondages. Here, drug addicts, alcoholics and prostitutes turn to the Lord. The members of drug cartels and violent gangs get converted or leave town and peace comes to the city. Political and religious leaders who have been violently opposing us get converted and join us in advancing the Kingdom of God. You shut down the sex shops and close the abortion clinics and all the centers of sin and wickedness. Physically you begin to change the feel and very appearance and function of your city. Corruption is cleansed from every aspect of Public Life and we see righteous and godly government established.

At this stage the more people you can muster the better. Here, numbers really count and the more the merrier! There are many angels available and plenty to go round. They seem to come in thousands, and they are ready to go! They are longing for us to pray for our cities so they can be released legally to come and do God's Kingdom work.

We must become Those who Pray through before we go into Action.

By nature, most human beings are activists and not pray-ers. **A common mistake is to go out too soon in a flurry of activity without the divine mandate to validate what you are doing. There are no angels fighting with you because they have not been legally released to come and help you.** You are on your own. It's tough and you don't see much result. If you do that sort of thing of your own initiative, little will happen. That will produce great disappointment in the Church so that you will never easily muster the people again for another evangelistic thrust. **It's so important to do the right things in the right way at the right time.**

Real God-directed Evangelism causes many people to get saved. Everybody is being used and people do not get bored or tired at all. They will be absolutely thrilled. When angels are working all over the city and you just go and work with them, you are supernaturally empowered by God's grace and you don't get weary.

CHANGING THE POLITICAL MAP THROUGH OUR PRAYERS

In the book of Daniel, we find him wrestling in prayer.

He was praying for certain prophetic Scriptures to be fulfilled. He was praying for his nation to be delivered from captivity according to God's prophetic word. God had said through the prophet Jeremiah that after 70 years Judah would be released from Babylonian captivity and would return to their own land (**Jer. 29:10-14**).

Jeremiah had prophesied from BC 628 - BC 588

The prophet Isaiah prophesied at the end of chapter 44 and into the beginning of chapter 45. He even named the person through whom God would bring this deliverance. He was a pagan king named Cyrus who didn't know God, but

nevertheless, God said he would be His instrument (**Is. 44:24- Is. 45:7**).

Isaiah prophesied from BC 762 - BC 698, maybe into the reign of Manasseh

Daniel began his lonely prayer warfare and it was a prayer battle that lasted more than 70 years. He went into captivity in BC 608 as a young teenager and prayed

almost 50 years until BC 559 before anything happened. Then a man called Cyrus became the king of Persia. Persia was not a particularly powerful nation at that time but he had the right name. Daniel asked, “Is this the man?” God said, “Yes, this is the man! I want you to promote him politically with your prayers”.

We need the right Politicians, Judges and Government officials in Place

That is something we need to learn to do. Cities cannot be transformed without getting the right politicians, judges, police chiefs and media people in place. The hearts of politicians must be changed by the power of prayer. As a result they will start working with you and not against you.

You Must Pray for Your Capital City

You must also pray for your State and National Capital, because this will greatly affect what you are able to do in your own home city. Whoever was on the throne of the Persian-Median Empire in Sushan determined what would happen in the City of Jerusalem over 1,000 miles away. So, getting the right people in the right political positions is a powerful and important part of City taking.

Praying the Prophets Words into Manifestation

Daniel’s prayers were the key for a whole nation to be released from captivity and for a ruined city to be rebuilt. The Prophet Jeremiah had prophesied. The Prophet Isaiah had prophesied. It was written in Scripture, It was now the Word of God. So what did Daniel do? He didn’t just sit down in his favorite chair and passively wait for God to act saying, “Praise God, I’m just going to watch and wait for God to do His sovereign will”. No, the prophetic word became the target and the motivation for his prayer.

He knew exactly what to pray because God has told him what to pray. When he saw Cyrus come to the throne in Persia he could joyfully say, “This is it! Here is God’s man!” Daniel prayed him through to ever increasing political prominence

until he became the major political force in the world apart from the king of

Babylon. While this battle was going on Daniel was feeling such spiritual pressure and heaviness that he almost gave up. (**See: Dan. 10:1- Dan. 11:1.**)

But it was so important to God's strategy that Daniel keep praying that God sent the angel Gabriel to strengthen him. The case was being heard in the heavenly

Court Room but the judgment had not yet been given. If Daniel had stopped praying, the case would not be completed and no judgment could have been given and no angelic power released on Earth.

Contending with Major Regional spirits

The prince of Greece and the prince of Persia were two great demonic principalities ruling over large regions of the world. They were right in this fight along with all their demons. Michael the Archangel was in warfare against them along with the Archangel Gabriel. This was the fight of fights in Daniel's day and he was almost overcome by the spiritual pressure and was becoming very weary. Gabriel briefly left the battle and came to Daniel and said, "Daniel keep praying! Don't stop praying! You must hang in there son! Your praying legitimizes our activity in the heavens to bring down these demonic powers and cause the Word of God to come to pass".

Daniel is supernaturally strengthened

By this angelic visitation, Daniel was strengthened to stick in there and bring about the victory. These great demonic principalities were unable to withstand the persistent prayers of this one renewed man. God was then able, through this man's prayers, to enforce His Word. As a result, the right politicians came to the throne, a remnant of Jews return to Jerusalem and they started to work with God and His angels to bring about the restoration of the Temple and the city. But many more battles lay ahead.

A Change of Heart and Spirit and Political Leaders

By this time Daniel was an old man. He was well into his 80's or even 90's. It was his prayers that were making everything happen. Through his prayers and because of the right political environment, God's people were released and they started to rebuild the Temple. Four years went by and then suddenly everything stopped.

There was a change of heart. Everyone began to say “It’s not time to build the house of the Lord”. The sympathetic king Cyrus was killed and he was replaced by a renegade son, one of the Artaxerxes. He repealed the political permission and removed the government funding they had received to rebuild Jerusalem. Everything suddenly changed and turned against them politically (Ezra 4:7-24),

God Lost His Man

The people of God were now saying, “Oh, man. I’m weary. I don’t think this is the right time to build God’s house. Let’s not try something so ambitious. Besides, I have a few things to finish in my own house. It’s not as comfortable as I would like it to be”. So they left the house of God in order to build for themselves more comfortable homes and the House of God remained unfinished at foundation level for 14 years. This all took place in 534 B.C.

Also, in 534 B.C., Daniel died and God lost his intercessor. And because no one was praying, the whole political scene swung around to serve Satan rather than God. An evil and corrupt son of Cyrus went against the law to stop them building the Temple. He actually violated the law of the Persians and Medians in order to have his way. All of God’s people lost heart and even the apostolic leader Zerubbabal lost heart and diverted his attention to other things.

Two New Prophetic Warriors Appear

14 years went by until two people regained their spiritual vision. These were two young prophets, named Haggai and Zechariah. They received the same spirit of prayer that Daniel had. They started to prophesy and to pray. Haggai particularly prophesied to the builders and they were stirred up. Everybody received a new spirit and was enabled to get back to building again. These two prophets began to pray about the political situation as well. The renegade son of Cyrus was suddenly killed and was replaced by another son of Cyrus, called Darius II.

He was a mild and reasonable man who, when he had the facts reported to him, said “What are we doing? We should have never stopped those Jews from building the Temple again. It’s against the law and it will bring the wrath of their God upon our heads. Give them finances from the government. Do everything you can to help them get this job finished”. In three months this great change occurred in the political situation. There was a change in the spirit of the people. It all happened

because God found two new prophetic intercessors to replace Daniel. In four years they completed what the people had said for the past fourteen years could not be done.

Can you see this very crucial and vital role of prayer? It doesn't need a lot of people. One or two was enough. They can be as insignificant and without any natural influence as that little widow woman. But if they know how to pray they can appoint the new Presidents and other political leaders. They can decide who is going to rule over the nation. You also can decide these things. You can choose the Mayor of your town, your judges and political representatives and the Chief of Police etc. once you know how to rule in your prayers. So there is power in these things. We must get into these realms of politics, the judiciary, law enforcement, education and the media, and start to take over these areas.

The Clash of The Kingdoms

The kingdom of Satan already exists and is already functioning wherever the Kingdom of God has not already come. Every attempt to establish the Kingdom of God is always a direct invasion of Satan's territory. There is no vacant territory. That is why the Kingdom of God always suffers violent attack from the devil the moment it appears. The only way to deal with that demonic violence is to be even more violent and powerful in response. For a long time Satan has understood the spiritual power of cities. Therefore, he has deliberately set up his power centers over cities and seeks to rule the whole land from them. Throughout the world, almost without exception, the Cities are the strongholds of Satan's kingdom and they must be taken.

BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL WARRIOR INDIVIDUALLY

An important principle we have to learn is that we cannot be strong in our corporeity until we have first become individually strong on our own.

Ephesians 6:10-18 and Hebrews 12:22-29 are two major passages that bear on this subject in the New Testament plus a number of individual verses.

The key is coming to real faith concerning who we are individually. Each one of us must become deeply convinced concerning what the Bible says Jesus has made us to be. We must know and live in the power of His resurrection.

In both cases these books were written in preparation for a time heightened warfare.

A time of trouble and persecution was about to break upon the Church. Ephesians was written to the Church in Ephesus about AD 64. Hebrews was written to Jewish believers scattered around the Roman Empire at about the same time. It was just before the persecution which broke out under Emperor Nero in about AD 68.

The instructions of how to fight successfully come in the last chapters. There were several chapters of preparatory instructions which had to be put in place first.

The main points in each case can be summarized as follows:

- 1) **The need to fully comprehend the full glory and power of Jesus *now* and who He has *become* in His Resurrection (Eph. 1:17-23; Heb. 1:1-2:5).**
- 2) **The need to comprehend what we *now* have as our inheritance and what He has made us to *become* in His Resurrection (Eph. 1:1-15; Heb. 2:5-3:2).**
- 3) **The need to comprehend the full extend of the victory that Jesus has already accomplished in the Cross over the devil and all his forces and all his works (John 12:26-32; Luke 10:17-20; Col. 2:11-15; Heb. 2:13-17).**
- 4) **Learning how to build an impregnable defense against all the attacks of the enemy and being able to quench each one of them.**

a) **The Defensive Armor - Eph.6:10-18**

- i) The Belt of Truth
- ii) The Breastplate of Righteousness
- iii) Feet shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
- iv) Above all, taking the Shield of Faith so as to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one
- v) The Helmet of Salvation. Protecting the mind and learning to control all

our thought life. Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5).

vi) The Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. We must learn first of all, how to use it defensively.

vii) The Name of the Lord.

viii) Praying always with all prayer and supplication of the Spirit.

b) Offensive Weaponry – Rev. 12:10-11; Luke 10:17-21; Acts 1:8; Acts 4:24-33

i) The Blood of the Lamb

ii) The Word of our Testimony. The Word can be used offensively. This means actually speaking it out as a Word of Faith and command.

iii) Loving not our own lives unto the death (Heb. 2:14-16).

iv) The power to cast out demons and heal the sick (Luke 10:19).

v) The power of signs and attesting miracles (Acts 3:1-13; Acts 12:1-19)

c) The Powerful Weapon of Finances works both Ways

The ability to advance the Kingdom and do God's will on Earth can be greatly helped or hindered depending upon the financial resources we have available. We can greatly hinder Satan by using our spiritual authority to cut off his financial supply. We can greatly facilitate the Kingdom's advance by praying in the necessary financial resources to do all we are being called to do.

Imagine Islam or Mormonism or the ACLU having their financial resources cut off so they could no longer do many of the expensive promotional things they now do. It is not enough just to pray about money. We need to get into action. We need God directed plans and strategies. We also need organizations led by men and women gifted with the skills and with the heart to obtain these resources out of the world system and then use them to forcefully advance the Kingdom in this way.

d) Maintaining an effective prayer life

As we can see from many of the Scriptures, an effective Prayer Life is the essential foundation in both defense and attack. **Every leader mentioned in the Old and the New Testament was a man or woman of prayer.** We could easily make a long list at this point. Learn the lessons from Enoch, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David through to Jesus and then on to Peter and Paul.

5) Learn how to be victorious and remain standing even when the enemy has done all he can ((Eph. 6:10-16).

6) Learn how to then make the devil pay full restitution for all the trouble he has caused (Ex. 22:1-4; Prov. 6:31; James 1:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-7).

7) Know the Authority we now have and learn to use it properly.

8) Understand how to provide a protective cover over all those that we lead and have responsibility for e.g. Leaders of Ministries, Elders of Local Churches, Elders of City Churches, Fathers of natural families etc.

LEARNING THE ADDITIONAL POWER OF TRUE UNITY AND OF CORPORATE ACTION.

We must carefully note:

- a) the Promises accompanying True Unity, and
- b) the Warnings concerning the destructive power of Division

The Blessings and Power of True Unity - Ps. 133:1-3;

The Increased Power of Corporeity - Lev. 26:7-8; Josh. 23:10-11

Strong Commandments to Remain Joined Together (Eph. 4:1-6; Col. 3:9-15)

On The Other Hand, Note the Dangers and Weakness of Division - Matt. 12:25; Luke 11:17.

DISCERNING BETWEEN TRUE UNITY AND FALSE UNITY

The Bible powerfully teaches the need for Unity among those who are of the same Spirit, serving the same Christ and preaching the same Gospel.

But it also teaches strongly in the Old and New Testament of the need to separate from those who are false and only pretend to be of the True God and of the same Spirit, serving the same Christ and preaching the same Gospel.

They are to be determined by the Fruit of their lives and ministry.

We are particularly warned to beware of False Apostles, False Prophets and False Teachers.

The Characteristics of False Apostles, Prophets and Teachers are as follows:

False Apostles and Elders: 1 Pet. 5:1-9; 2 Cor. 11:1-15

False Prophets: Matt. 7:15-20; Matt. 24:11, 23-24; Mark 13:22; Luke 6:22-26; 2 Pet. 1:19 – 2 Pet. 2:3; 1 John 4:1-6.

In Eph. 5:1-18; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-11; Rom 16:17. Practical Guidelines are given with reasons when the True must separate from the False in the following Scriptures, They can be summarized as follows:

- The practicing and condoning of sexual immorality of any kind
- The love of money and any kind of covetousness which is idolatry pride and self-exaltation, self-seeking
- Uncontrolled fleshy self-indulgence such as, sexual lust, overeating and excessive drinking of wine. Uncontrolled appetites of any kind.
- Filthiness of mind and conversation, foolish talking and coarse jesting
- Lying and not practicing the truth
- False Doctrine, particularly error concerning the Nature and Mystery of the Trinity, the true nature of God, and concerning the Father and the Son and the mystery of their relationship.
- Those who resist true spiritual authority and those who cause division.

HOW TO FUNCTION AS AN EFFECTIVE TEAM

Paul frequently uses the military analogy to describe how the Church also function in it's relationships and in it's warfare against the devil.

Many Chapters of the Old Testament are devoted to the development of a Warrior Band loyally gathered around a God appointed Leader.

These are written for our instruction and especially for those on whom the end of the age has come (1 Cor. 10:11).

The most outstanding examples are David and his mighty men and Gideon and his warrior band. These principles began with Moses and were continued by Joshua. They were still the principles in the Kingdom of David and were continued by Solomon. Every king after Solomon was measured by how much he did it like David. At the time of Restoration these principles were restored.

The Main passages of Scripture are: (Judges 6:1-40; Judges 7:1-23; 2 Sam. 23:8-39; 1 Chr. 12:1-38). These illustrate the following:

- The preparation of the Leader/Head and the qualities required in him.
- The clear leadership of the Head, yet always with consultation.
- The qualities required in a key leader on the team and his relationship with the Head and the rest of the team.

Many of the same principles are found in Jesus and His team and in Paul and his team, with the addition that many of the “mighty men” had become women.

David's mighty men they learned how to protect each other and particularly how to be a shield around their leader.

In Eph. 6:10-18, every verb, noun and pronoun is in the plural not the singular. The Roman Army was divided into Legions of about six thousand. These were then divided into units or squads of 100 men under a Centurion. Every foot soldier had a shield measuring about 2 x 1 meters. In a squad, every soldier was trained to lock their shields together so as to provide an impenetrable wall of protection as they

advanced under fire as one unit.

Corporate Weapons and their particular use Lev. 26:1-13; Joshua 23:10

As we have already seen, if we live righteously and obediently before our God, when we come to the military phase of our warfare there is great multiplication of our power particularly if we war together. Then numbers become very important.

If the mathematics of Scripture is taken literally in Lev. 26:7, five will chase a hundred and a hundred will chase ten thousand. So each one of five warring

together would be individually twenty times more powerful than the same person on their own. If one hundred warred together each person would be one hundred times more powerful than they would be on their own.

Conversely we are taught in Deut. 32:30 & Josh. 23:11-13 that if we become unfaithful and disobedient to our God and become complacent and indifferent to Him, cease to love Him, show honor to any other God or even worse, worship any other God, then this multiplication of power will work even more strongly against us and just a few of our enemies will be able to chase thousands of us.

Specialization and the development of Specialist Weapon Skills

David trained his men to become very skillful with a whole variety of different weapons and they could use them with either hand (1 Chr. 12:1-3).

When Jesus was moved with compassion for the multitude (Matt.9:35-38), He said the Harvest was truly plentiful. Then He commanded us to pray for laborers to go out into this great harvest field. The word “laborer” suggests a skilled workman who is an expert in the harvest field and not just an enthusiastic novice who does not know what he is doing.

The Training and deployment of Special Strategic Forces

In a modern military conflict, all kinds of specialist skills are needed to give the army full resources to overcome all the different devices of the enemy.

Some of the skills we need are as follows:

Skilled Prayer Leaders who sense where the Holy Spirit is going and can lead, train and inspire others to pray on target with great effect and authority.

Skilled Worship Leaders who can flow sensitively with the Holy Spirit and with the Prayer Leaders and can lead and train others to dwell in God's presence.

Skilled Prophets who are also sensitive prayers who receive supernatural insight from the Holy Spirit of demonic activities and strategies. They can flow sensitively with the Prayer Leaders as they submissively communicate their revelation.

Skilled "Spiritual Mappers" who can research the spiritual history of a location, a City or a Region. They identify the demonic strongholds and specific places of deeply entrenched spiritual darkness which need to be cleansed. They provide this information to Apostolic Leaders who can then plan strategic attacks on these locations.

Skilled Strike Teams who go to specific sites to deal with demonic strongholds and directly confront and drive off those demonic powers.

Skilled Prayer Warriors who are trained by the Spirit of God to go in Spirit to locations which are not accessible physically. They are like intercontinental ballistic missile centers in the spirit that can destroy demonic strongholds in preparation for the ground troops to go in later

Skilled Evangelists who can lead and train others how to be effective, relevant witnesses to the lost and become skilled reapers of the harvest.

OCCUPYING THE GATES OF THE CITY

The first thing that Jesus said about the Church that He would build was that the Gates of Hades would not be able to prevail against it (Matt.16:18).

What are these Gates?

Let's now consider this important subject of 'Gates'. The biblical term 'Gates' goes back to the way cities were built in the Old Testament. Usually a protective

wall was built around every city. These walls were usually very thick and very high. The wall around Jericho, for example, was about 30 feet thick and 100 feet high. It was some obstacle!

At certain places in the wall, a tunnel was built through the wall to allow people to go in and out of the City. At each end of the tunnel, strong heavy metal-reinforced wooden doors would be hung. The word 'Gate' did not refer simply to the doors at the end of the tunnel but the whole tunnel itself.

These Gates were the only way of entering or leaving the city. In these Gates, thrones were placed where the Elders of the city sat. They had armed soldiers on hand ready to take action if needed.

The Elders literally sat in the Gates.

The purpose of doing so was twofold. Firstly, so they could watch anything and everything that came towards the city and they could decide whether they to let it in. They could stop any cart or person and ask, "What's in that bag? What's on that cart?" If they didn't like it, they wouldn't let it into the city. So everything that came into the City was regulated by the government of Elders that sat in the Gates.

The second thing was that the Elders also sat as judges. If anyone had a dispute or situation needing a just decision, they could come to the Elders at the Gate who would give a ruling to settle the dispute.

From the Gates, the Elders controlled everything that came into the city and ruled over everything that happened in the city. At the Gates, laws were passed that ruled and regulated the everyday lives of the people. Gates represented that which governed, ruled, and controlled the lives of people living in a City. We must learn what these Old Testament stories concerning Gates represented allegorically, and what are the principles that they teach us concerning our cities today.

The Gates become Spiritual

As we move into the prophet books these gates ceased to be physical on Earth and became spiritual in the Heavens. However, they continued to have the same function spiritually. They regulated all that was allowed to come into the City spiritually and they controlled what was permitted to take place legally and politically in our Cities. In the spirit realm, they controlled the laws which were passed to control so much of the lives of the people in our Cities.

At this time most of these Gates over our Cities are occupied by demonic powers and not by God's people. Long ago, Satan learned the power of sitting in the Gates so as to exercise control over our Cities. His occupancy in most cases is almost total. The influence of Hell is much greater than the influence of Heaven in most of our Cities. Therefore, in order for the Kingdom to come, we must change the situation by taking these Gates.

God has given us some great promises concerning these Gates. In Genesis 22, God was speaking to Abraham after he had offered his only son, Isaac. God said "I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and ***your seed shall possess the Gates of their enemies***. And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Gen.22:17-18). So God was making a promise, that the descendants of Abraham will possess the Gates of their enemies and, as result, a mighty harvest will be reached.

In Gen. 24 we have a beautiful allegory of Christ and His Church. Isaac is the bridegroom representing Christ, and Rebekah is the Bride representing the Church. They are about to send Rebekah away to be married to Isaac. In verse 60 something is promised to the Bride Rebekah and allegorically to the Church. "They blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become the mother of thousands of ten thousands, and ***may your descendants possess the Gates of those who hate them***". Here again, the promise of reaping a mighty harvest is directly linked with taking possession of the Gates that are presently in the hands of our enemy. Gate taking was a necessary preparation for City taking. If you take the Gates then you can reap the harvest. It will be so massive that you won't believe how large it is.

Then as we have already seen, when Jesus spoke His first words concerning the Church in Matt. 16:18, He said to Peter, "***I will build my Church and the Gates of Hades will not prevail against it***".

Let me list some of these Gates as they now exist spiritually. These Gates are not simply the main physical highways coming in and out of a city. These Gates are not that kind of a physical Gate, but they are spheres of influence and control that shape the way people think and behave. I have put these gates into three categories.

The First Category of Gates.

These are the spheres of control which have a strong influence on the way people think and behave. Several Scriptures tell us that what we are really fighting is a battle of the mind (2 Cor. 4:3, 4, 6; 2 Cor. 10:4-5).

It is a battle for the way people think which become powerfully shaped by the following Gates:

- The Media
-Music and Film
- Literature, Magazines and Books
- The Educational system
- The Political system
- The Legal system
- The Religious systems
- The Financial system
- The Cultural Traditions of the People living in the City.

As you look at this list tell me how many of these are strongly influenced by the devil and how many are powerfully influenced by the Church right now? Who is running your city right now? I am sure you would agree that in most cases they are totally in the control of the evil one. It is time to change things!

These Gates are taken in the following ways:

Firstly, by targeted praying for the people who hold these positions of great influence that they may be converted or at least their hearts turned toward the Lord so as to fear Him and serve Him. In addition, pray that they be motivated to support and help those who are God's servants and even give them financial help

to accomplished all God has called them to do. There is no evidence that

Nebuchadnezzar or Cyrus, or Darius were ever truly converted, but their hearts were definitely turned to a healthy fear of the Lord and a great respect for those who served Him. But even though unconverted they were still moved by the prayers of the saints to serve the Lord's purposes.

Secondly, Christians can actually occupy these places and positions of power, authority and influence to become God's salt in that situation. They must be unashamed witnesses and pray-ers. It is no good just being there quietly and secretly. Look at the way Daniel behaved. He was in a secular government position all his life. He was a politician. Look at Joseph. That was a political appointment. But they would not be quiet about the source and power that enabled them to be what they were. At the risk of death they would not keep quiet. Instead, they changed their secular demonic environment to a place where God was honored, revered and finally obeyed. They changed the whole politics of the nations. We need to pray for Christians in these positions that they may have the same boldness.

The Second Category of Gates

These are geographical sites of intense demonic strength and activity. These are sites like Temples, Grottos and Worship Sites where "Holy Objects", idols and gods are worshiped. This would include shrines devoted to the veneration of Mary and other "Saints" as well as idols and religious objects of other religions. This would include sites of demonic worship and anything involving the occult, particularly places of blood sacrifice. This would also include sites where blood has been violently spilled like battle sites and massacre sites, particularly where vengeance was the motive of the massacre. Other Gates and areas include sites of sexual immorality and murder such as brothels, sex shops and abortion clinics.

These Gates can be taken by experienced, strong, intercessors who know what they are doing and are truly being led by the Lord. It is usually necessary to go physically to those sites. It is often necessary to pray earnestly, usually for sometime, and often right through the night as God directs. You must perform any prophetic acts that God tells you to do. You must speak in faith as God directs and you must command the demons to leave. They will have to obey although they often make a fight of it. But all this must be done, not as a methodology, but only as God directs and empowers in a specific way.

We must learn how to, by faith work with God and go to some places in the Spirit because going there physically is impossible. It may be a closed country where Christians are not permitted to go openly. But, there are no barriers in the spirit realm and God is beginning to teach us how to move and go in the Spirit to places as He directs where we cannot go openly or physically.

The Third category of Gates

The third category of gates are actual people. These consist of people who have deliberately given themselves to serve Satan directly or they have given themselves with deliberate passion to serve some satanically inspired cause. As a result, a major demonic principality has entered them and now controls them and works through them to control many other people. Sometimes this one spirit in one person can influence millions of people, whole nations and great regions of the Earth.

A powerful biblical example of this was the demonized, zealous Pharisee Saul who rampaged through three nations persecuting and killing many Christians. He personally threw many into prison but the demon in him inspired many thousands of others to behave in the same way. This human “Gate of Hell” was targeted by the Church, particularly first Apostles, in prayer. As a result he was dramatically delivered, saved and was turned right round to become the mightiest Apostle of the Early Church. Once this “Gate” was possessed and the demon cast out, the Church in the three nations of Judea, Galilee and Samaria immediately had rest, were comforted and the number of believers was greatly multiplied (Acts 9:31).

A city in Kenya, which was described on the first Transformation tape by George Otis, Jr., had all kinds of sin, immorality and witchcraft going on and no church could be successfully planted there. A Pastor went to that city and God showed him to pray until he found the “Gate” that was causing all this. He was led to a particular shop in the High Street where a well known witch ran a native craft store. He was lead to target that store and pray that the witch would leave town, although she and her family had lived there for several generations. He prayed for some time. Then suddenly one day she was gone! The atmosphere of the whole town changed. The Pastor then started a church and began to evangelize. He soon had a church of about 2,000 people. The crime and sin largely disappeared from the town and everything was changed.

We need to target these people with our prayers. We must get to know them by name, where they meet, where they go and do things. I am talking about witches and warlocks; the promoters of New Age, the devotees of Mother Earth, the promoters of other religions and other things. This also includes strong activist who passionately promote demonically empowered political causes like abortion, homosexuality, lesbianism, gay rights, etc. We must also target promoters of secret societies like Freemasonry, false cults, and violent religious fanatics. Sometimes it may be helpful to go directly to the person and try to tell them the truth.

We must go in love and not in hatred. We may hate what they do but we don't hate who they are. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in heavenly places.

When these gates are possessed by the Kingdom of God a tremendous shift takes place in the spirit realm. The demons have to go. Either they leave the person and the person gets saved, or if the person won't repent and let them go, then the person and the demon both have to leave together. But one way or the other the demons have to go, they cannot stay.

VICTORIOUS WARRIORS, HEAL THE SICK, CAST OUT DEVILS AND DO SIGNS, WONDERS AND MIRACLES IN HIS NAME

Once Jesus was anointed, He began to preach the Kingdom of God, heal the sick and cast out demons. He then commissioned the disciples to do the same thing in His Name. (Matt.11:11-12; Luke 9:1-4; Luke 10:1-8; John 20:21-22

This was the cutting edge of every Evangelistic breakthrough and the means of establishing of every new church in New Testament days and it still is today.

1) Defining our Subject

Miracles - are often called Signs (Grk. Semeion - an attesting work or sign).

Wonders - an act of wonderment (Grk. Teras - an omen, a supernatural wonder).

Healings - Three words are used interchangeably even for the same incidents in different Gospels.

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- a) Iaomai - To be cured, to be healed.
 - b) Therapeuo - To be cured, especially through adoration and worship.
 - c) Sozo - To be made whole. To be saved. To be released from every work of Satan. It was used interchangeably in all three senses of:
 - i) healing of sicknesses, ii) delivering from demons, iii) the forgiving of Sins. Faith was always the agent by which this occurred.

Miracles and Signs were not confined to physical healing of bodies. There were many events in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, and many in the Old Testament when God overrode the normal physical laws of the Universe and did mighty attesting signs.

e.g. Many miracles occurred through Moses, Joshua, Elijah and Elisha etc.

Jesus' first miracle was to turn Water into Wine.

Jesus rebuked the Demonic Storms on Galilee several times.

Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000 and the 4,000.

Peter caught a fish with a gold coin in it's mouth.

Jesus and Peter walked on the Water.

Jesus caused two miraculous catches of fish.

Philip was supernaturally transported after speaking to the eunuch.

Paul was unaffected by the poisonous snake.

A Healing has taken place when the demonic activity causing the sickness in a person's body is brought to an end.

The total physical recovery may take place slowly and naturally afterwards.

In some cases, the physical damage already caused may remain although the further ravaging of the disease may be immediately stopped.

A Healing Miracle occurs when the healing includes a Creative or Restorative act of Divine Power.

Some examples are:

Lazarus was raised when his body was already decomposing (John 11:1-45).

The man with the withered arm was healed and his arm restored (Luke 6:1-11).

The woman who was bent double was instantly straightened (Luke 13:10-17)

The lame man at the pool of Bethesda walked after 38 years (John 5:1-9).

Some Lepers had damaged limbs restored as well as being healed (Luke 17:11-19).

The Lame Man that Peter raised at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3:4-10)

Paul raised after being stoned to death. He had no residual injuries (Acts 14:8-23).

In John 9:1-14, ponder why Jesus healed the blind man in this particular way.

2) According to Scripture all Sicknesses and all Diseases are directly attributed to the activity of demons.

Acts 10:38 “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power and He went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil”.

See also Matt.10:1, 8; Mark 1:32-34; Luke 6:18-19; Luke 9:1-2 etc.

Jesus “rebuked” sicknesses, the obviously demon possessed, and violent demonic storms in exactly the same way, using exactly the same words.

Demons may be resident within people and need casting out or they may be afflicting or attacking from the outside and need throwing off. They can work in families and be passed down from generation to generation. They can be the result of witchcraft curses or by people being directly involved in witchcraft. In every case the demonic spirit has to be rebuked and sent packing.

Certain high ranking demons are more stubborn and require a greater authority and faith to cast them out. This authority and faith only comes through a life of prayer and fasting (Matt.17:14-21; Mark 9:17-29).

3) The Bottom Line Affecting Everything else is an Effective Prayer Life

Jesus demonstrated this and also taught it continually to His disciples.

The Gospel of Luke particularly emphasizes this. Luke shows Jesus at prayer many times and directly connects His prayer life with His authority and power to heal and to cast out demons.

Luke 3:21: ***By His prayer***, He opened Heaven and the Spirit came down

Luke 5:16: ***By His prayer***, The Power of the Lord was present to heal.

Luke 6:1-2: ***By His prayer***, He knew who to choose as the Twelve apostles.

Luke 6: 7-19: ***By His prayer***, Power flowed out from Him to heal a whole multitude and deliver a whole multitude from demons.

Luke 9:18-20: ***By His prayer***, the disciple's eyes were opened by revelation to see who He really was.

Luke 9:28-29: ***By His prayer***, He was transfigured before them and they had an unforgettable mountain top experience.

Luke 11:1-22: ***By His prayer***, He produced a great longing in His disciples to be able to pray like Him. He then carefully taught them six steps to powerful praying.

Luke 18:1-8: ***By His prayer***, He taught them the need and power of persistent prayer and how Faith must be found on the Earth. He longed for His House to become a House of Prayer for all Nations (Luke 19:46; Is. 56:7).

Luke 22:31-32: ***By His prayer***, He kept Peter's faith from failing in his hour of trial. He prayed for Peter's conversion so he would not compete with his brethren, but strengthen them instead.

Luke 22:41-46: **By His prayer**, in Gethsemane, He fought and won a great battle and by Faith obtained His Resurrection before He went to the Cross (Heb. 5:7).

Luke 23:34: **By His prayer** on the Cross, He obtained forgiveness for those who crucified Him. One of the thieves and the Centurion in charge of His execution were converted on the spot (Mark 15:34-39).

Luke 23:46: **By His prayer** of Faith on the Cross, He obtained the Church and the Nations as His inheritance plus many other wonderful things (Psalm 22:1-31).

4) It must be a Prayer of Faith

It is only the Prayer of Faith that heals the sick (James 5:14-15).

It must be more than a prayer of sympathy, or a prayer of pleading desperation hoping that God can do something.

It must be of Faith and it must be Faith that rests in Jesus alone.

It must be more than looking to God as one of several different options.

The only Biblical reason given for failure is - Unbelief

This was the only reason that Jesus ever gave for failure to do miracles like Him in His Name.

Unbelief can also prevent us from receiving deliverance or a healing and can also prevent us from ministering healing effectively to others (Mark 9:17-29).

5) The Definition and Source of Real Faith

1 Tim. 6:12-14 - Paul's three-fold exhortation to Timothy:

- a) Fight the good Fight of Faith.
- b) Lay hold of the Eternal Life to which he was called.
- c) Maintain the good confession before many witnesses.

Without Faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).

We must run the race of Faith with Perseverance (Heb.12:1-2).

We must have a sober assessment of the measure of Faith which Christ has dealt us (Rom. 12:3).

The Bible Definition of Faith - Heb 11:1

The assurance (Grk. hypostassis - the Title Deed) of things hoped for.

The convincing proof (Grk. elegchos - the Evidence) of things not seen.

Faith comes by hearing the Specific Spoken Word of Christ (Rom.10:17).

We truly hear God speak in our spirits. We know what He has said. We believe what He has said in spite of circumstances or what we see with our natural senses.

It is not what we imagine or desire but only what we have truly heard God say.

All True Faith comes to us as a Gift from God.

We cannot create it of ourselves. We can only gratefully receive this ability to truly believe which comes to us from God.

Mark 11:22-24 Here Peter! have (receive - actively take hold of) God's Faith (God's ability to believe His Word) which comes to you from God.

Faith is an intrinsic part of God's Eternal Life. That is why we must learn to live by His Eternal Life and not our own.

We can step into the spirit realm by faith and take hold of what God has already spoken into existence in the Spirit realm. We can then firmly grasp it by our faith and bring it into this time-space world so it becomes manifested for all to see.

The Devil hates Faith because it has the power to destroy his kingdom and he fights it with all his might.

God has already said and done everything necessary in the spirit realm to totally

destroy Satan and his kingdom. When we bring God's Word to manifestation by our Faith, it is released on Earth to destroy him.

That is why it is always a fight of Faith. But in Scripture it is always a Good Fight of Faith because if we keep our Faith we always win.

God has to allow Faith to be tested to prove it's true Faith.

There can be a delay in time while Satan is allowed to argue his case. If we persevere and do not quit asking, God will finally give the righteous judgment in our favor. God also uses delay to train us to believe (Luke 11:5-10; Luke 18:1-8).

The most severe test is when Satan robs us of the Object of our Faith.

When this happens we must still keep our Faith. If we do, we can claim heavy compensation according to the Laws of Restitution and Satan will have to pay heavily. (Ex. 22:1-4; Prov. 6:31; James 1:24; 1 Pet. 1:3-7).

6) The Crippling Power of Unbelief

Unbelief is not just absence of Faith, it is much worse than that. Unbelief is a deceiving spirit which will not let us believe even when it is reasonable to do so.

Both Faith and Unbelief are two spirits which work in the spirit realm. The first is from God and the second is from Satan. They both work on our spirits in the same way. They both work in the spirit realm to convince us of things in spite of what we hear, see or feel with our natural senses.

With Faith we are still able to believe in spite of what we perceive with our natural senses.

With Unbelief we refuse to believe in spite of what we perceive with our natural senses.

The Scribes and Pharisees were gripped by this spirit of unbelief and refused to believe in Jesus in spite of His wonderful works.

Unbelief is a spirit that takes hold of people who have lived in a dead religious

atmosphere.

Or they have lived in a secular atmosphere where the natural mind and human intellect have been almost deified. When we come to Christ from a religious or rational secular background that spirit is often already controlling us.

We must come to hate it as God hates it and then act forcibly to eject it from our

spirit. Then our minds can be renewed and we begin to think like God (Rom. 12:2).

7) The Factors which produce a Flow of the Miraculous

i) A Climate produced by the constant believing Prayer of a Community of God's People in which the Power of the Lord is present to Heal.

There is faith and expectancy. All unbelief and contrary spirits have been chased away. The signs and miracles are often done through the hands of the Apostles but anybody can be used (e.g. Stephen and Philip). It is the corporate faith and prayer of the whole community which causes them to happen. (Luke 5:16-17; Acts 4:24-30, 33 etc).

On the other hand if chronic unbelief rules the atmosphere, as it did in Nazareth, Jesus' home town, even Jesus could do no great work there.

When Jesus did any major miracle, especially raising the dead, He always removed the negative, wailing, unbelieving people to clear the atmosphere.

Peter did the same thing. We must do the same thing.

Do not allow negative unbelieving people to sit in the front rows of a meeting. Fill those rows with positive believing intercessors so as to produce the right climate.

It must also be a sin free atmosphere with no lying hypocrisy amongst God's people. (Acts 5:1-16; Joshua 7:1-26; Matt. 21:12-14).

ii) An anointed Person who has fulfilled the conditions to be a channel of God's power as follows:

1) Has developed an effective personal prayer life with God the Father

2) Lives in intimate fellowship with the Father

- 3) Has received real Faith from God
- 4) Has received a definite impartation and/or anointing of power from God
- 5) Lives a holy life under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, but not under Law
- 6) Is able to hear His voice
- 7) Has learned to be like a little child and just obey whatever God says
- 8) Is filled with the compassion of Jesus and a Faith which works through love
- 9) Is willing to pay the price and cost of carrying that anointing
- 10) Is not timid or afraid but is willing to stir up and use the gift imparted to them
- 12) Is willing to take their share in the sufferings for the Gospel according to the power of God (2 Tim. 1:6-8)
- 13) Is humble and teachable and willing to be corrected and learn from any mistakes
- 14) Is eager to learn and be taught new things by the Spirit of God.

iii) People who are seeking healing who have Faith and know how to receive from God.

Good Biblical examples are:

- a) The woman with the issue of blood. She had such conviction that she sucked her healing from Jesus with vacuum cleaner-like Faith. (Luke 8: 43-48).
- b) The Roman Centurion who made Jesus marvel by his Great Faith. He said “Just speak the Word and my servant will be healed”. (Luke 7:1-10).
- c) The Canaanite Woman who got her demonized daughter healed by her persistent Faith that would not take “No” for an answer. Jesus made it tough for her but said of her “Woman great is your Faith, let it be to you as you desire”. (Matt. 15:21-

28).

d) On the other hand, the Father of the demonized boy with Epilepsy was a hindrance because of his unbelief. Also the unbelief of the disciples made that deliverance impossible until Jesus came (**See Mark 9:22-24**). The Father said to Jesus “If you can do anything - please help me”. Jesus literally replied “If I can? If you can believe! All things are possible to him who believes The man cried out “Oh Lord, I believe - help my unbelief”.

It is possible to see miracles with only one of these three factors in place but it is much harder and more uncertain.

When all three are working together you will definitely see a Flow of Miracles.

8) The Mystery of Impartation and Anointing

An Anointing

An anointing is when the empowering Spirit of God comes directly upon a person without any human agency. This is usually accompanied by an intense sense of His presence and often with some visible manifestations.

Some examples are:

i) When Jesus stood in River Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist. The Spirit of God descended upon Him and from that day He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.

ii) On the Day of Pentecost when the Spirit fell upon the disciples in the Upper Room.

There were several subsequent occasions when the Spirit fell on a crowd.

iii) Acts 4:31 when the Church prayed.

iv) In Cornelius' house when the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles in Acts 10:44-45.

There are several examples in the Old Testament.

b) An Impartation

This is a transference of power and anointing from a Person who lays their hands upon another Person in an act of Impartation because they have been instructed to do so by the Lord.

Some examples are:

- i) Peter & John in Samaria after Philip had preached Christ (Acts 8:14-18).
- ii) Ananias to Saul a few days after his dramatic conversion (Acts 9:17-22).
- iii) Paul to Timothy and also the presbytery to Timothy in Ephesus.
(1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6).

In both cases, the Anointing of the Impartation has to be activated by the recipient stepping out in Faith to use the new ability supernaturally imparted by God.

It has to continue to be developed by Faith long after the feeling and the memory of the special experience have passed away.

Timothy was guilty through timidity and fear of not putting to work the anointing that he had received (1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6).

We will make mistakes and need to learn as we are tutored by the Holy Spirit.

Like Timothy, we must copy Paul. But most of all we must copy Jesus just as they did. Also we must learn from other great examples in church history right up to this present day and “follow or imitate” them as they “followed” Christ. (Grk. *mimetes* – literally to mimic or imitate) e.g. 1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Thes. 1:5-6; Eph. 5:1; Phil. 4:9.

Seeing the Lost powerfully impacted, converted, added to the Church, brought to maturity, then trained and prepared for war.