

## Spiritual Warfare

### Prayer As a Weapon of Spiritual Warfare

Sunday, October 17, 2010

Pastor Warner Smith

#### Message Truth:

We have learned that Satan attacks Christians with two primary weapons: temptation and accusation. Christians, however, are not left defenseless against these attacks. Our primary defense is our spiritual armor and prayer. We have learned that while we do have an enemy, it is not one another. Satan is our enemy. Our unity is critically important in our ability to engage in spiritual warfare. Jesus has prayed for our unity and has given us a new command to love one another. Last week we learned that our love for one another is the authenticating mark of the gospel. Today we will discover how prevailing and persistent prayer is one of the greatest weapons we have been given to wage war against our enemy.

<sup>3</sup> *For though we live in the world, **we do not wage war as the world does.** <sup>4</sup> **The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.** On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4*

#### Spiritual warfare is every Christian's fight!

<sup>18</sup> *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 saints.** <sup>19</sup> **Pray also for me,** that **whenever I open my mouth,** words may be given me **so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,** <sup>20</sup> *for which I am an ambassador in chains.**

*Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

Ephesians 6:18-20

#### Four Truths Concerning Prevailing Christian Prayer:

1. At all t \_\_\_\_\_, both regularly and constant

<sup>18</sup> *And **pray in the Spirit on all occasions**...* Ephesians 6:18a

2. All prayer and s \_\_\_\_\_: it takes many and various forms

<sup>18</sup> *...with **all kinds of prayers** and requests...* Ephesians 6:18b

3. With all p \_\_\_\_\_ - like the soldiers we need to keep alert, never give up nor fall asleep

<sup>18</sup> ***With this in mind, be alert** and always **keep on praying.*** Ephesians 6:18c

4. For all the S \_\_\_\_\_ - the unity of the community of the church, which has been the theme of this letter, must be reflected in our prayers.

<sup>18</sup> ***for all the saints.*** Ephesians 6:18d

Pray also for m \_\_\_\_\_ - Paul was wise enough to know his own need for prayer.

<sup>19</sup> ***Pray also for me,*** Ephesians 6:19a

• for c \_\_\_\_\_ in his message about Christ

<sup>19</sup> *...that **whenever I open my mouth,** words may be given me...* Ephesians 6:19b

- **c \_\_\_\_\_ for proclaiming this message about Christ**

<sup>19</sup> ...so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 6:19-20

**Paul's prayers must have been answered because Dr. Luke ends the book of Acts with these two verses:**

<sup>30</sup> *For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. <sup>31</sup> Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.* Acts 28:30–31

### Series Application

- **We are to love our fellow Christians and to live together in unity and oneness in the community of the church.**
- **We need to remember our location:** the world

**In response to the world, Scripture instructs Christians to:**

- **Not love the world**

<sup>15</sup> *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* 1 John 2:15 (NASB)

- **Not let it shape our values**

<sup>2</sup> *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.* Romans 12:2 (NASB)

- **Live through Jesus as the crucified to the world**

<sup>14</sup> *But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

Galatians 6:14 (NASB)

- **We need to be cognizant of the reality of Satan and his fallen demonic assistants. Understand that spiritual warfare is real and necessary.**
- **We need to realize that God still expects His followers to be obedient to and occupied with completing the Great Commission.**
- **We need to oppose Satan's schemes by seriously engaging in intercessory prayer for lost people to be saved and for world evangelization to be completed.**
- **We need to emphasize unity in the church as we work to fulfill God's call for us.**
- **We need to support evangelism and all of our mission work with prayer.**

**In prayer we should ask questions such as:**

What is wrong with my practice of Christianity?

What is wrong with our church?

What is wrong with our city?

From where do these problem come?

What can I do to make things better?