

## I. THE WAY IS DIFFICULT AND THE BATTLE IS INTENSE

1. **13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.-Mt 6:13-14**
2. **strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.-Acts 14:22 (NIV)**

- B. Our journey to heaven, as we live fully surrendered to Christ, will be marked by resistance, opposition, and ongoing spiritual conflict. Throughout our walk as disciples, the enemy seeks to entrap, deceive, confuse, weaken, distract, and cause us to question God's Word and His promises.
- C. Yet prayer is God's gift that empowers us to confront the enemy, endure the battle, draw on His strength, resist temptation, and stand firm in His truth as we move forward in victory.

## II. THREE KEYS TO EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

### 1. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE LIFE THAT WE SAID YES TO LIVE

- a) When we said yes to surrender to Jesus, we immediately entered into a previously unknown world of adversity and ongoing spiritual conflict.

(1) ***"For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him."- Lk 14:28-30***

(2) ***"Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?"-Lk 14:31-32***

2. WE MUST KNOW OUR ENEMY AND HIS WAYS

- a) In the same way that Satan studies our weaknesses to attack us, we must discern his schemes and strategies so that we can stand against him

(1) ***11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.-2Cor 2:11***

(2) ***8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith -1Pet 5:8-9***

3. WE MUST KNOW THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

- a) God has not left us disarmed in the spiritual battle, but has armed us with powerful spiritual weapons including prayer, that are meant to keep us in a constant state of victory.

(1) ***11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.-Eph 6:10-13***

III. TWO PRIMARY BATTLEFIELDS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. THE SECOND HEAVENS

1. ***12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.-Eph 6:12***

## **B. THE MINDS OF MEN**

**1. 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. -2 Cor.10:3-6**

- a) Strongholds are deeply rooted lies that the enemy plants in the minds of people—lies that individuals often come into agreement with, usually without realizing it. These false beliefs shape how we view God, ourselves, and others, and over time they become firmly established in our thinking, giving the enemy influence and ground in our lives. However, through prayer—by intentionally agreeing with God’s truth and rejecting every lie—these strongholds can be torn down and replaced with truth.

C. Faith filled prayer along with God’s word are the primary way believers tap into God’s power to overcome spiritual opposition and to see victory in both the unseen realm, and in the minds of people.

## **IV. PRAYER IS A MAJOR PART OF THE CHRISTIANS ARMOR**

**1. 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.-Eph 6:18**

## **V. FIVE PRIMARY WAYS WE USE PRAYER IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

**1. WE AGREE WITH GOD’S WORD THROUGH PRAYER**

- a) Agreement with truth about God and His promises

**(1) Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.-Mt 18:19**

- b) In the final and most intense season of spiritual warfare at the end of the age, God will establish watchmen who cry out

day and night in agreement with His Word and promises declaring His character and perfect will.

***(1) I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention (remind the Lord of His promises) of the LORD, do not keep silent, 7 And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. -Is 62:6-7***

2. WE PROCLAIM THE VICTORY OF THE CROSS AND BLOOD

***a) 11 And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. -Rev. 12:11***

3. WE CONFESS OUR SINS PERSONALLY AND CORPORATELY

a) We do this humbly and prayerfully agreeing with God's standards, sincere repentance, and breaking agreement with lies and strongholds that Satan has established in our minds and churches.

***(1) 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. -James 4:7-8***

4. WE ASK GOD TO RELEASE THE GOSPEL INTO THE BATTLEFIELD

***a) At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, -Coloss 4:3***

***b) 19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. -Eph 6:19-20***

c) ***Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, 2 and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.-2 Thess 3:1-2***

5. WE ASK GOD TO DISPATCH THE ANGELIC

a) Daniel prayed and an angel protected him

***(1) My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths.-Dan 6:22***

b) Daniel prayed and two arch angels, Gabriel, and Michael entered into spiritual battle over his region

***(1) From the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come because of your words.-Dan 10:12-13 & 20***

c) In Acts 12 the church prayed earnestly and God responded by dispatching an angel to deliver Peter from certain death.

***(1) So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest constant prayer for him was made to God by the church... and behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and the chains fell off.-Acts 12:5***

(a) After the angel freed Peter it went up and killed Herod who sentenced him to death. (Acts 12:21-23)

d) A godly man named Cornelius prayed, and God responded by sending an angel—setting in motion events that led to the salvation of his entire household.

***(1) 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." 4 And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.-Acts 10:3-4***

## VI. MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH PRAYER AND ANGELS

### A. SUMMER OF 2010

1. During prayer in my car on the way home from work, I suddenly had an open eyed vision where I saw a number of angels in the sky above me that I could not count,

### B. ESTHER FAST APRIL 2011

1. During the second day of my fast while praying in my shower, I suddenly had an open eyed vision in the spirit of an angel with a trumpet put to his mouth. As I continued to pray, the angel suddenly dissolved into me and I heard the Lord say put the trumpet to your mouth and wake My church up.

a) ***4 And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep.-Zech 4:1***

b) ***Set the trumpet to your lips!-Hosea 8:1***

c) ***"Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet;-Is 58:1***