

Prayer's Effect on Spiritual Warfare

We are told in **1 The 2:13 to pray without ceasing**. We are also told in **Eph 6 to always use prayer and supplication as part of our Spiritual Armor**. So clearly this is super important, so we better dial this in.

As a parent of 4 girls, I can tell you that as parents we sometimes speak and give a directive for our child's benefit, but, the child may not take it to heart. God has suffered from this for centuries. He gave the Israelites some simple directives, and inevitably they did not do them, so this led to their demise. Sometimes we Christians are no different. We are told very simple directives, like pray always or without ceasing but we don't always do it. But it seems to matter to the spiritual fight. Look:

Dan 10:12-14

Daniel prayed and fasted 21 days (3 weeks) to seek understanding of the vision he received: at the end of 3 weeks he had an angel appear to him with this msg.

Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."
-Daniel 10:12-14

When Daniel set his heart to pray to the Lord- God sent an angel, Michael the archangel to answer him. But the angel was in a spiritual conflict with the prince of the kingdom of Persia, a demonic principality. The angel states he was left alone, and another Chief prince was sent to help him. God sent Michael to Daniel after this battle. To Daniel it seemed like silence. No answer. But if we could see behind the veil... we may be more patient. It could be assessed that for those 21 days when Daniel was fasting, he was certainly praying, and in order for Michael to be free from the demonic principality to be able to come to Daniel to help clarify his vision, another angel was sent to help Michael... so as we pray, it seems to fuel the fight, then when they are done with whatever battle

they can come to us. If Daniel had not prayed would the second angel have been sent? These are things I ponder.

When Peter was in prison, in Acts, the church gathered together to pray, and as a result the angel was sent to free Peter and break him out of Prison. The power of prayer cannot be understated, a weakness our generation has dropped the ball on for the most part. It is a rare church that encourages effective prayer.

We are told some very important clues about how to pray in the Bible.



We initiate with respect & repentance

James 4:8-10 draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Heb 10:22 sincere clean heart

Ps 54:2 Hear my words O Lord

Ps 111:1-2 Praise the Lord!, The works of the Lord are Great



Earnest & Honest...

1 Sam 1:15 pour out your soul

1 Cor 3:22 pouring out soul before the Lord

Job 8:5 seeking unto God and making supplication

1 Peter 5:7 casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you



With perseverance...

Luke 11:5-10 & Luke 18:1-8 use the greek *proskartereo* which means devote or be steadfast, persistent and persevering

Rom 12:12 devoted to prayer

Acts 1:14 continually devoting themselves to prayer

1 Thes 5:17 without ceasing



Ask with a proper heart...

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

in contrast with

James 4:8 You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

because

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.



Pray in the Name of Jesus...

John 16:23 ask the Father in My Name and He will give it to you

Eph 2:18 for through Him we have access by one Spirit to the Father



Prayer is not optional; but a direct command...

1 Kings 3:5 ... the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "Ask, and I will give it to you!"

Is 55:6 call upon the Lord while He is near



The Holy Spirit intercedes...

Rom 8:26 in our inability to pray properly the HS intercedes



Prayer can be in various positions

Eph 3:14 kneeling

Gen 24:26 bowing the head

Matt 26:39 laying prostrate (face down)

1 Kings 8:22 spreading our hands Ps 28:2, 63:4, 88:9, 1 Tim 2:8

1 Sam 1:26 standing



The Bible proves that God listens and answers prayers...

Gen 24: 10-12 Abe

Gen 32:24-30 Jacob

Judges 16:28-30 Samson

2 Sam 15:31-17:23 David

Dan 2:16-23 Daniel

Neh 1:11-2:1 Nehemiah

Esth 4:15-17, 6:7-8 Esther

Acts 12:1-2 Peter

If You are not in Good habits in your prayer life and need a little structure to help, at first, until you become focused and relational with God, try following the structure of The Lord's Prayer. Not saying it as a ritual, but following the pattern, so you don't leave out any important priorities.

Matt 6:9-13

The Lord's Prayer

"This then is how we should pray:

Pray like this:

*"Our Father in heaven,
(Person)*

Talk to God as a person

*hallowed be your name,
(Praise)*

Praise God and tell his what you love about him.

*your kingdom come, your will
be done
on earth as it is in heaven
(Purpose)*

Ask for God wishes,
give us your way,
ask for discernment to see God's way

*Give us this day our daily
bread.
(Petition)*

Request needs, so you can be of better service to Him:
daily
spiritual,
physical

*Forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors
(Pardon)*

Request discernment to see who you need to forgive,
Request help to truly forgive others
Repentantly as for forgiveness for self

*And lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
(Protection)*

Pray to bind Satan and his influences from your thoughts and actions
Pray that God provides safety

The Fundamental Questions Are...

- 1 Are you passionate about what you are praying? Remember Jesus was so passionate his sweat had blood. Luke 22:44
- 2 Do you actually believe or trust that God is faithful in taking care of it? John 15:17
- 3 Is your heart right? Ps 51:10
- 4 Are your priorities focused with Christ's? James 4:8 & Mark 11:24
- 5 Remember that NO weapon is forged against you that can prosper, do you believe this? Is 54:17
- 6 Are you approaching God with reverence and praise? Ps 111:1
- 7 Are you praying in the name of Jesus? John 16:32