

Effective Prayer

by John AbrahamGodson

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10. It is a prayer that fights

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”.

Eph 6:10-12

The Christian life is a spiritual warfare. Many Christians are prone to overlook or minimize this but we cannot run away from this. We are in a warfare. The day we decided to become the disciples of Christ, that same day we declared war against the kingdom of the devil and all his works in our lives and in our communities.

The war is real. There are real casualties. We can either decide to fight or we will be defeated. Many of us are not experiencing any warfare because we have long been defeated and the enemy doesn't bother anymore about us.

The picture that Paul used was that of a Roman soldier who needs to be strong and watchful in order to be able to fight. It is a picture of a soldier who needs to be careful and prepared at all times. Spiritual warfare is not about making noise. It is about being able to overcome the enemy, his temptations and traps. It is about winning new territories for God.

The reason why spiritual warfare is so important is that, prayer is not only about talking to God. It is about defeating the devil and his evil plans. The devil has a ministry. His 24/7 ministry is to steal, to kill and to destroy. His main calling is to make sure you go to hell. His passion is to make people doubt God and trust in him (the devil).

When we look in the Bible, there are many verses that show the nature of Spiritual warfare- starting from Eden and ending at the end of the age. I will like us to see the example of Daniel.

Dan 10:2-13

“In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. And in the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel; Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to

hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

This is a very interesting story about prayer and spiritual warfare. Daniel, the man of God decided to seek God’s face in prayer and fasting. He prayed and fasted for many days but no response was coming. On the 21st day, the answer came through an angel (who I suppose was Gabriel). What was Gabriel’s explanation for the delayed answer?

“Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

His answer was that the prince of Persia withstood him and delayed him. God had given an answer to Daniel from the very first day he started praying. The answer did not get to him until Michael came to help the angel to fight the prince of Persia who was demonic prince over the kingdom of Persia. What would have happened if Daniel had stopped praying? His prayer brought help. The book “This Present Darkness” by Frank Peretti shows vividly what spiritual warfare is all about.

The devils ministry like I have said earlier is to foil and destroy everything that God is doing on earth. We are on earth inside his kingdom, operating and snatching away his subjects. Do you think he sits down and blesses your work and ministry? No! He is in the business of destroying you. That is His goal. But we are victors because “Greater is He that is us than he that is in world”

Who are our enemies? The Bible says:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” Ephesians 6:12

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”
2 Cor 10:3-5

The Bible clearly says that we are not fighting against human beings but against:

- Principalities
- Powers
- Rulers of the darkness of this world
- Spiritual wickedness in high places

The kingdom of the devil is as organized as human kingdoms. Just like we have seen from Daniels history, there was a demon called the Prince of Persia. Likewise, there are demonic princes over continents, nations, cities and towns. The Bible says that it is against them we are fighting. Their work is to make sure that the Kingdom of Jesus does not get established in their dominions. They are invisible but they are real.

Let us not deceive ourselves into thinking that we can win souls and get people into God's Kingdom without direct confrontation with these demonic forces. This is why prayer is very key and strategic. Through prayer we harness the forces of God's kingdom, his angels to fight on our behalf.

“No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.”

Mark 3:27

This is one of the weak points of the church in Europe. We neglect fighting in prayer for our nations and our people. We just give up and give in. We pray routine prayers that are dead and that does not make any impact on God's work.

There is something about fighting in prayer that is radical, violent and passionate. It is a fight not a joke.

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.”

Matt 11:12

And God wants us to fight the devil and his demons. God does not give us the weapons of warfare (Ephesians 6:10-16) so we can just dress up and look like soldiers- only to run away when the war starts. He has given us those weapons so we can fight and win. He expects us to win.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

James 4:7

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

1 Peter 5:8-9

I remember a story told by a man of God. He had a vision. Jesus was standing before him in that vision about 10 meters away. All of a sudden, a demon that looked like a monkey started making noises and smoke beclouded his vision of Jesus. He was waiting for Jesus to rebuke the demon, but He didn't. In the end, this pastor rebuked the demon and it just disappeared. He asked Jesus why He didn't rebuke the demon and Jesus said that it was because he had given him the power to do so.

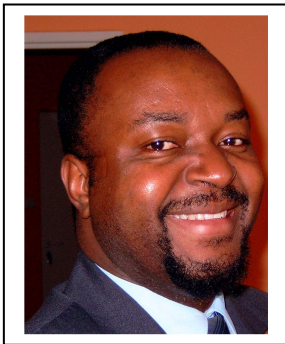
“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”

Luke 10:19-20

We should not be afraid of fighting this war. We are called to be soldiers of the Christ. God has assured us victory and those who overcome shall reign with Jesus for ever. Therefore fight and never give up.

Previous chapters of this book can be downloaded from our website at: www.pielgrzym.org/articles.html

About the author



John Abraham Godson is a Nigerian serving as a missionary in Poland, Eastern Europe for the past 13 years. He is the international director of **Pilgrim Mission International**. The main vision of his ministry is “Revival” which comes through fervent and persevering intercessory prayer and bold uncompromising preaching of the Word of God. He also serves as the vice chair of the **Lausanne Intercession Working Group (LCWE)**, and International facilitator for the **Network of Nigerian Missionaries Overseas (NNMO)**. Together with his wife Aneta and 4 children, they make their home in Lodz, Central Poland.