

MILITANT EVANGELISM

Every believer who has a revelation of the authority he has in Jesus Christ will be on the cutting edge of miracle evangelism. He will boldly bombard the gates of hell, setting people free from the control of Satan. The end-time army will victoriously overcome demonic powers and gather the precious end-time harvest into the hands of God.

There will be floods of demons trying to block the way to this harvest. Their purpose will be to overthrow God's plan to raise up a mature and glorious Church destined to win the nations with the good news of Jesus Christ. Satan has his plans, but God has a better plan. Isaiah wrote that when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord will raise up a standard against him. We are to be that standard.

Isaiah 59:19 *So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.*

There are spirits over nations, spirits over regions, spirits over districts, and spirits over families. The demon Prince of Persia is an example of this. We are told that the ruling principality of Persia withstood the Angel of the Lord from bringing the answers to Daniel's prayer. Later the Archangel Michael was sent to assist him in the battle.

Daniel 10:13 *"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."*

Warfare In Evangelism

When we begin to evangelize we are coming against the strongholds of the devil. We must operate in our God-given rights of binding and loosing so that the captives can go free. We should expect to come into direct confrontation with principal rulers. Therefore, it is important that we know about the strong man, exercise our authority, possess the occupied lands and know how to enter into warfare! There are unseen spiritual forces in Satan's army whose primary job is to hinder the expansion of the gospel. Through lack of knowledge as intercessors, we often fail to directly attack the unseen forces of darkness.

1 Thessalonians 2:18 *Therefore we wanted to come to you - even I, Paul, time and again - but Satan hindered us.*

Satan has blinded the hearts of the unbelievers from receiving the gospel. We as believers must break this spiritual blindness by binding the demons which are ruling their lives. We must also loose the light of the gospel to shine on them.

2 Corinthians 4:4 *...Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

Jesus taught us that we must first bind the strong man which are the principalities and powers which are ruling in territories, nations, regions, areas, families and individuals.

Matthew 12:29 *"Or less how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."*

Matthew 18:18 *"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

We are to use the gift of the discerning of spirits to recognize the ruling spirits and then to bind and cast out the strong man.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

Spiritual warfare often involves persistent wrestling in the spirit realm. The answers to our needs and prayers are not always easily attained. These times are when we must endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul wrote of this.

Ephesians 6:12 *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.*

David wrote words of encouragement for the times of wrestling.

Psalms 9:11,13 *For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample under foot.*

A mighty army of angels is available to enter into the warfare together with us. Notice that Jesus could pray to the Father and the Father would send the angels.

Matthew 26:53 *"Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"*

The angels want to be sent into warfare as ministering spirits on our behalf.

Hebrews 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation.?*

As we speak the Word, the angels respond to the spoken Word of God and move into action on our behalf.

Psalms 103:20 *Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.*

Examples Of Warfare

There are examples of spiritual warfare in the Bible. One example is the warfare between the demon Prince of Persia and Michael and the angels. Another is the description of the battle in heaven between Michael and Satan.

Revelation 12:7 *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.*

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

The weapons provided by the Lord are spiritual weapons for a war, which is raging above us in the heavenlies. This war is between two armies of spiritual beings with great power, each demanding equal access to the sons of men. Angelic beings warred against the demon Prince of Persia. The delay was not from God's unwillingness to answer Daniel's prayer. A demon prince had intercepted the answer in the heavenlies.

Daniel 10:12,13 *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."*

Amalek is an example of what happens in the spirit realm when we pray. Amalek and his armies represent Satan and his angels. Joshua and his army represent Michael and the heavenly angels. Moses, standing on the hill with the rod extended, represents prayer warriors in intercessory prayer. The war in the heavenlies is won by those below.

Revelation 12:11 *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."*

Exodus 17:8-16 *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." So Joshua did as Moses said to him,*

and fought with Amalek. And Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

The Lord said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." And Moses built an altar and called its name, The Lord-Is-My-Banner; for he said, "Because the Lord has sworn: the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Just as it is sometimes necessary to wrestle against the forces of darkness, it is sometimes necessary to travail in prayer to gain the victory. The Holy Spirit helps us in intercessory prayer in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Effective warfare prayers are bold prayers of faith, which are based on an absolute confidence that we will win.

Guerrilla Training

In Ephesians 6:10-17, Paul encouraged the believers to put on the whole armor of God and go battle with the enemy. He gave the battle cry in verse 18.

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

The warfare is in the heavenlies in the spirit realm. God's angels and Satan with his demons are pitted in a death-struggle of global proportions. They are striving for the minds and souls of men and women. The believer's weaponry to take these nations out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light is intercessory prayer.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 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.*

Mark 3:27 *"No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house."*

Jesus has given us the keys of the kingdom and He expects us to violently take our cities and nations of the world away from the enemy by binding the strong man over the region. This is done only through intercessory prayer. Prayer is the language of war!

When we pray for the harvest, we are to pray for the nations of the world and their leaders. We are to pray for a peaceful environment conducive for miracle evangelism.

When Paul wrote to Timothy, he gave us an example of how we are to pray.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Intercessory prayer should be directed to the throne of God so that the blindness of the hearts of men may be removed. We are to come against the spiritual darkness, which blinds the unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 *But even if our gospel is veiled it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

We have the authority to strip the veil and let the light of the gospel shine.

God desires to build a praying army, which uses intercessory prayer to pull down the strongholds of the devil. He desires an army which will bind the demon spirits that hinder the harvest and loose the Holy Spirit to draw the lost to Christ. He desires an army which will beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out more laborers in to the harvest field, and dispatch the body of angels to battle against the devil and his angels.

Isaiah 43:5-7 *Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not keep them back!' Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth - everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I formed him, yes, I have made him.*

Having won the war in the spirit world, over each territory, we must then move in with the gospel and through miracle evangelism reap a harvest of souls.