

Prayerwalking



Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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Dealing With The Enemy

Praying people to Jesus means taking part in a war. There is a war going on for the lives and souls of people. When you pray for the lost, you have to deal with the forces of evil. The devil and his demons are seeking to wound, cripple, and lead the lost to eternal damnation. This is their plan and goal. When you pray for the lost, you are joining the war; you are coming against their effort to deceive and condemn people. You will have to deal with the enemy.

God calls to you stand against these devious plans and goal of the enemy. God wants you to stand in the gap for those who need Jesus. He desires to use you in thwarting and overcoming the plans of the evil for the lost. The lost have no power to overcome the enemy.

Yet, God has invested in you the power to stand against and defeat the enemy. He can and will use you to set the captives free. Through prayer, we

fight for those that Satan wants to doom to hell.

You will be in a war when you intercede for those who need Jesus Christ. I don't share these things with you in order to frighten you or make you anxious. I share them in order to help you to prepare.

Preparing for the war is crucial to winning the war. To be forewarned is to be prepared for victory. You are more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ. You have nothing to fear. Prepare for the battle; get ready to deal with the enemy. You can make a difference now and for eternity in the lives of lost people.

Study The Word

In order to deal with the enemy in this war, you need to know four basic truths about your enemy.

- *The Character Of Our Enemy*

The Bible reveals the character of our enemy. Read and meditate on the following verses. What do they teach you about the character of our enemy?

John 8:44

John 10:10

2 Corinthians 2:11

2 Timothy 2:25

Matthew 13:4, 18-19

These verses reveal that Satan is a spiteful, hateful being who wants to kill and destroy people. He longs to murder and doom people to hell. He will lie and deceive to do this. He desires to lead lost people to do his will. He will do anything to keep people from coming to Christ, including snatching the Word of God from their hearts. The character of our enemy shows us that he will not give up without a fight. He longs to wound and destroy people because of who he is.

- *The Control Of Our Enemy*

The enemy has great power in the lives of lost people. What do the following verses teach you about his control in their lives?

Ephesians 2:1-2

Colossians 1:13

2 Corinthians 4:4

These verses show us that Satan has lost people bound. He controls their lives through sin and the pressure of the world. They belong to his kingdom under his wicked reign. He blinds them to the truth of the gospel in order to keep them bound.

Satan's domination of the lost shows the necessity of prayer. The lost are unable to resist him. They are powerless to overcome his evil and powerful grip in their lives. They must have something outside of themselves to set them free. It is only through the power of God released by prayer that can break Satan's control. The power of God alone can destroy his grip in the lives of those who need Jesus. That power flows into the lives of the lost as you pray for them.

- *The Challenge Of Our Enemy*

Our enemy will challenge our attempts to lead people to Jesus Christ. What do the following verses teach you about his challenge to our attempts to bring them to Christ?

2 Corinthians 4:4

2 Corinthians 10:5

These verses teach that Satan actively works against the lost. He labors to keep them from coming to Christ. He strives to keep them blind and bound under his reign. He opposes all attempts to bring them to Christ.

Satan will blind the eyes of the lost with his lies and half-truths. **2 Corinthians 10:5** shows that he will plant all types of excuses and lies into the minds of the lost. When you share the truth, he is sharing lies with the lost - lies that counter the truth. He does this to keep the lost from hearing and believing the truth. It is only through prayer that these lies and arguments can be torn down. It is only through prayer that the Word will penetrate the lies of the enemy.

- *The Confrontation With Our Enemy*

In this study, we have seen that we have a powerful, hateful enemy that wants to doom lost men and women. He has control of lost people and does not want to lose this grip in their lives. He will actively work against any attempts to bring them to Christ.

How can you fight in this war? How can you set the captives free? The following biblical principles can help you wage war:

- (1) Wear the armor of God (**Ephesians 6:10-20**). God has given you the armor for your protection. In this war, you need it; you must wear it, especially when you pray. By faith, claim and place each piece of the armor.
- (2) Pray that Satan's grip in their lives will be destroyed (**Colossians 1:12**). Ask that the power of God would shatter his works in their lives. Call on Him to destroy his reign over their lives.
- (3) Plead that Satan would have no ability to plant his lies and half-truth into their lives (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). Satan's method of keeping people under his control is by countering the truth with his lies. Pray that he will not be able to do this and that the person will hear and believe the truth.

(4) Ask God to bind the enemy's work in their lives (**Matthew 12:29**).

(5) Be ready for the war to intensify. When you pray for lost people, the enemy will labor to keep them under his control. He will use a variety of tactics in order to keep the person bound and in darkness. Be prepared. Be patient. Be faithful. You will reap in due season if you do not give up.

Applying The Word

Why is it important to know about Satan's character as you pray for the lost?

You've studied about Satan's control in the lives of the lost. Why should this fuel your desire and your need to pray for the lost?

Spiritual Warfare And Prayer Evangelism

The following are Scripture prayers that you can use to deal with the enemy of peoples' souls. You can apply it to a person or to an area. The key issue is to plead the truth of the Word that people might be set free from the enemy and brought to Jesus Christ.

Lord Jesus, I plead that You would bind the demons that are assigned to _____. Render their work in _____'s life ineffective and useless. Cut them off with any contact with other demons or Satan (**Mark 1:23-27**).

Lord Jesus, I pray that You would prevent Satan from stealing the Word from _____'s heart as he/she hears the Word of God (**Matthew 13:18-19**).

Lord Jesus, I pray ask that You would show _____ that he/she is believing the lies of Satan. Reveal to _____ that his/her excuses for rejecting Christ are actually the lies of Satan and will lead him/her to eternal damnation (**John 8:43-44**).

Lord Jesus, I plead that You would put a hedge around _____. Protect him/her from the schemes of the evil one. Save him/her from the grip of the devil (**Matthew 6:13**).

Does it surprise you that Satan actively works against the salvation of sinners? How does he do this? How can you counter this?

How would you describe your feelings about this war? Fearful? Anxious? What steps can you take to be effective and victorious in this war?

Praying The Word

Pray that God will give you a heart of faith and courage in this war for the souls and lives of people. Plead for Him to transform you into a powerful warrior who can set the captives free. Ask God to help you and your church lead many people from the kingdom of the evil one to the kingdom of Jesus, God's own Son.

Lord Jesus, I ask You to disrupt and destroy Satan's work in _____'s life. Set _____ free from his devious and destructive work. Save _____ and break Satan's power over his/her life (**Ephesians 2:3**).

Lord Jesus, I pray that You would deliver _____ from the schemes and the traps that Satan has for him/her. Instead, save _____ so that he/she can experience Your love and power and Your abundant life (**2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11; 1 Timothy 3:7**).

Father, I pray that You would hinder and destroy Satan's efforts to blind _____'s mind. He longs to keep _____ ignorant of the truth. I ask in Jesus' name that Satan and his demons would be bound by Your power so that _____ would hear and believe the gospel (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

Lord Jesus, You have declared that Satan is a murderer. It is his will and intention to destroy and damn _____ to hell forever. I pray in Your name that he will be stopped from doing this. As the merciful, loving, and powerful Savior, deliver _____ from Satan's murderous schemes. Grant him/her Your salvation (**John 8:44**).

Lord Jesus, I plead in Your name that the strongholds that Satan has used to

enslave _____ would be broken. I ask that these strongholds that he has used to blind, deceive, and confuse _____ would be torn down by Your power. Remove these strongholds so that _____ will hear the gospel and respond to You with genuine faith and repentance (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**).

Father, Your Word declares that Satan is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. It is Satan's purpose to devour _____. I plead that You would destroy his purpose to devour _____ and that You would bring _____ into a personal relationship with Yourself through Your Son, Jesus Christ (**1 Peter 5:8**).

Father, I ask in the name of Jesus that You would set _____ free from the power of the devil. Your Son, Jesus Christ, has come to destroy the works of the evil one. Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, save _____ and destroy Satan's work in his/her life (**Acts 10:38; 1 John 3:8**).

Father, I plead in the name of Jesus that You would transfer _____ out of the kingdom of Satan and darkness and into the kingdom of Your precious Son. Do this for Your glory and for _____'s good (**Colossians 1:13**).

How Does Satan Attack A Believer?

The Word of God tells us not to be ignorant of Satan's schemes, "Lest Satan should take advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2 **Corinthians 2:11**). The following is a basic list of the ways that Satan will attack a believer. To be forewarned is to be prepared. It is essential to familiarize ourselves with the way that he might attack. This is not an exhaustive list. Nevertheless, it does provide some of our enemy's tactics in coming against us. It gives information how to stand and pray against his wicked schemes.

- ◆ Maneuvering into a state of rebellion against authority.
- ◆ Twisting truth into partial lies so as to confuse and deceive.
- ◆ Inducing doubt as to who Jesus really is.
- ◆ Creating a negative impression of God.
- ◆ Encouraging skepticism as to the reality of God, worship of creation.
- ◆ Encouraging humanistic reasoning, causing man to think he is capable of solving his own problems.
- ◆ Sowing the lie that a certain state of moral excellence must be obtained before God loves and uses the believer.
- ◆ Creating the fearful impression that the cost of turning to God is too high by claiming there are too many desires and pleasures of life that one must hold onto for fulfillment.
- ◆ Instilling fear that one cannot really live the Christian life and trying to make it hard through temptations and pressures.
- ◆ Frustrating and confusing those ungrounded in doctrine by presenting many false interpretations of Scripture.
- ◆ Quickly snatching away the preached Word of God from our heart before it takes root.
- ◆ Keeping people in false peace, allowing or even giving prosperity or security so that we are caught up in the cares of this world.
- ◆ Striving to gain strongholds in a person's life through sin.
- ◆ Laboring to use past failures and emotional trauma to hold the person in fear and doubt.

Methods Of Attack Against A Local Church

- ◆ Creating negative perspectives within key circles of people, thus causing a spirit of negativism to spread within the church.
- ◆ Harassing the flock with continual attacks on weak sheep or sheep that are not under the proper spiritual covering for protection.
- ◆ Using the tongue as a tool to cause divisions, discord through gossip, slander, and by passing on half-truths and evil reports.
- ◆ Maneuvering carnal, sinful people into places of leadership in the church.
- ◆ Attacking key leaders through discouragement and circumstantial pressures so as to remove their influence through default or failure.
- ◆ Magnifying little problems in the church causing a spiritual stress that cannot be pinpointed.
- ◆ Maneuvering fragmented truth into an unbalanced doctrinal emphasis that influences the weaker and new believers, thus causing spiritual instability.
- Working against the spiritual vision of the church by sending people into the church who are actually against the vision and who work to destroy the vision, although they sometimes work

innocently in total ignorance of what they are doing.

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