

Prayer Training 4

Praying Against Evil Attacks

When the disciples didn't know how to pray and inquired to be taught, Jesus gave them a model. He begins with recognizing His Father in heaven, followed by making a petition for His daily bread, but when it gets close to the conclusion, the instruction is to pray not to be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil. If you haven't prayed for God to release or prohibit you from being in the company of satan and his forces, you are more than likely in wars, battles or some type of oppression that prayer could have prevented you from undergoing. Often times, even the Apostle Paul would have the church and its' leaders pray against resistance of the preached Word going forth.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 *Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: 2And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. 3But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. 4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. 5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*

As we represent the kingdom of God, we must realize the kingdom of darkness is trying to stop the WORD! In the Lord's Prayer, it's very intentional that after we pray, "deliver us from evil", we say FOR THINE is the Kingdom and the power, and glory forever, amen. This is a straight slap in satan's face, letting him know that we will not fall into temptation, but also announcing what kingdom we belong to and revere. Satan is not omnipresent, but do not be ignorant to think he is ok with your goals, dreams, career or kingdom assignment. He has a plan to lie, steal kill and destroy, and we cannot be unaware of his devices. During this time of training, I want you to walk in total faith and confidence in God in your prayer life. As we get closer to the return of Christ, we will see more and more blatant displays of the enemy's tactics of manipulation, false doctrine and also positioning in governmental leadership.

Daniel 8:23-25 *And in the latter time for their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many. He shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.* Realizing our kingdom is not of this world, and with the level of wickedness in government on the rise, we must stay vigilant in prayer to get divine instructions in regard to decisions, choices and divine protection against the evil that the Word of God says is coming. We will need the blood of Jesus to cover our families, schools, children, businesses to not only prosper, but depending on the season, to merely survive. This is not the time to be silent, but this is the hour when everyone needs to shift their prayer focus to depending on God and watch Him literally take care of us and our endeavors.

There are times when the forces of evil may present itself to a family as a targeted attack. When Assyria came against Israel, it was unwarranted, unprovoked, and only because evil wanted to win.

When Esther became queen, evil showed up. Sometimes satan will not show up until you get in a position where you can make change, show growth, or shift the trajectory of your family and lifestyle. All of a sudden, satan showed up... This is even paramount in the life of Jesus. From birth, he of course was combatted by satan's forces by the hand of Herod, but the angel of the Lord got in front of the attack and sent them to Egypt. Now, Jesus is 30, and all of a sudden, when God says after His baptism, "This is my beloved son, in whom I'm well pleased", satan shows his face. As a high school graduate, before leaving for FAMU, I remember vividly fighting in my dream a spirit throughout the night. When I woke up, my TV was on the floor, and I was repositioned at the foot of my bed, with small cuts on my legs. Satan obviously didn't want me in Tallahassee. My first year at Rickards, I defeated a spirit of oppression by praise and worship that never returned. I believe there is notice sent to the enemy's camp when God is sending His representative to an area, region that He needs His power, presence and Revival. There must be saints around you who understand the importance of continuously praying with the power of Jesus in order for satan's opposition to be overcome.

In 2 Kings 18, Hezekiah was the king that tore down high places. These places served as altars that allowed men and women to pray to specific false gods and make evil sacrifices. Tearing them down caused only the name of God to be magnified in that region without the flamboyant structures of attention and competing idols to remain in the face of God's people. Today, as we continue to oppose false religions, spiritual practices that aren't biblical like the use of sage to drive away spirits, and also encouraging the exodus of many men and women who have pledged an oath to organizations, fraternities and sororities who specifically have false gods as a part of their organizational structure, we must understand this isn't a happy time for satan. Therefore, we must be in continual prayer for the saints making sure these bold soldiers of God aren't smothering in a war where intercessors can be petitioning God for divine and angelic support.

When the enemy is close, there are times you must listen before going into attack mode. Sometimes the kings would ask God who or what tribe to send into battle, and in Judges 20:18, God said to send Judah first. The Hebrew definition of Judah is praise. There wasn't a strategy for a spear or javelin, but a solution that came with praises going up, and Heaven responding with victory. Praise is a real weapon! Israel Holton's "You Are Good", which has been sung around the world packs power.

2 Chronicles 20:20-23 *And they rose early in the morning and went forth into the wildness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of Holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, praise the Lord, for his mercy endureth forever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, everyone helped to destroy another.*

You must understand, ambushments are hidden attackers. Although the enemy thinks you are alone, as you begin to praise God, there are angels that have not revealed themselves that literally begin to destroy the enemy without an announcement.

When you sense the enemy is near, prepare! Prepare to get into the right spiritual posture. You may not know exactly what you are fighting against, or who all you may be fighting for. When Esther had to face wicked Haman, it wasn't just an individual attack on her, but spiritual wickedness trying to dispose of her entire heritage. She called the entire nation on a 3 day fast before she even made a request. Fasting releases strategy and opens the door for God to speak. When Mordecai told her what she needed to do in approaching the King, she realized she couldn't go any kind of way... she fasted, found favor with the king, and saw her enemy fall.

Things to remember when faced with spiritual warfare

- **We must repent** and get in the secret place under the shadow of God's protection. This is important because there are times when repentance extends beyond you, but we confess for the nation, a region or even a family or bloodline. (2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalms 91)
- **We must fast** to get God's attention to bring us freedom and deliverance from the oppressor. (Isaiah 58) Listen for God to give you details on what He would require you to do.
- **We must ascend**, taking the matter to the king! Ascending takes sacrifice... Salvation is free, but sometimes going before God will cost you something. When you appear in court, there is a date set, you make many sacrifices to be present, and you must realize the opposing team will be present. Joshua, the high priest stood before God when He was chosen to help restore the temple, but satan the accuser of the brethren stood against him. You must confess those faults and plead the blood of Jesus so while in court, the accuser has nothing to see but a life covered by the all atoning and cleansing blood of Jesus. Pastor Hopson from Chicago once told us, "You can't sick the dogs on the pigs he plays with." Don't be a pig in the parlor when you need God to drive out the enemy from your life. When you ascend to the courts of God, you are not fighting the enemy with physical swords, but get a Word from the Bible that you can remind God of which is sharper than any attack satan will bring your way.
- **We must wrestle!** Although it says we wrestle not against flesh and blood, it doesn't exempt us from wrestling. You must learn to pray without ceasing, and not letting go until you see victory! Many times we let go too soon! As you keep praying, you position yourself on top of the enemy and eventually he will tap out! Resist the devil and he will FLEE! (Ephesians 6:12-23) Don't forget, Jacob had to wrestle all night to experience the blessing of God!
- **We must guard the access doors** Not giving tithes and offering is a gateway for satan to attack in many ways. Allow God to rebuke the devourer for your sake! We don't have time for satan to touch anything we've worked hard for. Sexual sins and worldly pleasures including drugs/alcohol turns into weights that open the door to procrastination, falling, and the lack of advancement. Pride, opens the door to sickness, death and tells God you don't need Him.
- **We must pray in the Spirit!** Ephesians 6 explains the whole armor of God, but verse 18 after going through the types of armor says, **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.** There are times when you may not pray in English and there could be moaning that won't be understood! Pray in the Spirit! There are times you may end up praying for things totally opposite the motives

you woke up to pray for. Pray in the Spirit! There is power when we don't overthink and allow God to just have His way!

If you are under attack and do nothing, all the signs on the road you are traveling are most likely leading into a direction you don't want it to go. It's time to remember our Redeemer lives, He's the same God, Jehovah Sabaoth who caused the walls of Jericho to come down and destroyed so many of Israel's opposing armies. You are not in the situation you are in to lose, but to win!