

VICTORIOUS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"Tapping Into Our Authority"

Ephesians 6:1

INTRODUCTION:

1. When we talk about our Authority - It is the power or right to control, or command.
2. **John 12:31**
 - a) *"Now will the ruler of this world be cast out."*
3. **John 14:30; 16:11**
4. **Ephesians 2:2**
 - a) *"following the course of this world."*
5. Our authority was bought for us @ the Cross.
6. Far too many Christians never allow the truth of God's Word into their lives.
 - a) Therefore these are no threat to Satan.
 - b) Because Satan know he they will never use their spiritual weapons against him.
7. **Ephesians 6:10-17, 18**
8. **WE ACTIVATE THE ARMOR THROUGH PRAYER**

I. THE FORCE OF PRAYER

1. The reason we are basically naked and unclothed, is because prayer is NOT a dynamic, vital, potent, consistent, controlling and all-encompassing reality in our lives. **WOW!!!**
2. Therefore we end up spiritually embarrassed.
 - a) Worse than that we are getting mopped up by Satan when God has given us everything we need to defeat our enemy!!!!
3. One of the first things a commander tries to do in warfare is to establish **AIR SUPERIORITY**.
 - a) **Commanders say:** Whoever controls the air, controls the war.
4. One of the reasons the Church suffers a lot of casualties on the ground is because we haven't established AIR Superiority in the heavenly places. **WOW!!!**
 - a) **Ephesians 6:10-12**

5. The key to our success is to understand that Jesus has already won the Spiritual War and established AIR Superiority for all eternity.

a) **Vs 13**

1) "**Stand firm**" - don't give up one inch of the real estate Jesus has already won.

6. **HERE'S THE PROBLEM:** It is possible to lose a battle even when we have superior weapons.

A. THE FOCUS OF PRAYER

1. **Vs 18**

a) "**with all prayer**"

b) "**with**" - is a connecting word.

2. Prayer is the arena in which we are to fight.

a) **NOW WATCH THIS:** Prayer is the way we stay in vital daily contact with our Commander in Chief.

3. **WOW!!!** AND the way we activate our armor is through prayer.

a) **Ephesians 6:10-17, 18**

4. The kind of prayer Paul has in mind here is: intense, fervent, knowledgeable prayer that enables the believer to REACH into HEAVEN and make withdrawals on your spiritual account.

5. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Our job as believers is not to add to what Christ has done.

a) Jesus has made all the deposits necessary for every spiritual need, we will ever have.

b) **Ephesians 1:3** WOW!!!

6. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Without prayer we don't get to use the things God has granted us.

B. THE FENCE OF PRAYER

1. Prayer is potent because it provides us with a hedge of protection when the battle is fiercest.

2. It's through prayer that we find our footing to stand firm.

3. Prayer helps us to take a stand, it gives us protection from the flaming arrows.

4. **THAT'S WHAT SATAN SAYS** when he sees the church.

a) *"I could have conquered the entire human race had it not been for the cross."*

C. THE FABRIC OF PRAYER

1. @ the heart of Prayer is communication with God.

2. AND good communication involves both sides TALKING AND LISTENING.

3. There is no deep mystery about prayer.

a) **Now Watch:** If prayer is communication with God, then in order to communicate with God, effectively, we need to know something about Him.

4. When your God is Small, your PRAYERS will be SMALL.

a) **LISTEN UP:** If your prayers are small, you are a big target for the enemy.

5. **WE MUST REMEMBER** that God is the source of our spiritual authority.

6. Knowing the God we are praying to also involves the understanding that praying is not some magical formula by which we make God a Genie in the Bottle.

D. WE MUST PRAY

1. Why??? **The BATTLE is REAL!**

2. AND it is through PRAYER that we engage the spiritual realm.

a) **FACT:** There are things God will not do apart from prayer.

3. NOTICE **Daniel 9:1-19**

a) Daniel prayed God's Word back to Him.

b) When we know God's Word we can pray it back to God.

II. THE FULLNESS OF PRAYER

1. Prayer gives us access to our authority and spiritual weapons.

2. Notice: **Vs 18**

A. THE FULL PLAN

1. Vs 18

a) "all" - is the key word here

2. Prayer is to be made at all times....with all kinds of prayers....for all the saints.

3. God wants us to bombard the heavenlies with our prayers.

a) In a WAR an army doesn't fire just one shell or launch one missile at the enemy.

b) An Army pounds the enemy with repeated fire.

4. In the Bible we see people praying in all kinds of postures:

a) Standing

b) Kneeling

c) lying prostrate on the floor

d) And walking

5. Using all kinds of prayer

a) Thanksgiving

b) Praise

c) Supplication

d) Intercession

6. And when we pray don't hang up so soon.

a) **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

1) "Prayer without ceasing"

7. Vs 18

a) We need to pray for "**all the saints**"

B. THE CONTEXT OF PRAYER

1. When we pray we enter a whole other realm.

a) We enter the heavenlies.

2. Looking at the earth from inside an airplane.

a) Everything looks orderly and perfectly laid out.

3. That's what prayer does for us.