

# WINNING YOUR EVERYDAY SPIRITUAL BATTLES

## SESSION 4

### OPENING GATES (OFFENSIVE WARFARE)

Matthew 16:19b (NLT) <sup>1</sup> – *“Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”*

- The more specifically you pray, the more faith you exercise.

Ephesians 6:12 - *For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

- Paul is writing about function, not size or type or power of demon

#### **Rulers, Authorities, Thrones, Dominions**

Someone who has jurisdiction over another

Everything in this earth is made up of authority structures

- God ordained authority structures

The devil seeks to rule through authority structures

- He only has authority that is given to him
- Authority is ordained by God, so if the devil can break down that authority, he can have power over it

The walls around these authority structures are broken down by:

- Ungodly leaders
- Neglect
- Rebellion

Romans 13:1 - *Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.*

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- Authority structures are God ordained, but the devil wants to steal that rulership from the people who God has given it to.

**Intercession is standing in the gap, making up the wall so structures won't be destroyed.**

Ezekiel 22:30 - *I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one.*

1 Timothy 2:1-3 - *I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.* <sup>2</sup> *Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity.* <sup>3</sup> *This is good and pleases God our Savior...*

The church's priority needs to be prayer--for every creature

- Every leader is under attack by the enemy.
- The strongholds of the enemy will always be in the “gates”—where the decisions are made.
- Focus your prayers on individuals, kings, leaders and all who are in authority

**The focus of our battle and the focus of our prayer is primarily to see the world reached and the church edified.**

## PRINCIPALITIES

A principality is a prince over a power.

The devil has deployed his forces according to a map (geographical area) and according to demographics (people grouping).

- Geographic
  - A territorial spirit is a principality or demonic function that is geographically based, because demons are not omnipresent.
  - Daniel 10 - Example of geographically-based demons
- Demographic
  - Various groups of peoples identified by: age, race, language, occupation, economics, gender, etc.

**We need focused prayer for every distinguished group in society to break down the darkness and attacks on them and to release light.**

## POWERS, STRONGHOLDS, BONDAGE AND "SPIRIT OF'

The results of continued sin or evil built up over time.

- If I steal something one time, its not a stronghold in my life, if I continue to do it, it becomes a stronghold.
  - E.g.,Port Hardy and suicide – something you could feel as you came and went to that town
- Ancestral bondages come where ancestors have opened the gates by sinning.
  - Because of their sinning, there was an assignment of the enemy.
  - To break it, you figure out what the assignment is and break it in Jesus' name

### **Combat the predominant bondages within a situation.**

- Ask God to show you, so you can pray more specifically
  - Study the elements of an area: the history, the art, the city lay-out, the statistics, etc. and ask God to show you.
- Avoid their influence
- Live the opposite

### Intercessory Repentance

- It's not a repentance that leads to salvation, but it is one the breaks down barriers and strongholds.
- It can accomplish a breakdown of strongholds in the heavens.

*Nehemiah 1:6b - I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned!*

### **In Jesus' name we can break down the barriers (because of the cross)!**

## FORCES OF DARKNESS (DECEPTION)

*2 Corinthians 4:4 - Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.*

- These include: religions, philosophies, ideologies, and other lies which have developed into huge systems
- Anything that keeps you from the only Gospel that can save you forever is demonic and serious.
  - **Pray against darkness**
  - **Preach the Gospel**
- Sad but true, it is part of the deception that keeps Christians from being more interested in evangelism

### ACTIVATION

**Take authority over deception you know is happening in your life or in the lives of people you know.**

*e.g. "I pray that [my/their] eyes will be opened, and in the name of Jesus I command the enemy to let [me/them] go."*

## PRAYING THROUGH THE GATES

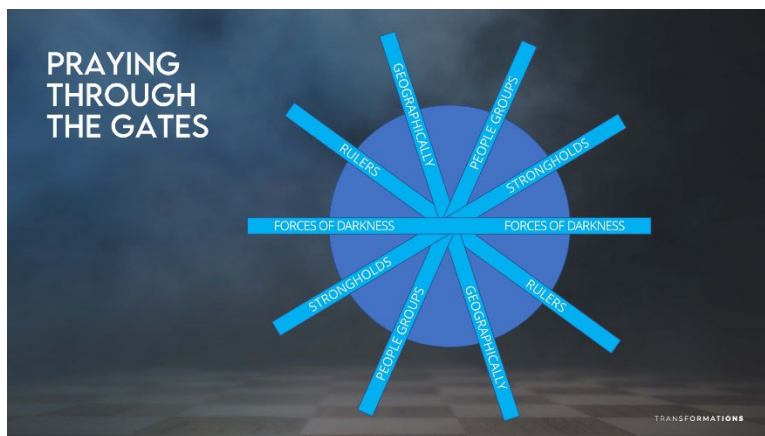


Illustration – Pray for Afghanistan through various gates

- Pray for *Rulers* – President, schools system, family life, structures
- Pray *Geographically* – Pray for North, city of Kabul
- Pray for *people groups* – Pray for Kurds, pray for the women, tribes
- Pray against *strongholds* – pray against greed, superstition, fear
- Pray against *forces of darkness* – Islam, communism, philosophies of darkness

## OUR AUTHORITY

### Based on what Jesus did to Satan

Colossians 2:15 - *In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.*

- Jesus stripped or disarmed him of authority.

### Jesus destroyed the devil's works.

1 John 3:8 - *But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.*

Acts 10:38 - *And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.*

Luke 4:18-19 - *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,<sup>19</sup> and that the time of the Lord's favor has come.*

- We have authority to redeem all aspects of society... to disciple the nations.
- Authority is based on what Jesus did. It is both legal and practical.

### Based on what Jesus did for us

He delivered us

Colossians 1:13-14 - *For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,<sup>14</sup> who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.*

He gives us power to continue

1 John 4:4 - *But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.*

He gives us authority to exercise

Luke 10:17-20 - *When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"* <sup>18</sup> "Yes," he told them, *"I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning!"* <sup>19</sup> *Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.* <sup>20</sup> *But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."*

- The authority is because our names are registered in heaven.

## OUR AUTHORITY: FIVE MECHANISMS

### 1. The Name of Jesus

Mark 16:17-18 - *These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages.* <sup>18</sup> *They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.*

We have to be convinced of it!

### 2. The Word of God

Ephesians 6:17 - *Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Speak the word to ourselves, to others, etc

### 3. Dunamis of the Holy Spirit

Dunamis means ability to accomplish – more than just the authority but the ability or muscle to get the job done (e.g. police officer)

Matthew 12:28 - *But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you.*

Acts 1:8 - *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

#### 4. The Blood of the Lamb

Revelation 12:11 - *And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.*

Reminder of Satan's defeat at the cross

#### 5. The word of testimony

Declare and testify about two things:

- 1) the great acts and character of God
- 2) who you are in Christ

## GOD HAS GIVEN MAN FREE WILL + AUTHORITY

- The devil has as much authority as man gives him.

### **ACTIVATION**

***Take authority over the situations in your life***

*e.g. boldly declare God's authority over the situation, command the enemy to leave, etc.*





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## APPENDIX

### Ways to Wage Warfare

- Cut off and push back the enemy
- Pray down the love and conviction of God

### There are two ways to do warfare:

- Direct confrontation with demonic powers
- Passively by thanking and exalting God

### Why does God tell us to ask?

- Isaiah 59:15-16 (NLT)<sup>2</sup> - *Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who renounces evil is attacked. The Lord looked and was displeased to find there was no justice. <sup>16</sup> He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So he himself stepped in to save them with his strong arm, and his justice sustained him.*
- God is displeased with what's happening in the world.
  - His will is not being done.
  - That's why we have impetus to pray things to change!
- It is to the degree and by the specifics with which you pray that God moves in the affairs of man.
  - God has given us authority. It is to the degree that we pray specifically that God moves.

Isaiah 62:6-7 - *O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls; they will pray day and night, continually. Take no rest, all you who pray to the Lord. <sup>7</sup> Give the Lord no rest until he completes his work, until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth.*

### God wants us to be watchmen:

- All the time.
- See what the enemy is up to.
- Do it for others.

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## **It is to the degree that we pray and by the specifics we pray that God moves.**

- Matthew 15:22-28 - *A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely." <sup>23</sup> But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. "Tell her to go away," they said. "She is bothering us with all her begging." <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to the woman, "I was sent only to help God's lost sheep—the people of Israel." <sup>25</sup> But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, "Lord, help me!" <sup>26</sup> Jesus responded, "It isn't right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup> She replied, "That's true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> "Dear woman," Jesus said to her, "your faith is great. Your request is granted." And her daughter was instantly healed.*

## **When God is silent...ask again!**

- Luke 11:5-10 - *Then, teaching them more about prayer, he used this story: "Suppose you went to a friend's house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, <sup>6</sup> 'A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.' <sup>7</sup> And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, 'Don't bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can't help you.' <sup>8</sup> But I tell you this—though he won't do it for friendship's sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence. <sup>9</sup> "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."*

## **Agree with others**

- Matthew 18:19 - *I also tell you this: If two of you **agree** here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.*
- When we agree together, we influence the powers of darkness away and we influence the spirit of God to fall.
- Psalm 133 - *How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!*

## Fasting

- Mark 9:29 (NKJV) - *So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and **fasting**."*
- Acts 13:3 - *So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.*
- Fasting is effective because it is a yieldedness, setting aside one's own needs, which releases spirit power.

## Perseverance

- Ephesians 6:18 - *Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be **persistent** in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*

## Continuous

- Ephesians 6:18 - *Pray in the Spirit at **all times** and on **every occasion**. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*

## Fervent

- James 5:16b - *The **earnest** prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*

## Living Holy Lives

- You wage warfare by your life, not just your prayers.

## Preaching the Gospel

- Declare the truth wisely, lovingly, and appropriately.
- Use whatever vehicle gets the truth of God into people's minds.

## Reacting Rightly

- Job won the victory by reacting rightly to his adversity.

## Repenting and Exercising Faith

- Matthew 3:2 - *"Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near."*
- 1 John 5:4b - *"... we achieve this victory through our faith."*
- Romans 10:17 - *So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*



## Giving

- Giving breaks down the controlling use of finance.
- 1 Timothy 6:10 - *For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.*
- Malachi 3:8-10 - *“Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. <sup>9</sup> You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. <sup>10</sup> Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!”*

## Loving Service

- Serving people cuts off the work of the destroyer.

## Endurance

- Hebrews 10:36 - *Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.*

## Praise & Worship

- Psalm 149:6-9 - *Let the praises of God be in their mouths, and a sharp sword in their hands— <sup>7</sup> to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, <sup>8</sup> to bind their kings with shackles and their leaders with iron chains, <sup>9</sup> to execute the judgment written against them. This is the glorious privilege of his faithful ones. Praise the Lord!*
- 2 Chronicles 20:21-22 - *After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: “Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!” <sup>22</sup> At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves.*