



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Class Six:

Weaponize Your prayers
(Personal Warfare)



Luke 11:1:

“And it came to pass, that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.’”

These were simple fishermen yet they noted something:
Jesus spent a lot of time in prayer
John's Disciples placed great importance on prayer
Religious leaders made sure everyone saw them praying
Somehow prayer was important

Until we believe this, we will never understand the importance of prayer
We will always be ignorant of the Power of Prayer
And so we will not bother to pray

When Paul was listing the Whole Armor of God, he had this to say about prayer...
Ephesians 6:18:
"Praying always with all power and supplication in the Spirit..."

So many people miss the fact that
prayer is listed among the Whole
Armor of God
It is the Forgotten Weapon

There is a secret weapon inside
of you that you have no idea
what it is

How
it works
How
effective
it is



Satan knows exactly the power
behind this weapon
He is terrified of it
And so he wants to keep you

IGNORANT

God has empowered us with His Holy Spirit

God has given us access to Him whenever and wherever

We have been given power in Jesus' Name

And all of this can be used effectively with prayer

Prayer is not just talking to God

It is accessing God

But even more important, it is God having access to our world.

Christian Believers have a unique make up

We are both physical and we are spiritual

Through our physical bodies we are connected to the physical world

And through Jesus and the Holy Spirit we are also connected to the spiritual world

Think of yourself as a window in the wall separating Heaven and earth

God put this wall in place to protect the earth from the attacks of Satan

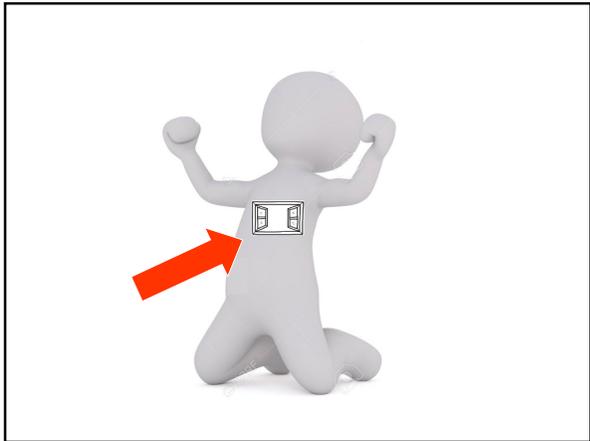
While the wall keeps Satan out; it also limits God's access to this world

If God breaks through the wall to access earth

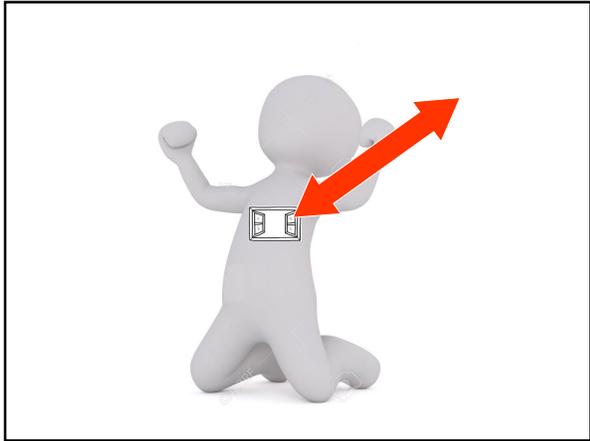
Then He has to allow Satan the same access

We are the solution to this problem

Because we belong to both the physical world and the spiritual world we can take the prayers and problems of this world and through prayer and the Holy Spirit send them before our Heavenly Father



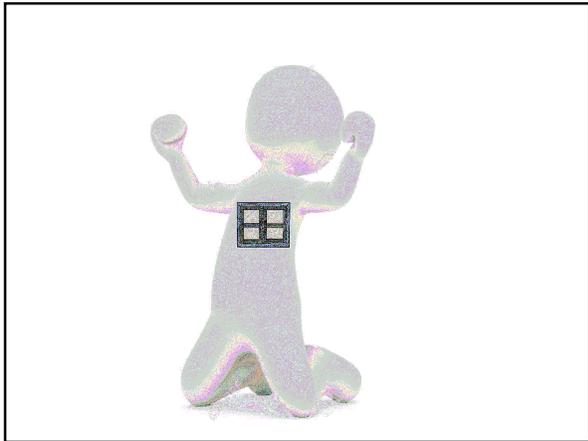
We become the connection between this world and God each and every time we pray



And as we pray, we give God access to our world so that He can act in response to those prayers.



This is the last thing that Satan wants.
He does not want God to have access to this world
He does not want God to answer prayers
Satan does not want us to pray, thereby closing the window to Heaven



When we stop praying, the window inside of us closes
And God's access to our world is limited
But the more believers pray, the greater access God has to our world

As long as we think of prayer as
nothing more than a Wish List
option with God

This weapon will never be
effective against the enemy

When we understand that it is a
weapon

Is when it will become a weapon
A very POWERFUL Weapon

I used to be terrified to pray –
especially out loud

But over the years, there is a
change in me

Let me share my experience with
Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

As a believer, God places His
Holy Spirit in us when we accept
His offer of salvation

The Holy Spirit is like a down
payment to prove God is serious
about saving us

We will be teaching an entire Module on the Gifts of the Spirit and discuss the Holy Spirit in more detail at that time

But let me discuss a concept called, The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Filling of the Holy Spirit and the Empowering of the Holy Spirit

These are all the same thing. We already have the Holy Spirit We have all the Holy Spirit we need

But the function and actions of the Holy Spirit can change based upon the need in our lives

However, there comes a point in our spiritual growth that we become aware of the Holy Spirit It is as if He is sitting dormant in us.

The prayer to be filled by the Holy Spirit is like a prayer of rededication to God

We want to be closer to God
We want to feel God in our life
We want to be used of God
This is a step forward in which to
volunteer for duty for God

Although many Churches teach
and speak of the power of the
Holy Spirit
And even mention the Gifts of the
Spirit
And the Baptism of the Spirit
They do not actually accept it or
practice this doctrine

I had been a good little Southern
Baptist boy
I was attending the Southern
Baptist College where I met my
wife to be
She was telling me about a place
called Calvary Chapel [Riverside]
This is now called Harvest

She told me that there were two thousand kids attending on Saturday night
I challenged her
No one has two thousand teenagers on Sunday night
I went with her to prove she was wrong

She was wrong
There were not two thousand teenagers there that night
There were three thousand
And I was having culture shock
They were barefooted
Long hair
Cut offs

They had filled every chair on the floor and in the balcony
They were sitting up front and in the aisles
They had opened the windows and they were sitting outside on the lawn

After the services, Bev asked if we could stay for an "Afterglow"
I did not know what it was, but I agreed
We went back inside to where they had pews
She picked the second row
She was sneaky like that

When Greg was doing the Afterglow and Gifts of the Spirit were being manifest, I was getting nervous
But I was in the second pew and could not just slip out

Then Greg asked us to turn to the person next to us and pray for them out loud by name
Obviously Bev was good with this
I was not
I had never prayed for someone while they were with me

I got through that and then Greg offered to pray for anyone who wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit

He asked those people to come forward

I felt perfectly safe standing there next to Bev

It was just the two of us in the pew.

All I had to do was stand still

Suddenly, it was as if someone had taken hold of my belt and pulled me towards the aisle

It clamped down on the back of the pew

I then began to feel guilty

And so I said silently

“Okay God, if that was You...

Do it again.”

Whatever it was had a hold of my belt and literally dragged me to the aisle

I left claw marks in the pew

I found myself among all those
coming forward to be filled with
the Holy Spirit

I moved to the back of the line

It was a long line

My plan was that they would run
out of time

Calvary Chapel does not work off
the clock

They keep going until God is done

They got to me and Fred Farley
asked why I had come

I thought it was obvious and said,
"To get the Holy Spirit."

He laid hands on me, prayed and
nothing happened.

"That's it?"

"You ask in faith and you receive
in faith" Fred said

He did not realize that I was
relieved, not disappointed

But Greg was not done
“Break up into groups of three or four.”
I ended up in a group of four
One of them was a lady with disabled legs and had permanent crutches

“We’re going to pray for each other...”
I kept resisting and then God got Greg into it again
“God wants someone here to pray for someone.”
I stayed in my place
I remained quiet

Finally the woman looked at me and asked,
“Is God telling you to pray for my legs?”
“Yes...”
“Then why don’t you?”
“But what if nothing happens?”

“That doesn’t matter.
It’s up to God.
You need to pray.”
And so I prayed for her legs
And nothing happened
But I learned my lesson
When God tells me to pray, I pray

So whenever someone asks me
to pray for them, I now pray for
them
Right then...
Out loud...
By Name

But God gives me a different prayer
I never asked for what they were
asking me to ask for
I ask for God’s Will to be done in
their life
And later I expanded my prayer:
“Give them the strength to accept
Your Will.”

Prayer/Faith is not a club that we use to beat God into submission
We should never come before God and pray as a way of changing God's Will in our life

Prayer should never change God
But prayer should always change us
We need to conform to God's Will

Your Will be done here on earth the same way that it is done up there in Heaven.
That is the One True Prayer
That is the prayer that God will honor
If you want your prayers answered; then pray that prayer

What is in God's Will?

Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive us/help us forgive others
Lead us not into temptation
Protection from forces of Satan
Salvation for others

I realized that the minute we started teaching you how to improve your relation with God...
We were setting you up to be attacked by the enemy

Spiritual Warfare is something you will find yourself involved in as a result of these lessons
For this lesson on spiritual warfare I wanted to focus on prayer

If you want to improve your relationships
You need to prepare yourself for a spiritual battle
The closer you come to God
The harder the enemy is going to fight you and try to keep you from God

Ephesians 6:12:
“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

GOD’S SOLUTION...

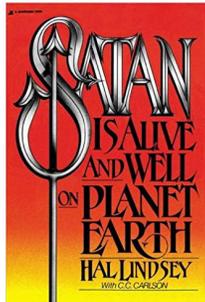
WEAPONIZE
YOUR
PRAYERS



THIS is why prayer IS important
It is our weapon in our war with
the enemy
It is our calling upon God to act in
our world
It is empowering God so that He
can empower us

When you become a Prayer
Warrior, you will be involved in the
spiritual war going on around you.
Your first priority is going to be you
and your relationship with Jesus
I would recommend that the first
thing you do is to spiritually cleanse
your home
Protect your base of operations

People do not realize that Satan
and his forces are alive and well
on Planet Earth.
They have been
defeated;
but that does not
make them
inactive.



They continue to disrupt
and deceive wherever they
can

You can remain ignorant of this
war

Or you can take an active part in
this war

Satan's forces are subtle and as
you grow as a believer you
become more of a target for
them

If they can frustrate or
discourage you from serving
God, they will

They want to keep you on the
sidelines

If they can gain access to your
home; they will

You need to be aware of clues
that they may have already
gained entry

As a believer, you cannot be possessed.
The Holy Spirit lives inside of you
And the only way for demons to possess you is to defeat and drive out the Holy Spirit
AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN EVER!

Red Flags to watch for:
Frustration over small things
Irritation over unimportant events
Sudden anger/over-reacting to something
Depression

Red Flags to watch for:
Negative feelings you cannot explain
A lack of interest in spiritual things
Excessive temptations

This is just a partial list, but it should give you the idea
When you are having negative reactions and feelings, and events do not justify these feelings or their level; it is a strong possibility that Satan has gained a foothold in your home and/or family

Prayer is still your best defense against the enemy
You do not need to sprinkle water or burn sage to cleanse your home
Those are pagan practices and are ineffective against true satanic forces

Jesus is your authority and you need to pray in Jesus' name
Do not let the enemy teach you how to fight him
Satan will set you up to fail
Let God show you how to fight the enemy and win

It could be that you have done nothing to allow these forces into your home

You may have moved into a home where the previous owners did such things

You could be in a neighborhood with demonic activities

You could have done something without realizing that you were opening a door for them

We went through the spiritual cleansing of your home a couple of weeks ago but let me just touch on it briefly

Satan, fallen angels and demons cannot read your mind

They can read your body language but not your thoughts

So when you pray silently, this is
a prayer between you and God
If you are confronting the enemy
or cleansing your home you need
to pray out loud
You need to use the name of
Jesus

“Heavenly Father I pray in the
name of Jesus...”
You are not doing this in your
power or in your authority
You are coming against the
enemy by the power of Jesus
Christ who has already defeated
them

Use the name of Jesus in your
prayers and use it often
Bind the enemy in Jesus’ name
Call upon God to bind the enemy
in Jesus name
Call upon God to cleanse your
home in Jesus’ name

Let God be the one to fight the battle for you.

I suggest that you use the Peace of God as a way to measure and test if the enemy is gone

Ask God to bring His peace and His protection upon you, your family and your home

Whenever that peace gets weak or vanishes, it will be time to pray again

If these prayers are not working, then go through and ask God to show you what Satan is using as a loop hole to stay in your home

Pray over it or remove it

Be careful what you talk about:

Griping

Complaining

Gossip

Negative things or talking about Satan can open the door

Be careful what you watch on television, cable or the internet or your phones

Be careful what you read

Be careful about the kinds of music you listen to

Watch out what you buy or bring into your home

As a Prayer Warrior you are now responsible for others

Pray for your family each day:

Pray before the day begins

Pray for them by name

Pray over the events and activities they will be involved in throughout the day

Keep lifting them in prayer throughout the day

Pray each day for your employer
and co-workers
Pray for relatives and friends
Make a pact to pray for each other
and encourage others to pray

Pray for those you know need to
be saved
Pray for God's strength to accept
God's Will
It is the quality of the prayer you
need to focus on
Repeating names does not
activate the power of God

Whenever there is an issue or
problem go to God in prayer first
Always give God first option at
fixing the problem or resolving the
issue
Monitor your own spiritual state
When you feel angry, frustrated or
lose your peace; pray!

Prayer will transform from being a
Wish List for God into a Plan of
Battle in your life

You will come to trust God even
more

And you will allow God to work
through you each and every day

Now let me discuss what I call the
Unintentional Prayer.

As a Prayer Warrior, God will call
upon you without warning to pray.

Remember, prayer is how God
accesses our world

You are God's Prayer Warrior so
He will call upon you when He
needs you.

God may place a name on your
mind

God may call your attention to a
total stranger

PRAY FOR THEM!

God may remind you of
something

PRAY FOR IT!

If God gives you the opportunity,
let the person know God asked
you to pray for them
Ask them if there is anything
specific you need to pray for
This can open doors to share
God's love with them

There is also what I call the
Unknown Prayer.
I've had this happen a few times
There is an urge within you to pray.
You do not know for whom
You do not know why
You just know you need to pray

"Dear Jesus, I don't know what is
happening. I do not know who is
involved; but let me pray right now.
Let my prayer give You the authority
to act in this situation. Let my prayer
be what You need to act. Bind the
power of Satan and send forth Your
angels and Holy Spirit to meet
whatever need this is for. Let Your
Will be done in Jesus' name."

We may never know why God needed us to pray

It is just important that you allow yourself to become sensitive and opened to God's guiding in your prayer life

We are moving from simple believers who pray for Wish List items and are becoming Prayer Warriors

God may call us to man the front lines for Him

God may send others to us who need prayer

But as we see prayer as God's most potent weapon in His arsenal we will give ourselves over to prayer

And God will begin to use us where He needs us

Remember:

The more we pray;
the more God can do!



In closing, I want to talk about another forgotten weapon
I want to discuss the Power of Praise
Personal worship and personal praise is part of our spiritual defense system

It is important to come into God's presence
This will keep us close to God
Makes us aware of God's Presence
Fills us with God's joy
And keeps our minds in an attitude of gratitude

Psalm 100:4:

“Enter into His gates with
thanksgiving

And into His courts with praise

Be thankful unto Him

And bless His name.”

We begin our praise journey with
thanksgiving

This is defined as simply giving
thanks to God

It is something we do with our
minds and mouths

We remind ourselves of something
God has done for us

We then just say, “Thank you
God.”

There is no emotions involved at
this time

It is just getting our mind to realize
all that God has done for us

This is how the gates open for us

The next step is praise
Worship is telling God that you love Him
Praise is bragging about God and telling others that you love Him
We thank God and then move on to praise

At this point emotions are getting involved
You are telling God that you love Him
As you have been thanking Him you have a list of the things God has done for you

This will give you things to brag about concerning God
Worship and praise do not always involve song or music
It does always involve your heart and spirit
It is your attitude that makes it worship and praise

Consider this a way of falling in love with God all over again
You are coming back to your First Love Relationship
Why did you fall in love with God the very first time?
Come back and focus on that

Now we move on to getting the heart and spirit involved
It's not just telling God "Thank You"
Now it is *being* thankful
Realize what God has done for you personally

As you begin to fall in love with God all over again
Your heart and your spirit will become thankful
You will feel thankful
Express this to God
We then bless God

How do we bless God?
We express our love for Him
We want to please Him
We want to make Him happy
This will bring us into God's
throne room
And into His Presence

Psalm 16:11:
"You will show me the path of life;
in Your Presence is fullness of
joy; at Your right hand are
pleasures forevermore."
Who is at God's right hand?
That is Jesus

When we come into God's
Presence, we find fullness of joy
Joy is how God motivates us
He causes us to feel joy when we
serve Him
We enjoy what we are doing
It's hard to stop doing something
that you enjoy doing

Worship and praise have nothing
to do with your voice or any
instrument you can play
Remember, compared to the
angels in Heaven, our best
sounds like nails on a chalkboard
God is not looking for the noise

He is looking on the heart
There are deaf people who cannot
make a sound
But their hearts and spirits
express the love that they have
for God

When we worship and praise with
our hearts and our spirits
We come before the Presence of
God
Satan cannot stand in the
Presence of God
He and his forces have to flee

All that is required is that we
worship and praise God with our
hearts
We have to truly mean it
We follow David's instructions of
how to come before God

This is another weapon in our
spiritual war
When all else fails
Run home to God
Run home to Jesus
We come before them in worship
and praise

QUESTIONS