



Inner Growth - Prayer 2

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.

Ephesians 6:12

Principalities/Powers - Colossians 2:15

Rulers - Psalms 2:2, Luke 21:12, 23:35

Against - Ephesians 6:12, 1 Samuel 14:47, Jeremiah 37:18, Psalms 41:7

Lamentations 3:62

Yield - 2 Chronicles 30:8, Romans 6:19

Eyes/Ears - Deuteronomy 29:4, 2 Chronicles 7:15

Resistance - James 4:7

Prayer in the first edition, we discover it is a personal offering. Whether a person offers to God verbally or quietly meditating, the scriptures or thoughtfully, it is towards Him we intend to connect. A believer builds their relationship with God through devoting time towards God through Jesus Christ, His Son, who has received salvation through acceptance that lives inside them. Prayer forms a bond with God: the more time spent in prayer, the closer a believer becomes to God. However, another area of prayer needed to balance the relationship between followers and God is towards spirits and those who do not believe in God: this is an extension of the spiritual warfare topics in the inner growth section.

Christians face a spiritual conflict with Satan and a host of evil spirits. These powers of darkness are spiritual forces of evil that

energize the ungodly, oppose the will of God, and frequently attack the believers of this age. They constitute a great multitude and are an organization of an empire of evil with rank and order. While these evil spiritual forces are working in carrying out assignments against the godly, should believers sit back and allow the demonic world to do whatever they desire against the saints of God? No, this is where the Christians must combat these forces of evil and apprehend them in warfare prayer.

What are principalities and powers?

Principalities and powers in the Bible are levels of demons or the presence of demonic activity. These beings are real, and their primary goal is to kill, injure, worry, destroy, vex, harass, irritate, confuse, frustrate, and bother humans. The reason is all to get back at God for kicking the devil out of Heaven, as in Luke ten, verse eighteen. So, the goal in the evil world is to cause as much damage to humans as God will allow.

Principalities and powers: Principalities of hell, the infernal powers of darkness. The devil had the power of death, but Christ triumphed over Satan by disarming all the demonic control and authorities by His death on the cross, as in Ephesians six, verse twelve. He stripped them of their power to hold men and women captive to the dominion of evil against their will, as in chapter one, verse thirteen, Matthew twelve, verse twenty-nine, Luke ten, verse eighteen, chapter eleven, verse twenty through twenty-two, and Hebrews two, verse fourteen, respectively. The child of God shares in this triumph. We not only gain victory over the world and temptation as in First John four, verse four, but believers possess in Christ the authority to wage war against the spiritual forces of evil.

The kind of prayer for principalities and powers required will be to cast out, not to ask for something. For example, if a person wants someone to leave their property, who is not cooperating, the authority must be in use to let them know that this is serious and they are not playing around. The gesture could not be soft and pleasant in saying it. "Lord, would you please bind the enemy."

Jesus made a show of them openly: when being raised from the dead, He ascended on high and led captivity captive. Jesus led Satan

and his principalities and powers captive, who had led others, as he passed through the air, the territories of the devil, in the sight of God and the holy angels: triumphing over them in it which some understand of the cross, as if where and by what he got the victory.

Therefore, we must bind the enemy to receive success. To get someone off the property will have to be with authority. The gesture must come with boldness and firmness. **"I bind you (whatever it is) in the name of Jesus."** Then follow up with the proof of scripture as in Matthew eighteen, verse eighteen: "Verily I say unto you, **(Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven).**"

The kingdom's power overcomes the demonic, whatever the situation. The scripture in Matthew twelve, verse twenty-nine, Mark three, and verse twenty-seven are similar. The spirit must bind before getting something back or breaking through to receive. However, if a person is not serving God and living ungodly, how can someone bound if enslaved?

Acts nineteen, fourteen through sixteen is an example. "And there were seven sons of *one* Sceva, a Jew, *and* chief of the priests, which did so." They tried to bind an evil spirit. "And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus, I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? And the man in whom the evil spirit leaped on them, overcame them, and prevailed against them so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." An ungodly person cannot bind an evil spirit: it is like a thief telling a robber not to steal.

Rulers of darkness. Who are they? In all the nations within this world, there are princes in the spirit realm and physical princes and kings in the physical domain. All humans were born in darkness until God made the earth and put His light on it. All people were born in sin: none of us inherited light as an infant.

Rulers are kings that eventually take a stand against the servants of God because darkness and light are opposite. So from a human perspective, rulers will be against God due to what is within them: sin. In every nation, a ruler or prime minister governs the country that must abide by carnal standards which oppose God. Their role from the spiritual perspective is

to contaminate the people from not following the godly way but living the ungodly lifestyle. Rulers who do not abide by worldly standards will eventually face the consequences, as we see examples within society today.

Rulers work together with others that rule. There are ungodly organizations that form a unit that opposes godly standards. An example is in Luke twenty-three, verse thirty-five when the Son of God faced crucifixion, the rulers were among the people. "And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also derided *him*, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God." Leading to these events, Luke, chapter twenty-three, explains the story of Jesus going to Pontius Pilate, King Herod, chief priests, and scribes. All of these rulers opposed the Son of God.

The kind of prayer for rulers is to bind and cast out whatever situation they oppose. In Acts four, verse twenty-six, "The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ." If believers are the children of God, the ruler will attempt to oppose anything we intend to do good. Therefore, as children of God, like kids confiding with their fathers, believers must confide in God.

Prayer examples from scripture include scripture. The second part of Mark three, verse fifteen, "and to cast out devils." We must believe and say with authority: **I call upon your name, Jesus, to cast out all darkness and bring forth your light. I know that with your power, nothing is impossible. In the name of Jesus, I bind all evil spirits that have been tormenting me. I declare that they have no control over me, for I am a child of God. I command them to leave me now and go to the feet of Jesus for judgment. Lord, I ask that you fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me the power to resist all evil. I ask that you put on me the complete armor of God so that I may stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

Prayer is more effective if the believer is in righteousness, which is right doing. Not to say believers will live a perfect life, but not intentionally doing things contrary to the Word of God. Objectively, for the devil and his cohorts is to get the people to do wrong and

live in sin. Therefore, if the attitude of a Christian is to live right, binding rulers and anything else will be more powerful and effective. Whatever the circumstance, the prayer of a righteous man availeth much as in James five, verse sixteen.

Against is the opposite: from a believer's perspective, they wrestle with all forces of evil. To keep them out will take a relying effort of prayer through the Word of God and living in obedience to what the scriptures say. In First Samuel fourteen, verse forty-seven, Saul was King had wars against other nations. "So Saul took the kingdom over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, and against the children of Ammon, and against Edom, and against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines: and whithersoever he turned himself, he vexed *them*." Similar to the theme verse in Ephesians six, verse twelve, believers will fight against opposition that the enemy will use to get in the way of the people of God in any situation. Spiritual warfare prayer of binding evil spirits in the name of Jesus will be the weapon to ward them off.

Nowadays, a believer does not have to get themselves into trouble, but unexplained problems would attempt to arise without reason other than being a Christian in Christ. In Jeremiah, chapter thirty-seven, verse eighteen, "Moreover, Jeremiah said unto king Zedekiah, What have I offended against thee, or against thy servants, or against this people, that ye have put me in prison? David, in Psalms forty-one, verse seven, "All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt." In Lamentations three, verse sixty-two, "The lips of those that rose up against me, and their device against me all the day."

Prayer is to yield to God: subdue the flesh and allow the Holy Spirit to connect to the inner being. Jesus, in the New Testament, asks the disciples a question. In Matthew twenty-six, verse forty, "And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?" The difference in successful binding and prayer overall in relationship to God will determine by the time spent in prayer by the

believer. The one hour mentioned by Jesus to His disciples is overcoming the flesh.

In Galatians five, verse seventeen, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." The scripture reveals that they oppose each other. Therefore, do not be surprised when your quest is to pray, and the reaction physically may be agitation, slumber, or distraction. The flesh will fight in not wanting to settle to pray because the physical being is created on earth and born in sin. Therefore, like a parent disciplining the child, we must subdue the outer person to yield and pray: eventually, after a few attempts consistently, the physical will settle and not wrestle.

Prayer is to contain the focus with both eyes and ears. This area in preparation is where many do not have consistent devotion time with God. The challenge of easy distraction for the eyes and ears is when a person is about to engage in prayer is a plan of the enemy. Particularly a believer or a person that desires to change and make their life better with God is where the fight to subdue the flesh in devotion begins. The typical distractions an individual may face are noise outside the area, ringing or incoming phone calls, or being physically unsettled where the body does not want to stay in one place to pray.

The devil knows how effective prayer can be: and does not want a believer or Christian to engage in it. Significantly, the involvement of binding and casting his plans out of the life of a believer. The eyes tend to open when a noise occurs. Or someone calls out our name: not knowing we are praying. The mission is to get past the first hour of praying and binding. The truth about prayer for a believer in the eyes of the inner being begins to open up to God as we surpass the mark of an hour after getting the flesh to yield before controlling eyes and ears. The spirit ear can hear in prayer when we desire to be still and focus on God. The key for a believer is to ask the Holy Spirit for help. He is a person and a part of the trinity; The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. To have the Holy Spirit active in our life, we must live according to the Word of God.

Prayer involves resistance: resist the devil and submit to God, and he will leave. The other setback for believers that desire to devote their time to God but have the battle to get there is overcoming the schemes the enemy would use on people who attempt to pray. The three weapons he would use are anger, lust, and greed. The devil gets a believer mad and will have difficulty praying because it involves the flesh, and they cannot connect. Lust and greed are sinful, and God does not deal with sin: a person who desires to pray in that state of mind will not link with the Lord.

Prayer to bind and cast out is equally important than the typical prayer to ask for help for certain things needed. However, to receive necessities, in particular, may involve a stronghold that may be in the way of it. Believers may have to be careful that the request for something or answered prayer will not become an idol and interfere with their relationship with God.