



The New Life in Christ

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..." II Corinthians 5:17
Course III, Lesson 22

Prayer and WARFARE

Key Verse:

"If ye shall ask anything in
My name, I will do it."
John 14:14

In our last lesson we learned how to lead others to Christ. Soul-winning is thrilling work, but it brings us into direct conflict with Satan and the powers of darkness. Every soul won to Christ is a soul snatched out of the hand of Satan. This will cause Satan to war against us.

We will never understand what the Christian life is all about until we see that it involves spiritual warfare. Two kingdoms are at war - God's kingdom and Satan's kingdom. The battle is for the souls of men!

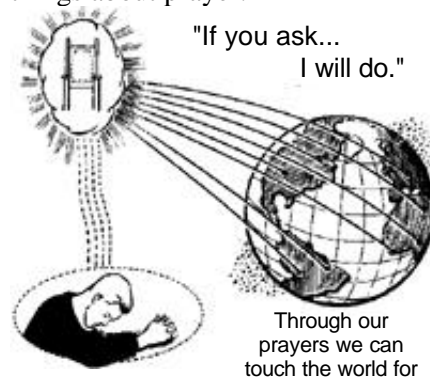
Do we have a part in this warfare? Yes, we do. Our part is to be soldiers that God can use in the battle against Satan.

What kind of weapons do we use in the warfare with Satan? We use spiritual weapons. The greatest weapon God has given us is prayer. Why? Because prayer releases God's power. When we pray, God acts! God says,

*"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."
Jeremiah 33:3*

We must pray! We simply cannot live the Christian life without prayer. It is through prayer that we commune with God; it is through prayer that we obtain the things we need; it is through prayer that we intercede for others; and it is through prayer that we bind the power of Satan.

In this lesson we are going to see how God uses our prayers in the battle against Satan, but, first, let us consider some important things about prayer.



What is Prayer?

Prayer is talking with God. Prayer is not a ritual or a public performance -- it is a personal matter between you and God. The Lord Jesus said, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray

to thy Father in secret." The Lord Jesus told us not to use "vain repetitions" -- saying the same things over and over. Our prayers must be sincere and from the heart.

To Whom Do We Pray?

We pray to the Father. The Lord Jesus said, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven" Matthew 6:9

Can everyone pray to God as Father? No, only those who are in God's family can call Him "Father."

There is only one prayer that God will hear from an unsaved person -- the prayer asking for forgiveness. God always hears this prayer from an unsaved person.

We Must Pray in Jesus' Name

If we want God to answer our prayers, we must pray in Jesus' name. The Lord Jesus said,

"Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you." John 16:23

The Lord Jesus is our great intercessor in Heaven. We pray to the Father in His name. It is because of who Jesus is and what He has done that God hears and answers our prayers.

hindering God from answering my prayers?"

The great hindrances to prayer are: (1) sin, (2) selfishness, (3) unforgiveness, and (4) unbelief. These things give Satan a foothold in our life, and God will not hear our prayers.

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Psalm 66:18

Intercession

This is prayer for others. Communion and petition are mainly for our needs, but intercession reaches out to help others. We pray for our unsaved friends and relatives; we pray for those who preach the gospel; we pray for our leaders; we pray for those who are sick. This form of prayer helps God in His great love-plan to bring men back to Himself.

One form of intercession is prayer warfare. This is prayer against Satan.

Warfare with Satan

When we have learned how to keep in touch with God through prayer and the reading of His Word, then God can use us in the Battle against Satan.

Now let's review some facts concerning the warfare between God and Satan.

First, God created this earth. It belongs to Him. The Bible says,

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof...."
Psalm 24:1

Second, God gave the rulership of this earth to man. God gave Adam dominion over all the earth.

Third, Adam rebelled against God. He took sides with Satan and came under the power of Satan. Thus, Adam lost the rulership of

the world, and Satan took it over. It was through sin that Satan gained control of the world.

Fourth, God wanted to bring this world back to Himself, and He wanted to do it through a man. So God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, into the world as His second Man.

Fifth, a great battle raged between Satan and the Lord Jesus, God's second Man. The Lord Jesus was tempted as no man was ever tempted, but He was victorious over all the temptations of Satan. Finally, in desperation, Satan stirred up people to crucify Jesus.

When the Lord Jesus lay in the tomb, Satan thought he had won the victory. But, on the third day, the Lord Jesus arose -- Victor over all the powers of darkness. Satan knew then that he was defeated.



Christ defeated the powers of darkness

The Lord Jesus was given all authority in heaven and in earth. Satan and his forces of darkness were stripped of their authority. The Lord Jesus ascended back into Heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Father "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion."

Satan is Defeated!

The great thing to remember in our warfare with Satan is this: **SATAN IS DEFEATED!** We don't have to defeat Satan -- Christ

has already defeated him at Calvary.



We claim Christ's victory over Satan.

Though Satan is defeated, he has not yet been cast into the lake of fire. For the time being, he is free, and he is working as hard as ever to keep unsaved people in his kingdom.

As God's servants, you and I are to proclaim the gospel to the unsaved and to deliver them from Satan's power.

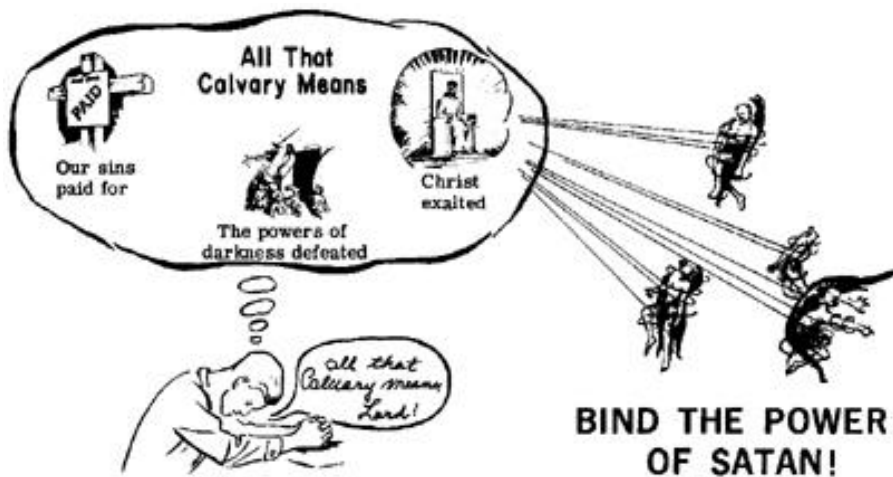
The Lord Jesus said that, if you want to take goods from the house of a strong man, you must first bind the strong man. Satan is "the strong man," and his "goods" are the people he holds in his power. If we are to deliver people from Satan's power, we must first "bind" his power.

How do we "bind" Satan's power? We bind Satan's power by claiming Christ's victory of Calvary.

How to Claim Christ's Victory

Now we come to a very important question: How do we make Christ's victory our victory? We make His victory our victory by **CLAIMING IT!**

Christ paid for your sins on the cross, but you were not saved until you claimed it. Just so, you must claim Christ's victory over Satan. You can do this by praying:



"All that Calvary means, Lord!
All the mighty victory of Calvary!"

When you pray this prayer, you are saying, "Lord, I can't deal with this situation, but You can. You are victorious overall the power of Satan, and I am claiming Your victory in this matter." As we claim the victory of Calvary, Christ binds the power of Satan.

Use the Weapon God Has Given You

God has given you a mighty weapon to use against Satan, but a weapon is no good unless you use it. So claim the victory of Calvary.

Suppose Satan attacks you home. There are hard words and bitter feelings. What should you do? Claim the victory of Calvary!

Christ says to you, "Bind the strong man, Satan, in My name."

Often, when we have problems, we try to deal with the people we think are causing the problems, but the Bible says that the real difficulty is with the powers of darkness who stir up these matters. The Apostle Paul said,

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

How do we deal with the powers of darkness? We deal with them by claiming Christ's victory of Calvary.

All the mighty power of Calvary. Victory in Jesus' name."

Pray About All things

When you understand that we are at war with Satan, you will pray about everything. This is the greatest thing you can do for God or man.

Pray about problems in your home and in your church. Pray for Christians. Pray for your unsaved friends and relatives. Pray for those who are preaching the gospel. Pray in Jesus' name. Pray earnestly. Pray believingly. Pray in the victory of Calvary.

Don't Give Up!

The winning quality in prayer is persistence. This means DON'T GIVE UP. Keep praying until the answer comes.

It takes time for God to deal with human wills. It takes time to change situations. God wants us to hold on in prayer, claiming the victory of Calvary. The Lord Jesus said, "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

Remember God's promise:

If you ask ... I will do

QUESTIONS PAGES

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Turn to the Question Page and fill in the answers for this lesson before going on to the next lesson.
2. When you have studied the lessons and have completed the Question Page, carefully detach the question page.
3. Print your name and address in the space provided at the bottom of the Question Page. Also, print your name and return address in the top left corner of the return envelope.
4. Fold the Question Page(s) and return them to the correspondence school. Place a First Class stamp on the envelope and make sure the correspondence school name and address is printed on the return envelope before mailing it back with your question pages.

Don't forget to write in your name and return address

Send in your Answer Sheets only!
Please study the lesson carefully before filling in the answers.

QUESTIONS

1. The greatest weapon God has given us to use against Satan is _____. Why? Because _____.
2. Can everyone pray to God as Father? _____. The only prayer God will hear from an unsaved person is the prayer _____.
3. Does prayer influence God's actions? _____. How do we know? _____.
4. Does God always answer prayer? _____. The two conditions which we must meet if we want God to answer our prayers are: (1) _____
(2) _____.
5. The greatest prayer we can pray to God is, "_____." This shows that we are trusting _____ and _____.
6. List four things that will hinder God from answering our prayers:
(1) _____ (2) _____
(3) _____ (4) _____
7. Intercession is prayer for _____. One form of intercession is _____. This is prayer _____ Satan.
8. How do we bind Satan's power? By _____.
9. Has Christ defeated Satan and the powers of darkness? _____. How do we make Christ's victory our victory? By _____.
10. The winning quality in prayer is _____. This means _____. Keep praying until _____.

Tell us about yourself.....Please Print!

You must return answer sheet before you get next lesson.

Name_____

Mailing address_____

Town_____ State_____ Zip_____

Send in your answer sheet only!

