

Mahon Home Dispatch #11 10.26.09 Spiritual Warfare

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In this dispatch...

Intercession and Spiritual Warfare

Dear Prayer Warriors,

As I write this email we are deep into our ministry here in Tyumen (Siberia), Russia . It has been snowing for the last four days and the temps are in the 20's. According to Pastor Ravil this is typical fall weather. He says it is not real snow because it is measured in centimeters not meters (translate: inches not feet) and the temp is well above 0 Fahrenheit, so just fall, not winter. The days are shortening rapidly with about 5 minutes less of daylight each day. This growing physical darkness makes me all too aware that with the nearing of the return of our Savior to rescue His church will come an ever increasing onslaught by the forces of darkness.

It seems to me that no one endeavor in the ministry should make one more aware of the issues of spiritual warfare than the ministry of intercession. I have always found it a very rewarding feeling to be able to stick my thumb in satan's eye and feel a great sense of gratitude to God for allowing us to participate in the suppression and ultimate destruction of this wicked spiritual reptile and his wretched lackeys.

There are a number of passages in holy Scripture which speak directly to the link between prayer and spiritual warfare. The great doctrine passage of Ephesians six is an example. It is unfortunate that most Bible teachers arbitrarily stop at verse 17 when speaking on spiritual warfare and the armor of God.

Ephesians 6:10-17

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.

11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.

17 *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Yet the teaching of God the Holy Spirit on spiritual warfare does not stop here with the Sword of the Spirit. God the Holy Spirit immediately continues on into prayer...

Eph 6:18-20

18 *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,*

19 *and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,*

20 *for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

Not only is the church to arm itself with the spiritual armor of God it is to sustain missionaries aggressively through prayer. Praying for missionaries has a direct impact on their lives. This often is very real to us when we consider the world and the flesh but we are often hesitant to apply this same principle to the devil. Yet for the sake of the safety of missionaries it is very important that we oppose satan vigorously in our prayers on their behalf. Most assuredly, in the ministry, as things play out on the visible playing field, there are activities and conflicts just as earnestly taking place in the invisible spiritual realm. We participate in this mortal combat through our prayers.

I am reminded of this fact today in particular as I read the Book of Daniel this morning as part for my Daily Quiet Time Alone With God. I was once again reminded of the importance of spiritual warfare as I meditated upon the historical revelatory events in the life of Daniel...

Daniel 10:10-14

10 *Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.*

11 *And he said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.*

12 *Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.*

13 *"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.*

14 *"Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."*

As Daniel prayed and sought the Lord in the physical realm a real and mortal combat between the forces of light and darkness was taking place in the spiritual world. Thus when we read a doctrinal passage on intercessory prayer such as

2 Corinthians 1:10-11

10 *who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,*

11 *you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many.*

We must read of the deliverance from death, not just from physical, worldly trials but from the spiritual attacks of satan as well. The help given is not just in the physical realm but the spiritual as well. We understand as well a clear doctrinal teaching on intercessory prayer as it pertains to praying for missionaries – as in the life of Paul so in our life there is ***“favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many”***. Each week we experience spiritual protection, spiritual blessings and favors as a direct result of your prayers.

Thus when God the Holy Spirit exhorts us on behalf of missioners in Romans 15:30 ***“Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,”*** We must view this striving not just against the world and the flesh but against the very powers of darkness as well.

Eleanor and I rely keenly upon your commitment as prayer warriors to strive on our behalf against the spiritual forces of darkness, against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

For this reason we are sending your way a Spiritual Warfare Prayer Guide and ask that you faithfully oppose satan and his evil works as we minister teaching and preaching the eternal, inerrant, holy, written Word of God.

I close this email as always with a deep and abiding thankfulness for your sacrificial and effectual prayers which empower and drive this ministry ever forward in the cause of Christ.

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

John and Eleanor Mahon

Standing side by side with you as the kingdom of darkness is rolled back as we preach and teach God’s holy, eternal, inerrant Word in Russia and throughout the world.

Please allow me to close with dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook that has been especially meaningful to me...

(Psalms 104:33-34 “I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.”)

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet hour of prayer sweet hour of prayer that calls me from a world of care

And bids me at my Fathers throne make all my wants and wishes known
In seasons of distress and grief my soul hast often found relief
And oft escaped the tempters snare by thy return sweet hour of prayer

Sweet hour of prayer sweet hour of prayer Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless
And since He bids me seek His face, believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

(Words: [William Walford](#), 1845; appeared in *The New York Observer*, September 13, 1845, accompanied by the following, written by Thomas Salmon: During my residence at Coleshill, Warwickshire, England, I became acquainted with W. W. Walford, the blind preacher, a man of obscure birth and connections and no education, but of strong mind and most retentive memory. In the pulpit he never failed to select a lesson well adapted to his subject, giving chapter and verse with unerring precision and scarcely ever misplacing a word in his recitation of the Psalms, every part of the New Testament, the prophecies, and some of the histories, so as to have the reputation of "knowing the whole Bible by heart." He actually sat in the chimney corner, employing his mind in composing a sermon or two for Sabbath delivery, and his hands in cutting, shaping and polishing bones for shoe horns and other little useful implements. At intervals he attempted poetry. On one occasion, paying him a visit, he repeated two or three pieces which he had composed, and having no friend at home to commit them to paper, he had laid them up in the storehouse within. "How will this do?" asked he, as he repeated the following lines, with a complacent smile touched with some light lines of fear lest he subject himself to criticism. I rapidly copied the lines with my pencil, as he uttered them, and sent them for insertion in the *Observer*, if you should think them worthy of preservation.)

Break Though The Bread Of Life

Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves Beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word

*Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread By Galilee ;
Then shall all bondage cease, All fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, My all in all.*

Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me,
Thy holy Word the truth That saveth me;
Give me to eat and live With Thee above;
Teach me to love Thy truth, For Thou art love.

*O send Thy Spirit, Lord, Now unto me,
That He may touch mine eyes, And make me see;
Show me the truth concealed Within Thy Word,*

And in They Book revealed I see Thee Lord.

(Mary Artemesia Lathbury; 1841-1913; Daughter of a Methodist minister. Active in the women's temperance movement and wrote for several Christian periodicals. Of her gift for poetry she said she felt the Lord had impressed upon her these thoughts concerning this, "Remember, my child, that you have a gift of weaving fancies into verse and a gift with the pencil of producing visions that come to your heart; consecrate these to Me as thoroughly as you do your inmost spirit.")