

## Engaging in Spiritual Warfare and Exercising Spiritual Authority

### Skills for Spiritual Warfare and Spiritual Authority: Ways to Pray for Others

Sermon Series Starting February 2, 2025

Thesis: **We are a people who want to grow in our capacity, skill, and desire to reach others with the love of God.**

Text: John 1:1-42; Acts 26:12-18; 1 John 5:21; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

In this sermon series, we are talking about *Engaging in Spiritual Warfare and Exercising Spiritual Authority*. Spiritual warfare is part of our current context as we reach others with the love of God.

Our desire is to develop new *Skills for Spiritual Warfare and Spiritual Authority*.

**We are making a journey together with the Lord and with each other in 2025 in reaching others with the love of God.**

1. **Reaching others with the love of God involves spiritual warfare.**
  - a. **Evangelism is not just about scattering the seed.**
    - i. Yes, we pray for the seed to take root and bear fruit.
    - ii. Yes, we are a "servant and witness to the things which you have seen in me."
  - b. **Evangelism involves warfare.**
    - i. *To open their eyes.* That requires revelation and warfare.
    - ii. *To help them turn from darkness to light.* That requires light and warfare.
    - iii. *To help the turn from power of Satan to God.* That requires a power encounter of warfare. Someone has to win the battle for their lives in the spirit realm.
    - iv. *Acts 26:12-18 (ESV) In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. 13 At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles-to whom I am sending you 18 **to open their eyes [remove the blinders; free them from bondage; level the playing field], (1) so that they may turn from darkness to***

light and (2) from the power of Satan to God, (3) that they may receive forgiveness of sins and (4) a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

2. **Here is one word from the Lord about our context in 2025.**
  - a. Margaret Petry received this word on January 5, 2025. This word confirms the revelation about learning to do spiritual warfare for the harvest, breakthrough, and evangelism.
  - b. "This is a year of war. Fight for your brothers and sisters, for those I died for. This is a year of taking ground, a year of victories and overcoming. Walk in your authority in Christ."
3. **One of the ways we fight is to wield our weapons of warfare through prayer and intercession.**
  - a. Today, I want to give you some practical ways to pray and intercede in order to **open blind eyes**.
  - b. Evangelism is not just about scattering seed. Evangelism is not just about doing acts of kindness and goodness. Evangelism is not just about sharing what we have seen, heard, and experienced of Jesus.
  - c. Evangelism (reaching others with the love of God) involves fighting the battle through prayer and intercession.

#### Skills for Spiritual Warfare and Spiritual Authority: **Ways to Pray for Others**

Here are some ways to pray for others "as you go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Remember, you are "a servant and witness" (Acts 26:16) to what you have seen, heard, and experienced in Jesus (1 John 1:1-3).

1. **Pray that the Lord would make you aware of opportunities to share the love of God with others through the day and week.**
  - a. During our Thursday Morning Corporate Prayer Time back in January (1'16'25), **Jay Kelley shared an impression he received from the Lord**.
  - b. Impression: This is a time about reaping, not sowing. Jay was reminded of our convergence word from John 4:34fl.
  - c. *John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, **open your eyes and look at the fields!** They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 (1) I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. (2) Others have done the hard work, and (3) you have reaped the benefits of their labor" (John 4:34-38).*
  - d. Lift up your eyes. The fields are white for harvest.
  - e. **Here is what Jay was sensing:** "I sent you to reap for that which you did not labor. Others have labored. You have entered into their labor."
  - f. **Jay prayed:**
    - i. May we seize the opportunities to reap what has already been sown.

- ii. Lord, empower all of us to seize the harvest that is ready and ripe today.
  - iii. Lord, we ask for that grace to do that today; give us the reminders to do that today.
2. **Pray for God to open blind eyes:** both spiritually and physically.
- a. *This is what God the LORD says— he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: 6 “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness (Isaiah 42:5-7).*
    - i. Isaiah 42:5-7 is obviously a Messianic prophecy about Jesus.
  - b. And, Paul said that this was the passage that the Lord used in Acts 13:1-3 to commission himself and Barnabas to the mission field.
    - i. *For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “ I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” 48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed (Acts 13:47-48).*
3. **Pray for God to remove what causes blind eyes, deaf ears, and dull hearts.**
- a. Because God has called us and sent us, we have the authority and commission to ask the Lord to remove the spiritual impediments that blind spiritual ears, that deafens spiritual ears, and that dulls hearts to the message of good news in Jesus.
  - b. *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12).*
  - c. We can pray this way because of the anointing on Jesus, because of the ministry of Jesus, and because of his commission on our lives (Luke 4:18-19; John 14:12; 20:21).
4. **Pray for God to set the captives free.**
- a. Jesus came to set free spiritual captives.
    - i. There are people who are held captive by spiritual forces.
  - b. And, let’s not forget that Jesus came to set free those held captive in the natural and physical because of injustice or a broken world, because Jesus wants to make all things right.
    - i. Consider the Exodus of God’s people from Egypt.
    - ii. Consider the deliverance of God’s people from captivity in the nations after The Exile.
  - c. **Isaiah 49:22-26 applies to both the natural and supernatural.**
    - i. *This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 23 “See, I will beckon to the Gentiles, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders. Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground; they will lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who hope in me will not be*

*disappointed.” 24 Can plunder be taken from warriors, or captives rescued from the fierce? 25 But this is what the LORD says: “Yes, captives will be taken from warriors, and plunder retrieved from the fierce; I will contend with those who contend with you, and your children I will save. 26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh; they will be drunk on their own blood, as with wine. Then all mankind will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob” (Isaiah 49:22-26).*

5. **Pray for God to shine the light of Jesus and to break into darkness with his glorious light.**
  - a. *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:2).*
  - b. *“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn” (Isaiah 60:1-3).*
  
6. **Pray for boldness and ask the Lord to back up our words with signs, wonders, and miracles.**
  - a. *Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus (Acts 4:28-30).*
  - b. God has a part and we have a part. God won't do our part. We can't do God's part.
  
7. **Pray for the activity of the Holy Spirit to convict others concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.**
  - a. *But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned (John 16:7-11).*
  - b. Bless the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people.
  
8. **Pray for the Word of God to pierce hearts like a sharp two-edged sword.**
  - a. *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).*
  - b. May the Lord touch hearts with his pinpoint accuracy, doing exactly what needs to be done so that people enter his rest.
  
9. **Pray that the Lord will back up your words with the power of God, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the pinpoint accuracy of Jesus.**
  - a. *...our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering,*

*you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:5-10).*

- b. Look at the impact of the good news of Jesus coming in the power and anointing of the Lord.

**10. Pray for God to level the playing field through worship, welcome, and warfare, so that people have a chance to know the One True and Living God.**

- a. See the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-10, 13).
- b. May you go as the Lord's ambassador, leveling the playing field through worship, welcome, and warfare, in the name of Jesus.

**Question: What are some of the ways that the Lord has showed you to pray for others?**

**Summary:**

1. **Reaching others with the love of God involves spiritual warfare.**
  - a. May we partner with Jesus through prayer in this season to see others impacted by the love of God.
2. **Remember:**
  - a. The gospel of King Jesus and the kingdom of God comes with words and works, and with proclamation and demonstration.
  - b. May we be a people who learn to rule and reign with God through prayer and intercession.