



PETRA PRAYER WARRIOR

DEVOTIONS

PRAYER WARRIOR

T PETRA
THIS
MEANS
WAR!

PRAYER WARRIOR

PETRA PRAYER WARRIOR WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Written by Dorla Schlitt

PRAYER WARRIOR



As you study the Prayer Warrior devotions, you will note many references to the lyrics from songs on PETRA's album "This Means War". This album is on the StarSong label and is available in LP, cassette, and CD format at local Christian music and book stores.

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FORWARD

PETRA's album THIS MEANS WAR!, is a call to Christians to take up the armour of God as He provides in His Word. There is a spiritual battle raging every day and each of us has a choice of being on the winning or losing side. That decision is for eternity.

We believe that prayer is the beginning of equipping oneself to be victorious in the battle. The Lord has laid on PETRA a calling to recruit young people to be Prayer Warriors in the battle. We are encouraging individuals and groups alike, to join together in prayer for their friends, family, church, other Prayer Warriors and the ministry of PETRA believing that unity in this effort will ensure that Satan will be powerless in the lives of each Prayer Warrior.

The weekly devotions in this book are not presented as the definitive study on prayer. They are, however, a scripturally sound approach to developing one's prayer life. By applying the principles presented here, and becoming Prayer Warriors, one will develop a stronger walk with the Lord.

The members of PETRA are grateful to Dorla Schlitt for the many prayerful hours spent in study for writing these devotions. We believe that the Lord has guided her efforts.

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WEEK 1

BECOMING A PRAYER WARRIOR

This is the first of fifty devotions. We hope these devotions will help you learn more about prayer and make you a true "prayer warrior".

We, in PETRA, want you to know how important you are to the body of Christ — especially for the purpose of prayer. These weekly devotions are meant to help you. They are for you to use as you develop a closer walk with the Lord.

Through these devotions you will learn what a "prayer warrior" is and how to become one. Each will have scripture references given and will refer to songs off our newest album, "THIS MEANS WAR" as they relate to the subjects discussed.

Let's begin our study with the basics. When we made Jesus Christ Lord and Savior of our lives, our spirit was recreated and we became according to II Cor. 5:17 "a new creature" in Christ. God's divine Spirit indwells us (Jn. 14:17, I Jn. 4:4, Rom. 8:11, I Jn. 3:24). We are sons of God, joint-heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:14, 17), a never before known creature.

In the physical realm, we are in the world, but not of it (Jn. 15:19). God's Word and His Holy Spirit are at work in us to lead us and help us yield to God (Heb. 4:12, Jn. 16:13,14, Phil. 2:13) and be conformed to Christ's image (Rom. 8:29, Phil. 1:6).

Only by willingly allowing Christ to do the work within us that He desires can we truly bring glory and honor to the Lord (Rom. 12:1,2). When we allow God's Word to work in our hearts (Jn. 17:17, I Thes. 5:23, II Tim. 2:21), to change us from the inside out, the "new man" comes forth bearing the fruit of God's Spirit (Gal. 5:22) revealing Jesus in us (Jn. 13:35).

The song "Dead Reckoning" off our newest album "THIS MEANS WAR" speaks about this "inward" work.

In the spiritual realm we have been made righteous and holy by the blood of Christ (II Cor. 5:21, Rom. 3:25, Heb. 10:10). We can come boldly before our Father God. He desires to communicate with us through prayer. According to Prov. 15: 8 "... the prayer of the upright is His delight."

There is a new depth in prayer the Lord is calling His people to. He is calling us to be "prayer warriors" for the kingdom of God. You can be sure that God is able and willing to equip us for such a job (Eph. 3:20). In Eph. 6:12, we are reminded of the spiritual war that is taking place in the heavenlies. We are not fighting flesh and blood "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

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BECOMING

A PRAYER WARRIOR

Just as the Bible tells us in John 4:24 that "God is a spirit", it also tells us in Eph. 2:2 that our adversary, Satan, is of the spirit realm and we must do battle with him in the spirit with the weapons God has given us (II Cor. 10:4).

The title song off our newest album "THIS MEANS WAR" addresses this truth.

Won't you join with us and become a "prayer warrior"? Ez. 22:30 says God sought for a man — won't you be that man or woman God is looking for?

We are asking that you start becoming a "prayer warrior" by committing to yourself and God to pray at least five minutes every day for the ministry of PETRA and for your closest friends.

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WEEK 2

THE PRAYER WARRIOR'S JOB

We have discussed the fact "though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh" (II Cor. 10:3), but according to Eph. 6:12 we wrestle against "principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

This devotional topic is "The prayer warrior's job". A "prayer warrior" is someone who fights this spiritual battle described in Eph. 6:12 through prayer (Eph. 6:18a). Let's look into scripture to find out what a "prayer warrior" does.

Two scriptures give us the first characteristic of a "prayer warrior". John 15:13 says "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Phil. 2:5,7 says "let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...But made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant."

So we see the first characteristic of a "prayer warrior" is someone who is willing to put aside or lay down his own activities, wants, desires and give his time to prayer for others.

The second characteristic of a "prayer warrior" is found in Ez. 22:30. "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it ..."

A "prayer warrior" is someone who is willing to confess and ask forgiveness for not only his own sins but the sin of others. He intercedes for them, asking and petitioning for God's mercy to be poured out upon them, so that their hearts can be turned toward God and they can receive salvation.

Job 22:30 from the Amplified Bible tells us "He will even deliver the one for whom you intercede who is not innocent; yes, he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands." We can stand in the gap and pray. God is searching for those who will. II Chronicles 16:9 tells us, "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him..." for according to II Peter 3:9 "He is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

The "prayer warrior" plays a major part in God's will being able to be manifest on earth. Are YOU willing to stand in the gap and be a prayer warrior?

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WEEK 3

“PRAYER WARRIORS” FROM THE BIBLE

We have learned that a “prayer warrior” is someone who is willing to set aside or lay down his own life — his activities, wants, and desires — and give his time to prayer (Jn. 15:13, Phil 2:5,7). He stands in the gap and intercedes on the behalf of others before God (Ez. 22:30).

Many examples of “prayer warriors” can be found in the Bible. These men and women gave themselves to prayer for specific individuals or on behalf of their nation.

In the Old Testament some examples of “prayer warriors” who prayed for the needs of specific individuals include: Abraham in Gen. 20:7, Elisha in II Kings 6:17, and Job in the book of Job, chapter 42, verse 10.

Four examples of Old Testament “prayer warriors” who stood in the gap for their nation are: Moses in Numbers 21:7, Samuel in I Samuel 7:8,9, Nehemiah in Nehemiah 1:4-11, and Jeremiah in Jeremiah 42:2-4.

Examples of “prayer warriors” from the New Testament include: Anna in Luke 2:37b, Paul in Romans 10:1-3, and the body of believers or the church in Acts 3:1 and 12:5.

Perhaps the most important example of a “prayer warrior” for us to examine is that of Jesus. As He walked the earth, He consistently made prayer a part of His daily life. In John 17:9-16, Jesus prays for those whom the Father has given Him and for those who shall believe on Him through their word. Even after His death and resurrection He continues to make intercession for us before the Father according to Hebrews 7:25. Jesus is our example and if He is interceding for us, then it follows that each of us should intercede for others. II Corinthians 5:18 in the Amplified Bible tells us that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation — that by word and deed we might bring others into harmony with Him. Prayer begins the reconciliation process.

One example of this that you might want to read and meditate upon is found in Luke 15 — the story of the Prodigal Son. This story is often used to show the love and acceptance of the Father for the repentant son. If you will look specifically to verse 17, it states “And when he came to himself”. This is the kind of miraculous turnaround that prayer can produce.

Each of us is a product of someone giving priority to prayer. Aren’t you glad they did?!

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WEEK 4

ONE OR MANY?

We have found many examples of "prayer warriors" in scripture who interceded for other individuals or for a nation of people. In this devotion, we will see how one individual or a group of people can "wage war" through prayer.

Many of the examples given in the last devotion were individuals who interceded before God. "The fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). When a believer asks in faith, nothing wavering (James 1:6), being fully persuaded that what God has promised, He is also able to perform (Romans 4:21), much can be accomplished in the spiritual realm through his prayers.

Every believer who prays in this manner can be assured that even though it appears in the physical he is alone, in the spirit his prayers are in agreement with other believer's prayers and with God's Word. Ecc. 4:12 says, "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a three-fold cord is not quickly broken" — you, the Holy Spirit, and God's Word. There is power and strength in your prayers.

Now, let's examine what happens in united prayer. God's power can flow through unity. This is exemplified best in Gen. 1:26 where the Godhead, the Trinity, was in agreement and God's unfathomable power was released for creation.

Mat. 18:19, 20 tells us "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven, for where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." These scriptures tell us that believers are not just to be in agreement with each other, but most importantly, they are to be in agreement with the Lord — in unity. By laying down our ideas of what God's will is and seeking to pray according to God's Word, we can be in unity.

When unity is established, power can come forth. As in Deut. 32:30 with the Rock on our side one can chase a thousand of the enemy while two would put ten thousand to flight. The Rock is Jesus — the living Word of God (I Cor. 10:4, John 1:1-14). When we pray in unity according to the Word of God, God's power doesn't just double or triple but it explodes! No wonder Satan wants to plant discord and contention within the body of Christ. He wants to keep us from unity.

An example of a group making intercession is found in Acts 12:5. The church made intercession for Peter who was in prison. Individually, these people hadn't enough faith for his release as evidenced when he came to the door and no one there believed it was him. But their combined faith could reach an intensity beyond their individual

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faith or understanding.

The New Testament Church in the Book of Acts was full of power. They were with one mind continually devoting themselves to prayer (Acts 1:14). Over and over again, they came together in one accord (Acts 2:1, 46, 4:24, 5:12, 7:57, 8:6, 15:25). We are exhorted in Phil. 2:2 to be "of one accord, of one mind."

An individual prayer warrior can do much through prayer, but if the Body of Christ can unite in prayer, imagine how much more we can accomplish. We need to act now. We need to redeem the time (Eph. 5:16).

Unite together in prayer. Some youth groups are forming "Charge" groups for the sole purpose of charging forth in prayer.

Every believer is called to pray whether individually or in a group. You are an important part of the army of God — be a prayer warrior!

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WEEK 5

GETTING STARTED

This devotion begins the subject "Getting Started."

First, let's establish the fact that there are many excellent books on prayer. We are not professing by any means to tell you everything there is to know. The things we do bring forth will hopefully stir you to study and grow in understanding. We do want to offer sound scriptural guidance to becoming a "prayer warrior" for the Lord.

Let's read Romans 6:13b to find the first requirement in becoming a prayer warrior, "... Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness." The first requirement is yieldedness to God.

Are you willing to let God use you — not you use God? Are you willing to commit yourself, to make prayer a priority? If you answer "yes", Psalm 10:17 tells you the Lord hears your desire and will prepare your heart.

Let's look further into the scripture and see what we are to yield to God. It speaks of yielding our "members as instruments of righteousness." We need to yield our entire being. We know according to I Thes. 5:23 we are a spirit with a soul housed in a body.

Our spirit having been recreated (Ez. 36:26) by God is that part of us that bears witness with the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:16) that we might know the things of God (I Cor. 2:12). It is always ready to do God's will.

Our soul is our mind, will, intellect, and emotions. God can use our soul to communicate with us, but to worship Him John 4:24 tells us that "God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth."

Like a soldier trains for battle, our soul must be trained in the ways of God. Our mind must be renewed to God's Word (Rom 12:2, Eph. 4:23). Our will must come into agreement with God's will rather than our own (Matt. 6:10). Our intellect or ability to perceive and understand must be used to study God's Word so that we might rightly divide it (II Tim. 2:15). Our emotions or feelings must also come into agreement with God's Word which tells us that we walk by faith and not by sight (II Cor. 5:7) — or feelings. As we yield our soul daily to God's training by reading and meditating on His Word, we'll grow and mature in Christ and become more effective "prayer warriors".

We have discussed the spirit and the soul and now the physical body must be yielded to God for prayer. Perhaps the most difficult and most important member

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GETTING STARTED

is our tongue. The "prayer warrior" must learn to yield his voice in prayer. For some this is more difficult than for others. The more we pray out loud in a group or in private prayer the easier it becomes.

Even as Jesus spoke to the disciples in Mark 14: 37 and 38, He speaks to you and I today: "Couldst not thou watch one hour?"

The song entitled "I Am Available" off our newest album "THIS MEANS WAR" addresses the subject of being yielded to God.

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WEEK 6

KNOWING WHO GOD IS

This devotion continues our subject of becoming a "prayer warrior" by discussing "Knowing Who God Is".

How do we go about learning who God is? First of all, don't seek an experience with God — seek God and you'll experience Him! His Word promises it.

Heb. 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Jer. 29:13 says, "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart."

God wants to reveal Himself to us. He has given us His son, Jesus, who, according to Col. 1:15, is the image of the invisible God. He has given His Word and He has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth and reveal Jesus to us (John 16:13-15).

As Paul said in Phil. 3:10, let my desire be "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection." As a prayer warrior, I must "set my face like a flint" (Is. 50:7) to know the God in whom I believe and serve. As I read and meditate on His Word, my faith in Him will grow (Rom. 10:17).

Here are some scriptures for you to begin to meditate upon and get down into your spirit on who God is. We'll be discussing this further at a later time. Begin now to search the scriptures and seek God.

I John 4:8 "God is love."

Deut. 7:9 "Know therefore that the Lord thy God; He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations."

Ps. 119:90 "Thy Faithfulness is unto all generations."

Ps. 103:8 "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy."

Num. 23:19 ".. that God is not a man, that He should lie."

Luke 18:27 ".. the things which are impossible with man are possible with God."

Rev. 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

Mal. 3:6 "For I am the Lord, I change not..."

James 1:17b ".. Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of

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KNOWING WHO GOD IS

turning."

Col. 3:25 "... there is not respect of persons." (With God, there are no favorites!) These are just a few. You should add to this and use it in learning to praise and thank God for who He is and not just for what He has done.

Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal Himself to you. Use Eph. 1:17-19 as your prayer. Personalize it by saying "me" wherever Paul said "you".

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto "me" the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; the eyes of "my" understanding being enlightened that "I" may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to "me" who believes, according to the working of His mighty power."

Begin seeking God and remember from our first scripture, Heb. 11:6, "He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

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WEEK 7

KNOWING WHO I AM IN CHRIST

In the last two weeks, we have found that in order to become an effective prayer warrior, we must first be yielded to God and committed to serving Him through intercessory prayer. Secondly, we must be willing to seek Him and grow in the knowledge of Him so that our faith will “not stagger at the promises of God through unbelief but we can be strong in our faith, giving glory to God, being fully persuaded that what He has promised He is also able to perform.” (Rom. 4:20,21)

This week we’ll look into the scriptures to find out who we as believers are in Christ. Our first scripture is in John 15, where Jesus is speaking to His disciples about abiding.

Verse 7 says “If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” So we see that another very important requirement for a prayer warrior to have his prayers answered is that he abide in Christ. The word “abide” means “to dwell, endure, remain, persevere, to tarry.” A believer abides in Christ by not only having faith in God but also being obedient to His Word. As Paul says in I Cor. 15:31 “I die daily.” We must daily “die” to our own selfish personal desires and continue to yield ourselves and be obedient to God’s Word for “Faith without works is dead” (James 2:17). We find that by submitting to God we overcome in this world.

As we abide in Christ, two very interesting things happen. One is in the physical and one is in the spiritual realm. Both are paradoxical. Let’s examine the physical first. If we truly desire to abide in Christ and be obedient to His Word, then Phil. 2:5-7 begins to come forth in our lives — a servant’s heart. We begin to care for others, to want to serve others by ministering to them or by praying for them. By walking in love, giving of ourselves, and laying down our lives for others, we become the hands and feet of Jesus. People around us see Jesus — the King of kings, Lord of lords, in us!

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WEEK 8

AN INHERITANCE IS OURS

Last week we found that abiding or continuing in Christ is a requirement for having our prayers answered (John 15:7) as a "prayer warrior." We also found that in the physical, those in Christ are called to walk in love (Eph. 5:2, John 13:35) and serve others (Phil. 2:5,7, Gal. 5:13, Luke 22:25-27). The spiritual position of the believer is our topic for this devotion.

If you remember from our first devotion, we found that God has delivered us as believers from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13). Because of the blood of Jesus, we have been made "the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus" (II Cor. 5:21). God no longer looks at us as "sinners". According to Rom. 8:10 "if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but your spirit is alive because of righteousness" and according to Rom. 8:16-17, God's Spirit testifies with your spirit that we are God's children, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. Because of this, Col. 1:12 tells us God has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Let's look at two very important words within these scriptures: heir and inheritance. An heir is anyone who inherits another's property. An inheritance is something inherited — any blessing or possession coming as a gift. What is the believer's inheritance spoken of in Col. 1:12? Yes, we have the promise of eternal life (I Jn. 2:23-25) and according to II Cor. 1:20, ALL the promises of God are "Yes" and "Amen" in Christ.

ALL the promises of God are our inheritance as heirs of God and joint-heirs in Christ. They are a gift. We certainly didn't or can't earn them. Only by our right standing with God through Christ Jesus are they ours.

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WEEK 9

GOD PROMISES US

In this devotion we will continue to study the subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am In Christ" by looking at the promises of God.

As "prayer warriors" we need to know what God has for His children — what He wants them to have. What is our inheritance and how do we claim it? We must become diligent people who study God's Word and He will reveal His promises for us and for those we pray for.

Some of the promises of God are conditional. This means they require us to do something before they can be fulfilled. Here are some examples of promises with conditions: See if you can figure out the condition to be met.

Jer. 29:13; Acts 2:38,39; Mark 16:16-18; John 14:12; I John 2:23-25; Luke 6:38; I John 1:9, Eph. 6:2,3.

Some of God's promises are without conditions. For example: 2 Peter 3:9; Heb. 13:8; Gal. 3:14; I John 4:4; Phil. 1:6 and many more. You might begin keeping a record of promises as you read God's Word.

God is willing to bless us with all that He has promised us. We must become so rooted and grounded in His Word that like Abraham we do not stagger at the promises of God through unbelief but we become fully persuaded that what He has promised He is also able to perform (Rom. 4:20, 21).

This is where the battle can come. It's not a battle with God to give us the promises. It's a battle with Satan and his demonic forces. For John 10:10 tells us he comes to steal what's ours, destroy what's ours, and to lie to us concerning what is ours. What can we do?

Next week we will continue our subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am in Christ" by discussing "Our Spiritual Authority in Christ".

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WEEK 10

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

This week we will continue our subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am in Christ" by discussing "The Believer's Spiritual Authority in Christ".

In our last devotion we began looking into the promises of God. As "prayer warriors" we must be knowledgeable of God's Word and what He wants for His children. We also found that our adversary, the devil, wants to lie to us, steal from us, and destroy what is ours.

The devil will fight to keep us from understanding what belongs to us and keep us from it. He wants to keep us in unbelief and in the realm of reason instead of in the realm of faith and the Spirit (Phil. 2:9,10). The Holy Spirit will reveal truth (John 16:13) and the truth will set us free from the devil's lies (John 8:32). We will never only understand God's Word with our heads. We must understand it with the help of the Holy Spirit in our heart. John 6:63 tells us "the words I speak are spirit and they are life."

What can we do?

We look to the Bible for our answer. Col. 2:15 tells us that Jesus defeated Satan and dethroned him. Satan is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). He is running the world's system. But we are in Christ. Our lives are hid with Christ in God (Col. 3:3, 1:13). As new creatures in Christ we inherit the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and we can use it in prayer against the enemy. We also have authority over the enemy delegated to us from Christ Jesus. We are to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Eph. 6:10) — not our own.

Jesus is ascended and seated at the right hand of God. In Mat. 28:18, Jesus says, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Jesus is the Head of the Body. Eph. 2:6 tells us that we as believers and the Body of Christ have been raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. The Body is connected to the Head. In Luke 10:19, Jesus told His disciples He gave them power over all the power of the enemy. We have the authority over Satan as part of Christ's Body (Eph. 1:18-23, I Cor. 12:12-14). Jesus took the keys of hell and death (Rev. 1:18) and spoiled the prince and powers. (Col. 2:15). He's given the keys of the kingdom to the Body of Christ and the gates of hell shall not prevail against His church (Mat. 16:18,19). He has done all. We as His Body are to carry out His will on earth by exercising our authority in the heavenly realm.

It is a paradox that we are called to serve in the physical and to reign as kings (Eph.

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2:6) in the spiritual realm. We reign by Christ Jesus.

We must begin to build truth into our lives and meditate upon God's Word. As a result, faith will rise up in our spirits of who we are in Christ. Our intercession will pull down strongholds of the enemy when we do (II Cor. 10:4).

In our next devotion we will complete the subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am In Christ" by discussing "How Do I Use The Authority Given Me in Christ"?

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WEEK 11

USING SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

This devotion concludes our subject of "The Importance of Knowing Who I Am in Christ" by discussing "How Do I Use the Authority Given Me Through Christ Jesus?"

In our last devotion we found that like a policeman has authority and is backed up by the law, we as the Body of Christ have authority over Satan because of what Jesus has already done. We have the authority to use the name of Jesus (Mark 16:17). We are backed up by God and His Word. Satan has to recognize the name of Jesus (Phil. 2:9). Phil. 2:10 tells us "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth."

For so long many Christians have neglected the power and authority God has provided for us to use. How do we lay hold of it and go about using it?

First, we must have God's Word about authority down in our spirit so that it produces faith.

Secondly, we must realize that according to 2 Cor. 5:7, we walk by faith, not by sight. Faith is based on what the Word of God says, not on some manifestation or lack of it. As we exercise our authority as believers we must not be moved by what we see or feel, but what we believe. We must stand our ground (Ps. 16:8). God's Word is true.

Thirdly, we must remember that God's will, another person's will, and our authority over Satan are all important when we pray.

If we truly desire to be knowledgeable and effective with our authority over Satan, we must study God's Word and learn from those in the ministry whom God has raised up to teach the Body spiritual truths. Our minds must be renewed to God's Word and our hearts must be teachable.

Study Helps:

Hagin, Kenneth E., "The Believer's Authority", Faith Library Pub., 1984.

Hagin, Kenneth E., "The Interceding Christian", Faith Library Pub., 1983.

Word Ministries, Inc., "Prayers That Avail Much, An Intercessor's Handbook of Scriptural Prayers", Harrison House Pub., 1980.

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 12

HOW TO PRAY

This devotion concludes our lessons of "How Do I Become A Prayer Warrior?" by discussing "The Importance of Knowing How to Pray".

In the last few lessons we have been discussing the importance of God's Word to the "prayer warrior". We have stated over and over how important it is for the believer to be rooted and grounded in it. For not only does it cause us to mature in Christ but it enables us to be more effective in prayer.

Remember that we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12). It is a spiritual war. Our weapons will be spiritual weapons (II Cor. 10:4). John 6:63 tells us that the Word of God is spirit. It is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12). We are to use it when we pray. God's Word is His will for it is truth (John 17:17). According to Ps. 138:2, God has magnified it above His name. Let's examine some more scriptures concerning God's Word. Look these verses up and meditate upon them: II Tim. 2:9; Is. 55:11; Jer. 1:12; Ps. 119:130; Is. 40:8 and Heb. 1:3"b".

If we remember to pray God's Word, we will not be dwelling on the problem but looking to the solution. Mark 11:24 says "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." We are to be specific and definite.

We must remember when we pray for others that the "will of an individual can only be changed by God dealing with the heart. Phil. 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do His good pleasure." We cannot "robotize someone with the Word of God". God can put a desire in their heart and He can bring forth out of their heart. The individual has the ultimate choice whether to obey or rebel. We "stand in the gap", intercede, and do warfare on behalf of that individual's need.

We must always remember that we are to pray God's will — not our own will. As prayer warriors it is our duty to search God's Word to find out His will.

And finally, as we discussed earlier, we must become aware of what is ours in the way of promises from God and as a result of Jesus redeeming us from the curse of the law. Then we can attack demonic forces with God's Word and make demands on the kingdom of darkness by the authority given us in the name of Jesus.

Knowing how to pray is important in being an effective "prayer warrior". Becoming skillful with God's Word is a very important part of intercession.

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 13

THE ARMOUR OF GOD

This devotion is the first of six which deals with "What I Need to Wage War in Prayer". This lesson discusses the armour of God and why it is so important.

It is imperative that the Christian understand the victory that is manifest in the physical is a result of the battle in the spiritual realm — through persistent faithfilled prayer (See Dan. 10:11-14, James 5:16). Just as a soldier goes into battle prepared and equipped, so must the intercessor be prepared and equipped for battle in the spiritual realm.

Let's find out how we become equipped. The first part of Eph. 6:11 tells us "Put on the whole armour of God." The second part tells us why — "That we might be able to stand" against the wiles or deceits of the devil. The armour of God is not just for prayer but is meant for our daily walk. We are to be equipped and prepared daily to stand against the enemy. "To stand" in Greek means to hold up, abide, or continue.

Ephesians 6:14 tells us to stand having our loins girt about with truth. God's Word is truth (John 17:17). Just as a soldier wears a strong belt to hold his armour in place, God's Word holds us in place — assured, full of courage, and able to trust God. The loins are the region of strength and procreative power. Our strength is being in Christ for Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

Secondly, we are to have on the breastplate of righteousness. Just as a breastplate covers and protects the body in battle, our righteousness in God through Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:21) gives us authority and protection. We have the authority to use the name of Jesus (Mark 16:17).

We have protection over our heart for the Lord gives us His Word and understanding to prevent wounds of bitterness and unforgiveness. His Word also encourages our heart to remain strong (Is. 40:31) and assured of our eventual victory (I Cor. 15:57).

Our feet are shod with the gospel of peace. Just as a soldier would walk into enemy territory we are to go into the world with the gospel of peace (Eph. 2:14). We are to take Him to the lost in word and in our good deeds. We are to be peacemakers (Mat. 5:9). Jesus is our peace, our readiness, at all times (Jn. 16:33).

Above all, we are to take the shield of faith wherewith we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Our faith in God's Word and presence protects us from the deceits and lies of the devil. Knowing God's continuous presence in our life

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THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

acts as a protecting calm or shield. Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39).

Next we take the helmet of salvation. Just as a helmet protects the head, our mind is continually being renewed to God's Word (Rom. 12:2, Eph. 4:23, Col. 3:10) and His ways which protects us from the enemy's lies. God's Spirit gives us spiritual understanding, godly wisdom, and quickens our mind to His truth which gives us hope (Jn. 14:26, 16:13).

Next week, we will continue with the armour of God by discussing the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

Information on armour from: "The Whole Armour of God", Ralph W. Sockman, Abingdon Press, 1955.

NOTES

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 14

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

In our last devotion we discussed the importance of being girt with the truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, our feet shod with the gospel of peace and taking the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation. All of these are defensive in nature for we are to "stand, abide, hold up, and continue" against the wiles of the devil and be able to withstand or resist him.

This devotion and the next two will be examining the offensive part of the armour — the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. First, let's see what God tells us about His Word. Just like you began a study of scripture to learn more about who God is and what His character is like, you should also begin to find out what God says about His Word. Here are some scriptures to get you started. Jot them down.

- John 17:17 Thy word is truth.
- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- II Tim. 2:9 ... the word of God is not bound.
- Ps. 138:2 Thou has magnified thy Word above all thy name.
- Is. 55:11 So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth; it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
- Jer. 1:12 ... for I will hasten my Word to perform it.
- Ps. 119:89 Thy Word is settled in heaven ...
- Prov. 30:5 Every Word of God is pure ...
- Is. 40:8 .. Word of our God shall stand forever ...
- Ps. 119:130 The entrance of Thy Words giveth light, it giveth understanding unto the simple.
- Prov. 4:20-22 My son, attend to My words; incline thine ear unto My sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
- John 6:63 ... the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.
- Rev. 19:13 ... His name is called The Word of God.

PRAYER WARRIOR

HOW TO USE THE SWORD

Begin to meditate on God's Word. Spend time praising God for His Word that He has given to nourish us (I Peter 2:2, Mat. 4:4, Heb. 5:11-14, Ps. 19:10), to guide us (Ps. 119:105), to cleanse us (Eph. 5:26), to refine and convict us (Jer. 23:29, Heb. 4:12), and to heal us (Prov. 4:20-22). Most of all remember He gave us Jesus, the Living Word, the Word made flesh and His Spirit indwells you. Greater is He that is within you than He that is in the world (I John 4:4).

Next week we will continue looking at the Sword of the Spirit — God's Word and see how we use it as part of the armour.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 15

HOW TO USE THE SWORD

In last week's devotion we began to study the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God by examining the scriptures. We found that the Word of God is truth (John 17:17) and that it is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12) and will stand forever (Is. 40:8). Most importantly we found that Jesus is the Living Word and that as a believer His Spirit indwells us (John 1:14, Col. 1:27).

This week we will look at God's Word and begin to learn how we as prayer warriors must use it. Eph. 6:17 tells us that this offensive part of the armour of God is called the Sword of the Spirit. Just as a soldier goes into battle with a sword as his weapon, we have been given the Word of God to use in spiritual battles to bring down strongholds of the enemy (II Cor. 10:4). We attack with the Word of God. With the combination of God's Spirit living within us and the Word of God coming forth out of our mouths, spoken in faith and in the name of Jesus, the devil has to flee (James 4:7) as he did when Jesus spoke the Word of God in Matt. 4:1-11. Satan recognizes the power (Heb. 4:12) and the authority (Heb. 1:3b) of God's Word.

Just as a soldier skillfully wields his sword against the enemy, we as prayer warriors, will do the same as we become skillful with God's Word.

Another reason the prayer warrior should be knowledgeable of God's Word is given in Is. 43:26, where God tells us: "Put Me in remembrance; let us plead together; declare thou, that thou mayest be justified." As we studied the promises of God earlier in previous devotions, we can now see their importance. These promises tell us what is rightfully ours as believers and reveal God's will for our lives and for those we pray for. If we are careful to satisfy any conditions of the promise, God will be faithful to fulfill it in His time, for as we remind God of His promises toward us, we are holding His Word up before Him and He sees Himself in it. Jeremiah 1:12 tells us that God watches over His Word to perform it. The battle comes in standing not wavering, believing not doubting, expectant and not fearful, in thanking God for His promise to you or for whom you pray for, and standing on God's Word and battling in the heavenlies.

Another area we discussed earlier concerning God's Word was the fact that we can ask God to put a desire in someone's heart or to bring forth out of their heart. Phil. 2:13 tells us "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." We can see in God's Word what God desires for us and others and begin to pray that His will come forth. For example, in Heb. 13:18, we can ask God to bring

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forth "A good conscience in all things willing to live honestly."

We will be developing all of these areas at a later time and give you many examples of scripture for you to use in prayer.

Next week we will finish the Sword of the Spirit — God's Word — by presenting a prayer for you to use for yourself concerning studying and knowing God's Word. You will begin to see what it means to pray God's Word.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 16

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

For the last two weeks, we have been discussing the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. We have begun a search of the scriptures to see what God has to tell us about His Word and we have discussed how prayer warriors use God's Word in prayer.

This week we will conclude the armour of God by sharing with you a prayer of commitment to God's Word and prayer life. This will begin to show you how to pray God's Word. You'll probably want to jot it down and begin to pray it from your heart. You'll find as you speak forth God's Word your faith will begin to rise! (Rom. 10:17)

"Father, in the name of Jesus, I desire to know and to walk in Your Word. Your Word in me is life.

"I thank You that Your Word is truth (John 17:17), it is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12) and it will endure forever (Is. 40:8). I thank You that the Incorruptible Seed, the Living Word, the Word of Truth is within me (I Peter 1:23) changing me (Rom 8:29) producing Your nature within me (Gal 5:22). I thank You that Your Word guides me, protects me and is my weapon in battle (Eph. 6:17). Thy Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Ps. 119:105). It makes my way plain before me.

The Holy Spirit leads and guides me into all truth (John 16:13). He gives me understanding, discernment, and comprehension (Col. 1:9) so that I am not ignorant of Satan's devices (II Cor. 2:11).

"Father, Your Word tells me in I Peter 3:12 Your eyes are over the righteous and Your ears are open to my prayers. I desire to be a person of prayer and commit myself to give time to prayer. I desire to be serious and consistent, alert and fixed in my praying. I am — a prayer warrior. My prayers avail much in the name of Jesus (James 5:16).

I thank You that according to Phil. 2:13, You are at work in me now both to will and to do all Your good pleasure.

"I know Your Word is truth. I choose to agree with Your Word. I desire Your spirit to help me recognize and cast down any thought contrary to Your Word (II Cor. 10:5).

"I thank You and praise You for Your Word for You reveal Yourself to me through it (Jn 14:17,26 and Jn 16:13) and I desire to hunger and thirst for it that I might be filled (Mat. 6:5). In Jesus name. Amen."

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WEEK 17

SPIRITUAL WEAPONS

II Cor. 10:4 tells us that the weapons or tools of our warfare are not carnal, temporal, fleshly or of human wisdom, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. From this we see our weapons are not physical in nature nor are they mental, but they are spiritual.

Having finished our study of the armour of God, we now know that one of our most powerful weapons for the spiritual battle is the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Satan recognizes its power and authority.

Another source of power available to the prayer warrior is the weapon of praise. Two examples you need to read and study of the power of praise are found in II Chronicles 20:22 and Acts 16:25,26. Examples in both Old Testament and New show us that when God's people put their trust in Him and begin to praise Him, they see mighty manifestations of His power. There is no need to draw swords or use physical weapons. The enemy is defeated and they are delivered. This happens because Ps. 22:3 tells us that God inhabits the praises of His people. When we couple prayer with praise, letting "God arise", Ps. 68:1 tells us God's enemies are scattered.

Another source of power God has given us to draw upon is the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:10-13, Acts 2:38,39). The Bible tells us in Rom. 8:26 that "we know not what we should pray for as we ought." Obviously, we as intercessors do not know everything about a person or a situation — only God knows. We can pray with our understanding according to God's Word (Luke 11:10-13, Acts 2:38,39) and His Spirit can make intercession for us as well. John 14:26 tells us the Holy Spirit is our Comforter or Helper. Three Greek words are involved in the English word translated "helpeth". One of the Greek words means "to take hold together". Another means "with". And the third means "against". The three together mean "to take hold together with against". When we allow God's Spirit to make intercession for us with "groanings which cannot be uttered", Romans 8:26,27 assures us we are praying God's perfect will.

We have only begun to touch on each of these sources of power available to the prayer warrior. In all that we have covered though, we see that it's not by our might, nor by our power, but by God's Spirit the enemy is defeated (Zech. 4:6).

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WEEK 18

PRAYER WARRIOR'S BATTLE PLAN

The Old Testament is rich with examples of how physical battles were fought. Let's look at some examples and see what we can apply to our spiritual ones.

In II Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat had a great multitude coming against him and he was afraid. Verse three tells us that the first thing he did was to seek the Lord and set a fast throughout his land. They all asked help of the Lord. There was unity. When Jehoshaphat sought the Lord, the Lord gave him a battle plan. He and his people obeyed and trusted God. They began to praise God and their enemies were defeated. They were even able to take the spoil of the enemy.

From this example we see several important elements for our battle plan as prayer warriors. First seek God for His direction (Jer. 33:3, I Cor. 2:10-16). Be in unity with one another and with God's Word (Mk 3:24, James 1:6-8). Submit to God by trusting and obeying His Word (James 4:7) and begin to praise Him for the victory (I Thes. 5:18, I Cor. 15:57).

Just as God told Jehoshaphat in verse 17 that they would not need to fight but were to set themselves and stand, so are we as prayer warriors to stand — stand in faith on God's Word resisting the devil.

Just as Jehoshaphat and his people were able to carry away the spoil of the enemy, we are able to reclaim what Satan has robbed or held captive and render him useless because of what Jesus has done for us (Cor. 2:15).

Another example of battle we can learn from is found in Judges 7. God used only a small number of men to defeat their enemy to show His strength and power. Verse 20 says they blew trumpets and carried lamps in their hands calling, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon", and each man was in his place round about the enemy's camp.

This example shows us that there need not be many warriors if they are standing in unity, praising the Lord and allowing the light of God's Word to lead them.

Our last example is found in Dan. 10:10-13 and II Kings 6:17 where God revealed the supernatural presence of warring angels that do battle in the heavenlies on our behalf. Heb. 1:14 tells us that God will send forth these ministring angels as we pray.

We can again see that in both the Old Testament and the New Testament it is not by might nor by power, but by God's Spirit that the victory comes (Zech. 4:6).

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WEEK 19

WHO TO PRAY FOR

Our answer is found in scripture. Let's turn to I Tim. 2:1-3 and read it:

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour."

So we see that our first priority is to pray for all men — both lost and saved. Secondly, we are to pray for kings and all those in authority. This includes the office of President and those in leadership positions at the national, state, and local levels regardless of political party.

Let's first examine praying for the lost. We know from this scripture it is God's will to pray for their salvation. Rom. 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and we know from Rom. 6:23 that the wages of sin is death — spiritual death. God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (II Peter 3:9). Repentance is a gift from God as well (II Tim. 2:25). Proverbs 16:1 tells us that it is God that prepares the heart and God has already sent the Holy Spirit into the world to reprove it of sin (John 16:8). All the elements for salvation have been established and given. Our job as prayer warriors is to intercede on behalf of these individuals that God will prepare their hearts to be reprovved of sin and be drawn to Jesus (John 6:44) so that repentance can come forth when the gospel is preached to them (I Peter 1:23). Then their eyes can be opened "to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God that they may receive forgiveness of sins" (Acts 26:18) and be born again (John 3:3,6). Our job in praying for and witnessing to the lost is our most important commission from God (II Cor 5:18, Mat 28:19,20 and 1 Tim 2:1-4).

Next, let's examine praying for the Body of Christ. Why do we need to? The Bible tells us in Ephesians 5:26,27 that Christ desires a "glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Individually we are to grow up into Him in all things (Eph. 4:11-13) that Christ be formed in us (Gal. 4:19) that we be a people ready for the Lord (Luke 1:17) as a bride prepared for her husband (Rev. 21:2).

Corporately, we are to come into unity of faith and of the knowledge of God, unto maturity (Eph. 4:11-13). There should be no schism in the Body according to I Cor. 12:25.

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EVERY DAY BASE PLAN

We the Body are also to be like the army spoken of in Joel 2:11 taking the gospel to the lost (Mat. 9:37,38) and giving them warning (Col 1:27,28). Joel 3:14 tells us that multitudes are in the "valley of decision" and the time is short. We must redeem it (Rom. 13:11-13, Eph. 5:16). We must awake from our sleep — our apathy, complacency, and self centeredness. There is much to be done — through prayer.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 20

PRAYING FOR LEADERS

Last week we began looking into Scripture to see who we are to pray for. We found in I Tim. 2:1-3 our first priority is to pray for all men — both the lost and the saved.

After we have made supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks for all men, we are to pray for kings and all those in authority. This includes the office of President and those in leadership positions at the national, state and local levels regardless of their political party. Our intercession will be for the good of the country, not the good of the party.

Why is it important for us to pray for our country and its leaders? The Scriptures give us lots of answers. Let's examine them:

- I Tim. 2:2 ... that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- II Chron. 7:14 If My people which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
- Ps. 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.
- Prov. 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people (Pr. 21:4 says pride, lust, and evil actions are all sin).
- Prov. 28:2 When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily but with honest sensible leaders, there is stability. TLB.
- Prov. 11:14 Without wise leadership a nation is in trouble, but with good counselors, there is safety. TLB.
- Prov. 20:28 If a king is kind, honest, and fair, his kingdom stands secure. TLB.
- Prov. 24:3-4 Any enterprise that is built by wise planning becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts. TLB.
- Prov. 28:5 Evil men don't understand the importance of justice, but those who follow the Lord are much concerned about it. TLB.
- Prov. 28:15 A wicked ruler is as dangerous to the poor as a lion or bear attacking them. TLB.
- Prov. 28:16 Only a stupid prince will oppress his people, but a king will have a long reign if he hates dishonesty and bribes. TLB.

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PRAYING FOR LEADERS

- Prov. 29:2 With good men in authority, the people rejoice, but with the wicked in power, they groan. TLB.
- Prov. 29:4 A just king gives stability to his nation but one who demands bribes destroys it. TLB.
- Prov. 29:7 The good man knows the poor man's rights, the godless don't care. TLB.
- Prov. 29:12 A wicked ruler will have wicked aides on his staff. TLB.
- Prov. 29:16 When rulers are wicked, their people are, too; but good men will live to see the tyrant's downfall. TLB.
- Prov. 29:18 When there is ignorance of God, crime runs wild; but what a wonderful thing it is for a nation to know and keep His laws. TLB.
- Prov. 29:26 Do you want justice? Don't fawn on the judge, but ask the Lord for it! TLB.
- Prov. 11:28 Trust in God and flourish as a tree. TLB. (Our money says "In God We Trust").

We as prayer warriors for our country and its leaders have an important job. It is a job that few people will recognize. Intercession will not bring fame and fortune by the world's standards, but you can be assured God sees what is done in secret and according to Mat. 6:18, He will openly reward you in His time and in His way.

The next devotion series will help us get started in prayer.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 21

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

To learn how to begin prayer, let's examine the Old Testament and what it has to teach us about coming into God's presence. The Old Testament deals with physical examples to apply to the spiritual truths of the New Testament.

In the Old Testament, Moses was instructed in Ex. 25:8-9 to build a tabernacle that God might dwell among His people. The tabernacle basically consisted of three courts: the outer court, the inner court and the holiest of holies, where God's presence was (Ex. 26:33, Ex. 27:9-15). Only the priest could enter the holiest of holies (Ex. 28:35).

The New Testament tells us that we are God's temple and that His Spirit indwells us (I Cor. 3:16). I Peter 2:9 tells us we have been made priests (Rev. 1:6, Rev. 5:10) to minister to God. Our body is like the outer court. Our soul is like the inner court. The holiest of holies is like our spirit where God indwells us.

You may want to make a more indepth study of the tabernacle as it relates to the New Testament, but for our use, we will consider only what it has to teach us about coming into God's presence.

In the Old Testament, the priest would clothe himself in special garments (Ex. 28:1-8) and come into the outer court to prepare himself for entering the holiest of holies. When we begin our prayer time, we must prepare ourselves physically. We must discipline our bodies for a regular daily time of prayer. If we are a part of an intercessory group, we must be committed and responsible to be there. Every joint supplies (Eph. 4:16). The next step is to quiet ourselves physically and set ourselves to pray by an act of our will — to not let contrary thoughts interrupt our determination to pray (II Cor. 10:5).

Secondly, just as the priest would offer a burnt sacrifice (Ex. 29:18), we offer ourselves to be used by God for intercession (Rom 6:13). After this the priest would wash himself in the brass laver (Ex. 30:18). We, too, must be cleansed before we enter God's presence. Ours is a spiritual cleansing. We ask God to search our heart and reveal sin (Ps. 139:23). We also, according to Mark 11:25, are to forgive any person we have ought against. Then we can apply I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We can now stand before God clean and clothed with the "garments of salvation" and covered with the "robe of righteousness" (Is. 61:10). We can come boldly before God (Heb. 4:16).

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WEEK 11 PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

The last part of our preparation for prayer is for warfare. We must have on the armour of God. To insure you are prepared and equipped, it is a good idea for you or the leader of an intercessory group to verbally go through Eph. 6:10-18. When this is finished, everyone's attention should be diverted from the physical circumstances they might have encountered that morning, to the spiritual readiness they now have to progress to the next step — the inner court.

Next week, to give you a clearer idea of this preparation for intercession, we will present an example prayer of dedication.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 22

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Last week we began to prepare ourselves for intercession by discussing the need to quiet ourselves physically, repent of any sin that would hinder our prayers and finally equip ourselves with the armour of God. All of these actions take place by an act of will. When we have prepared physically, we are ready to progress to the inner court where our soul will be prepared.

Today, we would like to share with you an example prayer of dedication. Each of the areas we discussed earlier should be included, but you may choose to word it differently. Maybe this will help you.

"Father, we thank You that You have called us to pray (I Thes. 5:17, Luke 18:1) to intercede and lay down our lives for others. We thank You that as we are obedient to Your Word, many will be saved (1 Jn 5:14,15). We dedicate this time of prayer to You. We desire Your Holy Spirit to lead us, quicken us and join with us, that we might pray according to Your will. We yield our spirit, soul and body to use for intercession.

"Father, we desire for You to search our hearts and reveal to us any sin that would hinder our prayers. We ask You to reveal any person that we need to forgive so that our prayers will not be hindered (Mk. 11:25). We thank You that according to I John 1:9 — if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(Allow time for the Holy Spirit to bring to your remembrance of any sin you need to confess so that you can be forgiven.)

"Father, we desire to be strong in You and in the power of Your might. We purpose to put on the whole armour of God, that we might be able to stand, continue, persevere against the wiles of the devil. For we know that we "wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph. 6:12)

"Therefore we take unto us the whole armour of God that we might be able to withstand and resist. We girt our loins with the truth. God's Word is truth (Jn. 17:17). Just as a soldier wears a strong belt to hold his armour in place, God's Word holds us in place — assured, full of boldness and courage. We put on the breastplate of righteousness. Jesus is our righteousness (I Cor. 1:30). Just as a breastplate covers and protects the body, we are hid in and protected by Jesus (Col. 3:3, Ps. 91). Our right standing with God encourages us to know the victory is eventually ours (I Cor. 15:57,

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I Jn. 5:4).

“Our feet are shod with the gospel of peace. Jesus is our peace (Eph. 2:14) — our readiness. We determine to take Him to the lost through prayer.

“Above all, we take up the shield of faith for faith in God’s Word protects our heart (Prov. 4:23) and mind (Rom. 12:2) from the lies and deceits of the devil. We choose to pray and believe according to His Word and not by our feelings or by what we see (II Cor. 5:7, Heb. 11:1).

“Next, we take the helmet of salvation — Jesus is our salvation. We thank You that Your Holy Spirit is continually at work to renew our minds to Your Word and Your ways. You give us spiritual understanding, godly wisdom and make known Your truth giving up hope (I Cor. 2:10-16, Jn. 14:26, 16:13,14). And we take the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. We thank You that Your Word is alive and powerful (Heb. 4:12).”

Take some time to praise God for His Word. Use what you found from Scripture to thank Him.

When you have finished with this part, you have gone from the outer court where we prepared physically, to the inner court, where praise begins.

The next study we take a look at the subject of praise; when we use it, where we use it, and why we use it.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 23

PRAISE IN PRAYER

The last two weeks we have spent learning how to come into God's presence for intercessory prayer by looking at the Old Testament example of the priest preparing to minister to God in the tabernacle (Ex. 28:1-8, Ex. 29:18, Ex. 30:18). We found that we must first prepare our physical body — our outer court. We must discipline our body for prayer (Rom 6:13). We also went over the importance of being cleansed of sin (Is. 59:2, Mk. 11:25) and putting on the armour of God (Eph. 6:13-17).

When we have finished this portion of prayer dedicating our time and our being for intercession, we are ready to prepare our soul — our inner court. Our soul is the mind, will, intellect and emotions. Our soul is prepared through praise. By an act of our will, we determine to center our thoughts on God (II Cor. 10:5) and bring our emotions into line with God's Word (I Chr. 22:19, Deut. 11:13). We choose not to let our emotions rule or divert us but through praise unto God, our emotions are released in thanksgiving.

Praise is the response to God's love. It is an outward manifestation of the inward trust. Praising God is an act of our will. We do not have to feel like praising Him, we do it in obedience to His Word. The Bible tells us in Ps. 149:6 "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth and a two-edged sword — the Word of God — in their hand" and in Ps. 150:6 "Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord."

There is much to learn about the subject of praise. You may want to do a study of it, but let's see what part it plays in coming into God's presence.

Ps. 100:4 has the answer: "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name."

We enter God's presence through praise. It begins in our soul and as we yield our members, we come into the realm of worship which is the holiest of holies — God's presence. True worship does not come from the mind nor from the emotions, but from our spirit. John 4:24 tells us "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Once again, the Old Testament shows us an example of this progression in II Chron. 20. Jehoshaphat began prayer in verse 6 with praise for all that God had done and by verse 18 he had progressed to worshipping God.

Praise is also used to precede God's presence in the physical battles of the Old Testament. One example is found in I Chron. 15:14-29. The song "Kenaniah" off our newest album "THIS MEANS WAR" is about this Levite who led the people in praise.

In Book II, we will look at what the New Testament has to teach us about praise bringing us into God's presence for prayer and intercession.

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 24

JEHOVAH — TSIDKENU, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

During the devotions in Book I, we learned about coming into God's presence for prayer and intercession. We have discussed the prayer of dedication and we have begun the subject of praise. Praise begins in the soul realm (Ps. 103:1). By an act of our will we center our thoughts on God (II Cor. 10:5) and His goodness and love. Whether we feel like it or not we offer up the "sacrifice of praise" (Heb. 13:15). As our soul comes into obedience to God's Word our spirit is able to truly worship God in His holiness (Jn. 4:24, Phil. 3:3, Ps. 30:4).

According to PS. 100:4 praise brings us into God's presence. When we pray and intercede we want to be right in the throne room with Him (Heb. 4:16). Let's look at the Bible's best example of how to pray. It is found in Mat. 6:9-13 where Jesus is teaching the disciples to pray.

The very first verse of this model prayer begins with praise. The word "hallow" means "praise". Hallowed be thy name means praise be to thy name. Praise begins prayer. We are to praise God's name for it is through His name that He reveals His character, who He is and wants to be in our lives. As our experience and understanding grow in the Lord our praise becomes richer and higher. Our worship takes greater depth as we grow to know God through Jesus Christ (Jn. 14:9).

Beginning in this devotion we will study the eight names of God. Many studies on this subject have been done but Dr. Larry Lea's teachings on this and the Lord's prayer would be very helpful reading for you. But for now, we will see Old Testament examples of how God revealed Himself to His people. Then in the New Testament we will see how He is revealed through Jesus (Jn. 14:9), His Word (II Tim. 3:16), and by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:13). This will provide you a way to begin your intercession with praise. Not only can you use what you have already found in scripture concerning God's character — for example Numbers 23:19 tells us God is not a man that He should lie and Heb. 13:8 Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever — but you can also begin to praise Him for who He is to you personally!

Let's look at the first name of God. He is JEHOVAH — TSIDKENU (sid-ken-u) — THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer. 23:6). In the Old Testament before Jesus had come, faith in God was counted unto Abraham and others as righteousness (Rom. 4:3,5, Heb. 11, Rom. 3:20, Heb. 10:4). The New Testament tells

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us in Rom. 3:25 that we have right standing with God through faith in the blood of Jesus that was shed for us.

In hallowing or praising God's name as you pray you can say, "Father, I thank You for giving me Jesus (Jn. 3:16). I thank You that He shed His blood for me so that I can have right standing with You. Jesus is my righteousness (Rom. 3:25, I Cor. 1:30, 2 Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:9). I thank You that I can come boldly before You (Heb. 4:16) as Your child (Rom. 8:15-16)."

Take a few minutes and look up II Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:9,10, Titus 3:5, Is. 64:6, Is. 61:10,11 and Heb. 4:16 and any other scriptures about our right standing with God because of what Jesus did. Use them in thanking and praising God.

The song "He Came, He Saw, He Conquered" off our album "THIS MEANS WAR!" is about what Jesus did for us.

In the next devotion we'll continue with the eight names of God and learning to praise God for who He is.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 25

JEHOVAH — M'KADDESH, THE LORD WHICH SANCTIFIES

We have begun learning how to begin prayer and intercession by studying the importance of praise in entering God's presence (Ps. 100:4). We have seen that the example prayer Jesus gave His disciples in Mat. 6 begins in recognizing the relationship the believer has with God in being able to call Him "Father" (Gal. 4:6,7).

The next part of that first verse in Mat. 6:9 tells us to honor and praise God's name. For it is through His name that His character is revealed. He wants His children to know Him (1 Jn. 3:1, Ps. 103:7, Phil. 3:10) — not just about Him. Through His name He reveals not only who He is but who He wants to be in our lives.

In the last devotion, we began the study of the eight names of God. The first name we studied was JEHOVAH — TSIDKENU (sid-ken-u) — THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer. 23:6). We found that in the Old Testament faith in God was counted unto men as righteousness. In the New Testament under a better covenant (Heb. 8:6) our righteousness is through faith in the blood of Jesus (Rom. 3:25, 11 Cor. 5:21).

In this devotion we'll study JEHOVAH — M'KADDESH (Mc-kad-desh) — THE LORD WHICH SANCTIFIES (Lev. 20:6-8). The word "sanctify" means "to set apart as holy, consecrated, or devoted to religious use, purify". In the Old Testament God spoke to Moses and told him to separate the Levites from the children of Israel and set them apart to Him for service of the tabernacle and priesthood (Nu. 8:14-16)

The New Testament in 2 Tim. 1:19 tells us that through faith in the blood of Jesus we have been set apart with a holy calling (Rev. 1:6). Heb. 10:10 tells us that through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all our sins are washed away — one sacrifice for sins forever (Heb. 10:12). We have been made holy unto God able to enter His presence by the blood of Jesus (Heb. 10:19).

Even in the physical realm JEHOVAH — M'KADDESH is at work in us (Phil. 1:6). John 17:16-19 tells us we are in the process of being sanctified by His Word (Eph. 5:26, 1 Thes. 5:23). As we yield our bodies and minds according to Rom. 12:1,2 we are being conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29) and changed from glory to glory by the working of His Spirit within us (11 Cor. 3:18). Even though in this flesh we will never reach perfection (Phil. 3:12-14, Gal. 5:17) we

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JEHOVAH — SHALOM
THE LORD IS PEACE

are liberated from things which would bind us (Gal. 5:1, Rom. 6:22, Jn. 8:32,36) and God's Spirit is able to bring forth His fruit (Gal. 5:22) in us to the glory of God (11 Thes. 1:12).

Spend time meditating how loving God is to have given us Jesus so that we could be made holy — able to enter His presence (Col. 1:21-22, Heb. 3:1). Use the scriptures given in praising His name — JEHOVAH — M'KADDESH.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 26

JEHOVAH — SHALOM, THE LORD IS PEACE

We have been studying how to begin prayer and intercession by following the example given us by Jesus in Mat. 6:9-13. We begin prayer with praise. We are to "hallow" or "praise" God's name.

In the last two devotions we have studied JEHOVAH — TSIDKENU (sid-ken-u) — THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer. 23:6) and JEHOVAH — M'KADDESH (Mc-kad-desh) — THE LORD WHICH SANCTIFIES (Lev. 20:6-8).

In this devotion we'll study JEHOVAH — SHALOM — THE LORD IS PEACE (Judges 6:24). In the Old Testament Ex. 26:33 tells us a veil separated the Holy Place or inner court from the Holiest of Holies. The priests could enter the Holy Place daily for service but only the high priest could enter the Holiest of Holies once a year to offer the blood sacrifice to atone for the sins of the people (Lev. 16:15, Heb. 9:2-9). Only because of the blood sacrifice could the high priest enter God's presence. The veil which separated God's presence from any person was sixty feet high from ceiling to floor. It is symbolic of sin which had built a wall of separation between God and man. But JESUS broke down the wall and reestablished the oneness — the peace God wanted for God and man to have.

The Greek word for peace is "eirene" (ear-reign-E) which means "at one again". Eph. 2:14 says "For he is our peace, who hath made both one and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us."

When Jesus died on the cross "he was made sin who knew no sin" (11 Cor. 5:21). When He shed His blood for the forgivenesses of our sins Mat. 27:51 tells us the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom signifying spiritual access for all believers. We have access into God's presence — the Holiest of Holies. The old law of Moses with its commandments, ordinances, and rituals was abolished as a means of justification (Heb. 8:13, Rom. 3:23-31, Gal. 3:21-29) and "a new and living way" (Heb. 10:19-21) without the aid of priests was established. Jesus is our high priest. He is the way and He is alive daily making intercession for us (Heb. 7:25,26, Heb. 6:20).

God's peace also abides within the believer. John 16:33 tells us that being in the world we will have trials and problems but because His Spirit indwells us (Rom. 8:11, 11 Cor. 6:16) we can have quietness and rest in Him (Jn. 14:27). His peace — the peace that passes our understanding can keep our hearts and minds through Him (Phil. 4:7, Col. 3:15).

PRAYER WARRIOR

JEHOVAH — SHALOM — meditate on who He is to you. Thank Him for being your peace — not only so you can have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1) but also so you can overcome and be at peace in a world that knows no peace (Jn. 16:33, Rom. 8:28).

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 27

JEHOVAH — SHAMMAH, THE LORD IS THERE

We have studied three of the names God reveals Himself as: JEHOVAH — TSIDKENU (sid-ken-u) — THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer. 23:6), JEHOVAH — M'KADDESH (Mc-kad-desh) — THE LORD WHICH SANCTIFIES (Lev. 20:6-8), and JEHOVAH-SHALOM — THE LORD IS PEACE (Judges 6:24). In this devotion we will study JEHOVAH — SHAMMAH — THE LORD IS THERE (Ez. 48:35).

In the Old Testament we see in Ex. 13:21 God is there for His people in a pillar of the cloud by day to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light.

We see other examples of JEHOVAH — SHAMMAH — THE LORD IS THERE in Judges 7 and in 11 Kings 6:17. God's presence made up the difference in what was lacking in the number of men.

When we look in the New Testament we see Jesus. John 1:1 tells us "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John 1:14 goes on to tell us the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us — JEHOVAH — SHAMMAH!

Even though Jesus' physical body can no longer walk the earth His Spirit is sent forth into the hearts of believers (Gal. 4:6). Jesus promised that He would come unto us (Jn. 14:18). The Spirit of Truth or Holy Spirit would dwell with us and in us (Jn. 14:17,26). His Spirit leads us into all truth and reveals and glorifies Jesus — the Living Word of God (Jn. 16:13,14).

He is also our readiness. His Spirit within us is always ready to minister (Mat. 10:19,20). His Spirit will fill us to overflowing (Eph. 5:18, Jn. 1:33) so that rivers of living water will flow out from us (Jn. 7:38,39). He is our fullness. He is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2) — Christ in us, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).

Spend time thanking God for giving us His Spirit who is present in us and with us (Jn. 14:16,17). We can be assured of Jesus' promise in Mat. 28:20 ". . . lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 28

JEHOVAH — RAPHA, THE LORD MY HEALER

We are studying the eight names of God and learning to praise Him for who He is and wants to be to us. Our example is found in Mat. 6:9 “hallowed” or “praise” be to thy name.

Next, we will study JEHOVAH — RAPHA — THE LORD MY HEALER (Ex. 15:26). In the Old Testament in Ex. 15:26 God tells His people He is the Lord that healeth. The word “healeth” in Hebrew is “raphah” (raw-faw) meaning “to cause to heal, to cure, repair, physician, thoroughly made whole.”

One example of God healing someone in the Old Testament is found in 2 Kings 5 where the prophet Elisha gave the Word of God to Naaman. He told him he was to dip in the River Jordon seven times and he would be made whole. Naaman had to choose to put aside his pride and trust in the Word of God given him by the prophet — acting on it and being obedient to it. In doing so he was cleansed and made whole — free of leprosy (2 Kings 5:14).

Prophets of the Old Testament were used by God to deliver instruction, correction, rebuke, and prophecy. In Is. 53:5 the prophet Isaiah foretold of Jesus’ coming and because of what He would accomplish through the cross we are redeemed from the curse of the law (Gal. 3:13, Deut. 28:15-68). Isaiah 53:5 tells us:

“But He was wounded (profaned, defiled, broken) for our transgressions (rebellions, sins, trespasses). He was bruised (crumbled, beaten to pieces, broken in pieces, crushed, destroyed, humbled, oppressed, smitten) for our iniquities (perversities, moral evils, faults, mischief, sins): The chastisement (correction or corrections) of our peace (welfare, health, prosperity) was upon Him; and with His stripes (blueness, bruises, hurts, wounds) we ARE healed (mended by stitching, cured, repaired, thoroughly made whole).”

Jesus — the Living Word of God — had come and so fulfilled the scriptures. Acts 10:38 tells us God annointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power. He went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil (Jn. 10:10).

Heb. 13:8 assures us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever. He is alive and His Spirit is present today to heal (Lk. 5:17, 1 Cor. 12:9, Jn. 16:14). He is our healer. He loves and cares for us wholly — spirit (Rom. 5:1), soul (Ps. 147:3, Ps. 41:4, and body (1 Peter 2:24, Ps. 103:3).

Take time to meditate on JEHOVAH — RAPHA. Thank Him for providing Jesus that through Him we are made whole (Lk. 4:18, 1 Thes. 5:23).

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WEEK 29

JEHOVAH — JIREH, THE LORD PROVIDES

JEHOVAH — JIREH (year-ray) — THE ONE WHO PROVIDES, the one who sees from the beginning to the end is the next name we'll study. Perhaps the best illustration of JEHOVAH — JIREH in the Old Testament is found in Gen. 22:1-14. God told Abraham to offer up his only son, Isaac, for a burnt offering on Mount Moriah. Abraham was obedient to God's Word and took his son, the necessary wood, the fire, and a knife and climbed Mount Moriah. When Isaac asked where was the lamb for a burnt offering, Abraham told him "My son, God will provide himself a lamb". Abraham's faith in God was shown in his willingness to obey His Word. He trusted in God's love and care for him. Just as he was about to slay his son the angel of the Lord stopped him and directed his eyes to a ram caught in a thicket — God's provision for a burnt offering — a substitute for Isaac.

This Old Testament example is a type and shadow of Jesus Christ, God's only son, being a substitute for all men. He died in our place so that we might be free from eternal death if we accept His death as our sacrifice. Jesus paid the sin penalty instead of us. God provided Jesus.

Part of the provision we have because of what Jesus did is found in Gal. 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law". In Deut. 28 we find the curses of poverty, failure, and inferiority. God desires to prosper us in every area — spirit, soul, and body. Meditate II Cor. 8:9, I Cor. 1:5, Rom. 10:12, III Jn. 2, Phil. 4:19, Eph. 1:3, and Mat. 6:31-33. We have been redeemed from failure. Meditate Phil. 4:13, Rom. 8:37, and I Jn. 5:4. We have been redeemed from inferiority. God has the ability to make up what is lacking in us. Meditate II Cor. 3:5,6, II Cor. 12:9,10, and Mat. 10:19.

Our God — JEHOVAH — JIREH — is the almighty God. He sees the beginning and the end (Rev. 21:6) He is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2). He sees our need even before we know we have a need. He is our provider!

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 30

JEHOVAH — NISSI, THE LORD IS MY BANNER, MY DEFENDER

Another name of God is JEHOVAH — NISSI — THE LORD IS MY BANNER, MY DEFENDER (Ex. 17:15). In the Old Testament it was customary for a banner or standard to be lifted up upon a high place so that men could see it and rally round it in mobilizing an army. It was thought to be a place of defense or protection.

An Old Testament example of JEHOVAH — NISSI is found in Ex. 12:22,23. Hyssop was dipped in blood and was struck across the upper post and side posts of the doors of God's people. Protection and deliverance from death was given as the death angel passed over. This banner of blood was symbolic of the blood of Christ. His blood over us protects us and delivers us from death and fear (Rom. 8:2). According to Song of Solomon 2:4 His banner over us is love (Rom. 8:31-37).

In Ps. 60:4 David purposed to raise the standard of victory in place of defeat — to be displayed because of truth. Jesus is the Truth and through Him we have victory instead of defeat (I Cor. 15:57).

The prophet Isaiah in Is. 11:10 foretold of Jesus, the root of Jesse, who would be the banner around which the nations would rally. They will come to Him and in Him they will put their trust.

In the New Testament John 12:32 Jesus fulfills the scripture when he says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Jesus is our banner who we as Christians rally around. His blood is over us. JEHOVAH — NISSI, we thank You and praise Your name forever!

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WEEK 31

JEHOVAH — ROHI, THE LORD MY SHEPHERD

JEHOVAH — ROHI (Ro-i) — THE LORD MY SHEPHERD (Ps. 23:1) is the last of the eight names of God we will be studying. Perhaps the best way of studying the role of the shepherd of the Old Testament is found in Psalms 23. In this Psalm David draws an analogy between God's care for His people (Ps. 100:3) and the role of the good shepherd caring for his sheep — providing abundant life for them.

There is much we can learn about the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep and how it relates to God caring for His people. A good reference for this is W. Phillip Keller's book *A Shepherd Looks A Psalm 23* published by Word Books.

The life of the shepherd and sheep of the Old Testament is much different than that of shepherds today. The good shepherd of the Old Testament was constantly leading, guiding, protecting, and providing for his sheep. He gave names to each of his sheep as we do our pets and every sheep recognized his name when he was called. It was a very close relationship. The Eastern shepherd of the Old Testament would go before his flock to lead them and prepare the way for them. He never took them where he had not already been — being alert to dangers and conditions of where they were going. He understood their nature and cared for not only their physical well being but those things which frustrated them. He always talked gently with tenderness and rebuked or corrected them with compassion.

You can probably already begin to see correlations between the good shepherd and God's care for us.

In the 10th chapter of John, Jesus refers to Himself as "The Good Shepherd" (Jn. 10:11,14). Read and meditate that chapter. Also read and meditate these verses and see how God has made provision for us to have that same close relationship with Him as the good shepherd has with his sheep: Jn. 4:14, Jn. 7:37-39, Jn. 14:17-27, Jn. 15:26, Jn. 16:13-15, Acts 2:38,39 and Jn. 14:13,14.

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WEEK 32

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

We have just completed a study of the eight names of God and found that the God of Old Testament reveals himself through Jesus in the New Testament (Jn. 14:9). Through His names He reveals who He is and who He wants to be in our lives. As we grow and mature in Christ our revelation of Him becomes much greater (Eph. 1:17-19, Jn. 14:21, James 4:8) and our ability to praise is much easier and fuller. There is always more to learn and experience in Christ Jesus! Like the deer in Ps. 42:1 that pants after the water brooks so are we to "pant" after the things of God — to know Him and the power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:10 Amp.).

Mat. 6:9 instructs us to hallow or praise God's name. From the scriptures that have been presented in each devotion you can begin to thank God for who He is to you through each of His names. In this time of Praise and worship your faith in Him will begin to rise up. In Rom. 4:20 we see Abraham also was strengthened in his faith as he gave glory to God. Your spirit is stirred, your body and soul are centered in on God and you are ready to begin prayer and intercession in faith and in power!

The song "He Is My Rock" off our album THIS MEANS WAR! is written about who God is to us. Here are some scriptures to look up and meditate on "The Lord, Our Rock": Deut. 32:4, II Sam. 22:2,3, Ps. 18:2, I Cor. 10:4, Mat. 7:24,25.

You know, a rock is something that does not move. Our God doesn't move away from us but we may fade in and out of fellowship with Him. God wants us to move in closer to Him through praise.

James 4:8 is a promise to us. "Draw near to God and He will draw nigh to you." God does inhabit the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3).

Next we'll go from "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name" to learning how to pray "Thy kingdom come."

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WEEK 33

PRAYING "THY KINGDOM COME"

We have finished two very important areas of study to enable us to become effective Prayer Warriors. The first area of study was the prayer of dedication (Rom. 6:13) with time given for cleansing of sin (Mk. 11:25, I Jn. 1:9) and then preparation for prayer by putting on the full armour of God (Eph. 6:11-18). The next area of study was learning how to come into God's presence. We found that in Ps. 100:4 we are instructed to enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. "Be thankful and say so unto Him, bless and affectionately praise His name." Mat. 6:9 of the New Testament also instructs us to hallow or praise God's name. In obedience to that we have been learning about the names of God. In the Old Testament He revealed Himself through His character to His people. In the New Testament we found Him revealing Himself through Jesus (Jn. 14:9). Through the scriptures we have studied our understanding and revelation of who God is through Jesus Christ has deepened. As we begin to use what we have learned to thank and praise God for who He is to us personally our faith in Him is stirred and strengthened (Rom. 10:17, Rom. 4:20, Heb. 11:6).

Now, we are moving on to the next step in prayer and intercession. Mat. 6:10 instructs us to pray "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." This scripture applies to our personal prayer as well as prayer for others. The number one priority we should pray for ourselves and others is that the kingdom of God be desired and established. Mat. 6:33 confirms this by instructing us to seek first the kingdom of God. According to Luke 12:32 it is our Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom.

What is the kingdom of God? Romans 14:17 tells us "the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

Our first priority in petitioning God is for righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost to be desired and established in those we are praying for. Righteousness means right standing with God through Jesus Christ — salvation (2 Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:9). Peace comes as a result of right standing with God. It is heartfelt and undergirds us in whatever comes our way in this life (Phil. 4:7). Jesus spoke of this peace in Jn. 14:27 and in Jn. 16:33. The world cannot understand or experience this peace. The joy of the Holy Ghost comes from experiencing the presence of God in your life (Ps. 16:11, Jn. 15:11). This joy is not the same as the happiness of the world (Jn. 16:22b). Joy is much deeper. Joy is a

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fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), and it spills over and is expressed through the soul and body (Ps. 35:9, 63:5, 81:1, 47:1, 95:1,2, 98:4-6). The joy of the Lord is our strength through every trial and circumstance (Neh. 8:10, Rom. 15:13, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-9).

When we begin to pray for others let us remember that foremost in importance is that the kingdom of God be desired and established in their lives.

The song "All The Kings Horses" off our album THIS MEANS WAR! is about the kingdom of God being established in the earth with the second coming of Jesus (Mat. 24:29-31, Rev. 19:11-21, Joel 3:9-21).

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 34

PRAYING "THY WILL BE DONE"

In the last devotion we began Mat. 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." This verse gives us direction in what to pray for as we pray and intercede for the lost, the body of Christ, and the leaders of our nation according to 1 Tim. 2:12. This verse is very important for it sets our priority in prayer for these groups of people. We are to pray the kingdom of God — righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost — be desired and established in the earth — in these peoples' lives. We are to pray God's will be accomplished and done in them as well.

We will begin studying God's will for each of these three groups in this devotion. We will present scriptures and give direction in how to pray them. You'll need to start a scripture notebook if you haven't already. Record the scriptures to pray for each of these groups.

If you are part of a youth group who is interested in praying for these three important areas you might consider breaking into three smaller groups and each searching and collecting scriptures to pray for your own area. Then meet together and pray for all three areas or meet in separate groups to pray for your own specific area. Whatever way works best for your youth group is what should be done.

Let's begin with prayer for the lost. II Peter 3:9 tells us that God's will is "that all should come to repentance." We will be praying first and foremost that salvation come to the lost — the kingdom of God (righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost) be desired and established (Rom. 14:17).

For this to happen Prayer Warriors will need to pray for three important areas. First, we will need to pull down the strongholds spoken of in 2 Cor. 10:4 keeping these people captive to the kingdom of darkness (Col. 1:13, Acts 26:18, Eph. 4:18, 19 Amp.). Secondly, we will pray for hearts and minds to be prepared to hear the gospel and receive it (Ps. 10:17). Finally, we will pray for laborers and harvesters to be sent across the paths of these people to preach the "good news" to them (Lk. 10:2, I Cor. 3:6-9, Mk. 16:15).

We will begin to give you scripture and a sample prayer to help you cover each of these areas in praying for the lost in the next devotion.

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 35

PRAYER FOR THE LOST — PART 1

In the last devotion we began the subject of how to pray for the lost — especially family, friends, and those of your community. We determined from 2 Peter 3:9 that to pray God's will be done in their lives meant salvation. Now we will present scripture for that purpose.

First, Prayer Warriors will need to pull down the strongholds spoken of in 2 Cor. 10:4. These strongholds keep people captive to the kingdom of darkness. Mat. 16:18 and 19 tells us that Jesus has given us the keys of the kingdom to bind and loose on earth and it shall be done also in heaven. We have been given the authority to use His name (Lk. 10:19, Mk. 16:17) and every name in heaven, in earth, and under the earth must bow their knee to the name of Jesus (Phil. 2:10). As we bind these spiritual forces (Eph. 6:12) we render them useless and unable to move or operate. We can then command them in the name of Jesus to loose or let go so that these people are free to hear clearly the gospel.

Mat. 12:29 tells us we must first bind the strongman before we can enter the house. The strongman is Satan, the liar and deceiver (Jn. 8:44). He has blinded the minds of the unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:4). He has planted unbelief and doubt (Heb. 3:12), fear (2 Tim. 1:7), confusion (1 Cor. 14:33), lusts (1 Jn. 2:16), carnal reasonings (Rom. 8:7), and vain imaginations (Col. 2:8, 2 Cor. 10:5). All these and probably more have hardened men's hearts toward God (Eph. 4:18,19 Amp.).

A heart that is hardened by sin is unrepentant and cannot receive the gospel. That is why we must first pray and pull down these strongholds. Then we will pray for the Holy Spirit to do that inward work of preparation.

The first part of your prayer might go something like this:

"Father, in obedience to Your Word in I Tim. 2:1 we stand in agreement with other believers (Mat. 18:19) praying and interceding for the lost of this community and of the world — the multitudes who are in the valley of decision this day (Joel 3:14, 2 Cor. 6:2).

We thank You for Your Word in 2 Peter 3:9 which promises that You are not slack concerning Your promise but longsuffering towards us not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. We thank You that You have provided Your Son, Jesus, for our salvation and have sent Your Holy Spirit who is reproofing and convicting the world of sin even now (Jn. 16:8).

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We thank You that as Your children we can stand in the authority of Jesus name and pull down strongholds of the kingdom of darkness (2 Cor. 10:4, Eph. 6:12).

We bind you, Satan, (Mat. 12:29, 18:18) in the name of Jesus over these people and the spiritual forces of unbelief, fear, confusion, lust, carnal reasoning, spiritual apathy, and vain imaginations. We render you helpless and useless in the name of Jesus. We command you and every blinding spirit (2 Cor. 4:4) in Jesus name to loose and let go of your assignment against those who have opportunity to make Jesus Lord (Phil. 2:10, Mat. 16:18, 19, Jn. 14:12).

Father, we ask You to pour out Your grace (Eph. 2:8, 2 Cor. 9:8), mercy (Titus 3:5, I Pet. 1:3), and love (Jer. 31:3, Rom. 5:8) on the lost, drawing them by Your Spirit to Jesus (Jn. 6:44, 14:6) and preparing their hearts (Ps. 10:17) so they can receive the gospel when it is preached to them (Mat. 13:23a).

Send forth Your ministering angels according to Heb. 14:1 to order their circumstances and protect them physically and spiritually, to direct their paths, and to lead them by Your goodness to repentance (Rom. 2:4). We pray and intercede for a godly sorrow which worketh repentance (2 Cor. 7:10) — a mighty cleansing and a deep work of Your Spirit in them.

We also pray for a hunger and thirst for righteousness (Mat. 5:6) to come forth in them. Let the desire to call unto You (Jer. 33:3, Jer. 29:11-13) be planted in them.

Thank You, Lord, that as they are obedient to Your Word You are faithful (Heb. 10:23) to reveal Yourself (Jn. 14:21) to them and receive them (Jn. 6:37) giving them according to Ez. 36:26 and 27 a new heart and a new spirit with a desire to walk in Your ways (Phil. 2:13 Amp.)."

In the next devotion we'll continue with the last part of a prayer for the lost.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 36

PRAYING FOR THE LOST — PART 2

In the last devotion we began presenting scriptures to use in praying for the lost. We also began a sample prayer you might want to use.

Now we will pick up where we left off in that prayer and finish. We were about to pray and intercede for laborers to be sent across the paths of these people. Laborers who are willing and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let's begin right there:

"Father, we thank You that You are the God of salvation (Ps. 68:20). We thank You that many hearts are being prepared this day to receive the Word of life (Phil. 2:16, I Jn. 1:1) — Jesus. We thank You that we can trust and believe according to Acts 16:31 and Ps. 2:8 for the salvation of our families, friends, and others who are lost. We believe according to Jn. 4:35 that people this day are ready to receive You as Lord and Saviour (2 Cor. 6:2).

We pray according to Your Word in Lk. 10:2 and I Cor. 3:6-9 that You would send out laborers across the paths of the lost who are willing to share the gospel of Jesus Christ (Phil. 2:13). We pray they would be anointed (Is. 10:27) and empowered by Your Holy Spirit to be witnesses for You (Acts 1:8) — planting Your Word as seed in the good soil of their hearts (Mat. 13:23), watering seed others have planted, and leading souls to receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour (I Cor. 3:6-9).

We ask You according to Col. 4:3 to open the door of utterance and make an opportunity for these laborers to share Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Give them wisdom (Lk. 21:15) in how to approach each person and spiritual discernment (I Cor. 12:4-12) and understanding to minister to them. Fill each laborer with compassion, gentleness, and patience (2 Tim. 2:24).

Thank You, Lord, that according to I Cor. 1:5 these laborers are enriched and in full power and readiness of speech. Give them boldness to speak Your Word as Jesus did — with authority and ability, weight and power (Lk. 4:32) — that according to Acts 6:10 each person they speak to would not be able to resist the intelligence and the wisdom (Ps. 37:30) and the inspiration of the Spirit.

We thank You that hearts have been prepared and faith has been given to each of these people (Rom. 12:3) to receive the gospel. We pray for it to be received deep in their heart as truth (I Thes. 2:13) setting them free from deception (Jn. 8:32). We ask that Your Holy Spirit quicken Your Word within them bringing it

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to remembrance often and working within them (Jn. 14:26). We also ask Your protection over Your Word that it not be stolen from them (Mat. 13:19).

Thank You that Your Word promises in Is. 29:24 that they that have erred in spirit shall come to understanding and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.

We praise and thank You for the outpouring and mighty work of Your Spirit this day. Thank You that many will be delivered and drawn to Jesus — out of the control and the dominion of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of Your Son (Col. 1:13). Hallelujah! In Jesus name, amen."

This concludes our study on prayer for the lost. You will certainly find other scriptures you can use in praying. Try using Ps. 107 in prayer form. There are lots of other scriptures to search out as well.

The song "The Water Is Alive" off our album THIS MEANS WAR! speaks about the lost of this world who could be drinking "living water" if they would only make the decision to come to Christ.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 37

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER FOR BELIEVERS

We are now beginning the topic of praying God's will — His Word — for the church, the body of Christ. Isaiah 62:6,7 of the Amplified Bible instructs us as intercessors to continue in prayer until God's will be established in His people.

We will be presenting scripture to pray for two areas: the individual believer and the church, the entire body of Christ.

Let's begin with the individual believer. The natural man or carnal man (I Cor. 3:1) is led by sight, sense, and circumstance (Rom. 8:4-8, 2 Cor. 5:7, 2 Cor. 4:18). The spiritual man stands on the Word of God, is full of faith, and is led by God's Spirit (I Cor. 2:5, Rom. 1:17, Rom. 8:14). God desires for us, His children, to be conformed to Christ's image (Rom. 8:29), growing from mere "babes in Christ" (I Cor. 3:1) to maturity complete in all the will of God — a mature spiritual person (Col. 4:12, Eph. 4:13, 2 Tim. 3:17, Col. 1:28).

What should be the believer's priority in order that this mighty work be accomplished in him? Mat. 6:33 tells us. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you."

As Prayer Warriors we will be praying God's Word over His people thanking Him for His promises and petitioning Him to work in us (Phil. 2:13) that which is pleasing to Him. We can trust and believe (I Jn. 5:14, 15) according to Is. 55:11 that God's Word will go forth and accomplish that which He pleases and shall prosper in the thing which He sent it — the church, the body of Christ.

We will be presenting scripture to pray for these three areas: uprightness and standing on the Word of God, peace through obedience and faith in God, and joy in the Holy Ghost which comes through communion and being led by the Holy Spirit.

To get started we might begin our prayer for the believers like this:

"Father, we thank You for each member of the body of Christ. We thank You according to I Peter 1:23 for planting Your incorruptible seed within us and promising in Phil. 1:6 to complete that good work which You've begun in us.

As intercessors, we set ourselves in agreement with Your Word (Mat. 18:19) and pray Your kingdom come (Mat. 6:10) — righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Rom. 14:17) — be manifest in this earth — the body of Christ. We pray for Your will to be done and accomplished in us and through us.

We thank You that You have called us according to Rom. 8:29 to be conformed

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to the image of Christ. We pray according to Eph. 1:17-19 and Eph. 3:16-19 asking You to give unto the body of Christ the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You; that our eyes of understanding be enlightened and that we may know what is the hope of Your calling and the exceeding greatness of Your power to us who believe. We pray You would strengthen the body of Christ with might by Your Spirit in our inner man, that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith, that we be rooted and grounded in love able to comprehend and know the love of Christ which passes knowledge and be filled with all the fulness of God.

We pray according to Col. 1:9-11 and 2 Thes. 1:11,12. We ask that the body of Christ might be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding so that we might walk worthy of You unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of You, and being strengthened with all might unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness. We pray You would fulfill all the good pleasure of Your goodness, and the work of faith with power that the name of the Lord Jesus may be glorified in us and us in Him."

In the next devotion we will continue with prayer for the area of uprightness in the believer's life.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 38

PRAYER FOR THE BELIEVER — UPRIGHTNESS

We are continuing with prayer for the believer in the area of righteousness — walking uprightly before God and desiring His Word to have priority in our life.

Here are some scriptures in prayer form. You might pray something like this:

“Father, according to I Jn. 1:9 we confess and ask Your forgiveness for the body of Christ. We ask You to forgive our rebellion to Your Word — being ignorant of it, doubting it, and not obeying it. We ask You to forgive our pride, our self-sufficiency and self will, our unrepentant hearts. We ask You to pour out Your mercy and love through Your Holy Spirit to bring Your people to repentance (Jn. 16:8). We thank You that according to Is. 57:15 and 18 (Liv.) You refresh the humble and give new courage to those with repentant hearts. You promise to lead us and comfort us, helping us to mourn and confess our sins. We thank You that as we confess our sin You are faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Father, we pray according to Mat. 5:6 that every believer would hunger and thirst after righteousness that we might be filled. That we would be like the heart in Ps. 42:1 that pants after the water brook so would we pant after the things of You — setting our affection on things above, not on things of the earth (Col. 3:2-17).

Prepare our hearts according to Ps. 10:17 and cause us to hunger for truth (Prov. 15:14 Liv.), the Word of God (I Thes. 2:13), that we might break up the fallow ground of our hearts as we are instructed to do in Hosea 10:12. We pray for each believer to become teachable (Lk. 18:17), receiving the Word of God with gladness allowing it to do its perfect work in us.

We thank You that Your Word is at work in us cleansing (Jn. 15:3, Eph. 5:26), sanctifying (Jn. 17:17), correcting and instructing (2 Tim. 3:16), revealing (Heb. 4:12), reproofing (2 Tim. 3:16), and encouraging our hearts (2 Tim. 4:2, Heb. 10:25, Rom. 15:4) to continue and persevere in Christ, the author and finisher of our faith (Jn. 15:5, Heb. 12:2).

Some other scriptures you might want to pray include: Ps. 139:23, 24, 2 Tim. 2:15, Prov. 2:1-12 Amp., Ps. 143:10. There are so many promises to the righteous or upright. Here are just a few you can pray and thank God for: Ps. 1:1-3, Ps. 23:3, Ps. 37, Ps. 112, Ps. 128, Ps. 91, and Prov. 10.

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WEEK 39

PRAYER FOR THE BELIEVER — PEACE THROUGH OBEDIENCE

In this devotion we will continue with prayer for the believer in the area of peace. Peace comes by knowing God through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1). Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6), comes in peace (Jer. 29:11, Jn. 14:27) and reveals His peace to the believer. As we allow His Spirit to work in each area of our life peace enters. We have peace with God, peace with others, and we are at peace with ourselves (Jn. 14:27, 16:33, Eph. 1:6).

As Prayer Warriors we will pray and intercede for the peace of the believer — for the desire to allow God's Spirit to work within them, to be obedient, full of faith, and trusting in God (Rom. 8:6, Is. 26:3). As a result we experience a deep undergirding of peace in our lives no matter what the circumstances.

Here again are scriptures used in prayer form. You might pray something like this:

“Father, we thank You for the peace we have with You through Jesus. He is our peace in a world that knows no peace (Eph. 2:14, Jn. 16:33). We thank You that in the shaking of this world (Heb. 12:26,27) and in the trying of our faith (James 1:3,4) through trials and tribulation we can know the peace that passes understanding. We ask You to quicken each believer (Ps. 119:25) to know and believe Your Word that nothing shall separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:35-39). We thank You that You're able to keep that which we've committed unto You (2 Tim. 1:12). We can trust and believe according to Rom. 8:28 that all things will work together and are fitting into a plan for good to and for those who love You and are called according to Your design and purpose.

We thank You that each believer can hear Your voice (Jn. 10:4,5). That You, our Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:11,14), lead us in paths of righteousness (Ps. 23:3) working in us to will and to do Your good pleasure promising us in Is. 1:19 that if we be willing and obedient we shall eat the good of the land.

Father, we pray for each believer to become obedient — to be spiritually minded for according to Rom. 8:6 it is life and peace to us. We pray for each believer to yield control to You in every area of their life — to serve You with a perfect heart and a willing mind (I Chron. 28:9). That each of us would desire to decrease as You and Your love increase (Jn. 3:30) in us bringing forth the fruit of Your Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Help us to love others as You love us (I Cor. 13). Help us desire to

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give of ourselves as You would want us to (Phil. 2:5-8).

We bind the spirits of confusion (I Cor. 14:33), fear (2 Tim. 1:7), pride (Prov. 8:13, James 4:6), in the name of Jesus and command them to be loosed from their assignments over believers. We ask You, Father, to pour out Your Spirit upon Your people quickening us to Your Word (Ps. 119:25) that we would desire to hold fast to our profession of faith with out wavering (Heb. 10:23), not looking back (Lk. 9:62), but pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14) trusting in Him, not staggering at Your promises through unbelief but according to Rom. 4:20-21 becoming strong in our faith, giving glory to You, being fully persuaded that what You have promised, You are also able to perform."

Here are some more scriptures you might pray for obedience: Heb. 13:18,21, Rom. 12:1,2, Col. 3:1-17, Phil. 2:5, 2 Thes. 3:5,6, James 4:7, I Cor. 10:13, Heb. 12:11 and 2 Peter 2:9. For peace you might also pray Numbers 6:24-26, 2 Cor. 13:9, Prov. 14:30.

Here are some promises you might want to use in thanksgiving and prayer for peace: Is. 26:3, Ps. 9:9, Ps. 29:11, Prov. 14:26, Is. 32:17. For trust you might want to use Ps. 37:39-40, Prov. 3:5,6, Ps. 40:4, Ps. 91. For obedience you might use Deut. 28:1-13, Jer. 42:6b, Is. 33:15,16, Job 23:10, Rom. 5:3-5. You can find lots more if you will search the scriptures (Acts 17:11b).

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WEEK 40

PRAYER FOR THE BELIEVER — JOY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We have been learning to pray for the kingdom of God to be manifest in the believer's life (Rom. 14:17). In this devotion we'll use scripture in praying for the joy of the Holy Ghost to come forth in the believer.

Ps. 16:11 tells us that joy is the result of God's presence in our lives. The amount or fulness of joy is dependent on the extent to which we allow God's Spirit into our lives. We begin to see that as with peace our joy is also dependent upon our obedience and yieldedness to God (Jn. 15:9-14). As we live in obedience to His Word — living for Him rather than for ourselves (Mat. 10:39, Is. 9:6,7) we begin to sense changes within us that affect our outside world as well. We see God's faithfulness in turning a "desolate wilderness into a glorious garden" (Is. 35). Knowing He's at work within us produces joy. This joy is our strength (Neh. 8:10). This is the joy we, as intercessors, will pray for believers to experience.

Your prayer concerning joy might go something like this: "Father, we thank You for Your Spirit that indwells us (Rom. 8:9, 1 Jn. 4:4, Jn. 14:17) and quickens Your Word to us (Jn. 6:63, Jn. 14:26). We thank You that Your Spirit knows the things of God and reveals them freely to us (1 Cor. 2:11, 12, Jn. 16:13-15), Your children, that we might be led by Your Spirit (Rom. 8:14) confirming the Word of God in us.

We thank You that Your Spirit is at work in each believer to bring liberty (2 Cor. 3:17, Lk. 4:18) and impart power (Lk. 24:49, Acts 1:4-8, 2:38,39). We pray for believers to walk in the Spirit and have victory over the flesh (Gal. 5:16,18-26, Rom. 8:1-13) daily being conformed to the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18, Rom. 8:29).

We thank You that according to Mat. 10:39 as we lose our life to You we find it. We ask You to quicken the believers to desire the government of God (Is. 9:6,7) and to be alert to Your faithfulness in establishing it.

We pray for a thirst to come forth in believers to have the full union and communion of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14). We pray Eph. 3:19 be manifest in each believer — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge and to be filled with all the fulness of God. Fill us to overflowing with rivers of living water (Jn. 7:37-39).

We thank You that as we draw near to You James 4:8 promises You will draw near to us. We thank You that according to Ps. 16:11 Your presence produces joy in us and this joy is our strength (Neh. 8:10). Thank You, Lord, for the joy of

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PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH SUBMISSION

the Holy Spirit! Hallelujah! In Jesus name, amen."

Here are a few more scripture you can pray: Rom. 6:13b, Jer. 15:16, and Heb. 13:21. Here are some scriptures concerning joy: Col. 1:11, Jn. 15:11, Acts 13:52, and Rom. 15:13. Some scripture concerning being led by the Spirit are: Prov. 3:5,6 and Prov. 22:17-19.

The song "Don't Let Your Heart Be Hardened" off our album THIS MEANS WAR! exhorts believers to keep their with all diligence for out of it flow the issues of life. We need to pray for the believer's heart.

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 41

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH — SUBMISSION

We now begin the topic of praying for the church — the body of Christ. We will be praying for three areas concerning the church: submission, unity, and ministry. For the next three devotions we will present scripture in prayer form for each area.

We'll begin with the area of submission. The Bible tells us in James 4:7 and in Acts 5:29 to first submit ourselves to God (Prov. 3:4-6 Liv.). Secondly, we are instructed in Heb. 13:7 and in I Peter 2:13-18 to submit to those in authority. Finally, in Eph. 5:21 we are to submit ourselves to one another in the fear of God.

You will find lots of scripture to pray for these three areas. We will present some scripture for each area of submission. Let's begin:

"Father, Your Word instructs us in James 4:7 to submit ourselves to You. We pray for You to work in the body of Christ (Phil. 2:13) to desire to submit and obey Your Word, for according to I Sam. 15:22 and 23 obedience is better than sacrifice and rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft.

We pray for the body of Christ's desire to be according to Joshua 24:24 "The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice we will obey." We thank You that as we hearken unto You, You promise to teach us the fear and reverence of the Lord according to Ps. 34:11 and will bless us (Deut. 28:1-13, Ps. 34:9, Ps. 145:19, Prov. 14:26, 19:23, 13:13, 16:20, 9:10).

Father, we pray for Your body to desire to be submissive to those in authority (Rom. 13:1,2) especially those who are over us in the Lord. That we would desire to know them which labor among us and esteem them highly in love for their work's sake according to I Thes. 5:12 and 13.

We thank You that according to Jer. 3:15 You will give us pastors according to Your heart, who shall feed us with knowledge and understanding. We pray Col. 1:28 and 29 that they will preach, warn, and teach every man in all wisdom according to Your working which worketh in them mightily.

We thank You according to Eph. 4:11-13 that apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are being raised up "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:14,15 also).

Father, we pray according to Eph. 5:21 that the body of Christ would submit

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ourselves one to another in the fear of God. We pray for You to work in us so that we might walk in love (Eph. 5:2, I Cor. 13) towards one another esteeming others better than ourselves and serving one another as Jesus did (Phil. 2:5).

That according to I Peter 4:8-11 we would choose to have fervent love among ourselves, show hospitality, and in all that we do desire for Jesus to be glorified.

We pray for the body to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God for Christ's sake has forgiven each of us (Eph. 4:32).

We thank You, Lord, for Your Word in Prov. 13:13. As we fear and respect Your commandments we shall be rewarded. As we submit to Your Word and Your Spirit quickening it within us we will have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, will cleanse us from all sin (I Jn. 1:7). Hallelujah! In Jesus name, amen."

Here are some other scriptures you might like to pray in the area of submission: Prov. 2:1-5 Amp., Prov. 4:20-27 Amp., Phil. 1:9-11, and I Thes. 5:14,15.

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WEEK 42

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH — UNITY

We are continuing in the devotion with praying for the church. We will present scripture in prayer form for the area of unity.

Unity is very important for the body of Christ. God moves in unity (Mat. 18:19). His power is released where there is unity.

Our prayer for unity in the body of Christ will begin with praying for each believer to become spiritually minded (Rom. 8:6) and submitted to God's Word (James 1:22) — to live in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25). Then we will begin to see unity come forth in the natural — in the body of Christ.

Our prayer for unity might go something like this:

"Father, Your Word in Ps. 133:1 says "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." We pray for unity to come forth in the body of Christ in Jesus name. We pray for each believer's heart to become fixed on Your Son for He is our peace (Eph. 2:14) and we are all one in Him (Gal. 3:28,29).

We ask You to quicken Your Word in Eph. 6:12 to believers and give them spiritual understanding that 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.

We thank You that according to Col. 2:15 Jesus has defeated Satan and spoiled his principalities and powers making a shew of them openly and triumphing over them. We thank You that You have given us, Your body, power over all the enemy (Lk. 10:19) and weapons that are not carnal or of the flesh but are mighty through You to the pulling down of strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4).

We bind the spirits of division (Mat. 12:25), discord (Prov. 6:19), confusion (I Cor. 14:33), strife (I Cor. 3:3, James 3:16), contention (Titus 3:9, Prov. 22:10, 13:10), and envy (I Tim. 6:4, Rom. 13:13) in the name of Jesus. We command them to loose (Mat. 18:18) themselves from the body of Christ and we render them helpless in the name of Jesus (Phil. 2:9, 10).

We ask You, Father, to work in us to be spiritually minded (Rom. 8:6) that we might discern and recognize the devices of Satan (2 Cor. 2:11). We pray for the body to be alert to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). We thank You that as the body stands and resists the devil he must flee (James 4:7).

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— PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH — MINISTRY

Renew our mind and help us to discipline ourselves according to Your Word in Phil. 4:8 to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, and have virtue or give praise.

Quicken the body of Christ to desire wise fellowship (2 Cor. 6:14, 12:20, I Tim. 6:20, 2 Thes. 3:6, I Cor. 5:11, 2 Tim. 2:16) and to desire for no corrupt communication to proceed out of our mouths but only that which is good and to the use of edifying and ministering grace to the hearer (Eph. 4:29-31). Quicken us to Your Word in Prov. 18:21 that death and life are in the power of our tongue. Bring conviction and repentance to the body that we might choose life and desire a lifestyle that pleases you (Ps. 50:23).

We pray for the body as Jesus did in Jn. 17:22 and 23 that we might be one, even as You are one. We pray for the body to be knit together in love (Col. 2:2,3), fitly joined together with every joint supplying (Eph. 4:16), being likeminded toward one another so that we may with one mind and one mouth glorify You and receive one another as Christ received us (Rom. 15:5-7, also pray I Peter 3:8,9).

We ask You to quicken the body to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25) and to continually devote ourselves to prayer, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost so that we might be multiplied (Acts 9:31b).

We thank You for the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace that's coming forth in the body of Christ (Eph. 4:3). We thank You that You are preparing us and equipping us to be Your army (Joel 2:1-11). That we will move in unity, marching every one on his ways, not breaking rank or thrusting one another but walking every one in his path (Joel 2:7,8) in obedience to Your voice (Joel 2:11).

We thank You that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the body of Christ (Mat. 16:18) and that You have given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:57). In Jesus name, amen!

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WEEK 43

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH — MINISTRY

In this devotion we will continue with praying for the church — the body of Christ in the area of ministry.

I Cor. 3:9 tells us we are all — men, women, teens, and children — laborers together with God. As we follow Christ's example (I Peter 2:21) we must remember that He came not to be ministered to but to minister (Mat. 20:28).

Our prayer for the body of Christ in the area of ministry will be for two areas. I Thes. 5:11 instructs us to comfort and edify one another, the believers. 2 Cor. 5:18 and 20 tells us we have been given the ministry of reconciliation — to win the lost to Christ.

We will again present scripture in prayer form for both areas. Your prayer might go something like this:

"Father, we thank You that according to I Cor. 3:9 we are laborers together with You. Quicken us to Your Word (Ps. 119:50) that we are to follow after Jesus who came not to be ministered unto but to minister.

We ask You to open the eyes of understanding (Eph. 4:18) of the body of Christ, fill us with Your compassion and love so that we'll desire to lay down our lives for others (Jn. 15:13) and be used of You to hold forth the Word of life (Phil. 2:16) — both to believers and to the lost.

We pray for Your will to be done in the body of Christ according to I Cor. 12:25 "That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another . . .".

We pray for the body to desire fellowship with one another (Heb. 10:25), to comfort ourselves together and edify one another according to I Thes. 5:11.

We thank You that the body of Christ has been given the tongue of the learned that we should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary according to Is. 50:4. We thank You that You are JEHOVAH — SHAMMAH, THE GOD WHO IS THERE, present always within us (I Jn. 4:4). You are our readiness to be instant in and out of season to reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine according to 2 Tim. 4:2.

We pray according to Is. 11:2-4 that the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord would be given to the body of Christ. That according to Ps. 37:30 we would speak forth wisdom. We pray for the body to warn and

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seriously advise them that are unruly, encourage the timid and fainthearted, help and give support to the weak souls being patient with all (I Thes. 5:14). We pray for the body to be obedient and speak forth the truth in love to one another that we may grow up into Christ in all things (Eph. 4:15). Give us boldness and courage to be obedient to Your Spirit prompting us to minister to one another.

We thank You, Father, that according to 2 Cor. 5:18 we have been given the ministry of reconciliation and according to 2 Cor. 3:6 we have been made able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter but of the spirit. We thank You that according to Luke 21:15 You have given us a mouth and wisdom which all our adversaries shall not be able to deny nor resist. We, the body of Christ, shall overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of our testimony for we love not our lives unto death (Rev. 12:11). We loose this Word to the body of Christ and pray it be quickened within us that Christ in us is willing and able to minister through us to others (I Cor. 1:5).

We pray for each member of the body to desire power by Your Spirit to witness in word and in deed (Acts 1:8). We pray for the body to be sent forth as You open the door (Col. 4:3) to preach everywhere, working with us and confirming Your Word with signs following according to Mark 16:20.

We ask You to raise up intercessors for the body of Christ and the lost who will yield to Your Spirit day or night and make intercession. We pray for the body to sense the urgency and redeem the time (Col. 4:5) through prayer, to become earnest and unwearied and steadfast in our prayer life, being both alert and intent in our praying with thanksgiving (Col. 4:2). In Jesus name, amen!"

Other scriptures to pray for the body of Christ in ministering to another are: Heb. 10:22-25, James 5:16, and I Cor. 14:26. In ministering to the lost you might also pray: I Cor. 2:4,5, Acts 6:10, and Eph. 6:19,20.

PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 44

PRAYER FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS

In the last three devotions we have presented scripture in prayer form for three major areas of spiritual growth for the church, the body of Christ: submission, unity, and ministry.

Now we want to spend some time giving you a start on scripture to pray for five other areas concerning the body of Christ. The Spirit of the Lord may direct your heart to pray for any one or more of these areas.

The first is for leadership in the church. Praying for your pastor and those in leadership positions is very important. Some scriptures to use would be: Jer. 3:15, Jer. 1:8,9, Eph. 4:11-15, Is. 11:2-4, Deut. 1:17, I Tim. 3:2-12, 2 Tim. 2:15, 21-24, I Cor. 2:4,5 and Prov. 3:1-8.

The second area is the youth of your church. Some good scriptures for this area are: Ex. 31:3, Col. 1:9-11, Heb. 13:21, Dan. 1:17, Ps. 1, Phil. 3:10, Eph. 3:16-19, Ps. 101 Amp., Ps. 68:5,6, and Prov. 1:2-5, 2:10-12, 4:1.

The third area is new believers — those who are babes in Christ. Just a few scriptures to get you started would be: I Peter 2:2, Col. 4:5, 12b, Ps. 92:12-15 Amp., 2 Peter 3:18, Col. 3:12-15, I Peter 1:14-16.

The fourth area is specific ministries or ministers to the body at large. This is the area that PETRA would fit. We would greatly appreciate a prayer commitment of five minutes daily, for we know and believe according to James 5:16 that the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much! Some scriptures for this area include: Mark 16:20, Col. 1:9-11, Phil. 2:2,3, 2 Thes. 1:11,12, 2 Cor. 13:14, Eph. 6:19, Titus 2:6-8, Jn. 8:47a and Rev. 3:6.

Finally, the fifth area and a very important one — backsliders. Scripture for this area would include: Ps. 107, Mat. 5:6, Rom. 12:1,2, Is. 29:24, Ez. 36:25,26, and Ps. 51.

When you are searching for scripture for these areas or any other a Strong's Concordance and a couple of different translations of the Bible, especially the Amplified, will greatly help you. Take a word related to the area you are praying for such as "righteous" or "holy" and look up the scriptures where the word is used. You'll be very interested in what God's Word says!

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WEEK 45

PRAYER FOR THE NATION — PART 1

In previous devotions we have learned to pray for all men. Now we will begin learning how to pray for those in authority. As we are faithful and obedient to I Tim. 2:1,2 God will be able to fulfill His promise to us "That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

There is a second benefit in obeying this scripture. Mat. 28:19 commands us to take the gospel to all the nations. America is doing just that. It's easy to see why Satan would try to oppose our nation — attack our government, schools, and families — any area of leadership and influence. If he can bring war, unrest, and division he can divert our activities of spreading the gospel. It is very important that we pray for our nation and those in authority.

A good example of intercessory prayer is that of Abraham's intercession for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in Gen. 18:20 thru 33. Abraham humbled himself (Gen. 18:27) and asked God to spare the cities for the sake of ten righteous within the city. According to 2 Chronicles 7:14 we can hold back judgement even on the unsaved so that they'll have more time to respond to the gospel. We, God's people, must humble ourselves and pray, seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways. And then God will hear in heaven, forgive our sin, and even heal our land. Jer. 29:11-14 tells us that God's thoughts toward us are those of peace, not evil. He desires to "turn away our captivity" and restore us to righteousness as a nation.

Our nation was founded upon belief and trust in God. Our currency reads "In God we trust." We are a godly nation that has turned and sinned before God. As Prayer Warriors and intercessors we will humble ourselves on behalf of our nation, confess our sin as a nation, seek God's face for mercy and forgiveness, and ask Him to restore uprightness in our nation as Daniel did in Daniel 9:5-19.

You might choose your prayer for the nation to go something like this:

"Father, in Jesus name, we give thanks for our country and our government. We thank You for our heritage and for the freedoms we have. We thank You for the grace and mercy You have extended toward America. We praise and thank You!

Father, Your Word promises in 2 Chron. 7:14 that if we will humble ourselves and pray, seek Your face and turn from our wicked ways, then You will hear from heaven, will forgive our sin, and will heal our land.

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Father, we desire to make intercession for our nation. We confess our sin and rebellion and ask You to have mercy upon us and forgive us.

We ask You to forgive our nation for being rebellious (I Sam.15:23, Is. 53:6), apathetic (Rev. 3:16, Eph. 4:19), for cursing Your name (Ex. 20:7), for being ignorant of Your Word and not setting our priorities aright (Mat. 6:33, Is. 29:13, 2 Tim. 3:5, Mat. 6:19-21, Mal. 3:10,11). We ask You to forgive our nation for being involved in sexual sins (Prov. 21:4, Eph. 2:3, Ex. 20:14, Mat. 5:28, Rom. 1:27, I Cor. 6:16) and allowing the exaltation of the flesh (Rom. 8:8, I Jn. 2:16).

We ask You to forgive us as a nation for having other gods (I Cor. 8:5,6 I Jn. 5:21, humanism (Rom. 8:7, Is. 53:6, Is. 47:10), greed (I Tim. 6:10, Prov. 1:19), pride (Prov. 21:4), and occultism (Is. 47:13,14, Deut. 18:9-12, Lev. 19:31, 20:6, Jer. 27:9). We ask You to forgive us for not being good stewards (Lk. 12:42) of what You have given us to use; natural resources and human resources — our families (Jn. 15:13, Deut. 6:6,7, Prov. 22:6), our unborn (Prov. 31:8, Is. 1:17), our elderly (Eph. 6:2), and the poor and needy (Job 24:4a, Prov. 3:27, James 4:17).

We ask You to forgive our country for being involved in allowing crime and corruption (Ex. 20:15,16) to be rampant.

We pray for our nation according to Ps. 51:1 thru 3 "Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness: according to the multitude of Your tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. For we acknowledge our transgressions; and our sin is ever before us."

We stand in agreement with Your Word in Mat. 18:18 and bind the Satanic powers of lust, pride, greed (I Jn. 2:16), rebellion (I Sam. 15:23, Is. 53:6) over our nation, in Jesus name!

We ask You, Father, to send forth Your angels in the heavenlies to do battle and bring deliverance from our adversary who would desire to devour us (I Peter 5:8, 2 Kings 6:17, Heb. 1:14). We pray for godly sorrow that worketh repentance to come forth in the hearts of our people and our leaders (2 Cor. 7:10)."

In the next devotion we'll continue with scripture to pray to our country's return to righteousness.

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WEEK 46

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION — PART 2

In the last devotion we began learning how to pray for those in authority by beginning with prayer for our nation. According to 2 Chron. 7:14 and Ez. 22:30 we began to intercede asking God's forgiveness and mercy. Now we will continue our prayer and seek God's face to turn our nation through repentance to desiring righteousness and what is pleasing to God.

Your prayer might go something like this:

"Father, we pray for our nation to "awake to righteousness, and sin not" (I Cor. 15:34). For according to Ps. 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." We pray for a great hunger and thirst for righteousness to come forth in this nation (Mat. 5:6) — a desire to get right with God.

We pray for Your Holy Spirit to open the eyes of understanding of our people (Eph. 1:18) that we might see what is happening to our country. We pray for our nation to humble itself before You for according to Prov. 16:18 pride goes before destruction and haughtiness before a fall.

Father, we desire uprightness in every area of influence in our society — government, church, home, judiciary, education, industry, commerce, arts, medicine, armed forces, media, sports, technology, voluntarism, and agriculture. For we know according to Prov. 14:34 "Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

We pray for humility and the fear of the Lord to come forth in our country. For according to Prov. 15:33 "Humility and reverence for the Lord will make us both wise and honored." We pray this that our nation might be a light (Mat. 5:14) to other nations.

We pray for the righteous to rise up out of their sleep (Rom. 13:11-14), to put on their strength (Is. 52:1-12 Amp.), and come forth as repairers of the breach (Is. 58:12). We thank you, Father, for those You are raising up, training, and preparing in righteousness for places of influence in our country (Ez. 36:25-38).

We thank You that the gospel is freely published and read in this country. We pray for ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to understand and be converted (Acts 28:27). We pray for our country to receive the "Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Rom. 8:15). We thank You that according to Rom. 8:35-38 nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God. For Your Word promises

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PRAYER FOR OUR NATION PART 2

in Job 22:30 You will deliver our nation for whom we intercede who is not innocent, through the cleanness of our hands. We thank You for Your Word which is true and Your faithfulness to it." In Jesus name, amen."

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 47

PRAYER FOR LEADERS

Our topic for the next two devotions will be learning to pray for our nation's leaders. In this devotion we will pray for those currently holding office and in the next devotion we'll pray for those who are or will be candidates for office.

In praying for our country's leaders Prayer Warriors must lay down our political mind (Rom. 8:7) and opinions (2 Cor. 10:5) and pray for the office the leader holds. It doesn't matter if you like the person or not. We are praying God's Word, His will for the ultimate good of our country and not for our favorite politician or leader.

In fact, when I Tim. 2:2 tells us to pray for those in authority it means all who are in authority: president, senators, congressmen, supreme court judges, governors, mayors — all those that hold government positions and even policemen. You could also pray for those in authority in areas of education and the media.

The scriptures we present in prayer form will be useful for any of these. The example prayer we give will be general, but you might want to substitute a specific office. Your prayer might go something like this:

"Father, we thank You for our leaders. We hold them up in prayer before You and thank You that according to Prov. 21:1 their hearts are in Your hand and Ps. 105:14 promises You will reprove them for our sake. We pray according to Ez. 36:25-27 that You will take the stony hearts and turn them to flesh. We thank You that Your Spirit is drawing them (Jn. 6:44) to Jesus. We pray for You to give our leaders the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You, that the eyes of their understanding be enlightened that they may know the hope of Your calling (Eph. 1:17-19). We agree that they be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, that they will walk worthy of You unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of You (Col. 1:9-11).

We pray according to Phil. 2:13 that You would work in them to will and to do Your good pleasure. We pray for a hunger to seek God to come forth in our leaders for Your Word promises in Prov. 28:5 "They that crave and seek the Lord understand justice fully." We pray according to Rom. 12:2 that they not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of their minds to Your Word, that they may prove what is good and acceptable, and Your perfect will.

:We pray for wisdom to enter into the hearts of our leaders, that knowledge, common sense, and keeping abreast of the facts (Prov. 24:3,4 LIV), would be

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PRAYER FOR LEADERS

pleasing to their souls. We pray for discretion to watch over them and understanding to help them discern good and evil (Prov. 2:10-15, I Kings 3:9).

We ask You to give them good consciences to be men of truth who hate lies (Prov. 13:5 LIV.), bribes, and dishonesty (Prov. 28:16 LIV.). We thank You that according to Prov. 11:3 their integrity will guide them.

We pray for our leaders to walk in wisdom, redeeming the time (Col. 4:5). We thank You that according to Prov. 11:27 those that seek good for our country will find favor. Thank You according to Prov. 16:17 LIV. "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Father, we thank You for our righteous leaders. We thank You that as they trust in You they will flourish (Prov. 11:28 LIV.) and continue in office (Prov. 22:12, 2:21, 29:14) giving stability to our nation (Prov. 29:4a LIV.). We ask You that they desire God's standard of justice to be raised up (Prov. 28:5 LIV.) and will desire to rebuke sin fearlessly (Prov. 24:25 LIV.).

Father, we pray according to Prov. 2:22 that the ungodly shall be rooted out of places of authority. We pray for Your Holy Spirit to expose corruption and bring cleansing according to Mark 4:22. We thank You that according to Prov. 21:30 LIV. "No one, regardless of how shrewd or well advised he is, can stand against the Lord."

We bind the spirits of pride and contention (Prov. 13:10), confusion (I Cor. 14:33), bribery (Amos 5:12), and selfishness (2 Peter 2:10) over the leaders of this nation and command them to loose their hold in Jesus name!

We thank You, Father, for the mighty work Your Spirit is doing in the leaders of our nation. We ask Your protection over them and their families (Ps. 91:11, Ps. 31:19,20). We ask You to bless them in every area of their lives. In Jesus name, amen.

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PRAYER FOR

ELECTION CANDIDATES

LISTING OF OFFICES TO PRAY FOR:

- President
- Vice President
- Supreme Court
- Governors
- State Representatives
- Senators
- Mayors & local officials

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 48

PRAYER FOR ELECTION CANDIDATES

In this devotion we conclude the topic of praying for those in authority with scriptures in prayer form for those who are or will be seeking office and will be candidates for upcoming elections. Now is the time to press in on prayer for our future leaders. We should earnestly pray (James 5:16b) for God's choice to be established in places of authority — not our own.

Your prayer might go something like this:

"Father, we thank You for the freedom we have in this country to run for election. We pray and petition You for Your will to be done in the upcoming elections for according to Rom. 13:1 ". . . there is no authority except from God and those that exist do so by God's appointment" (also Prov. 8:15, Dan. 2:21).

We entreat You to give us godly men and women. Those who meditate Your Word and according to Rom. 1:16 are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. Men and women who hunger and thirst after righteousness (Mat. 5:6), who seek first the kingdom of God (Mat. 6:33), and those who are God pleasers not men pleasers (Prov. 29:25, Gal. 1:10).

We thank You that they'll be men and women of good and attested character and repute, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, who will look after our government and our country (Acts 6:3).

We pray according to Ps. 101 that these men and women will behave wisely and give heed to the blameless way. That they will walk in integrity and with a blameless heart. That they will set no base or wicked thing before their eyes and they will hate the work of them who turn from the right path, it shall not come near them (also pray 2 Tim. 2:16, 21-26, Gal. 5:19-26) and they will know no evil person or thing. Whoever would slander his neighbor will be cut off from them and whoever has a haughty look and a proud or arrogant heart they will not tolerate. Their eyes shall look with favour upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell in office with them. Those who walk blamelessly will work and minister to them.

Anyone who works deceit shall not dwell in their house, and those that tell lies shall not continue in their presence (also Prov. 2:21,22, 13:13).

Morning after morning they will root up all the wicked in the land that all evil doers may be eliminated from our government. We loose this Word to those being called by God into places of authority in the name of Jesus. We thank You

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HOW TO PRAY INTERCESSION

according to Is. 55:11 that Your Word shall go forth and not return void, and it shall accomplish that which You please and prosper in the thing where it is sent.

We also thank You that according to Is. 52:12 and 13 these men and women shall not go out with haste but You would go before them and be their rear guard. We thank You that You open doors for these people that no man can shut (Rev. 3:8).

We pray for these people to be filled with Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding that they may walk worthy of You, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of You (Col. 1:9-11).

We thank You that they will speak with authority and wisdom (Lk. 21:15, Titus 2:8) and they will be encompassed with favor (Ps. 5:12). We thank You that according to 2 Cor. 9:8 You are able to make all grace abound toward them that they may have all sufficiency in all things and may abound to every good work.

We pray for You to give them Your vision or plan (Prov. 29:18, Acts 2:17, Hab. 2:2,3) to bring our nation back to godliness. We pray for men and women like Joshua who will go in and possess the land (Josh. 1:3,5-8) for according to Is. 54:17 "No weapon formed against these people shall prosper and every tongue that rises against them shall be shown wrong for this is the heritage of the servant of the Lord and their righteousness is of You. Hallelujah! In Jesus name, amen."

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PRAYER WARRIOR

WEEK 49

HOW TO FINISH INTERCESSION

As Prayer Warriors we have committed ourselves to learning how to pray and intercede. We have learned from Mat. 6:9 and 10 how Jesus taught the disciples to pray. From I Tim. 2:1 and 2 we learned who to pray and intercede for.

In this devotion we will learn how we are to end our prayer and intercession time. We will refer to both Old Testament and New Testament scriptures. Remember the Old Testament gives us the physical examples and the shadows of what was to come in the New Testament in the spiritual realm.

In earlier devotions we discussed the similarities of the physical battle to prayer. In the Old Testament victory came as a result of God's presence and participation. The same is true in the spiritual realm of the New Testament. Because Jesus has already defeated Satan and spoiled his principalities and powers (Col. 2:15), we already have the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:57). If we'll put on the full armour of God (Eph. 6:13-17) and stand on His Word which is settled in heaven (Ps. 119:89) we don't have to fight. James 4:7 tells us to submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Now let's look at what takes place after the physical battles of the Old Testament. 2 Sam. 6:12 tells us King David and his men came into the city rejoicing and praising God. In 2 Chron. 20:27 and 28 Jehoshaphat's army returned with joy and praise for their God.

When we finish our intercession and resisting the enemy in the spiritual realm we have cause to rejoice and praise God. For it is He who has given us the victory. In fact, Jesus taught his disciples to end their prayers in praise to God in Mat. 6:13 "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

If we will study their verse a little further we will see that we have even greater reason to praise God. We can praise God for His kingdom and for the fact that according to Lk. 12:32 He desires to give it to us! Luke 17:21 tells us the kingdom of God is within us!

We can praise God for His power and for the fact that according to Lk. 10:19 He has given us power over all the enemy through the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:8).

We can praise God for His glory and for the fact that He chooses to let His glory shine through us as He changes us from "glory to glory" (2 Cor. 3:18)

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conforming us to Christ's image (Rom. 8:29). His glory is risen upon us according to Is. 60:1!

Begin to meditate and think upon these things and you will find true praise rising up out of your spirit. This is how we are to end our intercession — in praise to God. He is the beginning and the end! (Rev. 22:13)

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WEEK 50

LEADING A PRAYER WARRIOR GROUP

We, in PETRA, want to thank you for being faithful in your determination to become a Prayer Warrior. We hope we have been helpful to you through these devotions.

Here are a few helpful hints if you happen to be a leader for a group of Prayer Warriors. I Cor. 14:40 instructs us to let all things be done decently and in order. As leader, you are in authority over the proceedings of prayer time. It is your responsibility to pray for that time of prayer to be effective, unhindered, and anointed of God. Then, on the time specified begin promptly with an explanation of the order of events. Leading the prayer of dedication with confession and cleansing of sin followed by putting on the armour of God is your responsibility.

Secondly, you should lead the group into God's presence with praise giving thanks for who God is to you followed by intercession. You as the leader should begin the prayer of intercession and then allow time for others to pray additional scripture. Encourage one another to find scripture and share. When intercession is over, you as the leader, should end in a time of praising God for all that He has done.

If anyone has personal prayer needs now is the time — not before intercession. If you allow it before your group may get into visiting or extended explanations and the time designated for intercession will slip away. After this is a time of sharing and talking.

The leadership of any group endeavor is very important. If you are willing to be used of God in this area He will supply the wisdom as you ask for it (James 1:5) and help you do it. If you are yielded to Him He will guide and lead you by His Word and His Spirit.

Have faith in God. Take Him at His Word. Each of us has a measure of faith to put into action (Rom. 12:3). The Bible tells us in Mat. 21:22 and in I Jn. 5:14,15 to be specific in prayer as Paul was. Using God's Word to pray is praying His will and that is life (Jn. 6:63) not vain repetitions.

As you pray, believe that you have received according to Mark 11:24. See through the "eye of faith" not looking to what we see, feel, or the circumstances involved. God is a BIG God and all things are possible with Him (Lk. 18:27). Things which are seen are subject to change! (2 Cor. 4:18).

Remember as you pray Jesus is making intercession for you (Rom. 8:34, Heb.

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7:25). As we pray in Jesus name and by His authority, having faith, our Father will always hear and answer. For according to Rom. 8:32 He will not refuse to give us what Jesus died for. Our God is a good God!

Jeremiah 50:22 says "A sound of battle is in the land, and of great destruction." BUT, our God is doing a mighty work in His people. He is raising up an army who will be strong in Him and in the power of His might. As Prayer Warriors "rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer." (Rom. 12:12) PRESS ON! PRESS ON! God bless you.

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