

Spiritual Warfare Series – Part 2

Six Seasons Of Prayer

Ephesians 6:18-20 KJV Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; [19] And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, [20] For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Galatians 6:9 KJV And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

I. INTRODUCTION—THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIFE

-Remember the words of the Lord to Peter. . .

Luke 22:31-32 KJV And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired *to have* you, that he may sift *you* as wheat: [32] But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

-For the next little while, I feel an urgency and pressing in the Spirit to continue to bring to your mind that you are in a spiritual battle that is never going to quit. There is no rest or relief from it as long as you are walking in this life.

-However, there is an importance in knowing the devices of the devil and the remedies that the Lord has provided for every saint of God who is involved in this battle.

2 Corinthians 2:11 KJV Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

-Last time, reminded you of the devices the devil uses, mainly the kinds and types of temptations in their seasons:

- **The First Season of Temptation** takes place immediately after conversion. . .
- **The Second Season of Temptation** takes place when the pain of life settles in on us. . .
- **The Third Season of Temptation** takes place when we are about to embark on some great victory. . .

- **The Fourth Season of Temptation** will take place when the devil puts objects near us that will cause us to fall. . .
- **The Fifth Season of Temptation** will take place after we have received the great grace and mercy of God. . .
- **The Sixth Season of Temptation** will take place when we are in the hour of death.

-So with that in mind, considering the devils devices, I now can point you to one of the remedies that the Lord has provided for every one of us in our hour of need—praying always with all prayer and supplication.

-Just as there are seasons of temptation, there are also seasons of prayer. But this prayer is not just any prayer—it is prayer that is mixed with fasting. Anytime someone decides to set aside a time of fasting to go with their praying, extraordinary spiritual things can take place.

II. THE SEASONS OF PRAYER

-We have to give ourselves to prayer. That means we will have to take time out of our busy schedules and set aside time for prayer. Because prayer is a discipline, it can be very challenging to determine make time for praying.

-We have to prevail over ourselves. It very well could be that there is a spiritual laziness that can settle in on us. We may also have to battle against a restlessness that does not allow us to get focused in our praying.

-Prayer can often do much for the encouragement of your own soul. If it takes making prayer lists, prayer cards, and even prayer guides that will help you pray more effectively—do it!

-But in the end, you have to prevail over:

- Laziness and lethargy.
- Restlessness.
- A weak spiritual life.
- The tendency to doubt.
- Carnality and worldliness.
- Personal situations and trials.
- People.
- The devil.

-All of these things prepare you to come into a place of prayer.

-Because we are in a spiritual battle, we must pray. Just as there are six seasons of temptation, there are also six seasons of prayer with neither of those

lists being exhaustive, you can search the Scriptures and find others to add to them.

A. In Seasons of Great Difficulty

- **The First Season of Prayer** is when you are in a season of great personal difficulty.

-This is probably the easiest motivation that we have to pray. It is very easy to give ourselves to prayer when we are having a set of difficult circumstances to deal with.

-More often than not in our Christian walk we are faced with mountains that will impede our progress.

Mark 11:22-24 KJV And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. **[23]** For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. **[24]** Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

-There are massive mountains that God can send to the sea.

- We have been called to repentance.
- We have been called to separate from the system of this world.
- We have been called bear our cross.
- We have been called to mortify our sins.
- We have been called to submit.
- We have been called to evangelize.

-Sometimes the most challenging mountains of all are the ones that rise within our own souls. But given time, faith, and a steady persistence there can be such power that comes through God that the strongholds can literally be pulled down and tossed into the sea.

-It is the seasons of difficulty that prayer must prevail in the Church.

-What about that difficult time that Esther had to contend with? She was entering the presence of the king without an invitation which could be a death sentence.

-Her people were already under a death sentence because of the actions of the sneaking Haman. Yet

she approaches the challenge of her life with a time of prayer and fasting.

-She determined that this was one time in her life that she could not hold her peace. She had to move her season of difficulty into an arena of prayer.

-Notice she does not go to God alone, she gathers the forces of others who are enlisted to a time of prayer and fasting for the health of her people.

Esther 4:16 KJV Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *is* not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

-Have you ever been there? Have you ever been in a season of difficulty that the only resort you could rely on was prayer?

In the book, *Bill Drost, The Pentecost*, by Mike and Lorna Wieteska (WAP), the story is told of Bill Drost's conversion. His father died when he was ten requiring him to immediately go to work in the coal mines in New Brunswick, Canada to support the family. His family had been religious

but his mother had been particularly opposed to Brother Drost getting involved with anyone who had received the Holy Ghost. In fact, she told him that the Holy Ghost was really the devil possessing people and if he went around them, the devil would “get him.”

However, time passed and there were several small meetings in the community called “Bible meetings” which were small groups where people would get together and discuss the Bible and pray. During these meetings, people were receiving the Holy Ghost. Brother Drost decided to go to one and his mother got furious about it and told him to never go back again that he was to never again go around those “Holy Rollers.”

The story is lengthy but after a while he kept hearing reports of what was going on out in the country. So one Sunday came along and in his heart he was so torn about what was taking place that he decided to go to another one of these Bible meetings. He got on his bicycle and rode 17 miles to the place where the service was taking place. The service was filled with the power of God and he saw numerous people getting the Holy Ghost. He was totally taken in by the work of the Spirit and it only increased his hunger for God.

He managed to get back home without his mother questioning him as to his whereabouts. But on Monday when he got home from work, his mother began to quiz him about the Sunday trip. He quietly confessed to where he had been and suddenly and so unexpectedly, his mother grabbed a broom and began to beat him with it. In the tussle, he fell to the floor and his mother continued to beat him despite the cries of his sister who wanted her to stop. All the while she was screaming at him that she would rather be dead than to live in the same house with Holy Rollers.

So shocked was he by all this that a deep discouragement settled in on him because his mother was “religious” and was a member of the “Go Preacher” movement who were against any kind of organized religious activities and church buildings. She took the Bible away from him and would not let him read it. So late at night, he would sneak a Bible into his room after she was asleep and read it under the covers with a flashlight. During a three month period, October through December, he read through the New Testament seventeen times!

There was a Pentecostal woman who lived down from him who managed to smuggle some notes to him concerning the Holy Ghost and he

would voraciously read them also during his late night Bible studies. This hunger led him to further prayer and greater desire.

Finally one afternoon he had been out praying behind his house in the pine trees when the Lord told him to go to the meeting tonight. It was New Year's Eve and he did not even know that there was a meeting on that night but he got up and went to his house and got ready. When he told his mother where he was going, she shouted that he would only go over her dead body but he took off around her, jumped the fence around the yard, and headed for the meeting. His mother stood out in the snow and screamed and yelled for him until finally some of the neighbors came out and told him that she should be quiet that no harm would come to Brother Drost.

On that night, Brother Drost got the Holy Ghost but not before he had to endure the "altar workers" who were pushing him, shoving him, patting him on the back, yelling in his ear, and so forth. He got so irritated about it that he finally started for the door. He was intercepted by the pastor who pleaded with him to come back one more time that these good people were in their simple way was just trying to help him.

Brother Drost came back and started praying again. Before it was over, it was 4 A.M. when he started home. His mother was waiting on him and demanded to know where he was and when he started trying to explain kindly where he had been the Holy Ghost came on him again and he began to speak with tongues in the house.

-When you are in a season of great difficulty, PRAY!!!

B. In Seasons of Great Darkness

- **The First Season of Prayer** is when you are in a season of great personal difficulty.
- **The Second Season of Prayer** is when you are in great darkness.

-We all have had to endure times when we were in the dark. No light could be found anywhere.

-The key to understanding what to do is to take an example from the godliness of Daniel.

Daniel 9:3 KJV And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

-Daniel was in the dark. He could not understand the very mysteries of God but that all changed when he began his appeal with prayer and fasting.

-Notice the vehicle that the answer came through:

Daniel 10:12-13 KJV Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. [13] But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

-And there are some who are still hesitant to believe that you are in a spiritual battle. . . I am encouraging you now more than ever before to keep the faith when you are in the dark and cannot see your way. Keep on praying and keep on fasting. . . God has a way with working it out!

-I encourage in going back and picking up that little prayer book that we all used prior to our missions trip to Romania. It is loaded with praying in such a way that empowers God to work in your life with the blessing and work of angels. *We don't pray to or worship angels but there are numerous events that took place in the Bible and in the Book of Acts*

that God used them to accomplish His will in the Kingdom. I also encourage you to understand that everything that has to do with angels and prayer has to be clearly backed up by Scripture or it is nothing more than pure fancy.

-But in that prayer guide, Brother and Sister Doughty used Scripture to identify seven divisions of angels that can help every apostolic, Spirit-filled church in our nation and world to fulfill the will of God.

- Mighty Angels—Exodus 33:2; Revelation 10:1
- Guardian Angels—Luke 22:43; Psalm 34:7
- Ministering Angels—Hebrews 1:14
- Elect Angels—Acts 12:11
- Archangels—Zechariah 1:13
- Cherubim—Genesis 3:24
- Seraphim—Revelation 22:16

C. In Seasons of Affliction

- **The First Season of Prayer** is when you are in a season of great personal difficulty.
- **The Second Season of Prayer** is when you are in great darkness.

- **The Third Season of Prayer** is during times of affliction either in body or spirit.

James 5:13 KJV Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

Psalms 18:6 KJV In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.

Psalms 116:3-6 KJV The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. [4] Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. [5] Gracious *is* the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God *is* merciful. [6] The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.

[2Ch_33:12-13; Job_33:26; Psa_18:6, Psa_50:15, Psa_91:15, Psa_116:3-5, Psa_118:5; Psa_142:1-3; Lam_3:55-56; Hos_6:1; Jon_2:2, Jon_2:7; Luk_22:44, Luk_23:42; Act_16:24-25; 2Co_12:7-10; Heb_5:7]

-When affliction and pain settles in on our lives there is a passion that pours out of our prayers! If

there is no passion and feeling in our prayers, little is accomplished.

William Gurnall—Cold prayers ever find cold welcome. . . God expects, and it hath always been the care of, holy men in their extraordinary applications to this duty of prayer, to wind up their affections to a pitch higher than ordinary, having the advantage of some special occasion to help.

-Look to the midnight and you find Jacob wrestling with God at Jabbok (Genesis 32:28). He was literally fighting for his life. He strained, he sweated, he twisted, he turned, and he fought in his place of prayer.

- Rachel wrestled (Gen. 30:8).
- Moses wrestled for the glory of God (Ex. 33:18).
- Hannah wrestled in prayer (1 Sam. 1:10-17).
- Jesus wrestled in prayer (Luke 22:44).
- The early Church wrestled in prayer (Acts 12:5).
- Paul wrestled in ministry (Col. 2:1).
- Epaphras wrestled in prayer (Col. 4:12).
- We wrestle (Eph. 6:10).

-But the greatest praying done in the place of affliction was that experienced by the Lord. His

agony was over the top, His affliction had a cold hard grip on Him, His praying was marked by sighing and crying.

-That is what we have to do when our world is literally heaving and falling to the ground, we have let our afflictions move us into a place of incredible strengthening prayer.

When Brother Drost was in Pembroke for military training, he would go on Saturday afternoons to the shooting range because no one was there. During those days all the other military boys would go into town and party, carouse and just do what sinners do. But Brother Drost would go out and pray and get direction from God. One afternoon he was praying and the Lord told him to go to the hospital in Pembroke. He did not even know where the hospital was in Pembroke since it was a large city.

He went back to the barracks and put on his dress uniform and managed to get a ride into town. When he got to the hospital, the nurses let him go to the ward where all of boys were but not really knowing what to do or say, he spent just a small amount of time before going down the hall. He did not go far until he saw a sign that said, "No Visitors Allowed" so he figured this might be where he

needed to go. As he walked down this hall he passed a door that was slightly open and heard a woman sobbing. She was at the bedside of a boy who was literally wrapped from head to toe in bandages. She was kneeling and praying desperately for this boy who appeared to be about 14 or so. Brother Drost felt a lot of compassion for this woman and quietly walked over and asked if he could help.

The lady asked him if he was Pentecostal and he told her that he was to which she began to cry even more telling him that she had been praying for the Lord to send someone to pray for her son. Brother Drost walked over to the bedside and laid his hands on the boy and prayed for him and immediately the boy opened his eyes and asked, "Mom, why are you crying? Jesus has put His hands on my head and I know I am going to be alright!" Brother Drost was amazed at the swiftness with which the healing had taken place and quietly slipped out of the room.

Three days later he returned to the hospital to check on the boy. When he inquired, one of the nurses asked if he was the soldier who had come and prayed for the boy and he told her that he was. She then told him that the boy had been run over

by a steam roller but had completely recovered much to the surprise of the physicians.

The physicians told Brother Drost that practically every bone in the boy's body had been broken and they had told the family that he would die. But only the Lord could do something to heal him. Brother Drost later met the family who lived in Coburg. He would often reflect how the Lord spoke to him on that day on the rifle range.

-It was a praying mother during a time of affliction that brought the Lord's healing. You never know what levers you are pulling that will move mountains when you pray during your pain!

D. In Seasons of Buffeting Temptation

- **The First Season of Prayer** is when you are in a season of great personal difficulty.
- **The Second Season of Prayer** is when you are in great darkness.
- **The Third Season of Prayer** is during times of affliction either in body or spirit.
- **The Fourth Season of Prayer** is when we are enduring the great buffetings of wicked temptations.

-We have to battle in prayer to overcome the weaknesses of our own flesh. Words like mortify, kill, and destroy leap to the mind in the consideration of fighting temptations of the world.

Romans 6:13 KJV Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

Romans 8:13 KJV For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Colossians 3:5-6 KJV Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: [6] For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

John Piper—Do you want to enter into life? Do you want to live? Get violent. Get a wartime mindset. Stop making peace with ears and eyes and tongues and hands and feet that betray you like Judas, and go over to the side of the enemy and become instruments of sin and make war on your soul. Put to death the deeds of your body.

-If you remember from Matthew 17:21 the Lord said that there are certain things and spirits that can only be cast out through the work of prayer and fasting. *This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. . .*

-This kind of praying will bring the power of God as it did to Samson so that you may pull down the devil's temple on his head.

E. In Seasons of Slippery Paths

- **The First Season of Prayer** is when you are in a season of great personal difficulty.
- **The Second Season of Prayer** is when you are in great darkness.
- **The Third Season of Prayer** is during times of affliction either in body or spirit.
- **The Fourth Season of Prayer** is when we are enduring the great buffetings of wicked temptations.
- **The Fifth Season of Prayer** is when you are on a slippery path.

Jude 24 KJV Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

-Never before has our society been in a time that we experienced such a state of sinful living both in and outside of the church. The pressure is on every one of us to quit and give in to what the devil longs to do in every one of our lives.

-But sinning times are a saint's praying times.

- **Ezra** with a heavy heart confessed the sin of his people (Ezra 9).
- **Jeremiah** wept in his soul for the pride of the nation (Jeremiah 13:17).

-There is great power that comes to us in our prayers that are marked by deep intercessory praying with tears. Tears have a way of prevailing through the coarseness of our heart and ushering repentance into our heart.

F. In Seasons of Great Faith

- **The First Season of Prayer** is when you are in a season of great personal difficulty.
- **The Second Season of Prayer** is when you are in great darkness.
- **The Third Season of Prayer** is during times of affliction either in body or spirit.
- **The Fourth Season of Prayer** is when we are enduring the great buffetings of wicked temptations.

- **The Fifth Season of Prayer** is when you are on a slippery path.
- **The Sixth Season of Prayer** is at the moment of great faith and spiritual accomplishment.

-This might be perhaps the most difficult time to pray—when you are high with faith and at the brink of seeing God do something mighty. How easy it is to forget God during those times that we are ecstatic with what is taking place in our personal lives or we are seeing some great revival about to take place.

- It was as the walls were just about to fall in Jericho that the Lord told them to shout.
- It was just about the time that Israel was to experience victory that Jehoshaphat's choir broke out.
- It was just about the time that David was about to take Goliath down that he shouted.

-Moments of victory require times of prayer and worship. When our faith is at its highest pitch there out to be prayer of exultation pouring out of our hearts!

III. CONCLUSION—HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO GO?

The great question in our walk with God—how far are we willing to go? At end of the World War II, Brother Drost was still in England when he determined to go and see the famous Smiths Wigglesworth, a plumber that God had greatly used in the area of healing. Brother Drost got a three day leave and went to Bradford to visit the town of Yorkshire.

After a bit, Wigglesworth's wife let him in. When Brother Drost reached out to shake Wigglesworth hand, he was immediately stopped by him and he was told to sit down and be at ease. The first question Wigglesworth confronted him with was who had sent him and then what are you going to do with your life? Brother Drost told him that he knew God had called him for a work in the ministry. Wigglesworth then with piercing eyes demanded to know, "Do you think God will call a man who has pride in his heart?"

Brother Drost replied that if he had pride in his heart he did not know it. That is the devil's job, to hide our pride Wigglesworth said. But I see pride in you because you are wearing a ring, "Pull it off now!" In Brother Drost's mind revelation exploded. The beautiful ring had been given to him in Holland and he had often thought how snappy

and cool he looked with it on. He had been proud watching the light glint off of it. Brother Drost was amazed and had no argument with Wigglesworth and flung it down before the man.

Immediately Wigglesworth began to speak in tongues, evenly and slowly the tongues came. Then the interpretation came:

God has spoken to you through a flaming vision. You will go to Columbia; you will witness for Jesus Christ—but remember: there are devils on the street; there are devils in the air; there are devils everywhere. Prepare to fight the devil himself—to fight against the powers of the devil, because not only will you find them out on the streets but you will find them among people you associate with as much, undoubtedly. You will find you have been with some people who you think are your friends but who are not your friends.

Then Wigglesworth looked at him with great compassion and began to pray for him. Brother Drost was unable to contain himself and sat back down in his seat for fear of falling down. Never before had he been so overpowered with the Spirit of prophecy. Wigglesworth sat down beside him and began to give him admonition and advice telling him that God had a wife for him and that

they would spread the Gospel to Columbia and beyond. But he strongly encouraged him to give himself to prayer.

-My take on this is that most of us would have been so offended by Wigglesworth that we probably would have gotten up and stomped out of the place.

-The American church in her fat sassy ways has gotten so worldly and filled with pride that we often cannot even recognize the voice of God. . .

- But if we ever get past our pride. . .
- If we ever get past our worldliness. . .
- If we ever get past our spiritual lethargy. . .
- If we ever get past our feeling for our rights.
..
- If we ever get past our lack of commitment.
..

-And just start praying. . . There is no telling what God would do with us. . . How far are you willing to go?