



Awakenings Prayer Institute
A Look At
Spiritual Warfare

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Let's Pray

1 Richard Foster. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home* (San Francisco, CA: HarpersSanFrancisco) 240-241.

2. Ibid., 230.

3 Ibid., 237.

4. Ibid., 242.



Ephesians 6:10-17 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰ Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

IN THE STRONG NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

I stand against the world, the flesh and the devil. I resist every force that would seek to distract me from my center in God. I reject the distorted concepts and ideas that make sin plausible and desirable. I oppose every attempt to keep me from knowing full fellowship with God.

Take a moment to reflect on this prayer and make it your own.

BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I speak directly to the thoughts, emotions, and desires of my heart and command you to find your satisfaction in the infinite variety of God's love rather than the bland diet of sin. I call upon the good, the true, and the beautiful to rise up within me and the evil to subside. I ask for an increase of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Take a moment to reflect on this prayer and make it your own.

BY THE AUTHORITY OF ALMIGHTY GOD

I tear down Satan's strongholds in my life, in the lives of those I love, and in the society in which I live. I take into myself the weapons of truth, righteousness, peace, salvation, the word of God, and prayer. I command every evil influence to leave; you have no right here and I allow you no point of entry. I ask for an increase of faith, hope, and love, so that, by the power of God, I can be a light set on a hill, causing truth and justice to flourish.

Take a moment to reflect on this prayer and make it your own.

These things I pray for the sake of him who loved me and gave himself for me. —Amen.⁴

A WORD OF CAUTION

Be careful with authoritative prayer. "It is one area that has been terribly abused and misused today."² Check your motives before doing this kind of prayer. Spend a few minutes praying over Psalm 139:23-24.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Exercising Christ's authority without his overwhelming compassion causes problems.³ Consider how the battle invites compassion in the following passages:

Matthew 9:36. | Matthew 14:14. | Matthew 20:34.

Luke 15:20. | Philippians 2:25-30.

But faith does not mean we get what we want. Faith means that no matter what, we never stop believing; we never lose our understanding of who the sovereign God is. This is war. While we know who the ultimate victor is, we also know that many will lose their lives. Read Hebrews 11:32-40.

A FORMIDABLE ARSENAL

"We should wait for the power of the Holy Spirit to increase, all of the time surrounding ourselves with the light of Christ and covering ourselves with the blood of Christ and sealing ourselves with the cross of Christ. In addition, many angels of God have been assigned to aid us in battle. We can ask God for help."³

"Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world." -1 John 4:4

"Those who are with us are more than those who are with them. And Elisha prayed, 'O Lord, open his eyes so he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." -2 Kings 6:16-17

Abraham pleads for Sodom. Read Genesis 18: 20-33.



Moses argues with God. Read Exodus 32:7-16.



Esther pleads for the Nation. Read Esther 4:1-17.



Jesus prays for another way. Read Matthew 26:36-46.



FOR THINE IS THE POWER

Jesus Prayed with authority. Read Mark 9:17-29.

²³ *Everything is possible for one who believes.*

²⁹ *This kind can come out only by prayer.*

The Twelve receive power. Read Luke 9:1-2.

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

The Seventy receive power. Read Luke 10:1-23.

⁹ *Heal the sick who are there and tell them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."*

¹⁶ *Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.*

¹⁷ *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."*

Believers everywhere receive power. Read John 14:6-14.

¹² *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

The Father gave authority to his Son. Read Ephesians 1:20-22.

That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet...

The Father sat us next to Jesus. Read Ephesians 2:6.

⁶ *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus...*

EXERCISING OUR AUTHORITY

Richard Foster writes in *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*: "Spiritual warfare is not something we talk about; it is something we do.

How do we do it? We do it by breaking all the destructive vows – both conscious and unconscious – that lie over the lives of people. Many have condemned themselves with inner vows of sickness and failure and death. Seeing these things and knowing that it is not good for people to be in such bondage, we speak the word of authority that breaks the curse. Some have curses lying over them from the generations that have gone before: the curse of alcoholism, the curse of mental illness, and more. Whether the curse is physical, emotional, or spiritual, we break it in the name and by the authority of Jesus.

How do we do it? We do it by taking authority over the sickness of mind and body and spirit. Sickness is an enemy, and we are to fight against it. We speak balance into phobic and neurotic personalities. We rebuke fevers and choke off the blood supply to cancer cells. We call for wholeness and well-being to come sweeping into the lives of people.

How do we do it? We do it by coming against every 'mountain' that hinders our progress in God. We command fears of all kinds to leave and never return. We stand against evil thoughts and suspicions and distortions of every kind. We bind the spirits of anger, jealousy and gossip and release the spirit of forgiveness and love and faith.

How do we do it? We do it by demon expulsion. Wherever we find forces of evil at work, we firmly demand that they leave. We are in charge not they. In the ministry of power we take authority over whatever is opposed to our life in the kingdom of God.

How do we do it? We do it by coming against all social evil and institutional injustice. We blow the trumpet against institutional structures that guarantee the poverty of the poor. We oppose unjust laws that demean and dehumanize those for whom Christ died. We work for laws of equity and justice. We give to the poor; we feed the hungry; we shelter the homeless."¹