

## **Battle Plan for Prayer: Prayer Ammunition**

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A father took his small son with him to town one day to run some errands. When lunch time arrived, the two of them went to a familiar diner for a sandwich. The father sat down on one of the stools at the counter and lifted the boy up to the seat beside him. They ordered lunch, and when the waiter brought the food, the father said, "Son, we'll just have a silent prayer today." Dad got through praying first and waited for the boy to finish his prayer, but he just sat with his head bowed for an unusually long time. When he finally looked up, his father asked him, "What in the world were you praying about all that time?" With the innocence and honesty of a child, he replied, "How do I know? It was a silent prayer."

We have been looking at the gift of prayer. We have been talking about prayer as a powerful weapon given to us by God to use in our battle against our sinful flesh, our sin-filled world, and the spiritual powers of evil around us.

We know that we are able to pray and approach the throne of God because of Jesus. Hebrews 4:14-16 reminds us: "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Jesus – High Priest – offered sacrifice on behalf of the people for their sins.

Jesus also was our greatest example of prayer. He often went off by himself to pray. He spent time with His heavenly Father. He prayed for others – the lost – His enemies – believers – disciples.

He gave us our greatest teaching on prayer. In Luke 11 the disciples asked Jesus; "Lord, teach us to pray." He then shared with us the prayer we always pray when we're together, The Lord's Prayer Then he taught us the importance of prayer in the following verses: And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For

everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

## **Power**

Jesus prayed regularly. He prayed often. He prayed fervently. And anytime anything happened, Jesus prayed. Perhaps our prayer is that we be so filled with the Holy Spirit that we learn to become pray-ers. That we learn to rely on prayer in the way Jesus did. That our very lives become living prayers, as we turn to Our Father in every circumstance of life. Fervently. Ceaselessly.

“And when you’re tired of fighting, chained by your control; there’s freedom in surrender – lay it down and let it go! So, when you’re on your knees and answers seem so far away, you’re not alone; stop holding on and just be held.”

“Your world’s not falling apart, it’s falling into place. I’m on the throne; stop holding on and just be held.” There’s power in the presence of Jesus.

## **Passion**

Martin Luther’s *Tabletalks* - speaking on prayer. When Luther's puppy happened to be at the table, he looked for a morsel from his master, and watched with open mouth and motionless eyes; he (Martin Luther) said, 'Oh, if I could only pray the way this dog watches the meat! All his thoughts are concentrated on the piece of meat. Otherwise he has no thought, wish or hope.'

## **Persistence**

Michael Jordan is probably the greatest basketball player in the history of the game, and at one time he was asked about the so-called secret of his success. And Mr. Jordan answered by saying; "I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I am so successful." Mr. Jordan tells us in plain English that the key to his success was persistence.

And as God’s prayer warriors in this world, he has not left us without tools, without ammunition for our prayer life. In the movie *War Room*, Clara had dedicated one of her closets to prayer. She called it her War Room. On the walls of that room she had pictures of people she was praying for, prayers she had written for herself and others, and Bible passage for all areas of her life. She would spend dedicated time in that room reading Scripture and praying.

One day she began mentoring Elizabeth, a young woman whose life and marriage was falling apart. Clara taught her to read Scripture, and pray, and commend all those she loved, and all to bring all those things she couldn't control, to God. As she consistently and persistently read God's Word and gave control over to God, her life and family changed forever. What she needed to do was "just be held."

### **The Word of God**

From book, "The Battle Plan for Prayer"

Prayer Strategy Verses for important people and different arenas in life

Spiritual Ammo – Verses to use when wrestling with various sins and issues

### **The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

Romans 5:6, 8 - For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Who do you need to pray for, that needs the love and saving grace of Jesus?