PRAYER and spiritual warfare

***Written By Tommy Romans March 2022***

This Newsletter is a sequel to last month’s newsletter. We are dealing with Spiritual Warfare - what we are up against and fighting in this last day right before Christ returns. Most of God’s church people do not understand the spirit world of Satan’s kingdom of Darkness and how it operates. They fall prey to it. So many Christians are hindered and fall victim to Satan’s mental and spiritual attacks. They are held back, hindered, bound down and live a defeated life. They cannot perceive the wiles and strategies of demon forces and how to deal with them. They do not recognize the Prince of the Power of the Air and its strong influence that’s all around them seeking to manipulate and control. You must remember, Spirits have voices, they are invisible entities, spirit beings with powerful influence. I don’t have to remind you, this is the end time and it’s all out war between God and Satan over the souls of mankind! Battles are raging in the heavenlies right now over your head and all around you between the forces of Good and Evil. The Devil wants you defeated and destroyed!

THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

 The Holy Ghost let me know as we entered this new year of 2022 that it would be a year of Spiritual Warfare - the year of the Dragon. It’s the year of Satan coming against God’s people, an onslaught from Hell – the Devil is throwing everything he can at the Church because he knows his time is short! I believe God’s presence will keep us in this closing hour. The gates of Hell shall not prevail against the Church. We stand on the verge of a great outpouring of the Holy Ghost - God’s Spirit and power in this last day! But it will not come without a fight! Our eyes must be opened to see what we are up against. It’s going to take intercessory prayer and pulling down strongholds and pressing our way into the Kingdom of God and taking it by force!! Satan does not want you to know your spiritual rights and authority in the Lord. Knowledge is power. Satan and every demonic power fears only one thing and that is THE WORD OF GOD! The Bible says in **Daniel 11:32** – But the people that do know their God, shall be strong, and do exploits.

**Exploits** is a military term of boldly going forth conquering and overcoming with victory!

PUTTING ON GOD’S WHOLE ARMOUR TO STAND AND OVERCOME

The apostle Paul said it so clear to the Ephesian church as he was ending his letter – **Eph. 6:10** – Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **11** – Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the Wiles (the seducing lies, cunning devices & evil strategies) of the devil. **12** – For we wrestle not against flesh and blood (our real battle is not with human beings) but we wrestle against **Principalities** (the main Principle spirits under Satan) against **Powers** (Delegated authority of demon spirits that answer to Satan) against the **Rulers** of the **Darkness** of this world and against spiritual wickedness in high places – (**Wicked Spirits** working in high places). **13** – Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. **14** - Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth, (The girdle of Truth which is God’s Word holds all the armour in place); and having on the Breastplate of righteousness; (The breastplate covers the chest area to protect your spiritual heart from the fiery darts to keep them from entering and piercing the inner man). **15** - And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; (by your feet you stand, you engage, you run and you go forth testifying and preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ) **16** - Above all, taking the Shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. **17** - And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (There are 5 defensive pieces of armour to protect and shield you from the enemy’s hits and assaults and there is 1 offensive piece of armor that you fight with – the razor sharp two-edged sword.) Notice very closely these words in the above scriptures: **Withstand** – **Stand** – **Wrestle** - **Take**. Have you ever seen a wrestling match? Two strong athlete’s wrestle. One will win, the other will lose! They are taught by their coach just the right moves and the timing on how to knock their opponent off their feet and pen him down that he cannot get up. They use EVERY BIT of their energy and strength to overcome their opponent, wear them down, knock them off their feet and pen them to win the match! This is the way your enemy works. He’s had a lot of practice through the ages and he knows all the moves and many have lost the battle because they were not aware of Satan’s tactics and not ready for warfare! Many ministries and precious souls lie in the dust today! Gifts, talents and callings lie silent!!

Finally, this last verse completing the instruction on the whole armour: **18** - **Praying** always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Do you really realize that PRAYER is what puts the Armour on and much prayer keeps it on? Now you know what you are up against and why you are struggling at times and seem to be fighting unseen forces and feelings! You know why you seem to be battling against a wall and can’t seem to break through? There’s just something there (unseen forces) holding you back?

WARFARE PRAYER –

PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

 Notice closely these words in verse **18** – Praying always, all Prayer, Supplication, and Perseverance! True Christian living is not for the faint in heart! This means to go before God, taking His Word and Promises and earnestly pleading to Him in Prayer. You keep pressing on and crying out in prayer till you pull down every spiritual Stronghold of the enemy and cast down every imagination until you get victory! This is where many of God’s people fall back and give up because they do not understand intercessory prayer. They do not know how to do battle in the heavenlies. Real prayer that gets answers is battle-ground. Sometimes when we do not see results and there is a delay does not mean that God is not hearing and won’t answer. You are up against Principalities and Powers of the air that is hindering and holding back your answer and victory.

 The Devil does not want you having anything good. He doesn’t want you praying the Spirit down, getting God’s touch and being blessed. He’ll throw every hindrance and roadblock he can to discourage you to quit and not pray. He’ll bring about situations, he'll use people and circumstances to hinder and stop you from getting close to the Lord and getting a breakthrough into the power of God and obtaining victory. Your battles and delays are not always because God is saying NO! There is something standing between you and the throne of God! There is a thick blanket of evil from the forces of darkness that you have to pray and pierce through. You have to pray through the carnal flesh barrier of all your carnal earthly feelings before you can ever break through the spiritual barrier. Once you conquer the flesh, you will then face the Principalities of the air, the spiritual darkness that hovers over your head pushing and weighing you down. This is your wall that you will have to break through. Only the Holy Ghost and the Word of God can get you through this barrier to get your answer and victory! Intercessory prayer is slinging off every earthly feeling and every voice and lie of the enemy!

DANIEL THE PROPHET’S BREAKTHOUGH

 Over 2500 years ago, Daniel the prophet had a vision and he saw our day. The Lord told him that knowledge would increase, the wicked will do wickedly and transgressors will come to the full and Satan will seek to wear out the saints of God. We are here! Daniel fasted and prayed for 3 whole full weeks asking God for an answer to show him the end times and what God’s people would face. God sent His mighty Messenger Angel, Gabriel down with an answer to give Daniel so he could write it down for us.

 The Devil does not want you to hear from God and have knowledge. He doesn’t want you receiving any answers to prayer!! He wants to keep you blinded and ignorant. If you get a breakthrough in the Lord, it spells his defeat. There is always a battle before victory! Guess when Daniel got his answer? The mighty angel Gabriel showed up 21 days later after Daniel fasted and prayed. Gabriel appeared to him and said to him: **Dan. 10:12** -O Daniel, a man greatly beloved – For from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, thy words were heard and I am come. But the Prince of the Kingdom of Persia (the powerful Principality spirit ruling in the heavenlies over Persia) withstood me. I had your answer – we fought, I battled this Principality to bring you the answer Daniel, and when I could not break through, Lo, God’s warring Angel Michael came to help me fight. We overcame him and I am come with your answer. O Daniel, fear not – peace be unto you – be strong! Listen to **verse 20** – Now will I return to fight with the Prince of Persia and when I am gone forth, Lo the Prince of Grecia (the strong Principality spirit ruling over the kingdom of Greece) shall come forth. I will show thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things but Michael your Prince.

You must know that ancient Persia is modern day Iran today. Iran is a heathenistic war fighting people steeped and seduced in the bloody Muslim religion. This is where Daniel was living when Gabriel broke through to visit him. Ancient Greece was ruled by the man Alexander the Great, who went forth conquering and to conquer other nations. Now you know and understand **who** and **what** it is ruling the nation’s leaders, instigating them to fight and war with one another. This goes beyond flesh and blood, it is the work of Principalities and powers! Now you know who is inspiring the dictator Putin of Russia to destroy, kill and maim the people of Ukraine and take their country. China’s emblem of their god is the great red dragon that is displayed everywhere in China today and they even dance in the streets to this big red dragon mascot, any coincidence? No! China is wanting to control and rule the world. It’s not Mr. Xi Jinping wanting to rule all of mankind with communism – it’s Satan and his Wicked Spirits in High places seeking dominion! These are very powerful demonic spirits operating in the heavenlies all around us over our heads, instigating, lying, seducing and controlling the souls of men! Our whole world is in conflict right now, threats, wars and rumors of wars – nations moving their missiles into place, leaders chanting for control! This is the end time battle between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan. This warfare is between Heaven and Hell. Where do you stand dear reader? Whose side are you on? Are you prayed up and ready for Jesus to come and get us out of here and take us home? He’s coming SOON!

THE POWER OF PRAYER

 Do you fully know and understand now what real true Prayer is? It is the soul’s blood, your lifeline to Heaven, your connection to God’s throne of Grace. This was the early churches secret to overcoming power and victory. They were pressed to pray. Great grace was upon the saints in the Book of Acts because they knew how to **Persevere** in prayer! Prayer will keep you alive in troublesome times. It gives you fortitude and stability in your trials. The enemy of your soul hates prayer, he doesn’t want you praying and he will seek any means to sever that communication line between you and God. If you don’t have a dedicated prayer life and daily communion with God in His Word, you will lose heart and will not be able to stand in the coming days if Jesus tarries. Prayer is to the soul what food is to the body – it sustains and strengthens and it will hold you up in your hard times of difficulty and trial.

**James 5:16** - The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. The original Greek reads: “The earnest, heartfelt, continuous prayer of a righteous man will accomplish and bring to pass many things!”

 Many of us are alive today because we prayed! We have gotten answers in our life when we didn’t know which way to go or what to do. The Lord has brought us through hard rough times because we learned to Pray and get ahold of God.

Come on Noah Webster, tell us what real Prayer is! Noah Webster’s 1828 edition dictionary says: Prayer means to ask God for with earnestness and zeal. To pour forth sounds and words from the heart! Real prayer is not quiet or silent – it groans from within, deep in the soul till it gets stronger and stronger and works its way out of your mouth in a cry to God!! The definition goes on to say – Prayer is to pour out words to God as water is poured out in a violent rain! God wants us to know and understand in the natural, that when it rains, it starts out sprinkling a few drops at a time, but it increases more and more until it becomes a gushing rain – this is real Praying that gets God and Heaven’s attention and obtains results. Victory comes in this manner. God will only answer the earnest, heartfelt prayer of the Seeker who is hungry, thirsty and desperate for God and His Spirit!

 How hungry and desperate are we in this dark trying hour? God’s people and the Church needs a breakthrough! When we pray little, we receive little. We are entering a time that there must be more intense Praying! Small, quiet and on the go meditative prayers will not be enough for us to endure and overcome. You must have the Holy Ghost working in you daily. Noah Webster said – True Prayer is not passive, it’s not light and weak, it’s not ashamed to let its voice be heard. It’s not melancholy and without life. It’s an inward fire and zeal that others will see and feel. Hell CANNOT stop a Praying Saint! The Devil cannot defeat or destroy a man or woman who prays. Hell cringes, demons flee when the Church comes together in unity and cries aloud to God in prayer. It’s time to utter your words of prayer, fill the air and your room with them and your enemy will leave! Satan is afraid of spoken words from heartfelt prayer to God. Use God’s Holy Word in your prayers. Pray the scriptures out loud and the chains that were binding you and holding you down will be broken. The Holy Ghost will come in this type of Praying. Every battle is won in Prayer before you ever go on the battlefield. It’s on your knees that you pull down the strongholds!

A DESPERATE PERSISTENT WOMAN

Do you know what Persistence means? (It means to Continue on beyond the usual period of time without changing or quitting. It’s not letting up despite the hindrances.) In other words, if my answer doesn’t come immediately when I expect it, I’ll not quit praying till I get a breakthrough! Let’s look at this woman Jesus tells us about in:

**Luke 18:1** - And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men Ought (Must) always to Pray, and not to faint; (He is telling us – the point of the whole matter is that we must Pray. Your survival & victory depends on it. If you are going to endure and make it in this last day, then it will depend on your praying. A lot of people have given up right before their answer and victory came.)

 **V2** Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: (That sounds like the Devil to me. He sits in power as a judge and passes out sentences on people, with no mercy. He cares not for the poor and needy. He cares not for God’s people.)

 **V3** – says - And there was a Widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. (This poor widow no doubt was all alone. I have no-one to assist me. I am struggling in this situation and I need help! Sir, I’ve got an enemy who is dogging me. He’s hounding me day and night. He’s speaking awful things to me, it has taken away my peace; I’m troubled and afraid! I’m threatened by the enemy’s voice, he’s accusing me and I can’t rest sir! Mr. Judge, would you please have mercy and help me, I’m tired of the Devil, I’ve fought this battle long enough!)

 Why did Jesus speak this Parable and have it written for us? Because He knew that everyone of us are going to face these times and go through it! The **Warfare** of the Church in this last day is very real and we are going to have to have a Persistent Faith, Desire and fortitude like this woman. We battle Principalities and Powers. We are up against Wicked spirits in high places, Powers of the Air all around us that are so strong they’re almost tangible – you can feel their evil impulses. We fight against the Rulers of the Darkness of this world. These forces we wrestle against are very real. They seem at times to hover over you like a heavy blanket. They have voices that are speaking to God’s people. They are present to Resist your prayers. They want to take Faith out of you – show you the negative, tell you what’s the use, you’re not doing any good. They come to resist you so you’ll get tired of the battle and weary from the struggle. They’ll hit you in the morning, hound you through the day. You take your problems to bed with you and wool them in your mind till you get sick of the whole situation and want out of it. But the saddest and scariest part is – People will not take it to God and Pray it through. They won’t pray till they get a break-through.

Child of God, you’re going to have to battle right where you are! Your answer is right where it’s always been before – down on your knees before God, the Good Judge of Mercy! He still cares and answers the Persistent Prayers of the Righteous. Don’t get discouraged by delays. Jesus is saying – Don’t let up, this Woman didn’t and she got her answer! **V4** – in this Parable Jesus goes on to say - And he (the unjust Judge) would not (answer her) for a while: but **afterward** he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; **V5** – yet Because this Woman TROUBLETH me, I will Avenge her lest by her continual coming she weary me. (What is Jesus saying here?) Notice the words for a While and Afterward! This Woman’s desperate need and persistence paid off. By this Greek word for Troubleth, the judge was saying, “This Woman keeps coming back till she has Pulled all my attention to her. She’s constantly knocking at my door reaching forth. When I’m on other cases it’s her ringing my phone – she keeps coming, she keeps asking until she has now got all my attention! Yes, I will grant her petition so she’ll go on her way happy with the answer she’s earnestly desired!” Jesus is saying – the unjust judge had to focus on that Persistent Soul. Woman, I will settle it for you and take care of your enemy! Jesus continues in **V6** - And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. **V7** - And shall not God avenge His own elect, which **Cry** day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them? **V8** - I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?

 What are you saying in this Parable Lord? Don’t lose Faith now dear Child. You have strived and labored, don’t be weary and faint. Your service for me is not in vain. Though you have struggled, I have seen the desire of your Heart to live for me. Yes, there’s been times you were weak but it was never in your heart to surrender or ever give up and turn back. You kept pressing, you kept Praying and believing and trusting me. I have heard your cries and seen your tears. I’m going to work it out for you this time too! I look into the Soul, I know the longing and see your desire for me and for Heaven…… I will give you victory and I’ll fight your battle!

 What strikes me about this Parable Jesus gave, the Lord made it plain that this Woman KNEW and had the Faith that that Judge had her answer and would help her! That’s the reason she KEPT COMING BACK! My God can help me and I know He will help me; Dear Lord, you’ve got my answer and what I need - therefore I’m not giving up! A Persevering Faith and Prayer still touches God and moves mountains. It will Save, Heal, Deliver! It will drive out devils and get rid of the enemy that is tormenting you. God Loves us, and He wants to know if you are determined to love and serve Him!

 In ending, We are living in the closing moments of time right before Jesus returns. It is a critical time but GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN His Church and people!! Be like Daniel – his answer was hindered from coming for a while by Satan’s evil powers but he kept right on praying and believing till there was a breakthrough! Be like this persistent woman in **Luke 18** who was so desperate for God’s help that she would not give up and God moved! ***GOD BLESS YOU ALL!***