The Weapons of our Warfare

"USE IT OR LOSE IT"

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PRAYER CONFERENCE 2012
SEDLEY E. JOHNSON, SR

“Use It or Lose It”

- 2 Corinthians 10:4
- Ephesians 6:12

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For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds

Ephesians 6:12

For 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.

“Strongholds”

- What are strongholds?
- Paul describes the spiritual warfare in terms of “strongholds.” **2 Corinthians 10:4**
- “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **strong holds**”

Ephesians 6:12

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Generational Sin

- "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, **visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation** of them that hate Me" Exodus 20:5

Sin by nature and by habit

"The heart is deceitful above all things,
and **desperately wicked**: who can know it?"
Jeremiah 17:9

The Supernatural Nature of the Struggle

We are called to wrestle against the carnal nature:

- List
- Pride
- Addiction
- Evil Influences
- Sexual Improprieties
- Strife and War in the Home and World
- Economic Conditions – Financial Stress
- Selfishness

We are called to wrestle against the carnal nature:

- Greed
- Arrogance
- Pride
- Blasphemy
- Disrespect
- Unappreciative
- Unconsecrated
- Unholy
- Unthankful

We are called to wrestle against the carnal nature:

- Pride, addictions…

2 Timothy 3:1-5

[1]This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

[2]For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Timothy 3:1-5

[3]Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

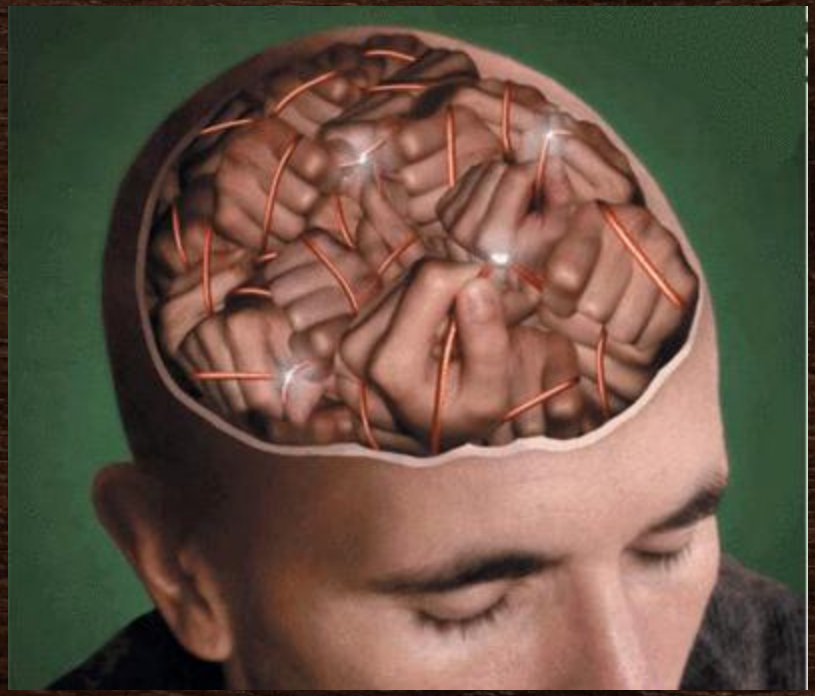
2 Timothy 3:1-5

[4]Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

[5]Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Immorality, it’s NOT OK!

Turning a blind eye to sin.



Ephesians 6:17-18

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Main Weapons

- **Word of God** and **Prayer**!
- These two weapons function in the realm of the supernatural

Pen of Inspiration

- “The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin; and it is all because they do not make use of the privileges that God has given them in the divine appointment of prayer. Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?” SC 95, 95

Pen of Inspiration

- “Oh, how is the precious privilege of prayer neglected! . . . Prayer is the strength of the Christian.” My Life Today 163

Pen of Inspiration

"In too many households prayer is neglected." PP 143

"It is impossible for the soul to flourish while prayer is neglected." *Our Father Cares,* pp. 214, 215

"It is Satan's studied plan to make the workers weak in prayer, weak in power, and weak in influence, because of their defects of character." Testimonies for the Church Volume 5, Page 592

Pen of Inspiration

“We do not value the power and efficacy of prayer as we should. Prayer and faith will do what no power on earth can accomplish.”—The Ministry of Healing, 509

“If you want power you may have it; it is waiting your draft upon it. Only believe in God, take Him at His word, act by faith, and blessings will come.”—Testimonies for the Church 4:539”

Pen of Inspiration

"Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Wellspring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience. Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, and you lose your hold on God. The spiritual faculties lose their vitality, the religious experience lacks health and vigor."—Messages to Young People, 249, 250

Pen of Inspiration

“Power will come from God to man in answer to the prayer of faith.”—Testimonies for the Church 4:402

“True faith and true prayer—how strong they are! They are as two arms by which the human suppliant lays hold upon the power of Infinite Love.”—Gospel Workers, 259

Pen of Inspiration

“The adversary seeks continually to obstruct the way to the mercy-seat, that we may not by earnest supplication and faith obtain grace and power to resist temptation.”—Steps to Christ, 95

Pen of Inspiration

“Temptations often appear irresistible because, through the neglect of prayer and the study of the Bible, the tempted one can not readily remember God’s promises and meet Satan with the Scripture weapons. But angels are round about those who are willing to be taught in divine things; and in the time of great necessity, they will bring to their remembrance the very truths which are needed.”—The Great Controversy, 600

Principalities, powers, spiritual wickedness in high places

Spiritual Wickedness?

- Define spiritual wickedness in high places?

[1]Word of God and [2]Prayer!

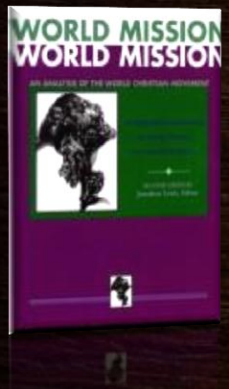
[1]Word of God and [2]Prayer!

- How does it work?

- I can't explain…
- Cooperation with the divine!

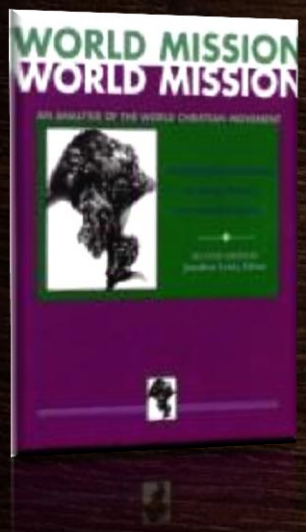
Our Prayer Arrows

Author, Lewis: "Our prayers are the arrows which can be launched at the enemy near and far. Our prayers are able to enter into the realm of the supernatural and deliver people from the grip of supernatural forces. Before we can experience deliverance in the natural realm we must first obtain victory in the supernatural realm. Through intercessory prayer for others and for ourselves we are to pull down strongholds in the realm of the supernatural. Anywhere God can reach, our prayers can reach."



Prayer and Bible Study

"No strategic plan for evangelism can succeed without them. The Word is a sword, and our prayers are arrows which can be launched at the enemy near and far."



2 Chronicles 20:15

And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

Intercessory Prayer

Prayer is primarily about God changing us rather than us informing God.

Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory prayer allows us to face our challenges with confidence in God's power to be victorious in battle.

Our Confidence

- Not in prayer
- But in the God we are praying to

While we wait…

- When we interceded with God it helps us to wait quietly on the Lord.
- It's not in the running but in the trusting we find the strength of the Lord!
- When we intercede it takes away the doubt while we wait for divine intervention.
- "Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10
- When you can't trace His hand trust His heart!

Stand still

"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." **Ephesians 6:13**

"Though He slay me, yet will I **trust** in Him…" **Job 13:15**

Philippians 5:17 “pray without ceasing”

- Debt
- Drugs
- Family problems
- Church politics
- Greed
- Immoral behaviors
- Racial tensions
- Poverty

Prayer and God’s words are the Christians offensive weapons for dealing with our challenges!