



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

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Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission to the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 16 : "Prayer evangelism" - Spiritual Warfare and Prayer Evangelism - part one - preparation for war.

2Co 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Purpose of this workshop: To look at spiritual warfare as being exercised through the power of cooperate prayer.

Intended Goal: To understand the believer's responsibility in spiritual warfare - extending the Kingdom of God.

Scripture readings :

Matthew 16:18-19 *And I say also unto thee, **That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.** And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

John 8:31-36 *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.***

1John 5:3-5 *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that*

overcometh the world, even our faith. **Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

1 Timothy 6:12-13 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. **I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;**

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, **and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.** And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Ephesians 4:11-24 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:** That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. **This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:** Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Romans 15:5-7 Now the God of patience and consolation **grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Food for thought :

In considering the words of Paul concerning the war we wage **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, **and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;** we can conclude the following concerning the war we wage :

- We do not war after the flesh, **we war in the Spirit - thus spiritual warfare.**
- **Weapons of our warfare are mighty in God** to pulldown strong holds.
- **The objective is to bring every thought into obedience to Christ.**

Based on the above mentioned we learn from James 1:14 the strategy of the enemy "*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*" enticed means to be **entrap**, that is, (figuratively) delude: - allure, beguile, entice. Eve said unto God that the snake beguile her to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Sin came into the world on the basis that **the enemy succeeded in enticing Eve to listen to him rather than to God. Sin is the result of being disobedient to God as we (Eve) allow ourselves to be deceived against the knowledge of God.**

We can therefore conclude that **the object of this warfare** is still the same as it was from the beginning of creation, **THE BATTLE OF SUBMISSION - OBEDIENCE TO GOD.** For the enemy know that submission to God, will result in his defeat. As we read in the Bible in James 4:7 "submit to God, resist the enemy and he will flee".

In the garden of Getshemane, a battle was waged. **Jesus, in His submission unto the Father, saying "not My will be done, but Thy will be done", won the battle!** The victory was only concluded and fulfilled on the cross, but based on faith in the knowledge of God

In the natural army, the first thing a soldier needs to learn is to obey without questioning as he submit to the orders of his superior officers. The reason being that the General do not release the operational plan to the individual soldiers, but the officer in charge. In order for the plan to succeed it is required that every soldier will submit to the orders of his superior in unquestionable obedience. Also the General will only release to the officer in charge on a need to know basis. Today there is a tendency to want to know more about the enemy and his cohorts, but in considering the Bible it is clear that **Jesus defeated the enemy based on His righteousness (walking in obedience to God) in the knowledge of His Father and His Father's righteousness, not based on His knowledge of the enemy.** Consider when the enemy tempted Jesus in the wilderness.

When we consider James 1:5-7 *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.* Asking in faith is key in our victory, and faith is based on the knowledge of Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God, the substance upon which we build in faith. Like a soldier would rely on his training and his weapons of warfare, likewise as Paul said **(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.** In Spiritual Warfare we rely on the knowledge of God our Father and Jesus Christ His only Son, as we practice our faith as the Bible said in *Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.* Without the knowledge of God we cannot defeat the enemy even if we know everything about the enemy.

The believers objective in spiritual warfare is therefore to bring every thought in submission to God and His authority, resisting the enemy in the knowledge of God so that he can flee and the Kingdom of God can be established in the hearts and thoughts of the people God so loved.

True stories :

*Judges 6:1:31 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds. And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it. And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD. And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice. And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the LORD looked upon him, and said, **Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?** And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me. Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again. And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it. And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight. And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down. Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's*

household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night. And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built. And they said one to another, *Who hath done this thing?* And when they enquired and asked, they said, *Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.* Then the men of the city said unto Joash, *Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.* And Joash said unto all that stood against him, *Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.*

God's authority :

1Samuel 5:2-7 When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, **Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD.** And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. And when they arose early on the morrow morning, **behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him.** Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day. But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof. And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, **The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god.**

1Samuel 17:44-45 And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: **but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.**

James 1:5-7 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: **for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

Jeremiah 18:8-11 If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it. If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them. Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, **Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.**

1John 5:12-16 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the

*confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. **If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.***

2Chronicles 7:12-15 *And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; **If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.** Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.*

Isaiah 56:7-8 *Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; **FOR MINE HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE. The Lord GOD which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.***

2Peter 1:19 *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, **until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:***

Conclusion :

Based on the story of Gideon, we can conclude that **spiritual warfare is to prepare a way for the people to come unto God, to gather the harvest what the enemy has stolen.** On the basis of the mentioned the Lord showed us that **spiritual warfare is not to battle the enemy but to increase God's presence within a community by rebuilding an altar to the glory of God, as a community come together in faith,** proclaiming openly in whom they trust, lifting a standard to follow as in Isaiah 62:10.

Gideon had to blow on the shofar to let the enemy know that they are there, and then they broke the clay jar so that the light could shine and be revealed unto the enemy. **We are the clay jar and when we come together in unity we acknowledge that we are nothing but in Christ we are victorious.** This is true spiritual warfare, that we show ourselves in the presence of the enemy in trusting in God. As we allow the light that is within us to shine, we proclaim as in **2Peter 1:19** *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:* For as the light shine into the darkness the treasure that have been hid or blinded by the enemy is revealed.

Elijah, did not fight the enemy, he just showed the God in whom he trusted, and so defeated the enemy. Jonathan (1 Samuel 14) just placed his trust in God, in the knowledge that God can secure a victory, by many or by few.

But before we can do accordingly we need to consider what God said unto Gideon. **First he was called to breakdown the altar of baal**, and there after to rebuild a new altar to the glory of God, likewise Elijah rebuild the altar of God in the presence of the people, and God revealed Himself.

Preparing for war, starts with breaking down the baal altars that is evil in the sight of God, then to rebuilding the altar of God, as we place our trust in Him. The breaking down of the baal altars and rebuilding of the altar to the glory of God, does not require a whole community but can be a representative of the community, as Gideon.

In breaking down we as representatives need to repent on behalf of the community for the sins of the community before God. Then only can we build an altar to the glory of God, a spiritual dwelling place for God were His glory can manifest. The priest had to bring a daily sacrifice before God, likewise should we present ourselves as a daily living sacrifice before God. *Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

After the repentance, could Gideon mobilize the army, likewise can we mobilize the army to stand against the enemy, only after acknowledging our own disobedience and consequent repentance.

Consider, Dagon that fell in the presence God. There were no fight, the mere presence of God and His holiness, made the enemy bow before Him. God is supreme we just need to enforce His holiness.

Questions to be answered :

1. What is the objective of spiritual warfare?
2. Who deceives us, and for what purpose?
3. Where were the victory of the cross concluded?
4. What is the purpose of spiritual warfare?
5. What is the first act in preparation for war?