

Prayer Service For Convention

March 2, 2005

Ephes. 6:10-20 (NKJV)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. [13] Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [14] Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, [15] and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [16] above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. [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, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- [19] and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,** [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Tonight we are going to do something that we normally do not do on Wednesday night. Instead of having a Bible lesson from the Gospel of John, I am going to talk to you for a few minutes about the necessity and power of prayer and then we are going to spend the rest of the time tonight praying for the Pastors/Missionaries' Convention that begins this Sunday.

First of all, I want to remind you that there is a battle going on between the forces of good and the forces of evil....between the Kingdom of Light and the Kingdom of Satan. You and I are part of the Kingdom of Light. When we were born-again by the power of God, we were taken out of the Kingdom of Darkness and put into the Kingdom of light.

Col. 1:9-14 (NKJV)

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; [10] that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; [11] strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; [12] giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. [13] He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, [14] in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Notice that the Apostle Paul said that he prayed for these people continually. And also notice that he said that they had been delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom Christ.

Make no mistake about it, there is a war going on between the Kingdom of Darkness and the Kingdom of Light. Satan will do whatever he can to hinder the move of God at our convention.

I asked a man to come to our convention the other day and he said, “My neighbor has entered a chicken in the Fat Stock Show and we will be there with her. I thought to myself, “You mean you are going to be there with your neighbor for four days watching her chicken and that is more important to you than coming and hearing the Word of God being preacher by some of the great preachers of our day?” Something is wrong with that kind of thinking.

The truth is, Satan will cause all kinds of things to keep people from coming to this convention. That’s one reason why we must pray. We need to bring our thoughts into line with the Word of God! Paul said,

Ephes. 6:12 (NKJV)

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephes. 6:12 (Living)

For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies--the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.

The picture is that of a highly organized kingdom with descending orders of authority which are responsible for different areas of their territories.

Paul compares our struggle with a wrestling match. A wrestling match is the most intense form of conflict between two persons. It is a total conflict.

2 Cor. 10:3 (NKJV)

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

Notice Paul says that even though we are living in the flesh and engaged in a war, the war is not fought with conventional weapons such as guns and tanks and bombs.

2 Cor. 10:4-5 (NKJV)

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, [5] casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

The warfare is in the spiritual realm; therefore, the weapons are spiritual weapons.

The Bible reveals four main spiritual weapons of attack. They are: prayer, praise, preaching, and testimony.

Tonight, I want to talk about the weapon of prayer. Of course there are many different aspects to prayer. After Paul listed the six items of defensive armor in Ephesians, chapter 6: (1) Belt of truth, (2) breastplate of righteousness, (3) sandals of the gospel of peace, (4) sheild of faith, (5) helmet of salvation, (6) sword of the Spirit, he said....

Ephes. 6:18 (NKJV)

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

He goes immediately from the defensive armor to the greatest weapon of attack which is prayer.

Think of prayer as an intercontinental ballistic missile. An intercontinental ballistic missile is a missile that is launched from one continent and destroys a target in a completely different continent

Prayer is like that missile. With prayer, we can assail Satan's strongholds anywhere, even in the heavenlies! Jesus said.....

Matthew 16:19 (NKJV)

And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

We have a powerful weapon. It is called prayer. We're going to use it tonight.

We are going to pray for all of the ministers who are coming to speak at our convention. Then, we are going to pray for all of the ministers and their wives who are coming to the convention. We are going to pray for ourselves that God will anoint us and use us to be a blessing to those who come. And finally, we are going to anoint the chairs and the building and the musical instruments and everything else with oil like the did in the Old Testament when they anointed the tabernacle.

Exodus 40:9-16 (NKJV)

And you shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it; and you shall hallow it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy. [10] You shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy. [11] And you shall anoint the laver and its base, and consecrate it. [12] Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water. [13] You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. [14] And you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics. [15] You shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations." [16] Thus Moses did; according to all that the Lord had commanded him, so he did.