

**GETHSEMANE PRAYER SCHOOL
NIGERIA**

**PRAYER
SCHOOL
LECTURES**

(Special Prayer Course)

CODE: GPS -SPC-02

Topic:

Dealing With
STRATEGIC TARGETS
In
Spiritual Warfare

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INTRODUCTION

Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight. (Psalm 144:1)

God is a good coach in warfare. No one who graduates from God's war college can ever be beaten by the devil.

Those who walk with Him cannot but be warriors and train other warriors.

Abraham was a friend of God. In Genesis 14:14-16, we read that "What Abraham heard that his brother's son Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

He divided his forces against them by night and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is the North of Damascus. So he brought back his brother Lot and his goods as well as the women and the people.

This is total victory in warfare. Abraham raised and maintained a powerful unintimidated recovery army.

Another friend of God was Moses. He was fierce in spiritual warfare. No one has yet paralleled him in spiritual warfare. He single handedly confronted Pharaoh and led Israel victoriously out of Egypt.

Possessing our promised land involves fighting existing giants in the land to drive them out. It is very easy for God to kill them by one act of his wonders but He prefers our doing the eviction by ourselves as He guides us.

Casting out demons is warfare. Tearing down evil altars and high places is war. Confronting satanic beings is war. Controlling the evil menacing presence of the occult, witches and wizards is warfare. Sometimes healing the sick may involve warfare. Living a holy and upright life in a crooked and perverse world with debased values and filthy lucre can be quite a fight. Keeping our selfish desires and emotional excess under check is no small fight. Thank God for grace, but the battle is real. We must fight the good fight of faith and win, for whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.

When we talk of strategic targets in spiritual warfare, we imply those anti-destiny and anti-progress forces, strongholds, structures, entities and systems that must be targeted in aggressive warfare prayers. Victory over these sinister and devious powers will ensure our total freedom and release into our God given destiny.

A MESSAGE FROM JESUS

I AM PRAYING FOR YOU

- Adapted

“Prayer is something that has always been a part of me. I prayed when I needed to hear my Father's heart, I prayed when I was baptized by John, when I chose the twelve, and when I did mighty works. I prayed when I broke bread, and when I blessed the children. I prayed when facing my darkest hour, and I prayed as I gave my life upon the cross. I prayed in public before others and I prayed alone. I prayed in the daytime, and I prayed at night. When I prayed with my disciples just before I was arrested in the garden, you were included in that prayer. When I taught my disciples how to pray, it was for your understanding as well. I know that I am not physically present with you today as I was with my disciples so many years ago, but my heart of prayer has not changed. I am praying for you now because you are mine. My love for you today is great, and my heart for you is full. I pray peace over you and blessings upon you. I pray rivers of joy to be within you and to flow out through you. I pray good things over you. I pray that your life will bear much fruit, that you will grow in grace, that your faith will increase, and that you will stand strong until the day I see you face to face”. Amen.

- Jesus

Section One

EAGLE SAINTS ARISE!

- *The Benefits of Prayer*

Introduction

We shall turn to the most important eagle passage of the Scripture to discuss this topic.

“Why sayest thou, O Jacob and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD and my judgement is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:27-31).

Jacob (Israel as a nation) had complained bitterly to God about his troubles and all he was going through. Those problems had lasted for a long time. He said: “My way is hid from the Lord, the Lord has not seen my sorrows and my problems. Lord, why are your hands so short? Why are you not helping me? Why can you not deliver me? Why am I going through these troubles in life?”

And what was God’s reply? *“have you not heard, have you not known, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the earth fainteth not, neither is weary?”* God seemed to have said to Jacob: “I have heard your complaints, I have heard your murmuring, I know about your sorrows, but one thing you must know about me is that I am the Lord, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. I do not faint and I don’t become weary, there is no searching of my understanding”. “I am God”.

Casually looking at Jacob’s prayer-complaint and God’s response, there seems to be no relationship or link between the two. The man said, “God, you have forgotten me.” But God said, “I the everlasting God, don’t get tired or weary and nobody can search me out. I give power to the faint, and to the those who have no might I increase strength, even the youth shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall. But those that wait on me shall exchange their strength”. In essence, God was saying, “I am full of power and glory, I am full of might and strenght and I give power to those who faint and to those who don’t have hope I give and courage. Even the youths who are

known to be energetic and very vibrant and strong, still faint in life.” But when you wait on me, you’ll find your strength renewed from day to day and you’ll always soar with wings like the eagles.

In other words, God was telling Jacob: “the reason for your problems, and your complaints is because your strength has run out. God was squarely addressing and dealing with the root of Jacob’s problems. He had failed to wait on the Lord to draw strength to confront life’s bitter battles. When a child of God is weak spiritually, all other things in the external consequently collapse. When you are weak at your altar of prayer and in your meditation in the word of God and in fasting, the whole structure of your spiritual and physical life will collapse. But a Christian who is studious in the word of God, vibrant in prayer, and maintains a dynamic relationship with God will be too hot for Satan to handle.

All decays begin in the closet. Once there is decay in your prayer closet, it will gradually be made manifest physically and publicly. Cancer usually starts from a single cell unnoticed until it spreads its deadly influence to other organs of the body. By the time it is noticed outside, the victim would be close to his grave. I plead with you to stop that decay in your closet. Reactivate your prayer altar. Go on special prayer and fasting retreats and you’ll find your strength renewed. You’ll become strong, happy and active again. There’ll be no room or reason for depression, despair and dejection in your life. You’ll begin to fly in life with eagles’ wings.

A. EAGLE SAINTS IN PRAYER

God was using an eagle as an illustration of what a child of God should be in prayer. Every child of God should be an eagle saint. Every child of God should have the wings of eagle not only to fly to the throne of God in the spirit but also to fly over mountains of problems. No mountain is a problem to the eagle. It is amazing to see so many wonderful things about the life of an eagle. The eagle has no problem with mountains at all. Rivers are no problem to the eagle. Even the storms, the cloud and the rain are no problem to the eagle. It has strong wings and feathers. No wonder the Lord spoke so much about the eagle in the Bible, probably more than He spoke about any other bird. Before we begin the analysis of the characteristics of eagles we need to know the characteristics of believers who are not eagles saints.

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF BELIEVERS IN PRAYER

The following Scriptures bring these characteristics out very clearly.

“And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.” - Matthew 26:40-45.

Every believer has certain attitudes or habits he exhibits in prayer. No one is an exception, not even the early disciples, because on some occasions they slept off in the place of prayer.

(1) Prayer collectors or prayer consumers

These are people who cannot pray on their own. When they pray at all, it doesn't go beyond two minutes a day. This is in spite of their burdens and problems. Satan has gotten the best of them. They have problems but they cannot pray, so they run around to collect prayers. Whenever any guest speaker comes around to their assembly, they will not bother to listen to the message, apply it and pray for themselves, so as to be free from these problems. All they have on their mind is to solicit for prayers from the minister, "Man of God please pray for me, I have headache. Yesterday night in my dream, somebody shot at me or a masquerade slapped me and my neck is paining me". Any time you meet them they have one problem or the other. No amount of prayer is ever sufficient for them. They are even ready to pay people to pray for them. Spiritual weaklings. Their bags or pockets and Bibles always contain prayer requests.

(2) Prayer or fire extinguishers

These people don't pray at all, they only have "*fire extinguishing anointing*" in their lives. If you are someone who have a robust prayer life and the anointing of God on you but unfortunately you married a fire extinguisher, within weeks your spiritual life will nose-dive. I know of many christian friends who did not wait on the Lord in the choice of life partners. They just saw beautiful sisters who could sing and dance very well, they got enticed and married them. Within a few months of marriage their spiritual and prayer lives simply collapsed. The fire was quenched. They married fire extinguishers. Anything can be a fire extinguisher in your life. A fire extinguisher is anything that is capable of putting off your fire of prayer. It could be your ambition, new job, pleasure, love of money or the world. There are also prayerless pastors and ministers who condemn prayer on the pulpit. They run down their prayerful members and give no room for intercession. They are fire extinguishers.

(3) Prayer dwarfs

A dwarf is a person who ought to grow up but has refused to grow. If a twelve or a fifteen year old boy remains very short instead of getting taller in spite of much eating, he'll look like a dwarf. There are physical dwarfs as well as spiritual dwarfs. Spiritual dwarfs consume sermons and messages, they have many CDS, video and audio tapes of messages. They have been born again for a long time and have been coming to the house of God, but their prayer life is five, six, or seven minutes every morning. Our spiritual life is usually measured by the depth of our communion with God. The altar determines whom you are and how acquainted you are with God. A man may be full of activities externally and yet may not be having any meaningful communion with God. What determines spirituality in the eyes of God is how close you are to Him in the place of fellowship and communion.

When somebody still hurries into the presence of God and hurries out after five or six years of salvation, something is wrong. Either God is not enjoying the presence of that person or the person is not enjoying God and so he has to hurry out.

But there are some people God loves so much that when they plan to pray for thirty minutes, they usually end up praying for two or more hours. They say, "Father, I just planned to pray for thirty minutes. Now I have prayed for two hours!" That's what I will call '*holy detention*'. God pours His Holy Spirit of prayer upon such in great measures and would not permit them to hurry out of His presence.

(4) Prayer cripples

A cripple is somebody who cannot use his legs to move. He has to be carried around. A lot of people fall into this category spiritually. How does one know he is a cripple? If you are a child of God and you regularly dream in the night that some dangerous forces are always pursuing you, but while the predators are pursuing you at a very great speed, you are only running very slowly, stumbling and falling down. This means you cannot run in the spirit. Something is wrong with your spiritual locomotion.

A cripple cannot walk, talk less of run, he has to be carried about. He has no locomotive power. Similarly, a spiritual cripple has to be carried and sustained by other people's prayers. He can't stand on his own. If you are the type of christian that always fasts and prays for long and walks in the Spirit, it will reflect in your dream life. When anything threatens you in the dream, you will develop supernatural strength to fight or run. You can also develop spiritual wings to fly into safety.

(5) Prayer owls (Blind prayer warriors)

Owls cannot see or fly well during the day, even with both eyes wide open. They seem

partially blind. When an owl flies during the day, it crashes into every object around. Isaiah 56:9-10 talks about blind watchmen. Ideally speaking, a prayer warrior ought to have the ability to receive visions and revelation for prayers and during prayers. You should ask for the eyes of Elisha, the ears of Samuel and the tongue of Elijah. Every intercessor should be a “seer”. Prayer becomes easier and more spiritual when we see and hear things of the spirit as we pray. Most of the problems that want to overwhelm us can be picked or seen during our times of prayer. It is meaningless and tragic to send blind soldiers to battle. No one shoots accurately with one eye closed. Both must be open.

(6) Prayer procrastinators

These are people who schedule prayer time but never keep them. They always postpone their prayer times. They say, “I have listened to the man of God, he has taught us about prayer. By the grace of God next week, instead of my usual five minutes of prayer, I will pray thirty minutes.” If you see this same fellow the next week, it’s the same story. Prayer procrastinator! With false zeal, they exclaim: “O! They say we should do night vigil, Father, when I finish this night work, I am going to start my personal night vigil every Wednesday. I am going to wait on the Lord for six hours.” If you meet him two months after that, it’s the same story. These people are prayer procrastinators. They always postpone to the future what should be done now. Faith is always “**Now**”.

(7) Deaf and dumb prayer warriors

These group of people say nothing and hear nothing. Every child of God ought to hear from God regularly. The Bible says the Holy Spirit whom God sent us will show us all things and will reveal all things to us. In the book of Revelation chapters 1,2 and 3, the Bible repeatedly says *“anyone who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.”* The Holy Ghost speaks constantly. The broadcasting station of heaven never goes off the air. It is always saying something about our lives, our world and God’s Church. But only those who have ears - whose spiritual antenna are very sharp and raised high can pick the frequency of the Spirit. But we have prayer deafs and dumbs who can neither talk nor hear in the place of prayer. Elisha could both see and hear in the spirit. Remember in II Kings chapter 6, how the king of Syria wanted to attack the king of Israel. While they were taking their decisions in the war council of Syria, saying: “in such and such a place, we are going to encamp and ambush the army of Israel”, Elisha who was at Dothan, many miles away with neither a telephone nor a radar system was hearing all they were discussing in the council room. Similarly, a prayerful saint should get regular news from heaven in response to his supplications. Prayer is supposed to be a dialogue and not a monologue.

(8) Prayer catchers or prayer interceptors

We have this group of people present in most of our prayer gatherings. Their intention and mission are always evil. They usually don't pray in such prayer gatherings, all they do is to spiritually monitor every prayer request and possibly try to intercept oncoming answers to prayers. They are satanic agents and intermediaries who must be violently opposed and overthrown in serious spiritual warfare. This is one of the reasons I encourage aggressive and fervent prayers in our prayer meetings.

(9) Prayer contractors

Prayer contractors have no burden or vision for God's kingdom and work. Their primary aim in life is to use prayer as a means of getting their livelihood. They get paid by anybody to pray and most of such prayers are towards earthly ends - material things: money, job, promotion, wife, husband, visa, permanent stay, citizenship, new cars, lands etc. There is a growing number of pentecostal prayer contractors presently in Africa, possibly due to the harsh economic conditions. Prayer contractors don't care who you are and how you live - their job is simple '*pay me well and I pray for you*' '*Cash and carry*' It does not matter to them whether such prayers get to God or not.

(10) Prayer actors

These are men and women who act prayers but don't pray prayers. They are great pretenders. You see them in church services, night vigils and other prayer meetings. When everybody is praying fervently (and sometimes prayer meetings can be loud and rowdy in many parts of Africa and Latin America, but at the same time, they are lively and result oriented) prayer actors just shake their heads vigorously more than their bodies, and pretend to be saying something, while in actual fact they are far away in the spirit. This usually happens when the pastor or the prayer leader or a church usher is moving through the congregation to keep people awake. These prayer actors might be sleeping or dozing off before you got near them, but as soon as they notice your approach, they begin to chant some incoherent words, babbling away in nothingness to convince you, that they are really 'praying' - they are just acting prayer and not praying prayer.

It might even be in the home setting when your wife or children who have slept away in their prayers suddenly sense your presence in their room, immediately their pretentious legs will begin to vibrate almost uncontrollably on the bed or on their knees - to convince you that they are still praying. No they are actors of prayers not warriors in prayer.

(11) Eagle saints or prayer eagles

This group of believers, through understanding, determination, consecration,

commitment, obedience, discipline and sacrifice have risen to become eagle saints. They have separated themselves from the duck and chicken company. They know what prayer is all about and they are ready to pay the price for a fruitful prayer life.

We shall discuss this last group of believers in more details by relating them to the unusual but unique characteristics of physical eagles.

May you be an eagle saint, in Jesus name.

Today's Assignment

1. *Honestly and realistically identify your own particular negative characteristic(s) in prayer. Repent and renounce them immediately.*
2. *Before you go to bed tonight, pray for at least 15 minutes asking God to deal with your prayer and spiritual life.*

Today's Specialised Prayers

1. *I refuse to be a perpetual prayer collector. I refuse to be a prayer cripple, dwarf or procrastinator, in Jesus mighty name.*
2. *From this day onwards, I declare and affirm that my prayer life shall be strong, virile, fervent, robust and result oriented in Jesus mighty name.*
3. *Your negative characteristics of the prayerless, be uprooted by fire from my life right now, in Jesus name*

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