

Prayer: Warfare of a Christian

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

- A. It is an awesome responsibility to speak the words of God. (1 Peter 4)
- B. Text: 2 Kings 3.
- C. It is important to take root downward in order to bear fruit upward. (Isaiah 37:31)
 - 1. Prayer is the practical expression of our trusting God. (Jeremiah 17)
 - 2. Prayer is a participation in the gospel. (Philippians 1:3-5)
- D. Prayer is the warfare of the Christian.

II. Christians tend to only pray for felt needs, but God wants us to pray for the objective too.

III. Terms used in warfare.

- A. Strategy. This has to do with the ultimate objective.
- B. Tactics. This is employing resources in concert with the objective.
- C. Logistics. This has to do with the procurement and replacement of resources.

IV. Prayer and warfare.

- A. Most of us are only concerned with logistics.
- B. God's strategy is to deliver people from the kingdom of darkness. (Acts 28:16)
 - 1. God wants this to happen everywhere. (Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 5:9-10; 7:9)
 - 2. God wants these people who are delivered to be disciples.
 - 3. God ultimately wants the whole body of Christ to be conformed to the image of Jesus. (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:12-16)
- C. Tactics include evangelism, discipling, character training and building up the body.
- D. The logistics are the physical things including care, building up, restoring the wounded and physical needs.
- E. Believers need to pray for God's strategy and tactics, not only logistical needs.
 - 1. *Operation World* can help us to pray for nations across the world.
 - 2. You might select a nation to pray for a day.

3. You might pray for your children to be conformed to Jesus' likeness.

F. A strategic prayer: Colossians 1:9.

1. You cannot check off most prayers.

2. Some prayers are point in time such as Romans 15, but most prayers must be both strategic and continual.

G. Our logistic prayers should involve things such as giving.

H. The logistical, tactical and strategic prayers are all important.

Application questions:

1. How would you summarize God's strategy in a single sentence?

2. What can you do to make God's strategy and tactics a regular prayer request?

3. What is another strategic prayer in Scripture besides Colossians 1:9 that you can memorize and learn to pray?
