



Warrior's Prayer

Heavenly Father...

Your warrior prepares for battle.

Today I will walk in victory over the world, the flesh and the devil by putting on the whole armor of God.

I put on the belt of truth:

I will stand firm in the truth of Your word so I will not be a victim of deception and lies.

I put on the breastplate of righteousness:

I will use it to guard my heart from evil so I will remain pure and holy, protected under the blood of Jesus Christ.

I put on the shoes of peace:

I will stand firm in the good news of the gospel so Your peace will shine through me and be a light to all I meet.

I take the shield of faith:

I will be ready for the evil one's fiery darts of doubt, denial, and deceit and by faith will walk with you all day.

I put on the helmet of salvation:

I will keep my mind focused on You so that nothing else will influence my thoughts and desires.

I take the sword of the Spirit:

I will use the two-edged sword of Your Word to check and guard the thoughts and attitudes of my heart.

By faith your warrior has put on the whole armor of God. I am prepared to live this day in spiritual victory.

This prayer and the affirmations of the Warrior are based on Ephesians 6:10-18

The Warrior's Heart

Preparing the heart and mind with inner strength for the days ahead!

A Heart of Prayer

Introduction

This series will not focus as much on the tools of our warfare (weapons) but rather on the heart condition of the warrior--what we need to have our mind and heart set on before we can effectively use the weapons of our warfare.

Four Characteristics of the Warrior's Heart

- A Prayerful Heart
- An Obedient Heart
- A Patient Heart
- A Content Heart

The Warrior's Heart of Prayer

1. Who Is Ruling Your Heart (Mind)?

Philippians 4:6-8

Many are wounded or spiritually sick and cannot "effectively" engage in warfare (the spiritual fight)!

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray.

Message Bible Philippians 4:6a

a. When worry rules ...*Use it as a signal to retreat into the presence of God. Be consumed by prayer—not by worry.*

b. When prayer rules ...*The more we pray, the more we think to pray, and as we see the results of prayer our confidence in God's power spills over into other areas of our life.*

Col 3:15-17

- Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
- Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you
- Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus

2. Let Faith Rule Your Heart

1 John 5:4; Hebrews 10:22

a. The Lesson of Zacharias *Luke 1*

3. 2006 Call to Prayer

Sermon Notes by Pastor Mike Bayer

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The Warrior's Heart: Heart of Prayer

Introduction to series:

Jesus:

Lamb of God – Lion of Judah

Good Shepherd – Captain of the Heavenly Host (Army)

Suffering Servant – Messianic King

The people of God are compared with:

Students

Athletes

Farmers

Soldiers

Sheep

This series will not focus as much on the **tools of our warfare (weapons)** but rather on the **heart condition of the warrior**--what we need to have our mind and heart set on before we can effectively use the weapons of our warfare.

Lesson 1: A Prayerful Heart Phil 4:6-8; Eph 3:16-10; Col 3:15

Lesson 2: An Obedient Heart 1John 5:3-5; Psalm 19:7-11

Lesson 3: A Patient Heart (Dependence on God) Isaiah 40:31

Lesson 4: A Content Heart Psalm 1:1-3; II Cor 4:16-18

The Warrior's Heart: A heart of prayer!

1. Who Is Ruling Your Heart (Mind)?

A Christian psychologist was teaching at stress management conference and raised a glass of water and asked the audience, "How heavy do you think this glass of water is?"

The answers ranged from a few ounces to a couple of pounds. The psychologist said, "The weight really does not matter much--it depends on how long you hold it."

If I hold it for a minute, it is OK.
If I hold it for an hour, I will have an ache in my right arm.
If I hold it for a day, you will have to call an ambulance.

Many are wounded or spiritually sick and cannot “effectively” engage in warfare (the fight)! Some are unable to escape the hold of chronic problems. Including problems that are the result of spiritual captivity—not necessarily from disobedience—but simply the onslaught of the enemy’s constant barrage of depression and despair!

Like a glass of water—even the small things that we hold onto for any length of time will start to cause spiritual weariness and can turn into depression—even clinical depression.

Key Verse: Philippians 4:6-8

MSG Phi 4:6 ***Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray.*** Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. :7 Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. :8 Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious--the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.

a. When worry rules (takes over my thoughts)...

...”Use it as a signal to retreat into the presence of God. Be consumed by prayer—not by worry. Seeking the presence of God in difficult times turns worry and despair into peace that goes beyond needing to know everything.” Harry R. Jackson Jr., Pastor of Hope Christian Church in Washington DC.

b. When prayer rules...

...”The more we pray, the more we think to pray, and as we see the results of prayer—the responses of our Father to our requests—our confidence in God’s power spills over into other areas of our life.” Dallas Willard pg 185 *The Spirit of the Disciplines*

Col 3:15-17 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. :16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. :17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

2. Heart full of Faith—

1Jo 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

Heb 10:22 ...let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our

hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

a. The story of Zacharias: Luke 1

Luke 1:13 ...your prayer has been answered—your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you will name him John.

Luke 1:18 How can I be sure of this—I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.

After 400 years of silence and the greatest announcement the Nation of Israel had ever heard—and he could not utter a word.

3. Press into prayer in 2006

Prayer diary/journal

Updated Section

2. Let Faith Rule in Your Heart—

Faith and prayer must operate together in the Warrior's heart...the process of prayer is a relinquishing process—relinquishing my will and receiving God's will in its place.

1a. Our faith is the key ingredient to overcoming the world:

1 Jo 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

Great things, heroic actions, and wonderful victories, are ascribed to faith;

Heb 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

2a. The warrior's heart must be filled with faith:

Heb 10:22 ...let us draw near with a sincere heart in **full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

The “full assurance of faith” means unwavering confidence; a fulness of faith in God which leaves no room for doubt. Christians are permitted to come thus because God has revealed himself through the Redeemer as in

every way deserving their fullest confidence. No one approaches God in an acceptable manner who does not come to him in this manner. What parent would feel that a child came with any right feelings to ask a favour of him who had not “the fullest confidence in him?”

3a. The warrior’s life is lived by faith:

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

There is both crucifixion and resurrection in this verse—dieing to self involves both. The result is the freedom from all the self-stuff:

Self-sufficiency	Self-pitty
Self-absorption	Self-abuse
Self-aggrandizement	Self-deception
Self-exaltation	Self-indulgence
Self-hatred	Self-depreciation

4a. Praying in faith brings restoration

Jam 5:15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

a. The story of Zacharias: Luke 1

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