

2017

SCHOOL OF PRAYER

SERIES

In Prayer

with **DICK EASTMAN**

NINE "IN PRAYER" CLUSTER-THEMES
FOR FRUITFUL PRAYING

LESSON SEVEN

THE WARFARE CLUSTER

Contending in Prayer



THE WARFARE CLUSTER

Contending in Prayer

- Wrestling in Prayer
- Warring in Prayer
- Travailing in Prayer

VOICES OF PRAYER

Prayer is warfare. Just getting to prayer is half the battle; staying there is the other half.

— Anonymous

The first and decisive battle in conjunction with prayer is the conflict that arises when we are to make arrangements to be alone with God every day.

— O. Hallesby

1 Timothy 1:18-19 (NKJV)

This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck...

2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NKJV)

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

VOICES OF PRAYER

Until you believe that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for. Prayer is for the accomplishment of a wartime mission.

—John Piper

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NLT)

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

CONTENDING IN PRAYER

VOICES OF PRAYER

To have prayed well is to have fought well.

— E. M. Bounds

Genesis 32:25-28 (AMPC)

And when [the Man] saw that He did not prevail against [Jacob], He touched the hollow of his thigh; and Jacob's thigh was put out of joint as he wrestled with Him. Then He said, Let Me go, for day is breaking. But [Jacob] said, I will not let You go unless You declare a blessing upon me. [The Man] asked him, What is your name? And [in shock of realization, whispering] he said, Jacob [supplanter, schemer, trickster, swindler]!



And He said, Your name shall be called no more Jacob [supplanter], but Israel [contender with God]; for you have contended *and* have power with God and with men and have prevailed.

Colossians 1:27-29 (NIV)

...God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Isaiah 41:15 (NKJV)

“Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; You shall thresh the mountains and beat *them* small, And make the hills like chaff.”

VOICES OF PRAYER

Prayer is the communication by which the weapons of warfare are deployed according to the will of God. Prayer is for war.

— John Piper

CASE STUDY

R. A. Torrey's 25-Year Prayer

WARFARE CLUSTER - INSIGHT ONE

Contending

The whole of the Christian life is a continuous _____ against the ever-present _____ of our enemy's _____. Scripture admonishes believers to _____ themselves with spiritual _____ to withstand every _____ of the enemy. God's _____ is the believer's primary _____ in the battle. Prayer is the _____ where each battle will be won.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight One, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to contend in prayer. How might intercessors adorn themselves with the armor of God for personal prayer? (If you are alone as this teaching streams from our website or if you're watching on a DVD, take these moments to meditate on Insight One of this teaching.)

Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight One (or any impression from the scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer that specifically utilizes some aspect of the armor Paul spoke of in Ephesians 6.



PART 1

Wrestling in Prayer

Ephesians 6:10-12 (AMPC)

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies *and* the deceits of the devil. For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

VOICES OF PRAYER

Faith, without trouble or fighting, is a suspicious faith; for true faith is a fighting, wrestling faith.

—Ralph Erskine

Hosea 12:3-4 (NLT)

Even in the womb, Jacob struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God. Yes, he wrestled with the angel and won. He wept and pleaded for a blessing from him. There at Bethel he met God face to face, and God spoke to him...

Colossians 4:10, 12 (NIV)

My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas.... Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

VOICES OF PRAYER

The church has many organizers but few agonizers. Many who pay, but few who pray; many resters but few wrestlers; many who are enterprising, but few who are interceding... The ministry of prayer is open to every child of God... In the matter of effective praying, never have so many left so much to so few.

—Leonard Ravenhill

Romans 15:30 (AMPC)

I appeal to you [I entreat you], brethren, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love [given by] the Spirit, to unite with me in earnest wrestling in prayer to God in my behalf.

VOICES OF PRAYER

Prayer is the power that wields the weapon of the Word.

—John Piper

CASE STUDY

The Salem Encounter with Darkness



WARFARE CLUSTER - INSIGHT TWO

Wrestling

To wrestle is to _____ an opponent directly in face-to-face _____. Our enemy Satan must be confronted _____ in our spiritual _____. Because it is essential that the believer understands the _____ [e.g. the wiles or methods] of the enemy, it is vital to rely on the supernatural _____ of the Holy Spirit and the _____ of God's Word to gain the _____.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight Two, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think are some of the tactics (wiles/methods) the enemy uses to hinder the effectiveness of our praying. (If you are alone as this teaching streams from our website or if you are watching on a DVD, take these moments to meditate on Insight Two of this teaching.)

Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight Two (or any impression from the scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer that confronts those tactics the enemy has specifically used in your life to hinder your prayers.

HARVEST INCENSE *National Focus*

Revelation 8:3-4 (MSG)

“Then another Angel, carrying a gold censer, came and stood at the Altar. He was given a great quantity of incense so that he could offer up the prayers of all the holy people of God on the Golden Altar before the Throne. Smoke billowed up from the incense-laced prayers of the holy ones, rose before God from the hand of the Angel.”

NOTES

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PART 2

Warring in Prayer

VOICES OF PRAYER

Prayer is the very sword of the Saints.

—Francis Thompson

Jude 3 (MSG)

Dear friends, I've dropped everything to write you about this life of salvation that we have in common. I have to write insisting—begging!—that you fight with everything you have in you for this faith entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish.

VOICES OF PRAYER

Prayer is striking the winning blow at the concealed enemy. Service is gathering up the results of that blow among the [people] we see and touch.

—S. D. Gordon

Ephesians 6:12 (MSG)

God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

VOICES OF PRAYER

Until you know that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for.

—John Piper

1 Corinthians 9:24-26 (NKJV)

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*. And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as *one who* beats the air.

VOICES OF PRAYER

If we are going to mobilize a powerful prayer movement for missions or even sustain the will to pray in our own hearts, we must talk about something else first, namely, war.

—John Piper

1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV)

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NKJV)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous



Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

VOICES OF PRAYER

When the Church shuts herself up to the power of the inner chamber, and the soldiers of the Lord have received on their knees “power from on high,” then the powers of darkness shall be shaken and souls will be delivered.

—Andrew Murray

NOTES

WARFARE CLUSTER - INSIGHT THREE

Warring

A war is not a _____ battle, but a compilation of _____ battles. While wrestling involves face-to-face and hand-to-hand _____, warring through prayer represents a _____ commitment to fight the good fight of _____ with perseverance and determination. Warring is to _____ the enemy in every _____ battle with consistency and courage.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight Three, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to wrestle in prayer over a matter. How would you define what it means to “fight the good fight of faith?” (If you are alone as this teaching streams from our website or if you’re watching on a DVD, take these moments to meditate on Insight Three of this teaching.)

Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight Three (or any impression from the scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer for strength and perseverance over something you have been wrestling over in prayer.



PART 3

Travailing in Prayer

DEFINITIONS

From the Latin *Tripalium*: “An instrument of torture.”
“Hardship; trouble; labor pains; pains of childbirth.”

VOICES OF PRAYER

There is a marked absence of travail [in the church today]. There is much phrasing, but little pleading. Prayer has become a soliloquy instead of a passion. The powerlessness of the church needs no other explanation... To be prayerless is to be both passionless and powerless.

—Samuel Chadwick

Romans 8:26-27 (KJV)

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

VOICES OF PRAYER

Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused.

—Charles H. Spurgeon

A revival may be expected when Christians have a spirit of prayer for a revival. That is, when they pray as if their hearts were set upon it... When they go about groaning for their heart's desire. When they have a real travail of soul.

—Charles Finney

FOUR REALITIES ABOUT TRAVAIL

1. Travail Precedes _____.

Revelation 12:1-2 (NLT)

Then I witnessed in heaven an event of great significance. I saw a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant, and she cried out because of her labor pains and the agony of giving birth.

Isaiah 66:6-8 (NLT)

“What is all the commotion in the city? What is that terrible noise from the Temple? It is the voice of the LORD taking vengeance against his enemies. Before the birth pains even begin, Jerusalem gives birth to a son. Who has ever seen anything as strange as this? Who ever heard of such a thing? Has a nation ever been born in a single day? Has a country ever come forth in a mere moment? But by the time Jerusalem’s birth pains begin, her children will be born.”



VOICES OF PRAYER

Just as the contractions of a woman's uterus herald the beginning of labor, there are times when God's Spirit stirs our souls to seasons of intense travail. We must travail in prayer until God's purposes are birthed.

— John Dawson

2. Travail Provokes _____.

Jeremiah 4:31 (NKJV)

"For I have heard a voice as of a woman in labor, The anguish as of her who brings forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion bewailing herself; she spreads her hands, *saying*, 'Woe is me now, for my soul is weary...'"

Galatians 4:18-19 (NKJV)

...it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I labor in birth again [KJV: travail in birth] until Christ is formed in you...

3. Travail Produces _____.

Hebrews 5:5-7 (NKJV)

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him: "You are My Son. Today I have begotten You." As *He* also *says* in another *place*: "You *are* a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek"; who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear...

4. Travail Promises _____.

John 16:20-21 (NLT)

I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world.

Psalms 126:5-6 (NKJV)

Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves *with him*.

VOICES OF PRAYER

If the spirit groans in intercession, do not be afraid of the agony of prayer. There are blessings of the Kingdom that are only yielded to the violence of the vehement soul.

—Samuel Chadwick

NOTES



WARFARE CLUSTER - INSIGHT FOUR

Travailing

Travail is the _____ of the _____ of giving birth. To travail in prayer is to _____ with the Holy Spirit in _____ that cannot be uttered in the _____ of that which _____ Christ's Kingdom. As with natural birth, the _____ and _____ of the birthing process in _____ matters ultimately leads to the _____ of that which is being _____.

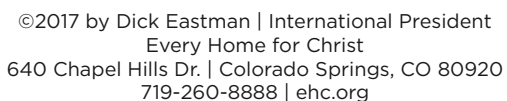
THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight Four, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to agonize in prayer. Can you recall an instance when this has happened in your life or the life of someone you know? (If you are alone as this teaching streams from our website or if you're watching on a DVD, take these moments to meditate on Insight Four of this teaching.)

Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight Four (or any impression from the scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer for God to give you strength to grow into areas of travail in prayer particularly over issues for which you may not know how to pray.

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