

Pray to Defeat Demons

2 Thessalonians

1:3-4, 11-12; 2:16-3:3

Ephesians 6:10-20

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. (2 Thess 1:3-4)

11 To this end we always pray for you,
that our God may make you worthy of his
calling and may fulfill every resolve for
good and every work of faith by his
power, 12 so that the name of our Lord
Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in
him, according to the grace of our God
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess
1:11-12)

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work... 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:7,9).

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. (2 Thess 2:16-17)

3:1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, 2 and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. 3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. (2 Thess 3:1-3)

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil 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 firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;
17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Only by prayer

His disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out? And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.” (Mark 9:28-29)

Only by prayer

- Demons cause many problems.
- Some demons are especially strong.
- Prayer is crucial to defeat demons.

Pray to Defeat Demons

A. Recognizing enemy attacks

Ten Satanic strategies

B. Connecting with headquarters

Three ways prayer brings victory

- Supplies
- Communications
- Reinforcements

Recognizing enemy attacks

Ten Satanic Strategies

1. Demon possession
2. Persecutions
3. False miracles
4. False teaching
5. Hypocrisy
6. Pride
7. Unforgiving
8. Lust
9. Affliction
10. Barriers

Ten Satanic Strategies

1. Demon possession

2. Persecutions (2 Thess 1:4) “delivered from wicked and evil men... He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. (2 Thess 3:1-3) “Simon, Satan demanded to have you” (Luke 22:31)

3. False miracles “The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders.” (2 Thess 2:9)

Ten Satanic Strategies

4. False teaching: “Such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.” (2 Cor 11:14)

“deep things of Satan” (Rev 2:24)

5. Hypocrisy: “Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?” (Acts 5:3)

6. Pride: “He may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.” (1 Tim 3:6)

Ten Satanic Strategies

7. Unforgiving Attitude “Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. (Ephesians 4:26-27) “Forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow... so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.” (2 Cor 2:7,11)

8. Lust (1 Cor 7:5)

Ten Satanic Strategies

9. Affliction

- “Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job” (Job 2:7).
- “this [bent over] woman whom Satan bound for eighteen years” (Luke 13:16)
- “a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan” (2 Cor 12:7)

10. Barriers:

“Satan hindered us.” (1 Thess 2:18)

Recognizing enemy attacks

Ten Satanic Strategies

1. Demon possession
2. Persecutions
3. False miracles
4. False teaching
5. Hypocrisy
6. Pride
7. Unforgiving
8. Lust
9. Affliction
10. Barriers

Take demons seriously

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Eph 6:11-12)

Pray at all times

Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. (Eph 6:18)

Pray for us... But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. (2 Thess 3:1-3)

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Supplies

- “An army marches on its stomach.”
- In Russian campaign, for every man Napoleon lost in battle, he lost five men to hunger, disease, and weather.
- Satan tries to interrupt supply line by blocking prayer. Training and weapons won't help without plenty of supplies to nourish the Spirit-life within us.
- “My God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:19)

Communications

- Coordination wins battles.
- During prayer, the Holy Spirit applies God's Word to your setting and alerts you to Satan's strategy in your situation.
- During prayer, the Holy Spirit directs you in what steps to take next. You don't need to know everything the demons are doing; you do need to know God's orders and your part in his overall battle plan.

Reinforcements

- Ask God to send what's needed: under fire, call in air strike. "This kind can come out only by prayer." (Mark 9:29)
- "We have taken a wartime walkie-talkie and tried to turn it into a civilian intercom to call the servants for another cushion in the den." (John Piper)
- "Deliver us from evil."
- "Supplication for all the saints"
- While the army fought, Moses prayed with arms uplifted. (Exodus 17:8-13)

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor,
each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger,
be never wanting there.

Christian, dost thou see them
On the holy ground,
How the powers of darkness
Compass thee around? ...
Christian, never tremble,
Never be downcast;
Gird thee for the battle;
Watch, and pray, and fast.

Christian, dost thou hear them,
How they speak thee fair?
“Always fast and vigil,
Always watch and prayer?”
Christian, answer boldly,
“While I breathe I pray”;
Peace shall follow battle,
Night shall end in day.