

Weekly Prayer Strategy (27 March – 2nd April 2017)

This week's prayer strategy has only 3 major prayer points and is based on the sermon **How Darkness Enters and what to do about it** by Paul Nyamuda

Prayer Point 1

- Pray that God helps you to be a fighter who is willing to wrestle with spiritual aggression.
- Pray that the Christians who don't think there is a fight begin to see that we are in an invisible war.
- Pray that we grow in knowledge about spiritual warfare.
- Pray that we fight the right enemy, Satan and demons, instead of our loved ones.

Life is not fair. You don't get what you think you deserve. You get what you fight for.

If you knew what you were called to you would live differently. Think of Jacob and Esau.

We need to start off by talking about what darkness is. The darkness that we are focusing on in this study is demonic activity.

1. What are demons?

- **Demons are disembodied spirits**

Luke 11:24-26

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵ **And when he comes, he finds *it* swept and put in order.** ²⁶ **Then he goes and takes with *him* seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."**

1 John 5:19

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

- Demons are distinct from fallen angels but work in sync with them.
Eg angels don't try to get into bodies. Angels have a spiritual body demons don't.
- They are restless until they find a body to work through.
- They prefer going "underground" than being cast out.
- They have varying degrees of wickedness, explaining the progression of evil in a person.
- They often function in groups.
(Many can occupy one space (Mark5:9). The laws that govern the physical body are not the same as those that govern a spirit. In the natural two objects cannot occupy the same space. In the spirit world hundreds of demons can occupy the same person.)

Mark 16:9

[[Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

- They can occupy specific organs of the body causing sickness
Eg auditory nerves of the ear causing deafness.
Luke 11:14 Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled
- They can perform signs and wonders
Rev 16:13-14
And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty
- They lie and entice
1 Kings 22:21-23
Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, 'I will entice him.' And the Lord said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.' Now therefore behold, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has declared disaster for you.

- **Demons are personalities.**

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

Mark 3:11

And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God."

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Matthew 8:29

And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

Acts 19:13-16

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the

evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Ginosko – To know (absolutely)

Epistamai – to be acquainted with, to recognize

Lester Sumrall rising up each morning the devil would probably think, “Oh know he is already awake!”

Acts 16:16-18

As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

Luke 4:44

And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

1 Tim 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

Luke 8:28

When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.”

- They can teach, deceive and seduce
- They can say statements of truth
- They empower people physically
- They see and recognize
- They speak
- They believe
- They flee (meaning they have a will)
- They are intelligent
- They are self aware
- They feel (scared etc)
- They remember
- They have knowledge
- They can suggest and influence
- They like and dislike

- They make requests
- They seek and search
- They are opportunists

Prayer Point 2

- **Pray for the gift of discerning of spirits so that you can distinguish between your own emotions and personality and the influence of demons.**
- **Pray that God reveals to us and exposes demonic activity in our lives.**
- **Pray that God gives us the courage to engage in spiritual warfare.**

2. What do we mean by demonic entrance?

The scriptures do not use the term possession but rather speak of having an unclean spirit or being under the influence of a spirit. Despite the King James using the term possession we see that it's different in the Original Greek. This is perhaps why people resist the notion of having a demon being cast out of them. Apart from Legion, most of Jesus' ministry of deliverance was to ordinary people in the market place and synagogues. Someone like Legion (The man from Gaderenes was close to possession) would be in solitary confinement today or in a very protected space in a mental institution. Their agenda is to defile, torment and enslave.

3. How do I know that darkness has entered?

- Restlessness: No deep settledness
- Sudden anger for no reason
- Violent outbursts
- Change from usual personality and mood
- Compulsive change of direction
- Inability to read bible
- Fascination and obsession with false doctrine
- Inability to stop talking
- Irrational fear
- Obsessive behaviour (It drives you. Sometimes it's like you are watching someone else doing it)
- Fixation or obsession with a particular person, ministry or doctrine
- Intense guilt, shame and self-hatred (You feel comfortable berating yourself, often it's a demon getting you to curse yourself).
- Persistent illness (spirit of infirmity)
- Addictive behavior (demons of gluttony, alcoholism, drugs)
- Irrational thoughts (suicide, murderous, destructive etc)
- Unnatural desire to sleep (often this stops you from going to church)
- Things that stop you from reading your bible or going to church(eg baby suddenly crying before church).
- Strange manifestations when being baptized in the Spirit (often there is a displacement taking place; demon fleeing as Holy spirit comes in).

4. What are the steps to Freedom?

Prayer Point 3

- Pray through the steps to freedom
- Pray that others have the courage to do the same

These steps are very important and sometimes involve having someone pray for you. In many cases one can actually do this for oneself. It's important to know how to stand firm and resist the enemy.

A. Identify any practice or flesh pattern that has opened a door to darkness in your life. We will post a list that you can download and we will highlight these in subsequent lessons. Also ask the Lord to reveal these to you. You can also ask someone you trust who knows you.

B. Confess, repent and renounce

- Confess = To agree with. To say the same as. To acknowledge. (Don't rationalize it away, call it what it is).
- Repent = To change one's mind and make a U-turn.
- Renounce = To forbid. To Formally declare one's abandonment of (a claim, right, or possession).

Lord, I confess that I have participated in _____, and I renounce _____. Thank you that in Christ I am forgiven.

C. Cast out any spirit/s that might be influencing you

Pray something like this:

I break the power of every principality, powers, rulers of darkness and wicked spirits in my life, and every evil work directed against me in the Name of Jesus Christ! I plead the blood of Jesus Christ over my life to protect me from the evil one, and I claim the power of the Holy Spirit over all of the kingdom of darkness, for greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world. Satan, you and your minions have no authority in my life for I belong to the Lord, Jesus Christ, and I am seated with Him in the heavenlies. I command you, evil spirit (s), to let go and leave my life (or body), and I bind you from hurting anyone in the process, in the name of Jesus Christ, GO!

D. Announce elements of the Kingdom of Light to displace the elements of the Kingdom of Darkness.

Here is an example for someone who has been involved in the Occult:

Kingdom of Darkness

I renounce ever signing my name over to Satan or having had my name signed over to Satan.

I renounce any ceremony where I might have been wed to Satan.

Kingdom of Light

I announce that my name is now written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

I announce that I am a child of God and a member and part of the body of Christ

I renounce any and all covenants that I made with Satan.
I renounce all satanic assignments for my life, including duties, marriage and children.
I renounce all spirit guides assigned to me.
I renounce ever giving of my blood in the service of Satan.
I renounce ever eating of flesh or drinking of blood for satanic worship.

I announce that I am a partaker of the New Covenant with Christ
I announce and commit myself to know and do only the will of God and accept only His guidance.
I announce and accept only the leading of the Holy Spirit.
I trust only in the shed blood of my Lord Jesus Christ
By faith I take Holy Communion which represents the body and the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ

**E. Begin to renew your mind according to the Word in the specific areas
Colossians 3:16**

16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Romans 12:2 NIV

**2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.
NLT**

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

F. Cleanse your home

This will involve burning items that give the enemy a foothold in your life or things that cause you to go back into the flesh. Remember that demons can see what belongs to their kingdom. This may also involve disallowing certain language or jokes because demons also hear and are attracted to the language of their kingdom. Develop rules of engagement for conflict so that you are not ensnared by the enemy.

Matthew 5:29

If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Acts 19:19

This included a number of people who practiced sorcery. They collected their sorcery texts and burned them publicly. The value of those materials was calculated at more than someone might make if they worked for one hundred sixty-five years.