

# WEDNESDAY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Christ Church, Crouch End Hill

Tel/ Fax: 020 8340 1566

No: 56

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE 2

### **Introduction**

In the Bible can be found a kind of prayer which is often not taken notice of. What is it? It is "authoritative prayer". We know prayer of praise, prayer of thanksgiving, prayer of asking, and prayer of intercession, but we know very little of prayer of authority. Authoritative prayer is that which occupies a most significant place in the Word. It signifies authority.

Now if we desire to be men and women of prayer, we must learn this authoritative kind. It is the type of prayer which the Lord refers to in Matthew 18.18 - "What things soever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and what things soever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Here is loosing as well as binding prayer. The movement of heaven follows the movement of the earth. Heaven listens to the words on earth and acts on the earth's command.

### **Read Exodus 14: 5-16**

- What was the problem that arose for the Israelites?

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- What pressures are piling up for Moses? (14: 10-16)

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- How did Moses react?

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- What did God tell Moses?

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The rod which God gave to Moses represents authority. So that what God meant by his words was: You do not need to cry to me, you may use authoritative prayer; you pray the prayer of command, and I will work. Hence what Moses learned and experienced here was authoritative prayer or prayer of command.

**Read Mark 11: 20-26**

- What is the significance of a mountain in verse 22?
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- How does Jesus exhort us to deal with them?
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- How do we speak to mountains?
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**Note**

Mountain represents the difficulty which stands in our way; it is that which blocks our path so that we cannot get through. When you and I meet a mountain, what will we do to it? Many when they encounter mountains in their lives or works will commence to pray, asking God to remove the mountain. Yet God tells us that we ourselves should speak to the mountain. It will be sufficient if we but command the mountain, declaring, "Be thou taken up and cast into the sea."

To ask God to remove the mountain and to command the mountain itself to move are two entirely opposite things. To come to God and ask Him to work is one thing, to directly command the mountain to move away is quite another thing. Such word of command is often neglected by us. It is very rare that we take the authority of God and speak directly to the difficulty, saying: "In the name of the Lord Jesus I ask you to leave me" or "I will not allow you to remain in my life." Authoritative prayer is for you to speak to whatever hinders you.

## Read Ephesians 6: 10-18

- From Ephesians 1: 19-21 where is Christ now?

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- How powerful is he?

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- Name the evil forces described in 6:12.

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- How does the position of Christ instil hope in Christians as we encounter the evil forces described in 6:12.

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- From Ephesians 2: 1-3, 14; 4:14; 17-19, 26-27; 5: 3-18, how can these forces operate in our lives?

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- With what attitudes should we face these forces?

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- How does prayer fit into this battle?

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- What does Paul mean by each of the six pieces of armour (vv 14-17)?
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- What is the purpose of each?
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- Which are defensive?
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- Which are offensive?
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### **Personal Reflection**

As you consider your armour, what parts are in good shape? What is mouldy and rusty? What do you need to get ready for battle? What is at stake of you don't?

### **A Testimony on Forgiveness and Healing**

Recently, when in Romania, a woman spoke to me at the beginning of my time there and said she was burning with hate towards those who had supported the communist regime prior to the revolution. Her eyes were glazed, and behind them I could discern a burnt-out soul. I talked with her briefly and showed her the steps towards forgiveness. On my last day in that place she brought her husband along to the marriage seminar I was conducting and told me with great pleasure that as a result of abandoning her resentment, a longstanding physical problem had now cleared up. If there is one thing I have learned over the years it is this: the condition of our soul often determines the condition of our physical health.

Now this must not be taken too far so that we then conclude every illness is due to the soul's condition. But in all probability between 50 and 60 percent of physical problems (some would put the figure higher) are rooted in our attitudes. Resentment and bitterness corrode the soul. Get rid of them.

Selwyn Hughes, "Everyday with Jesus" 2nd February 1998