

THE INVISIBLE WAR SESSION 7

Video Notes: How to Gain Deliverance from Demonic Influence

Introduction: The "Missing Ingredient"

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| Ephesians 6:10-12 | > | We are in an Invisible War |
| Ephesians 6:13-15 | > | We are to prepare ourselves for battle |
| Ephesians 6:16-17 | > | When we resist the enemy He will flee |

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf that utterance maybe given to me in opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak badly as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:18-20

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| > | Intercessory prayer is pivotable and essential for corporate an individual deliverance. |
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Summary of Ephesians 6:18-20 - The means by which believers are to withstand and overcome the attacks of the enemy in spiritual warfare is by constant, intense, strategic prayer for one another in conjunction with the personal application of the armor of God.

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I. Intercessory prayer is our most powerful and strategic corporate weapon in spiritual warfare.

- Prayer has a direct impact on Spiritual warfare. Mark 9:29
- Provides/assists in the deliverance of others who are undergoing spiritual attack. Luke 22:31-32
- Power falls where prayer prevails. Acts 1:14, 2:42, 3:1, 4:24-35, 6:4-8, 8:14-16, 9:40-42, 10:1-4, Church history is replete with examples.

II. What kind of prayer brings God's deliverance and power in the midst of spiritual attack:

- _____ Prayer (Ephesians 18a.)
- "with all prayer and petition" = all kinds of prayer
- "pray at all times" = prayer on all occasions
- "pray in the Spirit" = communion with and directed by the agency of power of the Holy Spirit
- _____ Prayer (Ephesians 18b.)
- "be on he alert" = lit. = without sleep, vigilant
- "with all perseverance " = enduring, not giving up
- _____ Prayer (Ephesians 18c.- 20)
- "for all the saints" = that God's messengers be bold
- "utterance may be given' = God's message will be clear and have opportunity

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share briefly an experience where you saw how God answered specific prayers in a way that had dramatic impact in others lives. (Ephesians 6:18-20)
2. Are there some issues, roadblocks, or major concerns in your life currently being thwarted because you have not given time and effort to consistent, intense, and strategic intercessory prayer? If so, stop and have the group pray for you right now.
3. We learned in this session that it's not just "any kind of prayer" that brings results. What kind of prayer brings powerful results in spiritual warfare? List there characteristics of this kind of prayer and share how you believe God wants these played out in our lives.
4. S.D. Gordon said, "The great people of this earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray. They have not the time. It must be taken from something else. The something else is important. Very important, and pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer." Read this quote out loud in your group and share your reactions to it. Then, on a scale to 1-10 (1 being weak, 10 being very strong), how would you rank your personal prayer life?
5. What specific steps do you need to take to lay hold of the secret power of intercessory prayers available to every Christian? What would it look like for you to develop a more consistent prayer life? Who do you know that could help you learn to pray more intensely and strategically?

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ACTION STEPS/HOMEWORK

How are you doing in the areas of intercessory prayer? Confess to God where you have fallen short. Then, renew your commitment in a practical way. In the space below, write out one way you'll improve each category of prayer:

1. Consistent Prayer
2. Intense Prayer
3. Strategic Prayer

AT HOME

If prayer is the missing ingredient in a believer's life, then fasting has become a lost food group. Yet over and over in scripture we see Christians call to the practice of fasting. This week challenge yourself to fast a day or even just one meal and feast on god's spiritual food.

During that time practice the ACTS method of prayer as you see below. With each step write down your prayers. Let it be a model for future extended times of prayer.

1. ADORATION
2. CONFESSION
3. THANKSGIVING
4. SUPPLICATION

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3. The Ministry of Deliverance

A. Its Validity

- Jesus regularly exercised this ministry.
- The apostles regularly exercised this ministry.
- The early church regularly exercised this ministry.
- The New Testament writers provide clear direction concerning this ministry. James 4:1-10
- Contemporary, balanced deliverance ministries do exist and help many people.

B. Its Problems

- Extremism and fanaticism tend to negatively color this ministry.
- Confusion concerning demon possession versus oppression of believers cloud this ministry's validity among Christians.
- Fear and ignorance have caused many to simply ignore this ministry.
- Those who engage in this ministry are often tempted by pride or become so singularly focused they fall into theological error.
- Assigning blame of all one's problems to demonic influence versus assuming personal responsibility and using Biblical common sense call this ministry into question.

C. The Cause(s) of Demonic Influence

- Yielding to sin
- Spiritual rebellion
- Participating in the occult
- Attempting to contact the dead
- Unresolved anger and bitterness
- Association with those involved in Satanic activity

D. New Testament Evidences of Demonic Influence

- Severe sickness
- Divination (telling the future)
- Unusual physical strength
- Fits of rage
- Split personality
- Resistance to spiritual help
- Other voices from withi

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E. The Cure for Demonic Influence

General Purpose

- 1. Victory is through the Cross of Christ (Colossians 2:14-15)**
- 2. Victory is in the name of Christ (Matthew 10:1, Acts 5:16)**
- 3. Victory is by the power of the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:4)**

Specific Steps for Deliverance from Demonic Influence

- 1. Accept Christ (1 John 1:12)**
- 2. Confess sins (1 John 1:9)**
- 3. Renounce works of the devil (2 Corinthians 4:2-4)**
- 4. Destroy occult objects Acts 19:17-20 (see also 2 Chronicles 14:2, 23:17)**
- 5. Break friendship with occultists (2 Corinthians 6:14-16)**
- 6. Rest in Christ's deliverance (Colossians 1:13)**
- 7. Resist the devil (James 4:7-10)**
- 8. Meditate on and apply the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17, Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)**
- 9. Engage in corporate prayer (Ephesians 6:18, Matthew 18:19)**
- 10. If necessary, exorcism in the name of Christ (Acts 16:16)**
 - a. By spiritually qualified counselor/pastor**
 - Who maintains humility (James 4:7)**
 - Who wears spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:12f)**
 - Who knows the word of God (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10)**
 - Who is supported by prayers of believers (Ephesians 6:18, Matthew 18:19)**

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the topic of deliverance ministry is so controversial? What extremes have caused you to question genuine deliverance ministry as being real and biblical?
2. In this session, Chip spoke about 6 ways we open ourselves up to demonic involvement: yielding to sin, spiritual rebellion, participating in the occult, attempting to contact the dead, unresolved anger, and bitterness and association with those involved in Satanic activity. Which of these sins are causing you to be the vulnerable to satanic activity?
3. Is there any person or situation that from what you learned from the video that would cause you to suspect ongoing demonic activity that may be in need of deliverance? If so, what pastor or spiritual leader could you contact to begin to address the situation?
4. Why is bitterness or anger such a pathway for the devil in the life of a believer?
5. Which of these ten steps of deliverance do you need to apply in your life today?

Accept Christ

Confess sins

Renounce works of the devil

Destroy occult objects Acts

Break friendship with occultists

Rest in Christ's deliverance (the gospel)

Resist the devil

Meditate on and apply the Word of God

Engage in corporate prayer

If necessary engage with a qualified Pastor/Counselor

Action Steps/At Home

Read Psalm 84:11. In the light of all you've gained from this study, write down what God wants you to do in His Grace? Here's some ideas:

- Take on a media fast—Take at least a ten day break from all media. Use that time to read and
- Read through the New Testament in three weeks.
- Start a Scripture memory program—Start by memorizing all or part of Ephesians 6:8-2

| The Enemy's Attack | Putting on the Armor |
|---|---|
| Deceive | Belt of Truth: Honesty with God |
| Accuse | Breastplate of Righteousness: Apply what you know to be true |
| Cast Doubt | Shod your Feet: Understanding the gospel |
| Fiery Darts of Temptation, Lies, Deceptions | Shield of Faith: Absolute confidence in God, His promises, His power, and His program for our lives |
| Battle for our Minds | Helmet of Salvation: Certainty that we are delivered from sin |
| Hand-to-Hand Combat | Sword of the Spirit: Knowing and Applying God's Word |