

"When 9-1-1 Is Not Enough" - II Chronicles 20

July 30/31-2016 - Gary Post

- I. Prayer Changes the Course of History
 - A. Leadership, prayer, and the battle for El Alamein
"Lord, give us leaders such that it will be for Your glory to give us victory through them." Derek Prince
 - B. The right Leader at the right time
"Let us ask the Lord, mighty in battle to give us the victory."
General Bernard Montgomery, October 23, 1942
- II. King Jehoshaphat: The Kind of Leader God Uses
 - A. He met God's criteria for leadership: Just and God-fearing
 - B. When afraid, he 1) Turned toward God, 2) Called the people to fast, and 3) Prayed to God for help
 - C. He believed unconditionally in God's power to save
"I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your doings; I muse on the work of Your hands." Psalm 143:5
- III. Meeting the Crisis with Prayer and God's Promises
 - A. God uses crises to grow our faith and to draw us back to Him
 - B. Jehoshaphat's preparation positioned him to pray with power
 - C. Praying God's promises releases God's power to save
"If Your people go out to battle...and they pray to you...then hear from heaven...and maintain their cause." II Chron. 6:34-35
"Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place." II Chronicles 7:15
 - D. God is poised to fight for us in times of trouble if we only ask
"The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."
Psalm 34:14-15
- IV. We Are Engaged in a Spiritual Battle
 - A. Evil forces are at work to capture nations and people's hearts
"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."
Ephesians 6:12

B. Prayer, the Word, and the Holy Spirit are our weapons
"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."

II Corinthians 10:3-5

C. The battle belongs not to us but to God--let Him fight it
"You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you." II Chron. 20:17

D. Jehoshaphat's prayer of faith--and ours too

"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." II Chron. 20:12

E. Pray with thanksgiving to turn your pain to peace

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

F. Trust God to turn your fear to strength

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

G. Our praise attracts God's presence and power

"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel."

Psalm 22:3 (KJV)

"Praise is God's address; it is where He lives. If you want to be where God lives, you must offer Him praise."

Derek Prince, Rules of Engagement

"Through Him [Christ] then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name."

Hebrews 13:15

"We gain more and more strength, our faith increases, and the things that are coming against us to defeat us are dissipated as we praise Him...Praise releases power in the spiritual realm and it is a form of spiritual warfare that always leads to victory."

Joyce Meyer, The Power of Simple Prayer

- V. Praying to Change the Course of History
- A. Praying for our leaders, our nation and the world
 "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (I Tim. 2:1-4 NIV)
- B. Our responsibility toward government before God
 "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God." Romans 13:1
- C. God orchestrates the destinies of leaders and nations
 "He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;" Daniel 2:21
- D. God can accomplish His purposes through anyone
 "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes." Proverbs 21:1
- VI. Preparing Ourselves to Be Used by God in Times of Chaos
- A. Determine to Become the Kind of Person God Can Use
 "Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work." II Timothy 2:21-22
- B. "Train" to Win in God's Gym
 "Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." I Timothy 4:7-8
- C. Take the Next Steps
- Engage with God's Word daily to see who He is and how he works in our lives
 - Begin to pray specifically for God to act in your heart, family, workplace, nation, world
 - Write down what God is teaching you and the answers to prayer He provides
 - Ask God for opportunities to be used by Him to make an eternal difference in the lives of those around you
 - Be alert for the Holy Spirit's leading and ask Him to fill you with His power and wisdom for each interaction

Recommended for Further Reading:

- Shaping History Through Prayer and Fasting – Derek Prince
- The Power of Simple Prayer: How to Talk with God About Everything
 Joyce Meyer
- Life With God: Reading the Bible for Spiritual Transformation
 Richard Foster
- 31 Days of Praise: Enjoying God Anew – Ruth and Warren Myers
- The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives
 Dallas Willard
- Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life: Beth Moore
- Deep-Rooted in Christ: The Way of Transformation – Joshua Kang
- Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence – Sarah Young
- Seeing the Unseen: Cultivate a Faith That Unveils the Hidden Presence of God –
 T. W. Hunt
- Knowing Christ Today - Dallas Willard
- Rules of Engagement: Preparing for Your Role in the Spiritual Battle
 Derek Prince
- Live a Praying Life: Open Your Life to God's Power and Provision
 Jennifer Kennedy Dean
- Victory in Spiritual Warfare - Tony Evans
- Total Truth - Nancy Pearcey
- The Pursuit of Holiness - Jerry Bridges
- How Christianity Changed the World - Alvin Schmidt
- Storm: Hearing Jesus for the Times We Live In - Jim Cymbala
- Walking in Victory - Dennis McCallum
- Facing Your Giants - Max Lucado
- It's Not What You Think: Why Christianity is About So Much More Than Going to Heaven When You Die
 Jefferson Bethke
- Good Faith: Being a Christian When Society Thinks You're Irrelevant and Extreme
 David Kinnaman & Gabe Lyons
- Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ
 Dallas Willard
- Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God
 Henry and Richard Blackaby and Claude King