

St Martins C3 – April 27, 2025

Prayer – Intercession and Spiritual Warfare

Sermon Notes:

Last week and this week we are using the Prayer Course to encourage us to take our prayer to the next level. As well as watching a compilation of videos we will spend time in prayer together.

Last week, we looked at the sessions, “What is Prayer?”, “Adoration” and “Petition”. This week we explore the sessions on intercession and spiritual warfare. Check out all the videos and other material at prayercourse.org. There are great videos there including one on Unanswered Prayer, which could be a good video to go through with your connect group.

Session Four: Intercession

Key Verse

“Your kingdom come” – Matthew 6:10

Bible Passages

2 Chronicles 7:13-14, Exodus 17:8-13, Genesis 18:22-33

Summary Points

- When God’s people intercede, God intervenes.
- There is power in our free will.
- 4 steps of intercession: get informed, get inspired, get indignant, get in synch.

Session Eight: Spiritual Warfare

Key Verse

“Deliver us from the evil one” – Matthew 6:13

Bible Passages

Ephesians 6:11-14

Summary Points

- The Bible is clear that we’re in a spiritual battle.
- Jesus was speaking into a culture of different worldviews.
- Remember the armour of God.
- Pray it. Practice it. Preach it.

We commit to interceding for different groups around us:

- 1- Our Friends and Family: Praying for salvations and circumstances in their lives.
- 2- The St Martins Area: Praying for the good of the area and for the people in it.
- 3- Aotearoa, New Zealand: Pray for peace and wellbeing in our nation and identity.
- 4- The Nations of the World: Pray for peace in war-torn lands. Pray for our Missions partners in Australia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Fiji, and Uganda.

Thoughts and Questions for Connect Groups:

What did you find most helpful or most challenging in the video?

How do you feel about intercessory prayer – do you find it's something that comes naturally or is it more of a challenge?

Have you ever had a feeling that you needed to pray for something or someone? What happened?

How do we get the balance right between the reality of spiritual warfare and focusing on Jesus?

“When we pray for God's Kingdom come it's because it's not automatic... we have to pray it in.” How does this reality affect the way that we do spiritual warfare?

What are the strongholds - greed, arrogance etc - in your home, work or community context? How can you live in the “equal but opposite spirit” this week?

As a group, spend some time interceding for your St Martins, Christchurch or New Zealand. Follow the 4 steps Pete outlined:

- 1. Get informed: learn the facts about the people in your area.*
- 2. Get inspired: What is God saying about this? Invite the Holy Spirit to speak into the situations you're interceding for.*
- 3. Get indignant: Engage your own heart and allow yourself to think and feel honestly as you pray.*
- 4. Get in synch: engage together in prayer.*

Devotional Exercises

For our devotions this week, we encourage you with two different ways to pray. What follows is the information from 24/7 Prayer about these methods.

Prayer Tool: A Circle Prayer

What?

The circle prayer is a simple activity to equip intercessory prayer. This prayer tool will show you how to do circle prayer.

Why?

“Lord, bend us according to your will.” Evan Roberts

“The Holy Spirit must have a body to pray and intercede through.” Rees Howells

Bible reference:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

A quick introduction to Circle Prayer

A great prayer tool to develop your intercessory prayer-life is the circle prayer, inspired by Rodney ‘Gipsy’ Smith, a remarkable English evangelist.

He was the son of gypsy parents and was well accustomed to the superstitions, customs and reputation that came with being a gypsy. He was radically saved as a 16 year old and, in time, became a fervent travelling evangelist. His prayer life was marked by one simple activity which became his trademark: drawing a circle and praying inside it.

When asked about what was needed for a successful revival, Gipsy replied: "Go home. Lock yourself in your room. Kneel down in the middle of the floor, and with a piece of chalk draw a circle around yourself. There, on your knees, pray fervently and brokenly that God would start a revival within that chalk circle."

Gipsy Smith began each of his evangelist crusades with such a ritual. On the outskirts of a city or town he was due to preach at he would draw a circle and begin to intercede for a revival. This is such a powerful prayer tool because it encourages us to internalise the work we long to see God do in other people's lives, in our own hearts. Remember God wants to pray through us and symbolically putting ourselves in a circle like this has the same effect as 'laying ourselves on the altar'.

We are showing God we prepared to let Him do what He needs in our hearts, so He can release His prayers and His power through us. Drawing a circle, kneeling inside it, and asking God to do what He wants to do is a great place to a revival.

Do it: A Circle Prayer

This activity can be done as part of a personal quiet time – you might like to mark out a circle using a piece of string rather than drawing on your carpet! It also works well as a group activity, with a large circle marked out so everyone can kneel within it.

Prayer Tool: Warfare Prayer

What?

Our prayers have power in fighting spiritual battles. This prayer tool will give you a model to pray a warfare prayer.

Why?

"Enemy-occupied territory, that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us to take part in a great campaign of sabotage." C. S. Lewis

Bible reference:

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:10-12

After detailing the different items that a soldier of Christ

should dress themselves in, Paul goes on to conclude that ultimately the way we both 'get ready' and 'engage' in this battle is in prayer. We need not fear the battle; in Christ we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).

Do it: Warfare Prayer

The warfare prayer below 'dresses' us in our spiritual armour so we can withstand and we can advance, 'kicking the darkness until it bleeds daylight.'

Heavenly Father, I come to you today as your beloved son/daughter. I worship You, and I give You praise; You are worthy to receive all the glory and honour and praise.

Today, I renew my allegiance to You, Jesus – my Saviour, my Friend, my Lord and my King. I thank You for saving me Jesus, and for the forgiveness of sins through the victory of the cross and resurrection. Thank You that You triumphed over all principalities and powers and made a show of them openly. I stand in that victory today believing that no weapon formed against me can prosper.

Note - here, you might also want to declare this over your family / friends / church – name them before the Lord .

I put on the armour of God today. I put on the belt of truth – I believe You are the Truth, Jesus. Your words are true and I am in You. I put on the shoes of the gospel of peace. By faith I stand, firm-footed, in Your 'Calvary-love' that forgives me, and

I walk today in confidence to share this good news with others.

I put on the breastplate of righteousness. Protect my heart. I am a new creation and I have received the righteousness of Christ. I choose to 'die to self' again today and display Your righteousness through my words and actions.

I put on the helmet of salvation. Renew my mind afresh today. I declare my mind set apart for You and therefore I reject the insinuations, the accusations and lies of Satan. You have not given me a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

I lift up the shield of faith to resist all against all the fiery darts of the enemy. Deliver me from evil and work in my life that there be no ground to give Satan a foothold against me.

I take up the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, and in the victory of Jesus I advance today knowing that the weapons of my warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God to the pulling down of strongholds, to the casting down of imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ.

I break the strongholds of Satan formed against my body, soul and spirit today, and choose to make Godly decisions today, by the grace of God. I rejoice in You today Jesus; may Your joy be my strength as Your grace and mercy follow my life. Jesus, You are my Vision.