

P² Praying with Power for the Lost

Welcome

Is there someone you love who is currently lost to God? Does your heart break at the thought of that person experiencing an eternity of suffering without Him? As much as it breaks your heart, did you know your heavenly Father longs even more to welcome that person into eternal life as one of His own?

It can be so painful to watch others struggle needlessly without God. We may even find ourselves angry at God, blaming Him for our loved one's unbelief and resistance. If only You did this, God, they would turn to You! But our anger would be unfounded. God has gone to great and miraculous lengths to reveal Himself to a lost and dying world. Those who refuse to acknowledge Him face an imprisonment of their own choosing.

That's why it's so important that we do all we can to proclaim God's message of redemption. He has commissioned us to join Him in sharing His offer of salvation with those we encounter in life, and to tell them about our own journey of faith in Jesus Christ. When we do our part and God does His, we can have hope that one day we will be able to rejoice over what was once lost when it is found (Luke 15).

As you pray for your lost friends, relatives, and even enemies, know that God is at work. He is persistently knocking on the doors of people's hearts around the globe. And, as long as there is breath in one's lungs, it is never too late for that person to repent at the feet of Jesus and accept His offer of forgiveness and redemption.

May this booklet guide you as you pray for the salvation of others and share the good news of Christ with them.

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P² Part 1: What is the condition of a lost person?

Blind

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

Point 1: ON HIS OWN, without the direct moving of the Holy Spirit, to an unsaved person,
— the gospel is “veiled.”

What does “veiled” mean? Merriam-Webster Definition: *having or wearing a veil or a concealing cover.*

The first biblical mention of “veil” with spiritual significance is in reference to the building of the tabernacle.

“You shall hang up the veil under the clasps, and shall bring in the ark of the testimony there within the veil; and the veil shall serve for you as a partition between the holy place and the holy of holies” (Exodus 26:33).

The veil in the tabernacle, and later in the Temple, separated humans from the direct presence of God. The veil covered, or hid, God from mankind’s view.

? **In an unsaved person, what is veiled or covered over?** _____

? 2nd Corinthians 4:3-4 also says that, *“the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving.”*
What does that tell you about a lost person’s ability to “see” and comprehend the truth?

Something covered/veiled is a Mystery

Jesus is “the mystery of God”, a mystery that once He kept hidden (veiled) but has now revealed (uncovered):

- *Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages. (Romans 16:25)*
- *But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (1st Corinthians 2:7-8)*
- *and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, (Ephesians 6:19)*
- *that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, (Colossians 2:2)*

But...

A mystery must be revealed to those who are blinded to it. Scripture tells us that an unsaved person is blind— he or she cannot see. They are being blinded by *“the god of this world.”* There is an active and intentional strategy in play that **blinds** the mind of the unbeliever to the gospel (Part 2).

? **How have you experienced or seen evidence in others of this Blindness?**

Deaf

‘Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word’ (John 8:43)... ‘He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God’ (John 8:47).

Point 2: ON HIS OWN, a lost person cannot hear the gospel.

He or she may be able to hear the words, but they cannot hear it at the heart-level that produces faith:

- *“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved” (Luke 8:11-12).*
- *“Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17).* The expression translated “word” in this sentence is the Greek word *rhema*. It means a voiced word.

For faith to be produced, one must be able to hear Christ voicing His Word; one must be able to hear with the heart. The Hebrew word for “wisdom” means “a hearing heart”. A lost person is void of wisdom. A lost person is deaf to the spiritual realm.

? **What does this tell you about a lost person’s ability to respond to the gospel?**

Slaves

They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin'. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. (John 8:33-37).

Jesus makes clear that unbelievers are slaves. He does not bother to say so diplomatically. He says it clearly and without equivocation. The unbelievers who were debating Him at that moment give us meaningful insight into the mind of an unbeliever. They are outraged and offended that Jesus said they were not free. They insist that they are free. Jesus insists that they are not free. He says that, unwittingly, they are doing the will of the devil. Believing themselves to be free, they are carrying out Satan's agenda.

Point 3: ON HIS OWN, a lost person is a slave to sin.

According to Jesus, freedom can come only one way: *"If the Son makes you free, then you will be free indeed" (John 8:36)*. Unbelievers are captives but are deluded as to their condition. *"The whole world lies in the power of the evil one" (1st John 5:19)*. Sin is master over each one. Satan's forces are actively, aggressively, and effectively enslaving them, but at the same time are creating in them the illusion that they are free.

? **What does this tell you about an unbeliever's ability to respond to the gospel?**

Spiritually Dead

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (Ephesians 2:1-2).

When you were dead in your transgressions and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with him (Colossians 2:13).

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:18)

Point 4: ON HIS OWN, a lost person is spiritually dead.

What does it mean to be spiritually dead?

This person cannot respond to anything in the spiritual realm.

- This person cannot feel a spiritual need.
- He cannot comprehend spiritual truth.

“But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

? **Which faculty of an unbeliever is dead?**

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical | <input type="checkbox"/> Volitional (will) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual | |

Only the spiritual faculty is dead, every other faculty is alive. He is alive toward sin, but dead toward God. Therefore, sin rules unchallenged.

? **What does this tell you about the lost person’s ability to respond to the pull of the spiritual realm?**

Praying for the Unsaved

Choosing to enter a relationship with Jesus Christ is a free will choice. A lost person’s will is not operating freely.

(Does this mean that a lost person is excused from personal responsibility for his lost condition? Of course not. Paul says that “...*they are without excuse*” (Romans 1:19-20). A lost person has chosen to reject as much of God as he understands and by that choice has made himself Satan’s captive.)

Definition of Free: not subject to the control or domination of another; not determined by anything beyond its own nature or being.

Since a person not in relationship with Christ is spiritually **blind**, spiritually **deaf**, spiritually **dead**, and spiritually **enslaved**, how can that person make a free will choice?

We don’t pray for the lost because we need to convince God to save them!

Prayer is the conduit through which God’s power flows. Prayer is not bringing a need to God’s attention, convincing God to meet a need, or influencing God to move. Prayer is what God has set in place to be **the bridge** between the power available in the spiritual realm and the need on earth.

Prayer accesses the power of God for the purposes of God. As we pray for lost people, God’s power begins to flow into their lives and circumstances. Through prayer and the power it releases in a life, a lost person’s will can be set free.

? **How does this change your view of prayer, specifically praying for the lost?**

Part 1 Review:

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (1 John 5:19)

Lost people are “under the power of the evil one”. Their will is not operating freely. They have become Satan’s captives. Prayer releases the power of God into their lives to set their wills free, thereby giving them the freedom to choose Christ.

It follows that prayer is spiritual warfare. By the amazing power released through prayer, we will free those who are being held captive by the enemy. He will not let them go without a battle. Count on it!

? **What comes to mind when you think of “Spiritual Warfare”?**

? **What comes to mind when you think of “Warfare”? How is it different? Should it be?**

? **Without reading ahead, in your current situation, how would you prepare for battle?**

Spiritual warfare in prayer need not be intimidating. First, let’s understand the enemy’s scheme regarding taking and holding prisoners. Then we’ll identify how we can defeat him.

P² Part 2: The Ultimate Weapon

Part One Review: *What is the condition of a lost person?*

Blind 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Deaf John 8:43 & 47

Slaves John 8:33-37

Spiritually Dead Ephesians 2:1-2; Colossians 2:13; John 3:18

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Part 2 The Ultimate Weapon

Satan's Purpose

Satan's purpose is to hold the ground he is occupying. The lost person "is" occupied territory.

The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world (1st John 4:4).

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (2 Kings 6:16-17).



Satan's Method

Don't think that the enemy is disorganized. On the contrary, the Word of God paints a picture of a well-thought-out, ingeniously conceived, masterful plan.

To the Corinthians, Paul wrote that he does not allow Satan to take advantage of him because he is "not ignorant of his schemes" (2 Corinthians 2:11). Schemes, or plans, mean the thoughts, the intellect, the way of thinking; purposeful, deliberate thinking. We are to be informed of his schemes, plans, projects, and tricks.

Satan's weapon is the lie.

He is a liar and is the father (source) of all lies. Lying is his nature, and there is NO truth in him *"When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."* (John 8:44). His scheme for holding an unsaved person captive is by making skillful use of the lie. Romans 1:25 reveals his technique: *"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie."*

In the life of a lost person, Satan has been able to put the lie in place of the truth. The enemy will protect that lie. If the lie is ever exposed to the truth—darkness coming into contact with light—the lie will not be able to stand.

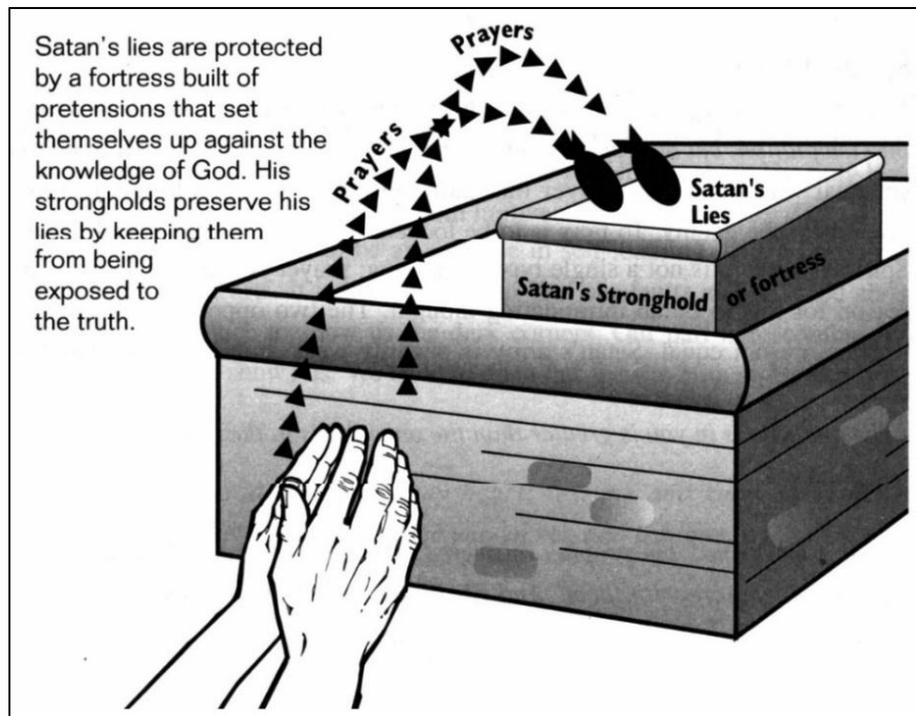
"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5). So, Satan builds a fortress (stronghold) around it.

What is the fortress built out of?

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 (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

Satan is building up and elevating a fortress made of lies. He has made the lies sound true. Refer to the following illustration:

- Imagine the lost ones for whom you are praying trapped in the fortress Satan has built. Do you see it? Consider that his or her thoughts are being held captive. See the prayer-bombs falling on the fortress. Believe it. Write out your thoughts:



The Ultimate Weapon

Possibly, you are quite familiar with Ephesians 6:10-20, the passage of Scripture in which Paul describes the armor of God. Read Ephesians 6:10-20:

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

12 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.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

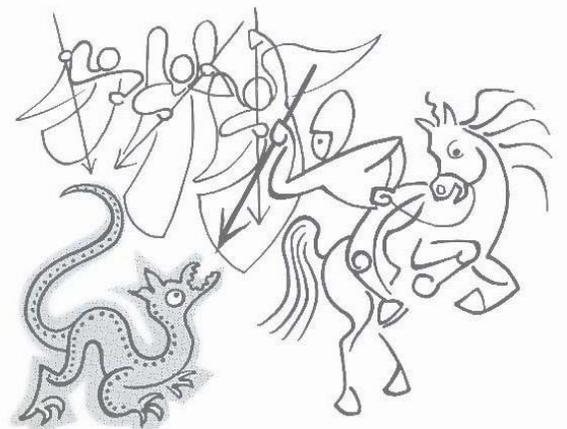
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

In verse 10, we read, **“Be strong in the Lord.”** Literally, the Greek says, “Be strengthened.” Your strength or ability for this battle will be given to you from His very own vigor, dominion, and forcefulness as you rest in Him.

In verse 11, we are again warned of the devil’s “schemes.” **We face our enemy** head-on from a position of superiority.

Verse 12 reminds us that our enemies are in **the spiritual realm**.

Verse 13 admonishes us that we must pick up and put on the **full armor** that God has provided in order to “withstand” (a word meaning to stand face to face against) the evil one.



Look up the following Scriptures and write them out:

Truth: John 14:6

Righteousness: 1 Corinthians 1:30

Gospel of peace: Ephesians 2:14; Romans 5:1

Faith: Hebrews 12:2

Salvation: Hebrews 2:10; 5:9

Word of God: John 1:1

In his description of the armor, Paul gives us **one offensive weapon—the Word of God**. Everything else is in place to protect against attack and to enable us to plunge into enemy territory covered. Keep in mind that you strike with the Word of God (Part 3).

Then, having described all the armor, in verse 18, Paul tells us how to activate it. **Pray!** You would expect the next word to be, “Now attack!” But instead, the command is, “Now pray!” Prayer is how you attack the enemy’s fortress.

Part 2 Review:

Praying for the unsaved is an act of spiritual warfare. Through aggressive prayer, we are engaging the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. We have been armed for the battle with an impenetrable armor— Jesus Christ Himself. The offensive weapon in our arsenal is the Word of God, and the muscle power that wields it is prayer.

Prayer is how you come face-to-face with him and stand against him. *Pray at all times with all kinds of prayers.*

? **What is your battle plan to pray for the lost between now and the next session (Part 3)?**

P² Part 3: The Unbeatable Combination

Part One Review: What is the condition of a lost person?

Blind 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

Deaf John 8:43 & 47

Slaves John 8:33-37

Spiritually Dead Ephesians 2:1-2; Colossians 2:13; John 3:18

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Part Two Review: The Ultimate Weapon

Satan's purpose is to hold the ground he is occupying; the lost person is occupied territory. **Satan's weapon is the lie**; he is a liar and is the father (source) of all lies. In the life of a lost person, Satan has been able to put the lie in place of the truth.

Satan is building up and elevating a fortress made of lies. He has made the lies sound true. We are at war, it's spiritual warfare. Through aggressive prayer, we are engaging the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. In Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul describes the armor of God. We have been armed for the battle with an impenetrable armor—Jesus Christ Himself. The offensive weapon in our arsenal is the Word of God and *the muscle power that wields it is prayer.*

Prayer is how you come face to face with him and stand against him. Praying always with all kinds of prayers.

? Warfare requires a battle plan. What is your battle plan for prayer?

Part 3

The Unbeatable Combination

*And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit
(Ephesians 6:17-18).*

Spirit-generated prayer and the living, active Word (rhema—voiced word) of God come together to produce a weapon that can't miss its target and can't fail in its mission. The power generated when the Word of God and prayer come together is explosive.



The Faith Force

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith (1 John 5:4).

Our faith, which is born of God, is the force that triumphs over, subdues, and overpowers Satan's realm. Every time we take hold of the Word of God and believe it, it is because the Spirit of God Himself is giving us the ability to believe it. The more the Word of God gets inside us and dwells in us in all its richness (Colossians 3:16), the more it gives substance to our faith.

'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you' (John 15:7).

Acts of obedience will likely grow out of prayer, but prayer is the ground from which all else grows. When, in the course of praying for a specific lost person, you find yourself in a position to share the gospel or live the gospel in the life of that person, it is because God's power, released through prayer, has created the opportunity at the ripe moment.

The battle has been won in prayer. Everything else is just the mop-up operation.

Pray the Word

Here are 4 examples of bible verses, God's truth in them, and an example prayer based upon them.

- 1) *"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11).*



Truths about God's Word in Isaiah 55:10-11

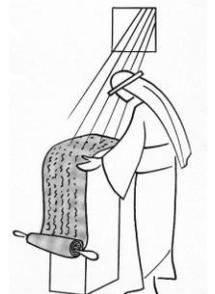
- a. God's Word, like the rain and the snow, causes the lives into which He sends it to **bear fruit** (*bring forth and sprout*).
- b. The fruit of God's word is the **Gospel** for the believer (*seed to the sower*) and **life** for the seeker (*bread for the eater*).
- c. God sends out His Word deliberately and **purposefully**; it has an **assignment** (*it shall accomplish that which I purpose*).
- d. God's Word **ALWAYS completes its assignment** (*shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it*).



Example Prayer:

Father, would You send Your Word into the life of _____.

Cause _____ to come into contact with Your Word over and over. I know that Your word will have success.



- 2) *He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple. The Lord God has opened my ear. (Isaiah 50:4-5)*
Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left. (Isaiah 30:21)

Truths in Isaiah 50:4-5 & 30:21:

1. God is the one who **awakens and opens** spiritual ears.
2. **God will speak** His powerful Word to cause a person to change his course.



Example Prayer:

Father, give _____ ears to hear. Awaken and unstop his/her spiritual ears.

Let _____ hear your voice directing him in the path of life.

- 3) *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe (Ephesians 1:18-19).*

Truths in Ephesians 1:18-19:

1. God is able to enlighten the eyes of the heart.
2. When the heart's eyes are enlightened, the person can know the hope, the riches, and the power.



Example Prayer:

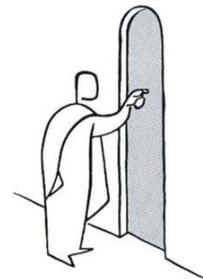
Father, enlighten the eyes of _____'s heart.

Cause _____ to see and understand Your call, Your glory and Your power.

- 4) *I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart (Jeremiah 24:7).*

Truths in Jeremiah 24:7:

1. A heart that knows God comes from God.
2. His irresistible grace will draw people to Him with their whole heart.



Example Prayer:

Father, give _____ a heart to know You. Draw his/her whole heart to You.

As you spend time in God's Word, be open to the Spirit, allowing Him to awaken prayer in you. The Word of God becomes so strongly entrenched in your life that it creates an outgoing current called prayer. You don't have to be quoting specific Bible verses to be praying the Word. You will find that all of your prayers are formed in the Word.

Additional Example Prayers:

- ❖ Reveal to _____ the emptiness of everything he has set his affections on.
- ❖ Beset _____ behind and before and lay your hand upon her.
- ❖ Lead _____ in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake.
- ❖ Draw _____ to Jesus.
- ❖ Create the circumstances in _____'s life that will cause him to cast himself on You.
- ❖ Reveal to _____ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
- ❖ Bring _____ to the realization that only in the Lord are righteousness and strength.

Part 3 Review:

In our battle to free captives, we have been given a Spirit-powered weapon that can't miss. The fusion of the Word of God and prayer creates an unbeatable release of divine power that blasts to pieces the enemy's strongholds.

Between now and the next session (Part 4), find three additional verse sets, their biblical truths, and an example prayer for a lost person:

1) Verse(s): _____

Biblical Truth(s): _____

Example Prayer: _____

2) Verse(s): _____

Biblical Truth(s): _____

Example Prayer: _____

3) Verse(s): _____

Biblical Truth(s): _____

Example Prayer: _____

You do not have to “qualify” to be an intercessor. If you have been born-again through Jesus Christ, then you are called to and equipped for intercession.

However, if you desire to be the most powerful intercessor possible, the Father tells us how to line up our lives so that we are available to be the conduits of His power; that’s Part Four...

P² Part 4: The Flow of Christ's Life

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Part Three Review: The Unbeatable Combination

In our battle to free captives, we have been given a Spirit-powered weapon that can't miss. The fusion of the Word of God and prayer creates an unbeatable release of divine power that blasts to pieces the enemy's strongholds. Strategically uniting Biblical truth with fervent prayer so that God's power can be unleashed upon the lost person has one possible hindrance...

Part 3

The Flow of Christ's Life

Anything of Christ produced in us comes from the life of Christ flowing through us. Our lives are not producing the fruit; His life is producing the fruit and our lives are only displaying it. He is the Beginning and the End of everything.

'Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing' (John 15:4-5).

Jesus tells us in John 15 that His life is in us and is actively flowing through us. The evidence is the fruit that results. What fruit is He talking about? Remember, the Scripture interprets itself.

'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples' (John 15:7-8).

Follow His logic:

1. IF you have a continual interaction with Me, letting My words shape and form your desires, THEN you will desire what I desire
2. And when you ask for what you desire, your prayers will be answered with a 'yes.'
3. This—the abundance of answers to prayer—glorifies My Father because it proves His faithfulness.
4. The fruit (the effect or consequence of an action or operation) of abiding in Christ is answered prayer.
5. Our prayers will be for what The Father wants – His Will – His Heart: *"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."* (2nd Peter 3:9)

What hinders The Father's Will from flowing through you?

Hindrances to the Flow of Christ's Life

1. Deliberate sin. Anything in your life that directly goes against the Word of God and which you engage in or tolerate passively cuts off the flow of His life.
2. Disobedience. When you know that the Spirit of God, the indwelling Christ, is prompting you to do something, to take some action, and you do not respond, it cuts off the flow of His life.
3. Broken relationships. If your actions and attitudes are creating or sustaining a breach in a relationship or if you have not taken every step to restore a broken relationship, the flow of His life is diminished.
4. Unforgiveness and bitterness. In 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, Paul talks about the power of forgiveness and warns that not forgiving gives Satan the advantage. Refusing to forgive a wrong blocks the flow of His life.

"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14-15)

5. Lying and deceitfulness. *"He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me"* (Psalms 101:7).
6. Lack of compassion for those in need. *"He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered (Proverbs 21:13).*

To sum up: *Garbage In... Garbage Out!*

Do you truly want to be effective in warfare? Do you long to see people come to faith in Christ? Will you submit yourself to a heart-exam by the Spirit?

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way (Psalms 139:23-24).

The 2nd *Characteristic of a Person God Uses* is that they are “Thankful in Everything”. What have you not been thankful n”? (Church Planting Movements: How God Is Redeeming A Lost World by David Garrison)

- On a piece of paper, List the Things You Have Not Been Thankful in or through. Pray for the list, that you will no longer neglect to be thankful in or through them and get rid of it

What can you intentionally put into your life that will keep open the flow of His life through you?

Opening Your Life to His Power

1. **Read/Listen** to His Word: Marinate your mind, your thoughts, your heart, your life in His Word. Study it, read it, listen to it, meditate on it day and night.
2. **Listen** to God: Spend time in extended prayer with the specific purpose of listening to God; be still and know!
3. **Fast**: Read all of Isaiah 58 to learn of True and False fasting. *“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6).*
4. **Give** Tithes and Offerings: *“Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure -- pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return” (Luke 6:38).*
5. **Fellowship** with other believers, giving your full attention and focus related to the works of Jesus in our lives.

The Father's / Jesus' Heart in You

As His life flows through you, He will begin to reproduce His heart in you. His passion will be your passion.

A mission statement condenses and clarifies one's purpose into a sentence or two and becomes the grid through which all activities and plans are evaluated. Jesus has a mission statement:

'For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost'

(Luke 19:10)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (Eph. 2:10).

- What has the Holy Spirit convicted you to do or to change that would make you more effective and powerful in praying for the unsaved?

- Write out your own honest commitment before God (a mission statement) as it applies to your praying for the unsaved.

Prayer is strategically used for offense & defense: Don't miss Part Five...

P² Part 5: Prayer as Protection

Part One Review: What is the condition of a lost person?

Since a person not in relationship with Christ is spiritually **blind**, spiritually **deaf**, spiritually **dead**, and spiritually **enslaved**, how can they make a free will choice?

We don't pray for the lost because we need to convince God to save them!

Prayer is the conduit through which God's power flows. Prayer is not bringing a need to God's attention, convincing God to meet a need, or influencing God to move. Prayer is what God has set in place to be **the bridge** between the power available in the spiritual realm and the need on earth. Prayer accesses the power of God for the purposes of God. As we pray for lost people, God's power begins to flow into their lives and circumstances. Through prayer, and the power it releases in a life, a lost person's will can be set free.

Part Two Review: The Ultimate Weapon

Satan's weapon is the lie; he is a liar and is the father (source) of all lies. In the life of a lost person, Satan is building up and elevating a fortress made of lies. We are at war, it's spiritual warfare. Through aggressive prayer, we are engaging the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. The offensive weapon in our arsenal is the Word of God and *the muscle power that wields it is prayer...*

Part Three Review: The Unbeatable Combination

In our battle to free captives; we have been given a Spirit-powered weapon that can't miss. The fusion of the Word of God and prayer creates an unbeatable release of divine power that blasts to pieces the enemy's strongholds. Strategically uniting Biblical truth with fervent prayer so that God's power can be unleashed upon the lost person has one possible hindrance...

Part Four Review: The Flow of Christ's Life

Anything of Christ produced in us comes from the life of Christ flowing through us. As His life flows through you, He will begin to reproduce His heart in you. Unless you hinder the flow, His passion will be your passion.

My BIG Take-Aways so far:

Part 5

Prayer as Protection

Ephesians 6:10-20



- 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.
- 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
- 12 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.
- 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.
- 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
- 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.
- 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;
- 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
- 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
- 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,
- 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Circle what is Offensive.



Square what is Defensive.



Warfare requires supply lines and protecting your "Six".

When engaged in praying for the lost we must remember, WE ARE AT WAR; Spiritual Warfare. Therefore, we not only need to be on the attack, but we also need to protect our flanks. Ephesians 6 includes one offensive weapon; the sword. The rest are defensive...

Prayer directs the flow of God's power. We need to include prayers of protection for ourselves and one another as soldiers/ambassadors fighting in battle.



Ephesians 6:18

praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Prayer Video

“Feel Something; Pray Something”



Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Acts 3:1-4:31; Acts 4:23-31

- 23 *When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.*
- 24 *And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them,*
- 25 *who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, ““Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain?”*
- 26 *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’ [Jesus Christ]—*
- 27 *for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,*
- 28 *to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*
- 29 *And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,*
- 30 *while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”*
- 31 *And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

What lessons can we learn from this story and this prayer?

As you engage in battle, read and pray this Psalm often.

Psalm 91

NOTES

- ¹ *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*
- ² *I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."*
- ³ *For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.*
- ⁴ *He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*
- ⁵ *You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.*
- ⁷ *A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.*
- ⁸ *You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.*
- ⁹ *Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—
¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.*
- ¹¹ *For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.*
- ¹² *On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.*
- ¹³ *You will tread on the lion and the adder;
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.*
- ¹⁴ *"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.*
- ¹⁵ *When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.*
- ¹⁶ *With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."*

Pray for one another!

P² Part 6: Prayer For and As Engagement

Part One Review: What is the condition of a lost person?

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Part Four Review: The Flow of Christ's Life

Anything of Christ produced in us comes from the life of Christ flowing through us. As His life flows through you, He will begin to reproduce His heart in you. Unless you hinder the flow, His passion will be your passion.

Part Five Review: Prayer as Protection

When engaged in praying for the lost we must remember, WE ARE AT WAR; Spiritual Warfare. Therefore, we not only need to be on the attack, but we also need to protect our flanks. Pray for protection and one another!

Part 6

Prayer For Engagement;

Ephesians 6:19-20

19 and [pray] also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to **proclaim** the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may **declare** it boldly, as I ought to **speak**.

Our Purpose

The whole purpose of this praying is for them to be released from their current state of spiritual blindness, deafness, and bondage that is leading to death so that they can spiritually see, hear, and be freed to respond to the gospel of life.



The only way to test our progress is to share the gospel with them.

Missionary Question:

Q: “How do I know if my people will be responsive to the gospel?”

A: “Share the gospel with them.”

Q: “What if I did and they said ‘NO’?”

A: “Have you been praying to change their blindness, deafness & bondage?”

In Colossians 4:2-6, what are the **results** or **purposes** of our prayers? What is God Teaching Here?

- 2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
- 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the **word**, to **declare** the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—
- 4 that I may make it **clear**, which is how I ought to **speak**.
- 5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.
- 6 Let your **speech** always be **gracious**, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to **answer** each person.



Part 6

Prayer As Engagement; B.L.E.S.S. Them

Often, when engaging in witnessing opportunities (telling our story or God's story), we can come to an impasse, or sometimes, for whatever reason, we can't even get started. The B.L.E.S.S. strategy allows you to enter into the life of a person, family, or community in a very non-confrontational, yet meaningful way.

- If someone just shared something personal or emotional. Ask;
 - **"Can I pray for you?"**
- When you first meet someone. After a brief interaction, ask;
 - **"What can I pray for you?"**
- Always end witnessing opportunities, good or bad, with;
 - **"How can I pray for you?"**

Use these guidelines when you ask, "How can I pray for you?":

B (Body) "Is there anyone in your family who is sick? I/We want to pray for them."

L (Livelihood) "Are you earning enough money to provide for the basic needs of your family? I/We want to pray for your work/business to be successful."

E (Emotions) "Would you describe your family as a happy family, or are you covered with hardships? I/We want to pray that your family will experience true JOY."

S (Social problems) "Is there prostitution, alcohol addiction, drug addiction, gangs, terrorists, etc, in your community? I/We will pray against these."

S (Spiritual) "Do you sometimes feel that God is not listening to your prayers or cries for help? I want to pray that God will hear you."

- If you can pray at that time, please do so.
- If they will pray with you, encourage them to do so.

Finish by letting them know; "All of these requests I will pray, in the Name of Jesus."



The B.L.E.S.S. Strategy

Note: If they are a stranger to you, please devise and schedule some way to follow up with them via phone, email, or a planned meeting.

Now the real work begins!

You must be committed to fervent prayer regarding the requests received. Pray with expectation, pray with power! You are summoning the Holy of Holies. Gather others to pray with you!

The next interaction:

You will now go back to them, a few days or a week later, and because you have expectantly prayed for a wide range of requests, all it takes is one of the prayers to be answered for them to ask you to pray again.

Tell them that you will not pray for just them, but if they gather some of their family, neighbors, or co-workers, you will pray for everyone. See how wide you can expand the group.

When they come together, ask the original person to explain “why” they have been called together; the why and what happened because of your prayers (they are learning how to tell Their Story).

When they finish, before asking for prayer requests, take this opportunity to share Your Story, God’s Story (Gospel), and/or an applicable Bible story.

Continued Interaction:

Return as often as possible. This will hopefully evolve into a prayer group, which will then become a discipleship group that may lead to the formation of multiple groups and a disciple-making movement.

Who will you BLESS in the coming week?

In one Asian country, it is claimed that from 1990 to 2010, the B.L.E.S.S. Strategy alone was responsible for establishing over 10,000 houses of prayer and starting over 4,000 churches.

