A Training Manual For Spiritual Warfare To Take Cities and Nations For God

By Michael D. Gross
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I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Luke 10:18

**Introduction**

It is with a divine momentum for prayer and world evangelism that I embark on further developing the Firepower Manual. God knows I tried at times to perfect the work birthed in two years of strategy sessions with my spiritual father, Pastor Bob Swanger and others. Since those monthly sessions in 1993-95, which were followed by a number of Firepower Conferences to impact cities and nations for God, Bob Swanger went home to be with Jesus on April 29, 1995. I am reminded of what Paul said,

*Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.* 1 Corinthians 4:15

My spiritual father was a man who walked daily in communion with our Lord. His call from the Lord was unique in that he had the privilege of walking in each of the fivefold ministries of Ephesians 4:11. The following is the foreword he wrote in 1994 as part of the original manual:

*We read in 1 John 2:6 those who abide in Jesus ought to walk in the same way in which He walked. In John 5:19 Jesus said that He could only do what He saw the Father doing. In John 4:34 Jesus says to His disciples that His food is to do the will of His Heavenly Father. According to the scriptures we are to walk as Jesus did in all our lives and ministry. We are all ministers of the Gospel. As it was with Jesus, so it is with us. It is vitally important we know and see what God is doing. I have based my entire ministry upon discovering the Father's actions and joining Him in doing the same. Among a dozen other things I believe God is doing in our day are three you're about to embark on. God is answering the prayers of His people, God is reaching the unreached, and God is wanting to have cities, towns and villages taken for His glory. I believe it is time to assemble God's intercessors in Firepower Units that as many cities, towns and villages as are prayed for will be set free to proclaim Jesus is Lord to the glory of the Father.*

Although all spiritual fathers eventually depart for glory, the mantle is always given to another because we follow God and not a man. I believe it is also the Lord’s design to transfer the mantle with increased anointing. I hope what I am about to say will help fire up someone to pick up the mantle laid before you as Elisha did with the mantle of Elijah. Apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher, you’ve let your mantle lay there long enough. Pick it up! Strike the waters and walk across on dry land full of faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord had to remind Joshua of this.

*Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.* Joshua 1:2

This was spoken in flood season and they still walked across on dry land. I believe God commanded me in this day and hour to pick up the mantle with my name on it and run with the end time vision to rescue souls. He is waiting for many others to pick up mantles with their names on them. The Lord wants to shake and move cities and nations through us. My soul is on fire! I cannot rest or be fulfilled until the local church launches into global action to impact cities and nations for God. We must remember His church is without walls!

One matter alone remains unsettled in the Kingdom of God. Exactly how many people will spend eternity with
the Lord Jesus Christ? The quality of His Kingdom is an established fact, but the quantity is yet to be determined. The former requires the bold proclamation that His Kingdom shall stand forever, the latter demands the prayerful obedience of His present-day disciples to deliberately and aggressively advance the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This is how God Himself has ordained it to be!

I believe spiritual warfare must precede evangelism if the church is going to fulfill the Great Commission. In fact, this is why it is necessary. Jesus is the Lord of the harvest and the Lord of the harvest says, *The harvest is plentiful* (Matthew 9:37; Luke 10:2). This is the focus and purpose of all spiritual warfare. Let us never get so caught up in the battle itself, the adrenalin and rush of the moment that we forget why we are doing what we are doing. Although Jesus acknowledges the initial effectiveness of our warfare just as He did the seventy, He quickly reminds us … *Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.* Luke 10:20. God’s true warriors are motivated by the cry of their Father’s heart that none should perish (2 Peter 3:9). For this reason God is calling His church to awaken and assault with great firepower enemy strongholds to take cities and nations for God.

Spiritual leaders around the world agree that the church is on the threshold of the greatest revival and outpouring of the Holy Spirit in history! The new wine, fire, and wind of God are ready to sweep across North America as it has in much of the rest of the world. My friends this is all orchestrated by God Himself. It is the end time harvest and this will determine the number of people who will spend eternity with Him. To this end, I devote the writing of this manual.

“Firepower”, a term I will define in Chapter 1, is borrowed from my combat training and experiences as a Marine rifleman in Vietnam in 1969. Although those experiences occurred prior to my salvation in 1973, the Lord has increasingly revealed to me many parallels between earthly and spiritual warfare. I will use some of those military experiences as well as those serving as a Navy Chaplain assigned with United States Marines to illustrate important spiritual truths regarding our warfare against the forces of hell.

I pray that God will use this work to birth more “Firepower Conferences” as a biblical strategy to mobilize churches to take their cities for God. The first conference was conducted in York, Pennsylvania on April 22 & 23, 1994. Shortly thereafter reports started coming in of an abortion clinic closing and in another city a psychic center went out of business. No one chained themselves to any door or even trespassed on private property. Instead they prayed strategically making war in the heavenlies. I suspect no one in the secular world knew what the “firepower teams” were doing. But the demons of hell knew and trembled.

The conferences follow a significant pattern; however, there is much flexibility to adjust to any context around the world. For example, we like to utilize internationally what we call “Strategic Regional Training Operations” to impact cities and regions for Christ. These two week operations entail one week of training followed by a week of field operations for evangelization, church planting, medical missions, and economic development. The goal is to establish networking partnerships to mobilize, equip, empower, and release the next generation of the citywide church into the ripe harvest fields. Churches throughout the city and region are encouraged to send intercessors. The conference includes praise warfare and corporate prayer, the teaching of God’s word
regarding various aspects of spiritual warfare, and a strategic assault upon the city with spiritual “firepower.” Although this concludes the conference, the local churches are ready to begin occupying their city for God. It is important that the local churches be ready to immediately implement their respective evangelism and church planting strategies. Too much delay at this point is costly and the price is souls. I pray we all understand that Christ's passion for souls is nonnegotiable.

I want to thank all who contributed to the development of this manual. I praise Jesus for all our international partners who, for the most part, are already experiencing the active operation of the church in taking cities and nations for Christ. Their courageous examples inspire us all to a greater passion for fulfilling the Great Commission in our generation.

Dr. Michael D. Gross

5-Fold Global Ministries
The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:4

Chapter 1

**Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare**

The Army of God

Spiritual warfare continues to rage around the world as the “accuser of the brethren” tries to stop the advance of God’s Army. This alone should be enough to convince us that every launch to the nations, every soul won, and every church planted are pivotal to the fulfillment of the Great Commission in our generation. Although we must qualify our usage of terms like “The Army of God” due to worldwide terrorism and religious extremism, we need to be reminded again and again that “God’s got an Army!”

A frequent title of God is “The Lord of Hosts.” Some newer translations use the term, “The Lord Almighty.” Spanish speaking people say, “Jehovah de los ejercitos” meaning “The Lord of the Army.” The Hebrew word tsaba’ literally refers to an army, a company or division of soldiers. This word appears more than 425 times in the Old Testament.

God created us from the beginning to be in His Army.

*Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.* Genesis 2:1 (NKJV)

King David also knew this.

*By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.* Psalm 33:6

The Scriptures also make it absolutely clear about who commands this vast army. Joshua met him near Jericho.

*Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand.*

Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. Joshua 5:13-15

The Lord is in charge! He commands the army.

God has a great spiritual army at His command.

*The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.* Revelation 19:14

Elisha saw God’s army and was able to declare to his servant:

*“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

Paul made the same declaration in reference to God’s army.
What, then, shall we say in response to this? “If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31

God's army is marching through nations. We are called to advance rather than retreat. We are following Jesus just as an earthly army follows their leader. God created us for this purpose. His love has such a tight grip on us (2 Cor. 5:14) that we will never turn back! The times are perilous, but they are also strategic for the church. Jesus is issuing commands to His army. The word is coming from the top, from the Commander Himself.

_The Lord announced the word, and great was the company of those who proclaimed it:_ Psalms 68:11

The Lord will perform His word through us and His name shall be great among the nations!

**Facing the Enemy**

“Firepower” is a military term. It can be defined as “the level of intensity of assault or return fire unleashed upon the enemy that neutralizes his ability to engage and overruns his position.” Simply sated, it’s when you so devastate the enemy that they are unable to respond. The engagement itself is referred to as a “firefight.”

I remember one of the firefights I experienced in Vietnam. The company commander was upset with our platoon. Let me explain. The enemy hit us when our platoon was in the open. From my vantage point, there was no advance warning. We returned fire as we advanced to the base of their position and there is where we stopped our advance. This is why the company commander was displeased because he wanted us to go on and take the hill. In fact he was so upset that following the artillery and air strike upon the enemy position, he called another platoon to march over the hill and take credit for the victory. This was a disgrace for a Marine platoon trained for conquest. What’s the big deal anyway? The point is that firepower is not limited to overcoming the enemy. It also includes occupying his position!

War College graduates will be the first to tell you that war is about real estate. Ideology and religion may motivate some wars, but when it’s all said and done what really matters is whose going to occupy! Christians need to realize that there’s a fierce battle in the spiritual realm for residency. Territorial spirits want occupancy. Commanders of darkness have ruled over cities for centuries. In many cases they have established what they regard as permanent residency. Nevertheless, they stand in fear and trepidation when the name of Jesus is uttered with authority from the lips of even a single believer full of faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. They are even more terrified of the corporate army of saints. From the time of the Fall of man, it’s been one big cataclysmic war for reign, rights, and residency. God has much to say about this issue.

_I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies_, Genesis 22:17

What does it mean to “possess?” The Hebrew word _yarash_ means to occupy by driving out previous tenants, and possessing in their place. Instead of possessing it often seems like the church has been dispossessed by the enemy. This is a call for spiritual warfare! It is no accident that it is one of the hottest topics in the church. God is calling the church to spiritual warfare against the enemy of our souls. His promise and His marching orders are clear.

_I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses._ Joshua 1:3
The Lord revealed in prayer on November 18, 2003, "I am building a wall of fire across Africa." This was understood as God's response to Islam's claim that they will possess Africa. On January 28, 2004, the Lord spoke again, this time on African soil, saying, "teach my people about apostles and release the apostolic fire for the end time harvest." Finally, on January 29, the Lord said, "I will move the earth that you walk on." This was primarily referring to a spiritual moving. God was saying that everywhere the team went in His name, a spiritual moving would begin. Some Christians feel that if we ignore Satan he will leave us alone. This only leads to cohabitation and in some cases codependency with all types of bondage. In other words, we just learn to live with it! This is one reason the devil has succeeded in keeping much of the power out of the church. Just think of it! The Lord is made to feel unwelcome in His own house because the church refuses to face or engage the enemy. I was General Lewis “Chesty” Puller's last driver as a Marine Corporal in 1971. General Puller was the most decorated Marine in all history. He boasted that he would never retreat. During the Korean War he headed up the 2nd Marine Division fighting at the Chosen Reservoir. They called them the “frozen chosen.” I was there in 1984 assigned as a Navy Chaplain with First Battalion, First Marines and believe me it is cold even in the summer. The decision was made to pull the Marines out. Reporters surrounded Chesty Puller as the “frozen chosen” began the long trek out of the Chosen Reservoir. They taunted him regarding why he was in retreat. The General responded, "We are not in retreat! We are merely advancing in a different direction!"

We must realize that it is God's will for us to do spiritual warfare.

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.* Matthew 4:1

Notice it was the Spirit who led Jesus to face the devil. This was before He began His public ministry. I believe the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ will be released in much greater abundance today when the church faces the enemy head-on in spiritual warfare. I again remind the church that the primary purpose of such intense warfare is to rescue souls.

Jesus Himself says, *Occupy till I come.* Luke 19:13 (KJV). He spoke this in a parable to those who thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. As the moment of His appearing draws near, the church is instructed by the Commander of God's army to get to work for the advance of the Kingdom of God. It is important for believers to understand that the advance is a forceful one.

*From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.* Matthew 11:12

The exhortation here is that the saints need to be forceful and energetic when facing the enemy. God is raising movers and shakers today who will flow in the power of His Spirit. Fearless in battle and impassioned for souls, like young lions they will aggressively go forth together to reclaim territory and rescue souls. Goliath doesn't have a chance and he knows it! The church must not hesitate to corporately seize or take by force what rightfully belongs to it.

*Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.* Luke 12:32

**Three Levels of Spiritual Warfare**
Many believers have little to no awareness of different levels of spiritual warfare. Some may even question whether it is relevant! Dr. C. Peter Wagner, coordinator of the United Prayer Tract and head of the Wagner Institute in Colorado Springs, has emerged as one of the leading authorities on spiritual warfare. Dr. Wagner has identified three levels.1

1. **Ground-level spiritual warfare.**
2. **Occultic-level spiritual warfare.**
3. **Strategic-level spiritual warfare.**

**Ground-level spiritual warfare** involves the casting out of demons associated with typical deliverance ministry. We see this level of warfare emphasized when Jesus sent out the twelve and the seventy.

*He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*
Matthew 10:1

*The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your names.”* Luke 10:17

This is the most common level of spiritual warfare and the level the saints are most familiar with.

*And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons;* Mark 16:17

The early church was very experienced with this level of warfare as evidenced by Philip’s ministry in the city of Samaria.

*With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed.* Acts 8:7

I experienced this on my first trip to the Ukraine in 1993. Over two hundred people pressed us against the wall at the Hall of Culture in the provincial city of Balta. I lost sight of my church elder in the process, but I was glad our interpreter was still with me. The people were so desperate for healing and salvation. All types of pains, tumors, wounds, and cancers departed many as we took authority in Jesus’ name over sickness and disease giving glory to God. Suddenly there was a violent commotion accompanied by screaming. The screaming quickly turned to jubilation. With great anticipation, I inquired, almost demanded, to know what took place. The interpreter asked the woman and she testified that an evil spirit had left her body. When God’s power over demons is demonstrated through believers it is a sign that Jesus is Lord. Multitudes come to Him when they hear and see such miracles!

**Occultic-level spiritual warfare** involves fortune telling, witchcraft, spirit guides, satanic priests, New Age channelers, spells, curses and the like. This level of warfare also deals with the business side of those who profit from such evil practices.

*Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future.*
She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. Acts 16:16

This appears to be more than an ordinary demon because Paul and Silas were imprisoned for casting the spirit out. They were literally dragged into the market place to face the authorities! (16:19). This level deals with the occult system that supports those who practice the spiritual works of darkness. I once encountered this level
when I began to receive sexually explicit material through the mail. At first I just rebuked it like I was casting out an unclean spirit. When the second piece of literature came, I requested a restraining order from the postal service, which was granted. Apparently, someone in the community had placed local ministers on the mailing list of a pornographic organization. Psychic centers and hotlines are also being promoted by every major television network in the United States. Hollywood movie stars pay big dollars to use this stuff and I doubt they endorse it for nothing. New high-tech movies generate millions of dollars promoting witchcraft, immorality, alien beings, and scientology. You cannot drive through a city of America without seeing at least one place for reading and advising. Their carefully selected and politically correct terminology is designed to make them appear inclusive and tolerant of all. Apparently many are fooled by this snare, but not God. He still calls it divination (fortunetelling) and it is still an abomination unto God (Deut. 18:9-14). According to her own diary, Mary Todd Lincoln turned to spiritism following the death of one of her sons. This president's wife consulted the spirits to speak with the dead. Photographers would create photographs of the living with a silhouette of the dead loved one in the background to lend credibility to the spiritist movement. I wonder how much they charged for such a picture. I recall a time in the 80's when newspapers revealed Nancy Reagan's practice of consulting a reader to interpret astrological signs for guidance. I wonder how much she paid for that. There was also the 1996 report of Hillary Rodham Clinton's meetings with psychic spiritist, Jean Houston. It is purported at these meetings that the first lady spoke with Mahatma Gandhi and Eleanor Roosevelt, both who are dead. I'm certain these services didn't come cheap. Fortunetelling has rapidly become fortune-making in our cities. Few are doing spiritual warfare at this level. People joke about the Lincoln Room being “haunted”. How many other rooms in the White House are filled with such witchcraft? God is not laughing!

Strategic-level spiritual warfare deals with territorial principalities and powers. Frank Peretti's fictional books, *This Present Darkness* and *Piercing the Darkness*, have done much to introduce this level of spiritual warfare to believers. I believe cities and nations have fallen under the devil's influence because the church has neglected to do warfare at this level. This is warfare at the highest level. It's making war in the heavenlies!

*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 6:12

*And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.* Revelation 12:7

One of the clearest biblical examples of strategic-level spiritual warfare is found in Daniel 10:1-26. Daniel was led to spend a full three weeks in deep prayer. For 21 days he ate no food and was in mourning over the condition of Jerusalem. Suddenly a divine visitation came with a message that explains the important nature of this kind of warfare.

*Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.* Daniel 10:12,13

Notice the warfare taking place in the heavenlies while Daniel is praying. There was much resistance from the
prince of Persia, but this commander of darkness could not prevail against such a prayer warrior as Daniel. What would have happened if Daniel had not persevered in prayer? This is why the church needs to unite in prayer. This is why we have established the 5-Fold Global Prayer Network at 5-Fold Global Ministries. It is the only way we can take cities and nations for God. This spiritual warfare must be done at the strategic level against principalities and commanders of darkness. Your city has an assigned prince of darkness that is exalting itself against the knowledge of God. It is time for the church to advance together as one against its position with “firepower!”

**Overthrowing Strongholds**

Specific strongholds need to be torn down worldwide to release the plentiful harvest in our cities and nations. The church does not use worldly weapons or means to do this.

> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:4

What exactly is a stronghold? Cindy Jacobs, president of Generals of Intercession and a seasoned veteran of spiritual warfare defines strongholds as fortified places Satan builds to exalt himself against the knowledge and plans of God. She identifies nine types of strongholds:

1. **Personal Strongholds**— things that Satan builds to influence one’s personal life: personal sin, thoughts, feelings, attitudes and behavior patterns. (Note: Holes in our armor)
2. **Strongholds of the Mind**—a mindset impregnated with hopelessness that causes the believer to accept as unchangeable something he or she knows is contrary to the will of God. (Note: Satan likes to limit what we believe in)
3. **Ideological Strongholds**— philosophies, world views, and religious or non religious views which influence culture and society. (i.e. Marx, Darwin, Hitler, Islamic fundamentalism, New Age, Free Masonry)
4. **Occultic Strongholds**— overt evil application of witchcraft, satanism, and New Age religions, which invite spirit guides to operate. (Note: occult spells, curses, and rituals used by them attempt to destroy the power of the church and the reign of God in an area (Ezek. 13:18).
5. **Social Strongholds**— the oppression over a city in which social injustice, racism and poverty— with their related problems— cause people to believe God does not care about their needs. (i.e. poverty, homeless, crime, divorce)
6. **Strongholds between City and Church**—an “us against them” mentality developed when Satan drives wedges between the Church and the city. (Note: This stronghold is torn down when the church learns to bless the city.)
7. **Seats of Satan**— A geographic location that is highly oppressed and demonically controlled by a certain dark principality. (Note: Pergamum in Rev. 2:13)
8. **Sectarian Strongholds**— cause division among churches, pride in doctrine and beliefs, and idolatry of denominations or particular belief systems that produce isolation from the rest of the Body of Christ. (Note: This is a very critical stronghold because of Matt. 12:25)
9. **Strongholds of Iniquities**— come from the sins of the fathers that produce iniquities or weaknesses toward certain types of sin in the succeeding generations. (Note: These sins are often concealed within religion itself)

The above list of strongholds reinforces the truth that the enemy desires to possess the land in both the
physical and spiritual sense. The high places of the city are prime examples of this fact. I can say from my experience, Satan has already staked his claim at these strategic sites. There always seems to be a Masonic lodge in most cities or some report of satanic worship with animal sacrifices. These are all “territorial strongholds” because demonic spirits at every level are all territorial. George Otis, Jr., a key analyst in the field of spiritual warfare, observes two common characteristics about strongholds. In addition to being inherently defensive and offensive in nature, he says they repel light and they export darkness. This is why they need to be literally demolished through strategic-level spiritual warfare. Our weapons are mighty in God! No stronghold of any type can remain standing under the “firepower” of God’s army.

**Binding Ruling Spirits**

There are ruling spirits that over time fortify the above strongholds. I believe they serve as guards and defenders of the stronghold. These strong men must be bound in order to advance and occupy their position.

> Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.  Matt. 12:29

I am certain that strongholds are at least weakened when firepower teams go forth in concert to pray at targeted sites of a city. But when they bind and cast out these strong men or ruling spirits, all the pesky and gnat-like spirits go with him. It’s a clean up operation from then on. This too must be done with great care because they will try to come back.

> When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, “I will return to the house I left.” When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.  Matthew 12:43-45

Here is a list, with scriptural references, of some ruling spirits mentioned in the Bible:

- Lev. 19:31—familiar spirit (mediums, drugs, unholy soul-ties)
- Rom. 8:15—spirit of bondage
- Mark 9:17-29—deaf and dumb spirit (spiritual blindness)
- Mark 5:42—spirit of death
- Acts 16:16-18—spirit of divination (witchcraft)
- 1 John 4:6—spirit of error (religion)
- 2 Tim. 1:7—spirit of fear
- Prov. 16:28—spirit of haughtiness (pride, rebellion, strife)
- Is. 61:3—spirit of heaviness (worldly sorrow, gluttony)
- Num. 5:14—spirit of jealousy (competition, division)
• 2 Chron. 18:22– spirit of lying
• Is. 19:14 (NKJV) – perverse spirit (incest, rape, homosexuality)
• 1 Tim. 4:1– seducing (deceiving) spirits
• Hos. 5:4– spirit of harlotry (fornication/idolatry)
• 1 John 4:3– spirit of antichrist

Although these ruling spirits have their own unique characteristics, each is defeated in much the same way. This is where we need to be strong in Jesus. These spirits will try to exploit any weakness, but most of all doubt and unbelief. The seven sons of Sceva learned this the hard way.

Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day, the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. Acts 19:14–16

Demons at every level know who Jesus is. They also know who has faith in Him and who does not. They will exploit any weakness in faith in hope of overrunning the believer. A simple battle strategy would be: (1) Call forth the ruling spirit in the name of Jesus; (2) Lay the ax to the root. If working in deliverance ministry with a person, have the afflicted renounce every manifestation of the ruling spirit; (3) Command in the Name of Jesus that the strong man be pulled down and all control and manifestations be gone in Jesus’ name. If any physical manifestations continue, keep tearing down until every manifestation is gone. The corporate dimension of this simple battle plan is awesome to the glory of God.

Breaking Generational Curses

A curse is simply the opposite of the blessing of God. Dick Bernal, senior pastor of Jubilee Christian Center in San Jose, CA, and a noted teacher on spiritual warfare, rightly concludes that the average Christian has little understanding of curses. There are curses placed on land, cities, nations, races, families, and individuals. Instead of breaking these curses, Christians are being deceived into accepting and living under their power from generation to generation. This is not how God has designed it to be!

What is a “generational curse?” According to Marilyn Hickey, a veteran in teaching ministry, family or generational curses are problems which started way back with our ancestors and have been carried through right to today. What’s worse, they don’t stop here, but can be passed on to our children and to our children’s children! These things can continue for some time if left unchallenged and most importantly unbroken.

You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:4-6

The above scripture reveals that the greatest protection against generational curses is to obey God. Those
who walk in righteousness and holiness do not need to fear the devil. How do these curses get into individuals and families? They enter through what I call “entrance points.” The Bible warns us not to let the devil have even a foothold.

Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:27

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Entrance points are those seasons of life when we are most susceptible to being drawn away from God and into sin. For example, children from broken homes as a result of alcoholism, adultery, physical and sexual abuse, and the like, are proven to be more susceptible to such entrapments in the future. Trauma brings confusion and fear and a wounded heart brings rejection without Christ. These entrance points give the devil an opportunity.

How do you break generational curses? Christians, who are sincere about following the Lord Jesus Christ, must first realize that Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law. In Christ, we live in a guilt free zone!

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” Galatians 3:13

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2

No weapon forged against you will prevail and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. Isaiah 54:17

The next step is to accept responsibility for the curse. These things that are trying to get into your life or have a foothold are there because there was an entrance point. Repent for allowing it to come in! Then assault that thing because whether it is a generational curse or a type of stronghold, it is entrenched. Assault it with zeal like young David ran toward the giant Philistine, Goliath.

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 1 Samuel 17:48

You can curse the fruitless fig tree in your life just like Jesus did.

In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!” Mark 11:20-21

Lay the axe to the tree of unrighteousness (Matt. 3:10). Burn the accursed thing like you would a false idol (Acts 19:18-20). Now apply the blood of Jesus Christ using His strong name. There is overcoming power in the blood of Jesus.

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony: they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelation 12:11

The church cannot effectively advance until the families of God are set free and this requires doing spiritual warfare in the home and church before taking cities and nations for God.
Notes


6 Marilyn Hickey, Break the Generational Curse (Denver, CO: Marilyn Hickey Ministries, 1988), 16.
See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. Jeremiah 1:10

Chapter 2

**The Biblical Model**

**The Importance of Strategy**

Jesus is strategizing with His people today just as He did with Moses and Elijah at the transfiguration. I always wondered what they talked about at this glorious occasion in the presence of Peter, James, and John. The Bible reveals they were speaking about his departure. This reveals that there was a strategy, a plan ordained by God, to bring this to fulfillment.

> Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Luke 9:30-31

Early in my tour in Vietnam our squad was sent out to investigate a report of a Marine's body left on the battlefield. Our mission was to find the body and to retrieve it at all cost. We never found a body because there wasn't any, but we sure drew the attention of every sniper and enemy patrol in the area. As we struggled to rejoin the company, only a large field of elephant grass separated us. Our squad leader, a young Private First Class quickly ordered us into a wedge formation. This provided us with the maximum offensive and defensive firepower in every direction and we safely rejoined the company.

The Marine in the above illustration followed a prescribed strategy for the situation. Strategy is defined as “a plan, method, or series of maneuvers or stratagems for obtaining a specific goal or result.” It is the science or art of planning and directing large military movements and operations. Military strategy is the utilization of all of a nation’s forces, through large scale, long range planning and development, to ensure security and victory. Having a battle plan is not an option in warfare. Strategy is a necessity! You can bet your last dollar that the enemy of our souls has a strategy. In fact, the devil has a strategy for every nation, every city, every ministry, and every church. His army does not rest from the battle. Peter Wagner rightly concludes that Satan’s purpose is twofold: (1) to prevent God from being glorified on the earth; (2) to make people and society as miserable as possible in this present life. The first he does by keeping the lost from being saved; the second by being a thief.

> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. John 10:10

The enemy has not changed his strategy from the beginning. The church must never enter the war zone without a battle plan!
Transferable Concepts and the Principle of Displacement

The Bible contains many concepts and principles to guide us in doing spiritual warfare. One of the tasks of the spiritual leaders in a city is to identify these and then strategically place them within a given context. In doing this, the utmost respect is given to the unique calling and revelation given to the people of God in a respective city. There are, however, what we have discovered and called “transferable concepts.” These are those biblical concepts that are applicable to any situation, thus, they are transferable from city to city. Such do not contradict the special revelation given to churches who pray for their cities. I will identify and explain a number of these transferable concepts during the course of this study.

There is also a particular biblical principle that every saint must understand prior to engage principalities and powers entrenched in the skies above our cities. It is the principle of displacement. Francis Frangipane of Advancing Church Ministries says this takes place when the Spirit of Christ Himself displaces the powers of darkness in the heavenly places. We clearly see this after God brought His people out of Egypt.

Hear, O Israel. You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities and that have walls up to the sky. Deuteronomy 9:1

Because they could not grasp this principle they exchanged an eleven day journey for forty years in the wilderness! They did not exercise faith in God’s promise.

Every place where you set your foot will be yours: Deuteronomy 11:24

I believe this century is beginning to see the church advance upon cities and nations for God, but it has been much longer than forty years in coming.

Individual Warfare Strategy

Every believer is involved in spiritual warfare on an individual basis. This is the case simply because there is a warring over every soul on the face of the earth. The enemy will use the circumstances of an individual’s life to keep them from God. The Parable of the Sower clearly reveals that Satan snatches away the Word which was sown in the heart through life’s worries and the deceitfulness of wealth (Matthew 13:21-22). The enemy is choking believers to keep them from being fruitful for Christ. He is also holding unbelievers in bondage to keep them from their Redeemer. To overcome the ungodly effects of such worldly pressures, believers must implement an individual warfare strategy based upon the model of Jesus Christ.

The temptation of Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:1-11) reveals a number of keys to the Lord’s battle strategy. Just prior to being led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil, Jesus submitted to water baptism. Although John questioned why Jesus needed to do this, our Lord was submitting to God.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. Matthew 3:15

Jesus submitted to God, the Father. This is the starting place for every believer who is serious about overcoming the plots and schemes of the enemy. Such humility is the best preparation for the battle.
God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. James 4:6-8

The first key and the finest preparation for spiritual battle is humility and submission to God! This will be evidenced by a willful and timely obedience to the Lord in all things. Submission has become an unwelcome word in our country, but we cannot effectively resist the devil without humility. God Himself wars against the proud. Humility and submission come before the warfare. Resist (\textit{anthistemi}) is the same word used in chapter six of Ephesians.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

Humility and submission are like an antibiotic attacking bacterium.

The second key to an individual warfare strategy is prayer and fasting. Jesus prayed for forty days and nights (Matthew 4:2). He was prayed up! Individual confrontations with the devil will continue to overwhelm many believers causing them to bottom out, if they do not pray. The devil hates it when people pray because his plots are replaced by God’s plan. Jesus is still telling His disciples today to watch and pray.

\textit{Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.} Matthew 26:41

Notice also the role of fasting as a weapon of our warfare.

The third key is endurance. Jesus persevered. He did not give up nor did He back down through forty days and nights of prayer and the ensuing battle with the devil. Many believers permit Satan to be a thief in their individual lives because they quit in the midst of the battle. Never give up!

\textit{Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.} Hebrews 12:1-2

Determine to advance and overcome in the battle against the enemy of your soul.

The devil’s strategy was to attack Jesus physically because He was hungry; spiritually because the Spirit had led Him into the wilderness; and politically with influence, power and possessions because Jesus was the Son of God. The strategy failed because Jesus was filled with the Word of God. With each temptation the Lord responded with, “\textit{It is written...}” (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10). The fourth key to the believer’s individual warfare strategy is to utilize the \textit{word of God written upon your heart. We must be intimately acquainted with God’s word to be effective in spiritual warfare at any level!}

The fifth key is one that many believers fail to exercise. It is the \textit{command of authority}. Christ ended the battle with authoritative words.

\textit{Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”} Matthew 4:10

Notice Jesus did not ask Satan to leave, but He commanded him! This is the command of authority and when it
is exercised in the name of Jesus, the devil leaves. The sixth key is the ministry of angels. After the devil left Jesus, the Bible says, angels came and attended him.

*Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.* Matthew 4:11

God dispatches angels upon request. They are deployed as ministering spirits to serve us in difficult situations.

*Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?* Hebrews 1:14

What an advantage the believer has for warfare on an individual basis! Even the devil knows, He will command his angels concerning you.

“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Matthew 4:6

There is a seventh key that is not specifically mentioned in the temptation of Jesus; however, it is evident prior to Him being led into the wilderness. This key is the **anointing and power of the Holy Spirit.** The anointing and power of God came upon Jesus immediately after He was water baptized.

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.* Matthew 3:16

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,* Luke 4:1

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit before being led into the confrontation with the devil. Jesus did not battle the devil nor did He do ministry in His own power. He was full of the Spirit. Without the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus could not have proclaimed liberty to the captives or set free the oppressed.

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.* Luke 4:18

Although Satan tries to place his burden or yoke upon the neck and shoulder of individual believers, the anointing breaks every yoke.

*The yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing.* Isaiah 10:27 (KJV)

An eighth and final key to the effective warfare of every individual believer is **worship.** It is vital that individuals arrive at the corporate level prayed up. It is just as vital they be praised up. The devil tempted Jesus with authority and influence if He would just worship him.

*All this I will give you,* he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.” Matthew 4:9-10

I am convinced that believers do not praise Him enough. I am continually reminded that only one of ten healed lepers returned to glorify and give thanks to Jesus (Luke 17:11-19). Could this be an indication that our Lord gets scarcely a tenth of the praise and worship due Him? Many believers walk around defeated because they do not praise Him enough. They praise Him little more in the corporate body. Praise is a pathway to the presence of God and in His presence is fullness of joy and the joy of the Lord is our strength. Praise silences
the enemy!

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.  
Psalms 8:2

The saints need to utilize what I have been describing as the individual warfare strategy. Often individuals are unable to effectively put on the full armor of God because they do not have the individual warfare strategy in place. If the enemy can keep the individual warrior weak, tired, and defeated, then the corporate army will be ineffective against the principalities and powers over cities and nations. Let’s sharpen our individual swords and follow the example of Jesus for those daily firefights with the devil.

Corporate Warfare Strategy

There is the sound of a trumpet in the church today. The Commander God’s Army is calling His church to battle and the battle is for the harvest. Dick Bernal accurately describes the necessity for this corporate warfare: as each generation passes, the power of sin increases. The heavenlies, once clear and yielding, are now infested by an arrogant prince of darkness. His high ranking principalities are feverishly occupied with setting up blockades to separate man from his Creator. God promises He will do something about this.

I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. Isaiah 45:2

Spiritual warfare is needed to clear the heavenlies for the greatest harvest the world has ever seen! The church is being given a divine summons to forcefully advance and march onward and upward against the commanders of darkness over cities and nations. In short, the church is called to make war in the heavenlies! The results are guaranteed.

You heavens above, rain down righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness grow with it;  Isaiah 45:8

The church needs a corporate warfare strategy to remove the devil's blockade from cities and nations so multitudes can receive salvation. This has been ordained by God.

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:10-11

Clearly, the church is the instrument chosen by God to dispense what He has already accomplished in Christ. This involves corporate warfare and notifying evil principalities of their defeat and expulsion from cities and nations. Although our cities and nations are under siege by the enemy, there is a biblical model for corporate warfare that will unleash the firepower to take cities and nations for God. It is a model that will require the obedience of God’s people. As John Dawson, a respected teacher in taking cities for God, says, We can rebuke the devil all day long and still be powerless unless faith and obedience are strategically applied. Most would agree that Joshua is a primary model for doing spiritual warfare at the corporate level. Before I identify the main components of a clear biblical model, I believe it important to list some spiritual truths for God’s Army revealed in the book of Joshua:

- Spiritual warfare requires strength and courage (Joshua 1:6-7, 9)
• God has an army marching through the land (Joshua 5:14)
• Jesus Christ is the Commander of the army of God (Joshua 5:14)
• You cannot stand before the enemy until you take away the cursed thing from among you (Joshua 7:13)
• God is calling all warriors to arise and advance armed (Joshua 8:1)
• It is God's will for His people to take cities for God (Joshua 11:19-20)
• The word of the Lord shall not fail (Joshua 21:45)

It is important to allow the above truths to guide us as we reveal a corporate warfare strategy. Each of the following represents the five units of a biblical model for taking cities and nations for God:

1. **Intercessory Prayer** (Joshua 9:14) Inquiring of the Lord is the beginning of city-taking.
2. **Spiritual Intelligence Gathering** (Joshua 2:1; 7:2;18:3-10) Spying out the Land.
4. **Spiritual Fire** (Joshua 8:8, 19) Setting the city on fire with the Holy Spirit by evangelizing the city.
5. **Church Planting** (Joshua 23:1-2, 24:1) Believers gather together to covenant to serve God as the body of Christ.

Each of the five components of the above model is vital to the whole corporate strategy. The citywide church is beginning to do a more effective job on the first three, but is usually unprepared to evangelize their city. This appears to be rapidly changing, however, as denominational and racial walls weaken under a renewed passion to reach the lost and a growing expectancy of His appearing.

**Notes**

I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it but I found none. Ezekiel 22:30

Chapter 3

Intercessory Prayer

The Importance of Prayer

Spiritual leaders around the world agree that we are in the greatest global prayer movement in centuries. I continually tell congregations that there are four things they need to do: (1) Pray! (2) Pray! (3) Pray! (4) Pray! Peter Wagner says, Never before, in living memory, has prayer been such a high agenda item for pastors, Christian leaders and ordinary believers in the pews.1 If the church wants to be on the cutting edge of what God is saying and doing around the world, then it is going to have to be a church that is in constant prayer. This is why local churches are setting aside one or more evenings every week for corporate prayer. Although the earth has not shaken yet, I am certain that evil forces are being weakened and in God’s perfect timing there will be a whole lot of shaking going on.

One of the things Bob Swanger mentioned in the introduction to this manual is that God is spinning off the prayers of His people as they pray the Word back to the Father. It is obvious that the gates of hell will not overcome a praying church. Neither will it stop the advance of the Army of God. This is why it is important to get pastors together to pray for the city. This is difficult to do because pastors often want to talk rather than pray. Keeping them together is an entirely another matter. I have concluded that many pastors do not have the gift of intercession. For this reason, we have learned that you cannot usually build a significantly united corporate prayer initiative for a city upon pastors. However, it is still important to get them together to pray. Important as it is to get pastors together, it is absolutely essential to get the intercessors together. The intercessors who are burdened for a city desire to daily come together to pray. Bob Swanger believed there would come the day when cities would call intercessors from another city to come and pray over their city. Even now this is beginning to happen as intercessors are getting together to pray in city after city. I met an elderly man in 1997 named, Julius Elles. I was waiting in the sanctuary of a church in Cleveland, Ohio, when he approached me. He told me he personally supported 17 missionaries; prayed for over 1,000 every day in addition to 30 mission organizations. He prayed Monday through Friday from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and on the weekends from 3:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Then Julius Elles said something even more profound, “I’m the spiritual janitor in this place. I clean out anything the devil brings in here.” Bring those intercessors together in any city and sooner or later there will be a citywide impact.

I had the wonderful experience of ministering in some Hispanic churches in 1994 in the city of Miami, Florida. Someone gave me a note and this was the translation: In Miami the Satanists have psychiatrists who within 600 houses in different places of the city make sacrifices and prayer meetings with 600 ministers that fast and call upon the devil’s name who always demands blood and raping weekly, while the church of Christ is apathetic. I
was one who served the devil—I smoked 60 Tobaccos a day and called upon the devil. Christ redeemed me and now I serve God. This reveals that the devil is busy over our cities while the church goes on with its business. This was not the case in the Early Church.

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Acts 12:5

The praying church led to Peter’s miraculous deliverance from prison (Acts12:7). In fact it was the key! If the church is going to take cities and nations for God, then it’s going to have to become a church that prays and prays strategically. I believe God is saying to the church, “It’s time to pray! It’s time to intercede!”

**Prayer in the Local Church**

Although there continues to be a significant prayer movement around the world, the fact remains that most local congregations have yet to establish an effective prayer ministry beyond prayer chains and praying for personal prayer requests. As important as these may seem, there is much more to starting, training, and operating a prayer ministry than meets the eye. For instance, upon closer examination, the Bible reveals a series of prayer strata. These are progressive layers of prayer that can literally change the world around us.

- **Prayer Closet** (Matthew 6:5-15)
- **Prayer Request** (Philippians 4:6)
- **Intercession** (Luke 22:31-32; Hebrews 7:25; Galatians 6:2; James 5:16)
- **Corporate Intercession** (Genesis 18:16-33; II Chronicles 7:1-3, 12-16; Ezekiel 22:30; 33:1-11; Luke 2:37; Acts 1:14; 12:5, 12)

Although spiritual warfare is present at each of the above prayer strata, our study will deal mostly with intercession, corporate intercession, and warfare/governmental prayer. The point to remember is that none of these progressive prayer layers should be overlooked by the local church. Of course, it is difficult to start any prayer ministry if individual believers are not accustomed to praying in the first place. In this case, training must be provided and accompanied with opportunities for group prayer. This should continue until individual believers are confident praying publicly as well as privately. Although all believers may not have the calling and gift of intercession, it is important to recognize that the example of the early church teaches us to pray in the following ways:

- **Pray regularly**—each believer should have regularly scheduled times for prayer.
- **Pray for others**—each believer should lift up the needs of others.
- **Pray together**—each believer’s praying in agreement dramatically increases the power released upon a situation or stronghold.
- **Pray in the Spirit**—the primary way of doing this is praying in other tongues, which edifies us and builds up our faith among other things.

It takes time to build a high impact prayer ministry in the local church, but it begins with the ministry of intercession.
The Ministry of Intercession

The ministry of intercession is the single most important key to spiritual warfare. Dick Eastman defines an intercessor as a man or woman—or child—who fights on behalf of others. It means to “stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land.” It is not strictly defensive action, either, but an offensive one too. True intercession needs to be more offensive than defensive. Cindy Jacobs is right to point out that Most of the Body of Christ, unfortunately, stays on the defensive while Satan has a field day with governments, the Church and our families. The Hebrew word perets not only refers to a breach or gap, but a breaking forth. The implication is that intercessors seek divine intervention and also break forth on the enemy to destroy his works and plans. It is interesting to note that the strategic level spiritual warfare in the Book of Revelation reveals that God’s forces occasionally strike first and the devil is trying to counterattack.

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. Revelation 12:7

The Intercessory Prayer Team must be the first team in place and functional for this very reason. It is the beginning of city-taking. This is why it is important to train the whole church in corporate intercession.

Disunity plagues our churches today. Spiritual leaders fall because most churches do not have trained intercessors who, like Jesus, pray for them.

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25

There are a number of Biblical examples of the ministry of intercession, like Anna, who as a watchman, did not depart from the temple. She served God night and day with prayer and fasting.

I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he established Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. Isaiah 62:6-7

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eight-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Luke 2:36-37

It is very difficult for the devil to bring division into a church when trained intercessors are warring against his evil plots and supporting the spiritual leaders with much prayer. These leaders will stand and not fall. Their families will not be destroyed because their arms will be lifted up as Aaron and Hur supported the arms of Moses.

As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands the Amalekites were winning. When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. Exodus 17:12

One of the most powerful occurrences of the ministry of intercession is when Jesus prayed for Peter.

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers. Luke 22:31,32
Of course, Peter went on to minister in great boldness and power. This was confirmed by many signs and wonders and salvations. The simple words, “But I have prayed for you…” are a tribute to the absolute necessity of having trained intercessors. The church cannot forcefully advance without them nor can leaders and their families stand.

Types and Characteristics of Intercessors

The purpose of intercessors is to bring forth the plan and purposes of God; support spiritual leaders and their families; and destroy evil strategies. Peter Wagner identifies four types of intercessors: (1) **General Intercessors**—those who pray over prayer lists, prayer requests, and prayer chains motivated by the admonition to *pray for one another* (James 5:16). (2) **Crisis Intercessors**—those who pray exclusively on assignment from the Father as *watchmen* (Isaiah 62:6-7). (3) **Personal Intercessors**—those who are called to pray on a regular basis for a specific person or persons as Jesus prayed for Peter (Luke 22:31-21). (4) **Warfare Intercessors**—those who are called to engage the enemy in high-level spiritual warfare. Although intercessors may be involved in all four types of intercession, strategic-level spiritual warfare demands the more intense and aggressive intercession of both personal and warfare intercessors. Even though simple prayer requests and prayer chains remain an important means of prayer, this type of praying normally will not tear down evil strongholds or keep a man of God standing. This takes the type of praying that makes war in the heavenlies, which breaks forth on the enemy, destroying his evil plots.

The *Intercessory Prayer Team* is so crucial to the church and its quest to take cities and nations for God that we must look intently for those believers with distinct characteristics. Peter Wagner confirms most of these in the following list of characteristics of intercessors.  

- They pray longer
- They pray with more intensity
- They enjoy prayer more & receive more personal satisfaction from their prayer times
- They see more frequent & dramatic answers to their prayers
- They are acutely aware of hearing clearly from God

When a believer speaks of being awakened at night to pray, I am alerted to a potential call to the ministry of intercession. There are many intercessors sitting in churches who are not being utilized. We must be determined to recruit them, raise them up with sound training, and release them into this ministry.

Prayer Statistics

A standing principle of any Intercessory Prayer Team must be the fact that prayer really works. It is absolutely essential that God’s people believe they can do through prayer what God has told them to do! This truth is as applicable today as it was in the early church. There is great power in prayer!

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.* James 5:16
Statistics support the claim that prayer releases the greater harvest. Peter Wagner surveyed 572 American pastors across regional, age, and denominational lines regarding the amount of time they spent in actual prayer on a daily basis.\textsuperscript{6} He found the following results:

- 57% prayed less than 20 minutes a day
- 34% prayed from 20 minutes to 60 minutes a day
- 9% prayed 1 hour or more a day
- 28% prayed less than 10 minutes a day (over 1 of 4)

The average prayer time was 22 minutes a day. Surveys were also conducted in four other nations and revealed the following daily averages:

- Australian pastors prayed 23 minutes a day
- New Zealand pastors prayed 30 minutes a day
- Japanese pastors prayed 44 minutes a day
- Korean pastors prayed 90 minutes a day

The real significance of the above statistics is how the amount of meaningful and concentrated prayer each day effects church growth. Generally speaking, churches that engage in aggressive intercession and strategic-level spiritual warfare grow faster. An example is Pentecostal/charismatic churches whose adherents have grown from 50 million in 1965 to 392 million in 1991. Wagner says, \textit{In all of human history there has never been a nonpolitical, nonmilitaristic, voluntary human movement that has grown as rapidly as the Pentecostal/charismatic movement has grown in the last 30 years.}\textsuperscript{6} This remarkable conversion growth has continued into the 21st century. The revealing factor here is prayer! Pentecostal/charismatic pastors spend more than twice as much time in prayer as others.

- Liberal pastors prayed 18 minutes a day
- Evangelical pastors prayed 17 minutes a day
- Pentecostal/charismatic pastors prayed 46 minutes a day

Another survey was conducted by Nancy Pfaff, an intercessor and founder of Nevada Church Growth, in which 130 pastors were each assigned an intercessor who would pray for them fifteen minutes a day for one year. An overwhelming 89% said the prayer caused a positive change in the effectiveness of their ministry. They reported that changes took place in the following areas:

- use of their particular spiritual gifts
- higher level of positive response to their ministry
- more discernment and wisdom from God
- increased wholeness & completeness in Christ
- improved attitudes
• more evidence of the fruit of the Spirit
• better personal prayer lives
• heightened leadership skills

In addition to the above results, some 60% reported significant growth in the church. This is conclusive evidence that a trained and functional Intercessory Prayer Team releases the greater harvest.

Types of Praying and Characteristics of Corporate Intercession

In his book Intercessory Prayer, Dutch Sheets defines the same as "an extension of the ministry of Jesus through His Body, the Church, whereby we mediate between God and humanity for the purpose of reconciling the work to Him, or between Satan and humanity for the purpose of enforcing the victory of Calvary." Our experience with the 5-Fold Global Prayer Network has taught us that corporate intercession consists of constant and fervent prayer regularly sustained at the strategic levels of spiritual warfare. This is done over a region by a large group of trained intercessors, at the same time and place, leading to a measurable increase of captives set free.

There are several types of praying that occur during corporate intercession:

• **One Accord Praying**—everyone prays out loud at the same time and sustain this fervent prayer for long periods of time.
• **Prayer of Agreement**—one person prays out loud and the others pray in agreement.
• **Scripture Praying**—the Holy Spirit leads one or more pray-ers to open the Bible to a passage of Scripture and combine reading of the text with prayer regarding what the Lord is showing them about the implications of the text for the actual situation.
• **Praying in the Spirit**—pray-ers pray and praise out loud in other tongues (heavenly syllables or languages not understood by the speaker) and/or specially anointed words of understanding (words understood by all, but divinely anointed for the respective context).
• **Prophetic Intercession**—the Holy Spirit prompts intercessors to pray for something they have little or no knowledge of by giving them the ability to receive an immediate assignment from the Father and pray about it in a divinely anointed utterance.
• **Travail**—intercessors go through a spiritual birthing process commonly noted by a rocking motion, as well as by weeping, groaning, and wailing during prayer.
• **Prayer and Praise Warfare**—those praying advance against enemy strongholds utilizing the weapons of warfare as offensive weapons to effectively silence and overrun the enemy's position (Our praise silences the enemy).
• **Prayer Walking**—(praying on site with insight) - pray-ers pray while walking around or through key positions of known satanic fortifications treading on the enemy and evicting demonic forces.

There are also a number of characteristics of corporate intercession. It is important that we are all aware of these if we are to achieve a unified thrust of prayer that will open up heaven for the multitudes held in bondage to the power of Satan. There are a number of important aspects that can be present in a corporate gathering of intercessors who are focused together on the purposes of God. These can also serve as guidelines for those
who have little or no experience in corporate prayer sessions engaging in higher levels of intercession.

- Intercessors gather to pray rather than talk.
- Intercessors sustain prayer for long periods of time, lasting normally an hour or more.
- Intercessors focus on God’s corporate vision for cities and nations rather than personal agendas.
- Intercessors boldly cry out to God with a loud voice and, at other times, quietly wait in His presence.
- Intercessors utilize all types of praying, including tongues and written prayers.
- Intercessors follow the agenda ordered by the Spirit of God and not that of a particular individual.
- Intercessors share prophetic visions, Scriptures, and words of revelation from God without preaching, teaching, or correcting others.
- Intercessors skilled on the instruments of music are encouraged to play prophetically as the Spirit leads.
- Intercessors flow in the Spirit together (the corporate flow of the whole body) rather than personal ministry.
- Intercessors minister to the Lord in prayer and fasting and listen to His voice.
- Intercessors engage the enemy through militant intercession (spiritual warfare) to dispel demonic forces.
- Intercessors move in the corporate anointing as they foster teamwork rather than individual “charisma.”

**Flaky Intercession and the Red Light Zone**

*Flaky* is defined as “exhibiting eccentric, unbalanced or irrational behavior.” When intercessors are left to themselves without adequate training and accountability to a five-fold leadership team, flaky intercession will inevitably follow. Here are some prayers that typically violate the Scriptures:

- Strike’em dead prayers—Luke 9:54-56
- Bearing other’s sicknesses—I Peter 2:24
- Witchcraft praying—Galatians 5:19-20
- Bridal Chamber praying—Genesis 6:1-4
- Fleece praying—Judges 6:36-40

The following chart characterizes such misguided intercession and exposes the demonic spirits behind it. We can call this the “red light zone” because a church called to pray needs to stop and avoid at all costs these signs of unbalanced and eccentric praying.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red Light Zone</th>
<th>Demonic spirits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prayers that control and manipulate</td>
<td>Absalom or Lucifer spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayers of destruction</td>
<td>Spirit of witchcraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleshly/sensual prayers</td>
<td>Sensual spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayers from an unclean heart</td>
<td>Critical/wounded spirit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is most unfortunate that manipulative intercession is a quite common occurrence in prayer meetings. This includes prayers that seek the will of the person praying and those that cut down spiritual leaders. Words like “... now if I was in leadership I would....,” or “Lord, help the pastor see what is really needed,” indicates that one is praying in concordance with the Lucifer or Absalom spirit (2 Samuel 14). There are also those prayers of witchcraft that include destruction. Some of these prayers could take the following forms: “God, either save them, get them out of the office, or kill them.”; “God, burn the business or building down.”; “Strike the family with illness.” The point is that when someone prays a prayer out of his soul (mind, will, emotion), he is releasing psychic, and many times, demonic forces to work against the one for whom he is praying.

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit. Proverbs 18:21*

There are also fleshly prayers that arise out of sinful and natural desires. This is when you are in corporate prayer and someone brings in a prayer for “Aunt Betsy” when the group is breaking down strongholds. It is also when someone changes the direction of the warfare time by stopping the group to hear a vision they have received. Instead, they need to pray through the vision. Otherwise, the group ends up in a discussion rather than in prayer. In addition, it is when someone interrupts someone else praying. They are not listening, seeking to be in unity. Rather, they begin praying in a different direction instead of waiting to receive God’s peace that the stronghold is gone.

Finally there are prayers from an unclean heart. When someone’s heart is not clean, they will point the finger at others when they need to point the finger at self. This is a critical spirit. This is also when an intercessor prays things out of their own woundedness rather that the desires of God. All these things greatly hinder the effectiveness of prayer meetings. The following will guard and protect the prayer ministry of the church:

- The vision of the church
- The confirmation of God’s word
- The spiritual covering of the church
- Spiritual accountability
- Spiritual discernment and witness of other mature believers

Needless to say, the church needs to be protected from the abuses of flaky intercession.

**Ten Conclusions**

Intercessory Prayer is the key to doing spiritual warfare of any kind. This needs repeating over and over again. For this reason, intercessors need to confidently understand that their prayers can release the blessing of God upon a person, a home, a church, a city, and even a nation. Their travail can birth fresh revelation from God and their warfare praying can destroy the devil’s plan and set many captives free. Here are ten Biblical
conclusions for every intercessor:

1. You can pray in victory (Exodus 17:12)
2. You can pray in God’s protection against the enemy and foil his plans (Ezekiel 22:30)
3. You can pray in knowledge, vision, and understanding (Daniel 10:1-21)
4. You can pray in the healing of the land (2 Chronicles 7:14)
5. You can pray in the greater harvest (Matthew 9:37-38; Luke 10:2)
6. You can pray in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14)
7. You can pray in open gates and deliverance (Acts 12:5-7)
8. You can pray in God's direction and the right spiritual leaders (Acts 13:2-3)
9. You can pray in strength, good, & the will of God (Romans 8:26-28)
10. You can pray in physical healing (James 5:16)

The Intercessory Prayer Team is unquestionably the beginning of city-taking. Dick Bernal describes it well in saying, *It is preparing and planning in the Spirit, getting the mind and strategy of Christ on just how to penetrate a city with the gospel.* Although God’s sovereignty must always be affirmed and recognized, it is like some have suggested, “History belongs to the Intercessors!”

Notes

3. Jacobs, *Possessing the Gate of the Enemy*, 63
4. Wagner, 54-55
5. Ibid., 49
6. Ibid., 79
Joshua 2:1
Chapter 4

**Spiritual Intelligence Gathering**

**Knowing the Enemy**

Many Vietnam veterans have had great difficulty leaving the war behind them, even after many years have passed. I consider myself fortunate because I have not been plagued with constant memories of the war, but there are some things I will never forget. One was when some Marine leader came up with the tactical brainstorm of moving the entire battalion in the middle of the night. We had to hold onto the pack of the guy in front of us as we trampled single file through the jungle. It was a nightmare from start to finish. By the time we set in, the enemy was both inside and outside our perimeter.

What the Marine leader lacked in the above experience was adequate intelligence data on the enemy. To put it bluntly, he underestimated the enemy. Obviously, the enemy knew the territory better than this Marine leader did. Successful military leaders are no better than the intelligence information they are given. They can come up with a battle plan, but if the intelligence data does not support it, then the mission better be scrapped.

Spiritual leaders face the same dilemma. They must have good intelligence to make a strategic advance upon a city!

**Spiritual Mapping**

“Spiritual Mapping” is a term used by George Otis, Jr. in 1990. He describes it as the process of superimposing our understanding of the forces and events in the spiritual domain onto places and circumstances in the material world. In other words, the city or region is thoroughly researched to examine what is behind the way things are. Harold Caballeros, pastor of El Shaddai Church in Guatemala City, says the specific objective on such research is to know as far as possible the enemy’s plans, strategies and plots in order to go into battle with intelligence and, as a result, be victorious within a minimum of time, and with a minimum of risk or loss. I call this, “spiritual intelligence gathering.” The **Spiritual Intelligence Gathering Team** is tasked with doing this research, compiling it, and presenting it to the firepower teams.

Spiritual Intelligence Gathering is a very sound Biblical process despite growing concerns by some leaders with the concept of spiritual mapping. God instructed Moses to gather relevant information about the land of Canaan. Moses, in return, gave them specific instructions regarding the survey.

*The Lord said to Moses, “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”*  Numbers 13:1-2

*When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or*
The survey took forty days to complete (13:25) and required a reporting to the people (13:26, 32). Joshua follows the same pattern when he sent two men to the city of Jericho. Their task was to spy and look over the land (Josh. 2:1).

Then Joshua, son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” Joshua 2:1

The Hebrew work _ragal_ means to walk along for the purpose of searching, spying, or reconnoitering. What is actually being done is what the Marines call a “reconnaissance” of the area. This is a survey of a region for obtaining military information about the enemy. If the church is going to take cities for God, then it needs to do a thorough reconnaissance of the targeted cities.

**The 10/40 Window**

One of the best examples of the value of spiritual intelligence gathering and the mobilization of saints for spiritual warfare is the revelation of the targeted “10/40 window.” This refers to the 62 countries of the world which lie between latitudes 10 degrees and 40 degrees north of the equator. The 10/40 window contains 67% of the world’s population and 97% of the world’s most under evangelized people. The average income within the region is less than $500 a year. The area is also dominated by Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and the occult. Dick Eastman, chairman of the _Praying through the Window_ campaign, has mobilized close to 30 million Christians in over 100 nations to pray for the 10/40 window.³ The strategy even included the sending of teams called _special forces_ to targeted locations and cities within the region to war against the ruling forces of darkness. Churches will eventually be planted in each of the 100 gateway cities to establish beachheads in these least evangelized nations.

The above description of a global strategy is all confirmed by reliable intelligence data. This research helps us to see what is really behind the poverty and spiritual imprisonment of people living in the region. Christian warriors who dare to march on cities to set captives free need to hear this admonition from George Otis, Jr., who has traveled to over 100 countries in the last 30 years: _If their mission to liberate enchanted prisoners is to succeed, they will require accurate intelligence on enemy command and control centers, and the spiritual equivalent of the military’s night vision goggles._⁴

**Surveying Your City**

The _Spiritual Intelligence Gathering Team_ needs to confine their research to the prescribed area assigned by the spiritual leaders. This is important to the concept of _territoriality_. It would not be very productive to march around the city of Ai if God has instructed us to march around Jericho. It is also recommended that team members work together rather than alone. The commander of darkness who have possessed the gate of the city for centuries is cruel. You are gathering reliable information to be used by the saints to overthrow him! Once overthrown, many more people will come to Jesus. Demonic forces do not like this and often attempt to retaliate.

One of the best places to gather information is at the public library. Once, we gathered some basic information
about a county's history. We were able to trace the development of free masonry in the area, evidence of
curses placed on the land by Tecumseh and his brother who was called “the prophet,” and much religious strife.
Although we only began to survey the land, the information helped us to carry out a strategy to pray over every
home in a small town near the church. Religious strife, racial conflict, and free masonry are pretty typical in
American cities. One city was named after a Chinese province meaning “division.” Division is a primary
weapon of the enemy because he knows that every city or house divided against itself will not stand (Matthew
12:25). This is why we do not utilize intercessors who are not members of a local church and properly
submitted to the pastor.

Peter Wagner has compiled a list of 60 questions from many contributors to assist in spiritual intelligence
gathering. This is very helpful for the team because it is comprehensive and permits flexibility of focusing
exclusively on the questions that pertain to the particular target area. Wagner divides the research into three
parts: (1) Historical research, (2) Physical research, (3) Spiritual research. The first part examines the
founding of the city, its vision, the meaning of its name, its leaders and how the city has treated the poor and
oppressed, including minorities. In addition, there is a surveying of the history of religion both Christian and
unchristian. The second part researches the physical development of the city, i.e., signs, symbols, architecture,
land owners, highest points, names of visible centers of sin. The last part examines the names of principle
deities, territorial spirits, places associated with the occult, the health of local churches, and if messengers of
God have been received or rejected.

These questions help to identify the redemptive gift of the city, the sins, the strongman, and the evil
strongholds. This is very important information and the team should write it up in a report so spiritual leaders
and intercessors can all examine the report and pray over it. The Spiritual Intelligence Gathering Team must
work from the same motivation as every firepower team. The war against evil principalities and power is over
souls. It is vital we understand this! Whether we are doing research or interceding or both, we need to heed
the exhortation of Francis Frangipane, It is to our shame that the devil desires men's souls more than does the
church. Therefore we must realize that revival will not sweep our land until we possess Christ's passion for the
lost. Even in the call to do confrontational spiritual warfare, our authority must spring from a love of souls lest it
become simply another wind of doctrine, again blowing us off course. This intelligence data assists us to
receive divine revelation and confirmation of what we are dealing with and how to strategically and intelligently
make war in the heavenlies.

Notes

2 Harold Caballeros, "Defeating the Enemy with the Help of Spiritual Mapping." 138.


4 Otis, 46.

5 Wagner, Breaking Strongholds in Your City. 224-230.


And he ordered the people, “Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.”

Joshua 6:7

Chapter 5

The Forced March

Entering into Battle

Every combat veteran has to overcome the initial apprehension of that first battle. My attitude was fatalistic because I didn't believe I would return from the war. This may have prevented me from being paralyzed by the fear of being seriously maimed or killed, but I figured if my number was up, then there was nothing I could do about it. I half expected it to happen. I thank God it didn't. Instead a piece of my gear caught on the helicopter hovering about six feet over the rice paddy and I tumbled head first into the water. It sure wasn't a “John Wayne” type of entry, but no sniper could hit me either!

A fatalistic attitude like the one above is not the way to enter warfare of any kind. Spiritual warriors need to understand some things if they are going to enter the battle with Godly attitudes. Many have forgotten that there is a war going on in the heavens for cities and nations. They need what Marines call an “attitude adjustment.” I believe there are at least four things the saints need to understand to be effective in spiritual combat. First, we have everything we need to exercise the Lord’s authority over the enemy. Second, we are motivated by the fact that our efforts will result in bringing many more people to Christ. Third, the victory is assured because our weapons are mighty in God and guaranteed to demolish evil strongholds when properly deployed. Fourth, we are in a war against territorial spirits and will fight to the end. These characteristics of a Christian warrior can be summarized as follows:

- Complete confidence and dependence upon God
- Christ’s passion for souls
- Certainty of victory due to familiarity and superiority of weaponry
- Endurance and perseverance in every battle whatever the cost

Although the whole church is in a spiritual war against ruling principalities and power, not everyone is called to be on the front lines. The Forced March Team is involved in a very aggressive and dangerous work. This is the initial assault team and there are Biblical instructions governing such warfare. Chapter 20 of the book of Deuteronomy gives instructions for going to war. Officers were instructed to send home those who were fainthearted.

Then the officers shall add, “Is any man afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his brothers will not become disheartened too.” Deuteronomy 20:8

This has repeatedly happened in church after church where the people listen to the fainthearted instead of those with the spirit of Joshua and Caleb!
Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.” Numbers 13:30-33

The church cannot take cities for God with the fainthearted because when it’s time to enter the battle they will say, “We can’t!” Joshua and Caleb, though will say, “We can!” This is why Joshua was called to lead God’s people across the Jordan to possess the land and Caleb took the most difficult city for God when he was 85 years of age. He had the same Spirit that the Christian warrior needs today entering into battle.

Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said. Joshua 14:10-12

Another example of the instructions governing warfare is when God reduced the size of Gideon’s army. Members of the Forced March Team must be ready to act and also ready to give God all the glory for every victory. This was God’s main concern with the size of Gideon’s army

The Lord said to Gideon, “You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, Judges 7:2

Those who seek attention or the sensational will at some point claim some glory for themselves. Here is how God reduced the size of the army from 32,000 to 300:

- 22,000 who trembled with fear returned (Judges 7:3)
- 9,700 who kneeled to drink water returned (Judges 7:4-8)
- who lapped water as a dog with their hands to their mouth went into war (Judges 7:6-7)

I once thought that the reason the 300 were chosen was because they prostrated themselves on the ground symbolic of a deeper commitment and devotion to God. The implication of drinking water with their hands to their mouth; however, is that they did not kneel, but stayed on their feet. God’s test was to discover who was most alert. The Forced March Team must be alert to fight and equally alert to give glory to God. In Vietnam, Marine fire team leaders and squad leaders alike would say that anyone who falls asleep on watch would be shot! Needless to say, I never fell asleep on watch. Spiritual warriors who are not alert may become casualties of war or worst yet cause others to fall at the hands of the enemy. This is why the Bible exhorts us on this very point.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

This serves to remind us that it is not the size of the army that counts with God, but who they are.

Treading on the Enemy
A forced march is a forceful advance upon a city to tread or trample on the enemy, tear down evil strongholds and high places, reverse any curses placed upon the land, and deliver God's decree to the ruling principalities and powers. The Forced March Team makes a strategic assault on targets confirmed through intercessory prayer and spiritual intelligence gathering. They do not come against flesh and blood or personal property, but concentrate their warfare against the spiritual forces of evil. It is like John Dawson says, In a time of war, battles are won by the strategic concentration of force.1 The forced march is a march into battle with a confirmed battle plan from God.

The Bible has much to say about treading or trampling over the enemy.

1 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Joshua 1:3
2 You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. Psalm 91:13
3 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Luke 10:19

What does it mean? The Hebrew word darach refers to a more forceful activity than mere walking. Marching, treading, and trampling best describes the true meaning. The clear implication is the defeat of the enemy and taking possession of the territory for God. The assault involves a forceful advance rather than being limited to praying from a distance or confined behind church walls. We must go forth with the understanding that the church commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ is without walls. This frontline warfare clears the way for more effective evangelism.

Prayer-walking

Any advance upon a city is going to involve praying. This is where prayer warriors and intercessors pray at the site where they expect their prayers to be answered. Steve Hawthorne and Graham Kendrick, who have written the definitive book on the subject, define “prayer-walking” as praying on-site with insight. 2 This simple definition confirms the strategic importance of the first three teams: Intercessory Prayer Team; Spiritual Intelligence Gathering Team; and now the Forced March Team. Making war in the heavenlies is a praying experience that requires the backup of the intercessors and the strategic information gathered on the targeted city by the team of researchers. Prayer-walking is one of the best ways of implementing Joshua 1:3, quoted earlier.

I believe God is calling Christian warriors to pray in their community as well as for it. There is an ongoing battle with the forces of evil over territorial supremacy. This is why Peter Wagner suggests making neighborhoods a primary focus for prayer-walking. He says, “Those who actually reside in an area presumably can exercise a greater spiritual authority than can outsiders.”3 At any rate, this type of forceful advance is a necessity. Whether it involves home groups prayer-walking through their respective block or neighborhood; teams ascending the highest places of the city to publish a decree against the rulers of darkness; a march to the center of the city or around it’s perimeter; or a systematic praying over every household, this is an important means of possessing the gates of the city.
Prayer-walking is much like what God told Abraham to do.

*Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.* Genesis 13:17

Every place he walked, he walked in the light of this promise. It is important that we walk speaking forth God's vision, plan, and purpose for the city, town or neighborhood we are fighting for. It is a good practice to pray the scriptures that confirm God's vision for the city. In doing so, we need to always be ready to war against evil. Some saints have been led to go to the highest point of their city with a proclamation to the spirits of darkness. The purpose is to enforce the sentence written against them.

*May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the glory of all his saints. Praise the Lord.* Psalm 149:6-9

This begins a strategic penetration of the evil strongholds and pulls down the high places.

As Abraham rejoiced to see Jesus' day (John 8:6), the saints who forcefully advance must also rejoice that their strategic assault will welcome Jesus into many homes.

*After these things, the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.* Luke 10:1 (NKJV)

God is sending the church to cities today to prepare for a divine visitation that will lead to many conversions. The Forced March Team needs to advance upon the city according to the Lord's revelation. They need to speak God's vision over the city and aggressively engage the evil powers. They need to prayer-walk the city in the way God instructs them to, knowing that they are preparing many households in the city to receive Jesus. At Firepower Conferences we send them out in groups of seven or more to strategic sites throughout the city. Each of these firepower teams are under the direction of a firepower team leader. They are given specific assignments and receive special revelation from God while on site. We also like to synchronize the publishing of a written decree at 3:00 PM to coincide with the precise time that Jesus spoke from the cross, “*It is finished!*” This strategy was done in our city in October, 1998 and with an international prayer force from fifteen nations in June, 2003. A citywide prayer-walk covering every street was held in May of the same year. The entire operation involved some 1,700 miles of prayer-walking.

**Praise Warfare**

An effective assault upon a city or village also involves what is known as “Praise Warfare.” We need to understand that our God is an all powerful warrior!

*The Lord will march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.* Isaiah 42:13

The Hebrew word, *gibbor*, refers to a powerful or valiant warrior or champion who strips all rights and privileges from the enemy. This is speaking of our God as a Mighty Warrior. It is interesting that He goes forth on our behalf in response to our praise.

*Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth ... Let the desert and its towns raise their voices... let them...*
shout from the mountaintops... Let them give glory to the Lord and proclaim his praise... Isaiah 42:10-12

This is what praise warfare is all about. Moses, Miriam, and the Israelites declared this in song as they praised the Lord for His victory at the other side of the Red Sea.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: “I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The horse and rider he has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a warrior, the Lord is his name.” Exodus 15:1-3

The above means of driving the devil back has been ordained by God.

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. Psalm 8:2

This is why the restoration of Davidic praise and worship is so important in the restoring of the tabernacle of David (Acts 15:16-17). Robert Gay, a songwriter for Hosanna Integrity Music and teacher on effective spiritual warfare through praise, has a powerful paraphrase of God’s further punishment upon Satan based upon Ezekiel 28:13-18. He says, I will take the ministry of praise and worship that you forsook and give it to a group of people on the earth that shall be known as the church. Every time they enter into his ministry of worship, the ministry that you forsook, they will silence and paralyze you. They will take up this ministry of praise and worship and with it bind you, break you, bruise you and ultimately destroy your kingdom! He goes on to encourage the church to arise and praise God with all of its might. The weapon of praise then is unleashed upon the forces of darkness. The warfare songs we sing in praise to God are stirred up against our enemies when we shout His praise. This puts the devil on the run!

There are some excellent Biblical examples of praise warfare. One was when a great multitude came against Jehoshaphat. The king first resolved to seek the Lord and proclaim a fast for all Judah (2 Chronicles 20:3). Jahaziel, a praise team member, prophesied that the battle belongs to the Lord (2 Chronicles 20:15-17). The next morning Jehoshaphat and the people decided to send the singers and praisers before the army (2 Chronicles 20:20-21). They marched out against the enemy and the power of God confused and defeated the enemy (2 Chronicles 20:22-25). Another example was when Paul and Silas were imprisoned at Philippi. They prayed and sang at midnight with the guards and prisoners listening (Acts 16:25). The foundations of the prison were shaken and the doors were opened as everyone’s chains were loosed (Acts 16:26). This resulted in an entire household being saved (Acts 16:30-32). No wonder Jesus refers to Psalms 8:2 when the chief priests and scribes desired to stop the children from crying out in praise in the temple.

But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant. Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.” Matthew 21:15-16

The Lord also speaks directly regarding praise warfare when He reveals the punishment of Assyria.

Every stroke the Lord lays on them with his punishing rod will be to the music of tambourines and harps, as he fights them in battle with the blows of his arm. Isaiah 30:32

God fights for us when we praise Him. The Forced March Team needs the praisers to go before them into
battle to prepare a habitation for the Mighty Warrior, the Lord of hosts. We insist upon having at least an hour for prayer and praise warfare with the corporate army prior to the forced march.

There are at least seven weapons of praise in the Bible:

- **Walking & Marching** – This type of marching produced deliverance today just as it did for the Israelites. (Genesis 13:17; Joshua 6:3,7; Psalm 48:12

- **Dancing & Treading** – Dancing and treading is much like marching only more aggressive. Marching sets boundaries in prayer; dancing and treading tramples Satan under the feet actually stopping the power of the enemy. (Psalm 149:3,5-9; Psalm 91:13; Luke 10:19; Romans 16:20)

- **Singing** - (Isaiah 30:29-32; Psalm 32:7; Acts 16:25-26)

- **Clapping** – Clapping is a means of breaking yokes and means to clang, smite, strike with the intention of stopping Satan’s devices in the situation about which you are warring. (Psalm 47:1-3)

- **Shouting** - (Joshua 6:16; Isaiah 42:10-113; Jeremiah 50:15; II Chronicles 13:15)

- **Laughter** – Holy laughter brings personal protection and emotional health as a safe guard against heaviness in intercession and direct warfare against Satan and his forces because holy laughter mocks the enemy. (Proverbs 15:13; Psalm 37:12-13)

- **Joy** – Joy breaks heaviness and releases oppression bringing strength to the soul. Guwl means to spin around under the influence of a very violent emotion, to jump for joy or exult. (Psalm 149:2; Zephaniah 3:17; Luke 10:21)

I am alarmed to find believers still resistant to practicing praise warfare, but there is an army of radically saved in the next generation who are ready for the forced march. It is normal for them to dance and shout praises to God. They go to the enemy camp and take back what the devil stole because he is under their feet. Without praise warfare the forced march is reduced to a walk in the park. With it, the Champion, the Lord of the Army, leads us into the battle and fights on our behalf to release lost souls from captivity. This was the case in 2000 when we joined D. Santhosh Babu to carry out a village strategy in the remote region outside of Rajahmundry, India. Our objective was to take seven villages for Jesus and equip them to reach 70 more villages. A prayer and praise march including house-to-house tract distribution through each village was conducted at dusk when the people returned from the fields. The Bible trumpet (*shofar*) was blown over each village. This culminated with an evangelistic crusade in the evening. The goal was to help plant a church of at least 30 believers in each village and to trigger multiplication in the region. The strategy worked miraculously. In the first three villages alone, there were at least 164 salvations (Chilakampadu – 44, Kothapalli – 55, Pippara – 65). This was a tremendous example of what happens when praise warfare goes before the army. The corporate Army of God must remember at all times that Jesus is sending us to them.

*I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.* Acts 26:18

Notes


Religion is dead

Spiritual warfare, warfare prayer, praise warfare, prayer-walking, and spiritual intelligence gathering all put the devil on the run, but nothing bruises him as much as turning around and seeing the city he was forced to vacate set on fire with the Holy Spirit of God. This stirs up the religious spirits because they can’t stand a real revival. They couldn’t stand it when Jesus walked the earth and they can’t stand it now! Once the Army of God has driven out evil principalities and powers, pulled down his strongholds and high places, and reversed the curse off the land, then its time to fill the city with the gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. The evangelization of the city must be accomplished quickly to fill the spiritual vacuum or the devil will return with stronger forces and reoccupy the city as we discussed before (Luke 11:24-26).

One of the main ways evil forces try to get back into a city is through “religion.” Jesus Christ is antireligious! The church without walls is antireligious! I am astonished when I hear those who believe they are saved say they are going to heaven because they are a good person and try to keep the Ten Commandments. Didn’t Jesus redeem us from this curse? (Galatians 3:13, 22-29). Others say they attend a particular church, but cannot recall the name of the church or its pastor. Still others pray the sinner’s prayer, say they will be in church on Sunday, but rarely do they show. Roughly more then two-thirds of Americans are unchurched today. This is the fruit of religion. Satan loves religion and hates revival. Religion and revival cannot be mixed. If the saints want to keep possession of the gates of the city, then they are going to have to say “No” to manmade religion and “Yes” to the saving faith in the person of Jesus Christ. The fame of Jesus alone must be spread through every quarter of the city. To do this most effectively and to give all the glory to God, believers need to agree at the outset that religion is dead! The stakes are very high at this point. The saints have fought hard for the city! The people are ready to welcome Jesus, but they have been conditioned by religious spirits that He no longer cares for them. The saints must show everyone that Jesus is alive! They must hear that He loves them. They don’t need religion! They need the guilt free zone! We must compel them to come to Christ!

Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.

Luke 14:23

The following anonymous poem clearly expresses the nature of religion on the one hand and the truth of Christ on the other. Our passion is to permeate the city with the Truth!
**RELIGION IS DEAD. CHRIST IS ALIVE!**

Religion is Dead. Christ is alive!

Religion is boring. Christ is exciting.

Religion says, “Clean up your act.”

Christ says, “Come as you are!”

Religion is rituals & traditions.

Christ is the Holy Spirit’s anointing & leading.

Religion says, “The gifts of the Holy Spirit died with the early church.”

Christ says, “The gifts of the Spirit are in operation in My church.”

Religion says, “Be quiet & somber.”

Christ says, “Stand and praise Me!”

Religion is remaining the same.

Christ is becoming a new creation!

Religion is dull, lifeless, and manmade.

Christ is exciting, life-changing, and God-given.

**The Spoils of War**

I have been declaring throughout this manual that the motivation for doing any aspect of spiritual warfare is a Christ-like passion for souls. They are the real spoils of war. There is little purpose in seizing a city for God unless we intend to evangelize it! John Dawson states, *There is one basic strategy of spiritual warfare that undergirds all other strategies: Do the next thing that God tells you to do.*¹ This is what Joshua did.

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Hold out toward Ai the javelin that is in your hand, for into your hand I will deliver the city.” As soon as he did this, the men in the ambush rose quickly from their position and rushed forward. They entered the city and captured it and quickly set it on fire. Joshua 8:18-19

The Lord is also calling His people today to stretch forth the sword of the Spirit toward cities and nations and take them for God. The next thing He tells us to do is to hurry and set the city on fire. This should be the most joyful part of city-taking, but for many believers it has become something they dread. Many seem fearful and almost ashamed of aggressively spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. At the time of the greatest harvest in the history of mankind; a harvest that will cause a global shock wave, Christians need to boldly declare the love of Christ.

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.* Romans 1:16

We need to strategically bring in the greater harvest. Intercessors have travailed over the people of the city. Now it is time to joyfully reap!
Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him. Psalm 126:5-6

David Shibley, founder and president of Global Advance, tells of churches who are beginning to pray in the harvest by binding demon spirits hindering the harvest; loosening the Holy Spirit to draw the lost to Christ; and praying for laborers and angels to be dispatched to assist in the harvest. They even command evil spirits from the north, south, east, and west to release the harvest that belongs to God.

Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, “Give them up!” and to the south, “Do not hold them back. Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made. Isaiah 43:5-7.

These souls are the spoils of war. They belong to God! He is the “Lord of the Harvest.”

Power Evangelism

The saints must be highly committed and motivated for personal evangelism or the sharing of Jesus at every opportunity to harvest a city. The devil would have us believe that there will be great resistance to our proclamation of the gospel, but the Lord of the Harvest sends in His laborers with power and authority.

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Luke 9:1-2

Jesus sent the seventy with the same power.

When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, “The kingdom of God is near you.” Luke 10:9

We should be quite confident in sharing Jesus throughout the city because He promises to work with us in the most amazing way.

Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. Mark 16:20

Jesus intended His followers to minister and evangelize households and cities in the same manner He did. This is called power evangelism. According to the late John Wimber, founder and president of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship, power evangelism refers to the combination of the proclamation of the gospel with the demonstration of the power of God to cast out demons, heal the sick, and raise the dead, resulting in large crowds and many followers. Resistance to the gospel is actually overcome by the demonstration of God’s power. Wimber lists fourteen occurrences a in the book of Acts where both apostles and non-apostles preached, performed works of power, and saw significant church growth.

Regardless of the particular method of evangelism utilized to harvest the city, God has ordained power evangelism to confirm the word that is preached. The Early Church prayed that God would give them boldness to speak the word.

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4:29-30
The Lord answered their prayer because Phillip went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ.

Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city. Acts 8:6-8

There was also great joy in the cities of Lydda and Sharon when Aeneas, who had been paralyzed for eight years, was healed. Everyone who saw him turned to the Lord (Acts 9:32-35). These miracles are the most effective tools for the evangelization of the city. A strategic mission in 2002 with Olga Pyrozhenko, Senior Pastor of the 1,000 member Grace and Love of Christ Church in Kiev, proved that this is also true for the 21st century. After an All-Ukrainian Prophetic Conference in Kiev, the multicultural apostolic team, including Wilberforce Musoni from Rwanda, conducted ministry operations in eight cities in the northern and southern regions of the nation. We all agreed that the team ministry resulted in a much higher level of healing ministry. This, in return, led to over 200 salvations. Pastor Olga accurately described what occurred.

Again and again during the services we could hear exclamations of people who were healed through God's touch: I have a new leg... I have a new back... oh, it's not my arm, I was not able to lift it up... I can hear! Look, I am hearing, I can walk. More than once the hall was exploding with exclamations of joy and applauds to His power and anointing, many times you could see the tears of joy of healed people.

Healing ministry is very prominent in God's plan for the end time harvest. It is God's will for the church to spread the gospel throughout the city in power evangelism. Multitudes will turn to the Lord and their faith will stand in the power of God.

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

There will be great joy in yet another city!

**Personal Evangelism**

There might exist a hundred strategies to do evangelism, but whatever believers do should be personal and intentional because we desire to walk as Jesus walked on the earth. I've been told that a Gallop poll discovered that 60 million Americans would come to church if someone would just ask them. John’s Gospel records that Andrew first found his brother, Simon, and brought him to Jesus.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had believed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. John 1:40-42

The next day Phillip found Nathaniel and brought him to Jesus.

Phillip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Phillip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." John 1:45

There is a pattern here of personal evangelism. Estimates vary, but well over 80% come to Jesus through a friend or relative. **Personal evangelism** has the strong conviction that every believer is called to actively witness
for Christ. Some even hit the streets to find the unsaved and unchurched in order to urge them to come in (Luke 14:21-23). Others set up shop on a busy corner at the heart of the city to preach, do drama, mimes, and pass out salvation tracts. Often God uses these witnesses to boldly penetrate the inner city. Most, however, encounter divine appointments as part of their daily routine. Although the effectiveness of door to door and telemarketing strategies for evangelism have declined rapidly in the United States, the internet is a most promising tool for personal evangelism. Ordinary web sites have the capability of quickly becoming avenues for reaching others for Christ. Web ministry is the choice of the next generation. They are rapidly turning to websites to spread the Gospel. A concert of ways should be going on at the same time in the city. This is the day and the hour of the endtime harvest.

House to House Evangelism

The Greek word oikos simply refers to a house or household. Although Jesus taught and ministered in synagogues and the Temple in Jerusalem, He frequently ministered from house to house (Mark 2:1; 14:17; 9:33; 10:10; Matthew 13:36). Jesus also sent the twelve and the seventy to houses.

Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. Luke 9:4
So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere. Luke 9:6
When you enter a house, first say, “Peace to this house.” If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him, if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. Luke 10:5

This house to house pattern is a highly visible strategy for evangelizing cities. The strategy was also very evident in the Early Church. The Bible records that the first 3,000 converts continued together in one accord and they broke bread in their homes. Most importantly, people continued to be saved on a daily basis.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:46-47

This common evangelistic pattern continued to flow in the home of Simon, a tanner. This is where Peter stayed for a number of days in Joppa after raising Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:36-43). While there, Peter saw a vision. A man named Cornelius was told to send men to get Peter. While they were going to Joppa to get him, Cornelius invited his close relatives and friends into his home.

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. Acts 10:23-24

When Peter arrived, the Holy Spirit fell upon these Gentiles, showing Peter that God had also granted them life (Acts 10:44-48; 11:18). The house to house evangelism was significant here because it opened the way for the evangelization of the entire Gentile population.

Paul gives even more credibility to this mode of evangelism in his exhortation to the Ephesians elders.

You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house
to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.
Acts 20:20-21

John Wimber is right in saying, Many times we are too focused on individuals, forgetting that when one member of a family or social grouping is affected, it can result in a whole family or town being won. The early believers won entire households to the Lord with power evangelism and house to house evangelism. There is a strong momentum to reach the smaller villages for Jesus. I believe it is the will of the Lord that we present the gospel to every home.

Public Evangelism

Another means of setting a city on fire is through public evangelism. This refers to strategically locating the primary public centers where large numbers of people normally gather and conduct evangelistic rallies and revival services. Paul frequently ministered in the synagogues of cities, as well as public places like the Areopagus in Athens:

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: To an Unknown God. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. Acts 17:22-23

This type of evangelism has been utilized very effectively in the former Soviet Union and throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It has led to multitudes following Jesus Christ from every quarter. Although many international partners are reporting that the large mass crusades are no longer effective, we must share Christ publicly in the marketplace if we are going to set the city on fire.

Whatever mode or combination of evangelism God reveals for a particular city, it is important that those discussed here be a part of the strategy. I say this because of the clarity of the New Testament pattern. The spiritual leaders and believers in the Early Church unquestionably evangelized city after city with power evangelism, personal evangelism, house to house evangelism, and public evangelism. Let us go everywhere in the city preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ! I want to also mention here that it is wrong to set the city on fire and not disciple new converts. They must be prepared to effectively make disciples to fulfill the Great Commission. We win them to keep them!

Notes
1 Dawson, Taking Our Cities for God 181
2 David Shibley, A Force in the Earth (Lake Mary, Fl.:Creation House, 1989), 75-77
4 Ibid., 89, 257
5 Ibid., 115
Making and Building the Covenant

The city has been set on fire with the Holy Spirit by evangelizing the entire city. The greater harvest has been released and the saints are rejoicing with all the angels in heaven. Multitudes have been born again and both water and Spirit baptized. The Kingdom of God has come near. Jesus has visited the people bringing healing, salvation, and power. We are in revival and it is impacting the entire city. Now, the people are called to continue together to be the body of Christ.

Jesus said, I will build My church... (Matthew 16:18). City-taking is incomplete without the planting of new churches. This is something the Lord is doing around the world. In fact, 500 churches are being started each day. It is a great joy to be used by God to continue strategically planting churches in cities and nations around the world through 5-Fold Global Ministries. Our international partners are the real experts in church planting. Olga Pyrozhenko has planted seventeen churches in Ukraine and has plans for ten more. Peter and Hannah Murunga have planted some of the first churches in the Turkana region near the Sudanese border. Kanito Tomas of Uganda has planted 17 churches in remote villages. Santhosh Desabattula continues to plant hundreds of churches in India. Samuel Isong, Sampson Dorkunor, and George Ogele are deeply involved in church planting in Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, and Benin, as well as Lesly Bertrand in Haiti. Chungthang Thiek of Northeast India continues to be instrumental in training young leaders who are planting churches as far as the China frontier. Thousands of new and living churches will be planted before the end of the decade through men and women like those mentioned above. What excites us about the house church strategy is that it grows by multiplication regardless of the culture and context. This move of God in church planting is in direct fulfillment of Jesus’ words, I will build my church.

The saints need to participate in what God is doing. The final phase of taking cities for God requires making and building a covenant with the Lord. This is just what the people of God did in Joshua 23 and 24. The Lord had given them the land (Joshua 1:3). Now, He required them to establish a renewed covenant with Him. Church planting demands a covenant relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ because He is the builder of His church. Joshua exhorted the people to fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness.

Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Joshua 24:14
In other words, Joshua was telling them to devote themselves to walking in the covenant because there were still more cities remaining to take for God.

_The Lord your God himself will drive them out of your way. He will push them out before you, and you will take possession of their land, as the Lord your God promised you._ Joshua 23:5

**Within the Veil**

Many churches are started with ideas of grandeur, but with a very limited concept for ministering within the veil or on the other side of the curtain. The church needs to become the house of the Lord in order for the fullness of Jesus to be prevalent.

_And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way._ Ephesians 1:22-23

I agree with Frances Frangipane who says, _Without the abiding fullness of Christ in the church we will have no more impact in the world than a political party, whose strength rests in numbers and not in God._¹ This means we need to be conformed to His image. We must yield to Him in the building of His church because the fullness of His presence has been opened to us by the blood of Christ.

_Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching._ Hebrews 10:19-25

The enemy will still attempt to put the curtain or veil of obscurity between people and the living God. He doesn't want the saints to behold the fullness of Christ's glory. This is why church planters need to be alert to five commanders of darkness: the _spirit of Babylon_ (Revelation 17:1-6). The _spirit of Jezebel_ (Revelation 2:20), the _spirit of antichrist_ (1 John 2:18-19; 4:3), the _spirit of the world_ (1 Corinthians 2:12), and the _ruler of the kingdom of the air_ (Ephesians 2:2). We discuss each of these dark princes in the Appendix. These spirits will immediately attempt to infiltrate the church. Their goal is to oppose Christ's strategy in building His church, to control spiritual leaders, and to influence the people toward worshipping religion and playing the harlot with God. The saints need to overcome them before the new church is planted. The best way to do this is to pursue the fullness of Christ in everything and to minister with confidence within the veil. The curtain has been opened.

**The Vision of Multiplication**

The Vietnam War was a failure because there was no occupation plan. Territory changed hands back and forth on a regular basis, even daily, leaving soldiers and a nation confused and bewildered. At this juncture, the victorious saints of God need to be reminded of the absolute importance of occupying the city or region newly taken for God. If Satan can somehow keep healthy churches from being established and those already established from growing, then he is likely to gain an even stronger foothold upon the same city in the future.
We have not come this far only to let the city be seized again by the forces of hell! The saints must be determined to *Occupy till I come* (Luke 19:13 KJV). Determination alone, however, will not keep a city in God’s hands and in revival. God’s Army needs to understand and implement God’s *vision of multiplication*.

What is the vision of multiplication? One of the foundational scriptures for spiritual warfare speaks of both multiplication and occupation.

> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies. Genesis 22.17

God’s occupation plan for every city and nation is for believers and churches to exponentially multiply! This is why local congregations need to repeatedly obey the Lord’s command.

> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Luke 5:4

Note that “nets” is plural. The disciples, though, lowered only a single net (Luke 5:5). Although there was a great catch of fish, the net broke and they had to get help to save the catch (Luke 5:6-7). Remember! Jesus is teaching about capturing and keeping a multitude of souls (Luke 5:10). Therefore, the “vision of multiplication” includes the multiplication of the number of disciples (Acts 6:1-7), the multiplication of the Word (Acts 6:7;12:24), the multiplication of the number of churches (Acts 9:31), the multiplication of signs, wonders, and miracles (John 14:12; Acts 4:30; 5:14-16), and the multiplication of seed (2 Corinthians 9:10).

I want to encourage you with a word the Lord gave me on May 5, 1997 in Canton, Ohio.

> “I will add to this church. This is only the beginning for the day of multiplication is coming. You can number My people when I begin to add for this will precede My day of multiplication and I have commanded you to be faithful and praise Me in the day of addition as well as multiplication. Do not despise this season of small beginnings and do not resist My pruning for I am birthing My work in this place and it is My work in you so no man can take glory in himself. Be faithful, for My work in you will shake and move this city and nations. Only take My full measure for this day and this hour for I am Lord and I reign over the birthing, seed time and harvest, the adding to and the multiplication. Look to Me for I will surely accomplish it in your days and it will be marvelous in your eyes.”

I believe God is raising up an army of worshippers, warriors, and pray-ers to boldly fulfill His vision of multiplication. God has burned the vision within them and established it as present truth.

> So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. 2 Peter 1:12

Present truth is when God proposes a truth in the here and now that will otherwise be hidden if it is not boldly spoken forth and acted upon with a high degree of faith. Such intense activity by God’s people continues throughout every quarter of the city and the city stays in God’s hands and in continual revival!

**Church Planting in the 21st Century**

George Barna of the Barna Research Group and Christian Schwarz, a German church-growth researcher have done very credible work to reveal where the church is really at today. The following is a brief summary of some of their research as it relates to church planting and multiplication:
Average size of churches worldwide is about 100; very small % is bigger than 200; most are 40-60.

Only 1 in 100 who make decisions for Christ through evangelistic efforts actually ends up attending a church; the church loses 99 out of 100.

Under 17% of members in churches of 100 or more are involved in a ministry corresponding to their spiritual gifts; 31% in smaller churches.

The average number of people added to a local church in a 5-year period: churches 1-100 (avg. 51) = 32 (63%); 100-200 = 32 (23%); 200-300 = 39(17%); 300-400 = 25 (7%); 1000+ (avg. 2,856) = 112 (4%). If you divided the large churches into smaller ones of 50 each they would win an average of 1,792 people to Christ or 16x more!

24 new churches started each week in the USA during the past 10 years; 72 closed their doors each week; a loss of 48 churches per week, 2,496 a year and a decline of 24,960 a decade. Over 80% of existing churches in the USA have plateaued or are in decline. Mega churches are still growing, but make up only 2.4% of those attending church in the USA; house churches and networks are growing rapidly from 1% to over 9%.

The World Christian Encyclopedia divides global Christianity into 6 mega blocks: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox, Marginal, Protestant, and Independent/Neo Apostolic. The Neo-Apostolic is now the largest of the non-Catholic mega blocks and the only one growing faster than Islam.

These statistics reveal a number of things; however, there is one that stands out more than any other. New paradigms are needed in the way we understand and plant churches in the 21st century. The world is begging for new living churches to arise that will transform communities. I have discovered it much easier to plant new churches than to revive existing ones; however, we must involve ourselves in both to move forward. It is also obvious that many conventional churches are struggling to penetrate the unchurched in their respective cities. This is not a mandate against local churches and pastors. However, more and more spiritual leaders are calling for a restructuring of conventional churches to reflect the new governmental model similar to the Early Church and a renewed focus upon measurable outreach in their respective communities. I always encourage local churches to pursue the changes necessary to make progress. I also consistently urge them to consider the house church strategy as a primary way to plant new living churches in a region. For example, we completed a recent operation in India where 32 new churches were planted in very remote villages following a training conference. Eight teams of about ten leaders each were sent forth to plant these new churches. There were insufficient resources to plant more of these conventional churches so we adopted a strategy to use these as gateway churches with the teams remaining onsite for 3-4 months to evangelize and plant house churches in the ten nearest villages to each of the gateway churches. This led to a church planting movement in the region with many leaders saying they were no longer satisfied with just one church. They wanted to plant house churches according to God’s plan. This has transformed our thinking for the future. Our goal is not to plant a church or even a number of churches, but to initiate church planting movements around the world.

Ten Steps in Church Planting

What is the Spirit saying to the churches? Two principles that have become apparent are: (1) In the Kingdom, things are not so much organized as they are spiritually birthed through prayer; (2) We are limited, but God is not. I believe God is strategizing with His people to build His church. Ten steps have emerged as result of God strategizing with us. I view these as key factors for the effective planting of churches around the world.

1. A leader(s) have a call and vision from God to plant a church.
2. Seek an apostolic covering (There is safety in a multitude of Godly counselors)
3. Develop Strategy and a church planting team (A ministry team is preferred over an individual)
4. Build a prayer base.
5. Gather core families.
6. Do evangelism.
7. Make disciples (Mobilize, Equip, Empower, Release)
8. Have a vision to plant more churches.
9. Be globally minded (tithe church budget into missions)
10. Be one body conformed to the image of Christ (guard unity)

The church must be people oriented in ministry. The city is now under the blessing of God. A healthy church and/or house church network stands as a witness that God has fought for His people and won. However, there can be no complacency. New forces must be mobilized for God, the saints’ equipped, and new targets established. Then God’s Army must go forth again and occupy yet another city for His glory!

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4

Notes

Frangipane, The House of the Lord, 27
Firepower Conferences and Strategic Regional Training Operations

The Purpose

Firepower Conferences and Strategic Regional Training Operations are beginning to be conducted around the world as an effective means to enable believers to break the controlling powers of evil reigning over their cities. The goal is to equip and train the body of Christ with Biblical principles to take an offensive stand in their cities and nations and to raise up teams that will go to other cities upon invitation. Jesus is calling us to do this.

At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” Luke 4:42-43

Believers need to pray about helping other cities. The conferences and training operations are designed to fully mobilize the citywide church to effective action. Training sessions deal with territorial spirits, curses on the land, warfare praise, using the prophetic gifts in battle, strategic-level spiritual warfare, individual and corporate warfare strategy, church planting, and how to take a city and keep it for God. Those who attend learn by doing the Word as they engage in corporate worship, corporate prayer and corporate warfare. The highlight of every conference and training operation is the strategic assault upon the city by the army of God to tear down the high places, pull down the strongholds and make war in the heavenlies! International training operations can potentially change an entire region for Christ as regional leaders and churches participate in a united advance.

How to Prepare

- Raise up and train an Intercessory Prayer Team, (Use a training manual for militant intercession entitled, Possessing the Gates of the Enemy by Cindy Jacobs or develop your own)
- Activate corporate prayer meetings during the week in the church sanctuary (It is most effective when pastors and veteran intercessors of churches citywide launch corporate prayer gatherings and 21 or 40 day sessions of prayer and fasting)
- Train leaders in spiritual warfare (Develop your own training materials or use the Firepower Manual)
- Activate prayer-walks at regional mobilization sites within the city or region
- Raise up and train the Spiritual Intelligence Gathering Team to begin research (Use the questions compiled by Peter Wagner in Breaking Strongholds in your City, 225-230. Eliminate questions that do not apply to your city or develop your own)
- Identify the strategies God is revealing to assault and evangelize the city (Follow the admonition of
Jesus in Luke 5:4 to cast nets rather than a single net. This is also where Generals and Firepower Team Leaders go to the War Room to discuss and rehearse the revealed battle strategy and occupation plan)

- Schedule the Firepower Conference or Strategic Regional Training Operation (Partner with 5-Fold Global Ministries and request an Apostolic Training Team)
- Quickly and diligently implement God’s revealed strategies in #6 (Give close attention to detail here)
- Actively make disciples (A comprehensive strategy is needed)
- Plant new churches throughout the city or region (This is God’s occupation plan)

The process listed above works! It is great when the citywide church unites against the forces of evil. If that does not develop, however, God can take a city with a much smaller army! Don’t get discouraged if you begin with a certain number of people and find yourself with a radically reduced army of warriors. Its only God sending the faint-hearted home so He will receive more glory through a smaller Gideon army. Take the city when God tells you, the way He tells you, and with the army He gives you!

**Ten Things to do to Win a City for Jesus**

Neil Kanning, who worked closely with Bob Swanger, once described ten things to do to win a city for Jesus. These ten points serve as excellent principles to guide our thoughts and give us direction during the entire process of city-taking. If the saints do not guard their hearts and minds, they will not succeed in the battle for souls.

1. **Unite Christians—** Build them up rather than criticize them.
2. **Discover the strength and purpose for your city.**
3. **Develop God’s vision for your city and mobilize the Christians in the city to make the vision a reality.**
4. **Develop an attitude of being Jesus’ victorious team and then act like it. Build expectations.**
5. **Pray for discernment for developing a vision and how to implement the vision for your city.**
6. **Pray for the power and the will to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.**
7. **Recognize it is a spiritual battle and pray for those that oppose God’s vision.**
8. **Make certain we spend more time feeding our minds God’s thoughts rather that the world’s thoughts.**
9. **Identify strongholds that must be broken.**
10. **Team with others who have the vision.**

You can win your city for Jesus, but not without help. Time is running out for many lost souls. They will perish in hell without Christ. The day and hour for God’s army to mobilize is at hand. Together we can accomplish far more than any of us can alone. God will move cities and nations through us. Let us go out in the power of His might!
Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. Isaiah 54:2-3

Contact Information

National and International Leaders can contact 5-Fold Global Ministries to discuss how we can help you to impact your city for Jesus. There are many free resources on our website including this training manual and other teaching materials.

Dr. Michael D. Gross
Executive Director
5-Fold Global Ministries
440 37th Street NW
Canton, Ohio  44709
Phone/Fax: 330-491-0028
Email: mick@5foldglobal.org
Website: www.5foldglobal.org
List of Nations in the 10/40 Window

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Why should committed Christians care about the 10/40 Window?

1. 2/3 of the people of the world reside here.

2. This area is the heart of Islam.

3. Three main religious blocs are located in this area (Muslim 22%, Hindu 23%, Buddhist 5%)

4. 8 out of 10 of the poorest of the poor live in this area.

5. 8 out of 10 of the people living here have the lowest quality of life (life expectancy, infant mortality, and literacy)

6. This area is a stronghold of Satan.

Among the world's 1.1 billion Muslims, two-thirds live in a region called the "10/40 Window." Named by Luis Bush of AD2000, this window stretches from the tenth to the fortieth parallels north of the equator and includes the area from the west coast of Africa to the east coast of Japan. More than half the world's population lives within this region, including an estimated 717 million Hindus and 153 million Buddhists. The 10/40 Window includes 99 percent of the poorest of the poor and the least evangelised. For most, the average per capital income is less than $500. Few Christians are found there. Though 97 percent of the 3 billion people who live in the 55 least evangelised countries of the world live in the 10/40 Window, only 18 percent of Christian missionaries work among them. (Information derived from an article by Ron Iwasko in The Pentecostal Evangel.)
APPENDIX 2
Comparison of Spiritual Intelligence from Two Cities

From Buenos Aires, Argentina
From Canton, Ohio USA
APPENDIX 3
The Five Commanders of Darkness

Power of the air
Spirit of Babylon
Spirit of the world
Spirit of Jezebel
Spirit of antichrist

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12
WHAT IS THE POWER OF THE AIR?
(2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:2)

A ruling spirit that works globally and culturally in the sons of disobedience in order to keep them blinded to the gospel and walking with the world and the church from winning a multitude of souls bringing glory to God.

HOW DOES THIS SPIRIT ACCOMPLISH THIS?

Blinds them to the truth of the gospel like a veil
Speaks doubt against God's existence, ability, and people
Rebuts believers from speaking God's truth
Views the church as hypocrisy
Makes believers feel unwelcome in the city

HOW TO HANDLE A PERSON WITH THIS SPIRIT?

Pray for salvation
Do corporate warfare against the spirit
Boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and walk in His fullness
Never apologize for the Gospel
Do not permit them to portray themselves in the church as being born again
If they go, let them go!

A CORPORATE PRAYER OF DELIVERANCE

Heavenly Father, You have entrusted us with Your gospel. We are determined to take our city for God and spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. No power of the air is going to prevent us from bringing in the plentiful harvest of souls decreed by Jesus Christ Himself. Prince of the power of the air, listen to us now! You are not the Lord of the harvest, Jesus Christ is! We break your hold upon every soul in this region and rip the veil from their eyes in the name of Jesus Christ. We command them to be released from the north, south, east, and west and claim them for the kingdom of heaven to the glory of God! Amen!

1Frangipane, The Three Battlegrounds, 109-110.
2Ibid., 125
WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF BABYLON?
(Gen. 11:1-9; Dan. 2:11; 4:28-30; Rev. 17-19)

A ruling spirit that seeks to compromise the Spirit of truth in God's people with its own mixture of truth and lies in order to attract believers to its world religious order and occultic practices and draw them away from the true worship of God

HOW DOES THIS SPIRIT ACCOMPLISH THIS?

Utilization of spiritual language and experience to deceive
Strong desire to minister with little desire to be ministered to
Have no long term or sustained church identity
Submit to no one, but God, yet overstate praise for the senior pastor
Claim an abundance of healing, prophetic and teaching gifts
Claim to frequently hear the voice of God
Preestablished ministries without reputation
Lean toward the sensational outside of Biblical parameters
Draw people to seek their counsel rather than the counsel of established leaders
Prey on the feelings, emotions and sympathies of God's people

HOW TO HANDLE A PERSON WITH THIS SPIRIT?

Pray for accurate discernment and come against the spirit of confusion
Spiritual leaders and established prophets judge the prophetic ministry
Test them on how they respond to correction
Forbid them to prophesy, teach or lay hands on others
Call them to repentance and deliverance
Tell them they are not welcome in the congregation
Reverse any curses they have placed upon the church building, property or people

A CORPORATE PRAYER OF DELIVERANCE

Heavenly Father, we worship You. We declare that Your name shall be exalted in all the earth, even the name You gave Your Son, Jesus! We renounce seeking to make names for ourselves, we cast off the illusions of the world, we repent of the lusts of comfort and pleasure. Lord, we judge the spirit of Babylon! We release Your people from its drunkenness and immorality! We line our lives up according to the standard of Your righteous judgments, that you might judge our judgment of this spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.
WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD
(Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 2:12; Col. 2:20; 3:2)

A ruling spirit that restrains God's people with a domination of natural mindedness and worldliness in order to keep believers from becoming spiritually minded and the church from becoming filled with overcomers.

HOW DOES THIS SPIRIT ACCOMPLISH THIS?

Humanism and World Core Curriculum of Public Education
Emphasizes pleasure, entertainment and consumer addiction through the mass media
Ridicules the spiritual principles of faith and portrays their failures
Places strongholds on the mind to keep believers addicted to the flesh and self-determination
Views the church as a worldly business and insists it operates as such
Leads the church and members into partnership with worldly elements
Stresses a liberal view of Scripture

HOW TO HANDLE A PERSON WITH THIS SPIRIT?

Call to repentance and deliverance
Preach and teach the whole counsel of God
Do not encourage, justify or participate in their sin
Warn against the willful continuation of sin
Remove those who commit sexual immorality or sin against the people of God if unrepentant

A CORPORATE PRAYER OF DELIVERANCE

O Lord, We praise you for giving us the Holy Spirit. We are the blood-bought, Spirit-led church of the living God! We will not tolerate the spirit of the world, nor will we moderate our pursuit of righteousness and holiness in the Lord Jesus Christ. Spirit of the world, the church of the redeemed unites against you this day! We tear down your high places and pull down your strongholds in the name of Jesus Christ with the mind of Christ! You will not overrun this church or our homes! We now hold this position and advance against your unclean spirits and foul thinking and break your hold over the minds and body's of God's people! We rejoice to put to death the deeds of our flesh and present our bodies as living sacrifices to God knowing that He will renew our minds daily in His Spirit. Amen!
WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF JEZEBEL?
(1 Kin. 18:1-40; 21:1-16; 2 Kin. 9:7, 30-37; Rev. 2:20)

A ruling spirit that seeks to control or influence spiritual leaders and paralyze or hinder them from fully obeying God

HOW DOES THIS SPIRIT ACCOMPLISH THIS?

Discredit the pastoral office & spiritual leaders in general
Resistance to spiritual decisions of leaders
Promotes a loss of respect for the pastoral office
Bears false witness against spiritual leaders
Works a divorce between pastors & congregations
Seeks recognition and influence through the avenue of teaching
Disguises itself in much church activity & an Ahab spirit
Hinders & defeats the work of repentance
Finds a sympathetic following

HOW TO HANDLE A PERSON WITH THIS SPIRIT?

Forbid to teach
Give no authority to Jezebel
Challenge directly & in simple terms
Give no sympathy to accusations against spiritual leadership
Pray against fear & discouragement prior to warfare against this spirit
Call them to repentance & deliverance
Remove them from the local congregation

A CORPORATE PRAYER OF DELIVERANCE

It is time for the prophets to unite against this spirit! Under the anointing of Elijah, in the power of the Holy Spirit, let us arise in the indignation of Jehu and cast Jezebel down! Even now, we wash ourselves in the Precious Blood, and having been cleansed from any defilement of sin, we bind and plunder the stronghold of Jezebel! Spirit of Jezebel, in the authority of Jesus Christ, which He gives us as His servants, we release your captives! We set free your slaves! We speak to the eunuchs, cast down your sympathetic strongholds toward Jezebel! Cast down her evil imaginations from your minds! In the power of Jesus’ name, we release you from her psychic grip upon your soul. In the authority of the Living Christ, we proclaim HOLY WAR upon the spirit Jezebel! Amen

65
WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST?
(2 Thess. 2:4; 1 Jn. 2:18-19; 4:1-6)

A ruling spirit that consistently opposes the restoration and revival of the church of the living God in order to slow its growth and keep it from becoming the triumphant bride of Christ.

HOW DOES THIS SPIRIT ACCOMPLISH THIS?

Manifests opposition and discontent within a church during difficult periods of growth
Aligns itself with the outside persecution of a church while remaining within its ranks
Opposes true worship, spiritual warfare, corporate prayer and the effective operation of spiritual gifts
Discourages other believers by withdrawing from the life and fellowship of the church
Uses issues and concerns expressed as ideas and criticisms to divide the church
Subtly nurtures unforgiving attitudes that cause church splits and keeps believers lukewarm
Thoughts, opinions, and feelings are given more weight than Scripture
Resist emphasis on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His sovereign rule

HOW TO HANDLE A PERSON WITH THIS SPIRIT?

Pray, fast and teach the whole counsel of God
Use the Word of God to expose thoughts and opinions that are opposed to God's will
Do not permit to lead or function on leadership teams and definitely not the worship team
Give no opportunity to speak at church assemblies and meetings
Do not go after them when they leave the congregation
Displace by becoming the opposite

A CORPORATE PRAYER OF DELIVERANCE

Almighty God. We confess You as our Lord and Savior. You are the incarnate Son of God and we worship You in spirit and in truth! We gather around Your throne bowing before You and lifting Your name high above every name in heaven and earth! We stand this day united in You and Your great love against the spirit of antichrist. Spirit of antichrist, in the authority of Jesus Christ, we speak death to your thoughts, murmurings and discouragement. We displace you in this fellowship of believers with the fire of God in our souls and His fire shall make us united and hot in all things for God! We, now, unite in His love and bring every thought into the captivity of our Lord Jesus Christ. He alone sits upon the throne forever! Amen!
APPENDIX 4
Sample Proclamations

To execute on them the written judgment—
This honor have all His saints.
Praise the Lord!

Sample Proclamation

Hear us, O spirits of darkness! We, the people of God, anointed by the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and to set free those who are bound and oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, stand fast and strong and courageous in our calling. We remind you, principalities and powers, that the Scriptures also say that the works that Jesus did, we who believe will do also, and even greater works. Our Lord’s early disciples declared, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your Name." We, too, have been given authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing by any means shall hurt us. Listen to us, spirits of arrogance, haughtiness, contention, religion, perversion, mammon, addiction, sorcery, murder, war, fear, anger, greed, death, poverty, infirmity and deception. We command you to come down from your high places! Our Father God has promised us in His holy Word that we will "possess the gates of our enemies."

Your rule and dominion shall be no more! All things were made through Jesus, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and this life was the light of men, and the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend, nor overcome it. You are powerless to stop an awakening of righteousness in the hearts of men, women and children in our cities. We, the children of light, washed clean by the blood of the Lamb, penetrate your strongholds of evil. What Joshua said to the children of Israel upon approaching Jericho, we now declare and proclaim as the army of God, "Shout, for the Lord has given us the city!"

Notes

Stark County
International Freedom Proclamation

"...Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven..."

Hear us, O spirits of darkness! We remind you, principalities and powers, that the scriptures say that the works that Jesus did, we who believe will do also, and even greater works. Our Lord's early disciples declared, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your Name." We, too, have been given authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing by any means shall hurt us.

Listen to us, spirits of divination, familiarity, jealousy, lying, perversion, haughtiness, heaviness, whoredom, idolatry, infertility, deaf and dumb, bondage, fear, seduction, error, stupor, slumber, racism, death, and the spirit of anti-Christ. We command you to come down from your high places! Our Father God has promised us in His Holy Word that we will, "possess the gates of our enemies." Your rule and dominion shall be removed! All things were made through Jesus, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and this life was the light of men, and the light shines in the darkness and darkness did not comprehend, nor overcome it. You are powerless to stop an awakening of righteousness in the hearts of men, women, youth, and children in our cities. We, the children of light, washed clean by the blood of the Lamb, penetrate your strongholds of evil in the name of Jesus Christ.

"...Whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19

Isaiah 61:1-4
1. The Spirit of the Lord God is upon us; because the Lord hath anointed us to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent us to bind the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;
2. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;
3. To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, the he might be glorified.
4. And we are building the old wastes, and we are raising the former desolations, and we are repairing the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

Isaiah 60:1

"Arise, Shine, (Stark County) for thy light is come, and the Glory of the Lord is Risen Upon Thee."

What Joshua said to the children of Israel upon approaching Jericho,

we now declare and proclaim as the army of God, "Shout, for the Lord has given us the city!"

"With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26
APPENDIX 5

Church Planting and City Taking Summary Chart

The Vision of Multiplication
- The number of disciples – Acts 6:1-7
- The word of God – Acts 6:7; 12:24
- Signs, wonders, and miracles – John 14:12; Acts 4:30; 5:14-16
- The number of churches – Acts 9:31
- The seed – 2 Corinthians 9:10

Ten Steps in Church Planting
1. A leader(s) have a call and vision from God to plant the church.
2. Seek an apostolic covering.
3. Develop Strategy and a church planting team.
4. Build a prayer base.
5. Gather core families.
6. Do evangelism.
7. Make disciples (Mobilize, Equip, Empower, Release)
8. Have a vision to plant more churches.
9. Be globally minded (tithe church budget into missions)
10. Be one body conformed to the image of Christ (guard unity)

Ten Things to Prepare to Win a City for Jesus
1. Raise up and train an Intercessory Prayer Team.
2. Activate corporate prayer gatherings during the week.
3. Train leaders in spiritual warfare.
4. Activate prayer walks at regional mobilization sites within the city or region.
5. Raise up and train a Spiritual Intelligence Gathering Team to research the city.
6. Identify the strategies God is revealing to assault & evangelize the city.
7. Schedule a Firepower Conference or Strategic Regional Training Operation with an experienced apostolic training team.
8. Quickly and diligently implement God's revealed strategies in #6 paying close attention to detail.
9. Activate a comprehensive strategy to disciple new converts in the city.
10. Plant new churches throughout the city and region

Ten Things to do to Win a City for Jesus
1. Unite Christians – build them up rather than criticize them.
2. Discover the strength and purpose for your city.
3. Develop God's vision for your city and mobilize the Christians in the city to make the vision a reality.
4. Develop an attitude of being Jesus' victorious team and then act like it. Build expectations.
5. Pray for discernment for developing a vision and how to implement the vision for your city.
6. Pray for the power and the will to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.
7. Recognize it is a spiritual battle and pray for those that oppose God's vision.
8. Make certain we spend more time feeding our minds God's thoughts rather than the world's thoughts.
9. Identify strongholds that must be broken.
10. Team with others who have the vision.


