



THE WATCHMAN

Prayer Newsletter

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THE LANCE OF INTERCESSION

By Pastor Sheila Bowling

Ephesians 6:18: “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...” I call this last weapon “the lance of prayer and supplication.” When you wield “the lance of prayer and supplication,” this powerful prayer tool is thrust forward into the spirit realm against the works of the adversary. By forcibly hurling this divine instrument into the face of the enemy, you exercise the power God has given you to stop major obstacles from developing in your personal life.

When Paul came to the conclusion of this text about spiritual armour, he had the images of Roman lances and spears in his mind. Some lances were small; others were extremely long. The smaller, shorter lances were used for gouging and thrusting at an enemy up close, whereas the longer lances were used for hurling at an enemy from a distance. There were many different kinds of lances and many variations of each one of them.

What does all of this have to do with spiritual armour? Why am I taking the time to stress the various shapes, sizes, and lengths of lances? Here is the point: Paul is imagining the entire range of lances and spears as he comes to the issue of prayer. Now by revelation, he begins to compare these various lances to the various kinds of prayer that God has made available to us. This is why Paul said, “Praying always, with all prayer and supplication...” Especially notice the middle portion of this verse, where Paul says, “with all prayer.” The phrase “all prayer” is taken from the Greek phrase and it would be better translated “with all kinds of prayer.” God has made many kinds of prayer available to us for different purposes in our fight of faith.

So as Paul moves toward the end of this text on spiritual weaponry, he urges us to pick up our final weapon — prayer — and utilizes the imagery of these different kinds of lances to portray different kinds of prayer.



Just as Roman soldiers used all different types of lances in battle. Paul now begins to enlighten us to the fact that God has made many kinds of prayer available to us for different purposes in our fight of faith. Now Paul instructs us to use each of these forms of prayer as it is needed.

Just as the Roman soldier had a short lance for thrusting an enemy at close range, nothing can compare to a believer’s prayer of faith that is filled with authority! A prayer like this is well able to deal a mortal wound to an unseen foe who has come too close within range. Similarly, just as the Roman soldier had a long lance to hurl at his opponent from afar, we have the weapon of intercession that allows us to thwart an enemy attack in our lives or in someone else’s life before it ever occurs. Like a lance loaded with deadly weight, intercession can deal a wound so fatal to the domain of darkness that it hinders the devil’s lethal devices from becoming a reality in others’ lives or in our own lives, families, businesses, churches, and ministries.

Unseen spirits continually seek to bombard the flesh and hassle the minds of believers. These wicked spirits hate the presence of Jesus Christ and His Church on the earth, making prayer an indispensable offensive weapon for believers to use to ward off the enemy’s attacks. This is how we gain stamina, staying power through prayer. Yes, it is true that our victory has already been won through Jesus’ death and resurrection. But, regardless of how skilled, bold, and courageous we think we are when it comes to the issue of spiritual conflict, we simply cannot maintain a victorious position apart from a life of prayer.

On the other hand, as we seek God in prayer to receive His direction and His power for our daily living, we get ourselves in position to victoriously reinforce Jesus Christ’s triumphant victory over Satan and demonstrate Satan’s defeat. To assist us in maintaining this victorious position, God has given the Church various kinds of powerful prayer.

THE LANCE OF INTERCESSION – CONT'D

By Pastor Sheila Bowling

That's why this phrase in Ephesians 6:18 can be translated: "Pray with all manner of prayer." "Pray with all kinds of prayer." "Pray with all the kinds of prayers that are available for you to use." There is no doubt about it.

As Paul writes about the different kinds of prayer, he sees a mental picture of the various types of lances available to the Roman soldier. In his mind's eye, Paul sees long lances, short lances, wide lances, narrow lances, sharp lances, dull lances, multiple-blade lances, and so on. Then he tells us, "Pray with all the kinds of prayers that are available for you to use...." This means that no one kind of prayer is better than the others. Rather, each serves a different purpose and is necessary for the life of faith.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE PRAY?

Notice how Paul begins at the very first of Ephesians 6:18. He says, "Praying always...." The word "always" is taken from three Greek words. When all three of these words are used together in one phrase (*en panti kairo*), as Paul uses them in Ephesians 6:18, they would be more accurately translated. The idea Paul is trying to get across to us is this: "Anytime you get a chance, no matter where you are or what you are doing, at every opportunity, every season, and every possible moment — SEIZE that time to pray!"

Prayer is the most ignored piece of weaponry the Body of Christ possesses today. This clearly tells us that prayer is not optional for the Christian who is serious about his spiritual life. Unfortunately, however, prayer is the most ignored piece of weaponry the Body of Christ possesses today. People find it more exciting to talk about the shield of faith, the sword of the Spirit, or the breastplate of righteousness than to talk about prayer. Yet the lance of prayer and supplication is equal in importance to these other pieces of armour.

Prayer is a part of our spiritual equipment. In fact, this piece of weaponry is so crucial that Paul urges us to use it continually and habitually — at every possible moment.

Sometimes when we get comfortable with where we are, we stop praying- you are not here because there was no obstacles. No, it's- because of what you went through you didn't stop praying. Don't stop praying with Fervency. So, part of the problem is what we think. We think that when we get a little breakthrough, we can stop praying but we can't ever stop or back down. Just because you have a little money in the bank or you have your Boaz (he may turn in to a bozo or a bubba), you can stop praying. If you got healed, don't stop praying, you are the righteous and James 5:16 says the prayer of righteous avails much. Use your Lance, hurl it at the enemy and remember that the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS BY FIRE – HE IS GOD

By Chinwe Okpalaoka

The Daily Bread devotion of August 27, 2014 describes the momentary despair which the prophet Elijah faced after a victorious encounter with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). One would imagine that after such a public showdown during which the power and might of God were manifested through him, that Elijah would be operating on a spiritual high. Instead, we learn that he was hiding in fear when Jezebel demanded that he face the same fate that had befallen the prophets of Baal. Since Elijah was responsible for the death of the prophets of Baal, it was now his turn to fear for his life (1 Kings 19:3).

Did Elijah really believe that Jezebel's might was a match for God's? Hadn't he just asked that the God who answers by fire show himself to be God? And did God not answer Elijah's prayers by sending down fire to burn up the sacrifice? Yet, here Elijah was, cowering in fear and asking to die.

Elijah's despair was brought on by fatigue from the spiritual battle he had just waged and what he was experiencing is not new to humankind. We all go through times when life blindsides us and we are overwhelmed and in despair. Sometimes we do not understand why times of spiritual highs are followed by spiritual lows. We may not speak openly about these things because we are afraid that our faith will be judged by others. Perhaps that is why many of our brothers and sisters suffer alone, ashamed that they feel the way they do.



Are you experiencing despair or hopelessness? Do you feel that you are all alone and that no one cares about you? Do you wonder why the good times don't seem to last or are followed closely behind by difficult times?

If your response is "Yes" to any of these questions, you are not alone. We serve a God who is concerned about every aspect of our lives. He sees us at our highs and our lows and His arms are not too short to save us (Isaiah 59:1). When Hagar, Sarai's Egyptian maidservant first ran away from her mistress, she discovered the "God who sees us"- El-roi (Genesis 16:13). He is still the same God who sees us in all our circumstances today and He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS BY FIRE – HE IS GOD – CONT'D

By Chinwe Okpalaoka

As was the case with Hagar, the angel of God came and ministered to Elijah, taking care of his physical needs. Once he had sustenance, he was strengthened in his body and ready for a private encounter with God. This time God did not announce himself with pomp and circumstance. He came in a still, small voice. Today, God can come to you in a powerful and spectacular manner or He can come quietly to minister to you. Tune your ear to hear what the Lord is saying to you. In his encounter with the still, quiet voice of God, Elijah was reminded that his work was not over. God still had a purpose for Elijah to accomplish and assured him that he was not the only prophet of God left. The same God wants you to know, today, that your circumstances do not change who He is. Come out from under your circumstances and rise above them in Jesus name, Amen!



HOUSTON MAYOR WITHDRAWS SUBPOENA OF PASTOR'S SERMONS

This is what happens when Christians stand together.

Houston Mayor Annise Parker decided today to withdraw the subpoena of sermons and other communications belonging to five area pastors in a lawsuit in which the pastors are not even involved.

The plight of the Houston 5 garnered nationwide attention and outrage from Americans who saw this as a clear infringement of these pastors' First Amendment rights. "The mayor really had no choice but to withdraw these subpoenas, which should never have been served in the first place," explained Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Legal Counsel Erik Stanley. "The entire nation—voices from every point of the spectrum left to right—recognize the city's action as a gross abuse of power. We are gratified that the First Amendment rights of the pastors have triumphed over government overreach and intimidation. The First Amendment protects the right of pastors to be free from government intimidation and coercion of this sort."

The mayor's decision comes just days before I Stand Sunday, a Houston rally for the five pastors that will be broadcast live on the Web, and Pulpit Freedom Houston, a national event encouraging pastors across America to stand in solidarity with the Houston 5 and their right to speak freely from the pulpit.

All Americans, including pastors, have the right to vote, speak, and be heard on the issues that matter most to them. The case of the Houston 5 is just a taste of what can happen when government leaders reject this right, and when unconstitutional laws like the Johnson Amendment, which gives the IRS the power to revoke a church's tax exemption if the pastor preaches a sermon it labels as "political," are allowed to stand.

*Taken from Alliancedefendingfreedom.org
By Marissa Poulson, Senior Web Writer*



OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY PROVIDES HUMAN TRAFFICKING EDUCATION

In an effort to raise awareness of human trafficking, the Ohio State University College of Social Work in collaboration with the Office of Distance Education and eLearning have launched a new massive open online course: Human Trafficking, (a form of modern day slavery and has become a global issue in society today.) With a goal of empowering students to become more informed and engaged agents of change, this MOOC will discuss and examine human trafficking in its existence today.

The course is available at no cost.

To register: go.osu.edu/humantrafficking>

To submit a prayer request email us
[@ercprayeralerts.org](mailto:ercprayeralerts.org)
or
eaglerock.org/prayerrequests.html

ABORTION

LAST CINCINNATI ABORTION CLINIC CLOSING

According to a recent report, the Ohio Department of Health is in the process of closing the last abortion clinic in Cincinnati, Ohio. Planned Parenthood's Elizabeth Campbell Surgical Center could be closed if it does not secure an agreement with a local hospital to accept patients for emergency treatments. **Pray that hospitals are not receptive to their request.**

Excerpted from the Columbus Dispatch

The number of abortions in Ohio hit a 37-year low in 2013 with 23,216 performed, the Ohio Department of Health said in a report released yesterday.

The 2013 total represented a 9 percent drop from 2012 and was the lowest number of abortions since 1976, when the state began keeping records.

Excerpted from the Columbus Dispatch

A Columbus clinic will no longer offer surgical abortions, reducing the number of abortion providers across Ohio to eight. The decision by Complete Healthcare for Women, on Cleveland Avenue, leaves Columbus with two abortion clinics.

Excerpted from the Columbus Dispatch

ARIZONA SCHOOL BOARD VOTES TO REMOVE ABORTION PAGES FROM TEXTBOOKS

"An Arizona school district is making sure that students are not educated about abortion in biology class. This week, Gilbert Public Schools' governing board voted to remove pages from an honors biology textbook because the pages talk about mifepristone, a pill that can induce an abortion, reports local outlet 12 News. Members of the board contended that the pages violate a state statute, which prevents school districts from providing instruction that "that does not give preference, encouragement and support to childbirth and adoption as preferred options to elective abortion," says the outlet."

Excerpted from Huffingtonpost.com

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS OFFERED SCHOLARSHIP

(RNS) Point Loma Nazarene University wants to offer human trafficking survivors who want to earn a college degree a full-ride scholarship.

PLNU, a private Christian university located in San Diego, officially launched an Indiegogo crowd-funding campaign this week with a goal to raise \$40,000 in 40 days. The money will fund the Beauty for Ashes Scholarship Fund, a reference to the Bible verse Isaiah 61:3.

Excerpted Huffingtonpost.com

FOUR GEORGIA SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN EAST IDAHO

Four Georgia suspects are in custody and charged with human trafficking in eastern Idaho.

Idaho State Police say they received a report Friday of an 18-year-old woman being held against her will by armed individuals headed west on I-84 from American Falls. ISP troopers located and stopped a vehicle in Eden, Idaho. In the subsequent investigation, police say they recovered the female victim with minor injuries.

Derricka McCloud, 22, Kentravien Tuff, 31, Demeiris Fields, 21, and Bradley Roberts, 25, all from Georgia, were arrested for human trafficking.

Excerpted from ABC6 News On Your Side

An American-Asian couple faces a death penalty sentence after a Qatari court alleged they were engaged in human trafficking when their adopted daughter died.

Matt and Grace Huang are scheduled to go to appeals court on November 30 to face a possible death sentence in a case that charges them with murdering their own adopted daughter in order to traffic her organs. The US government has tried to intervene but the Huangs remain under house arrest. They are not allowed to leave Qatar. With the death penalty on the table, the Huangs believe the US government must act before their sentencing date.

Excerpted from rt.com