

## OUR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

I.P. #10

Would you open your Bibles to the book of Ephesians, chapter six and follow along as I read verses 10 through 18. "Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefor take unto you the whole armor of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand. ~~therefore~~ Stand therefore having your loins gird about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the Gospel of peace and above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching there unto with all perseverance and supplication for all things."

The place of intercession in the spiritual ~~war~~ warfare. The Christian life is a life of warfare. And it is imperative that every Christian understand this and be aware of the conflicts that surround him. He needs to be aware of the battle. The old ship of Zion is not a luxury liner on which we sail leisurely into heaven's harbor. It is a battleship. It is a man of war in which we engage the enemy. God says we come out victoriously. And the Christian life ~~is~~ is a life of conflict, of opposition. Five times in this passage, the Apostle uses the word 'against'. The Christian is against something. The word 'wrestled' is a Greek word that means hand to hand combat. It is a personal battle. It isn't something that you view from afar, you're not the general standing on the mountain watching everybody else do the fighting. You're a child of God, you're personally involved in this conflict whether you know it or not. The sad state of affairs is, not many of us know it. And we have been captured by the enemy and tonight, we're in his prison.

camp simply because we were not aware of a conflict, we were not acquainted with the enemy and weren't armed for the battle. It's a personal, intimate conflict in which every Christian is engaged. The spiritual warfare. I want you to notice that this is a battle against supernatural forces. It is a spiritual warfare. One of the most important verses in all the word of God is the twelfth verse. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood....", and right there is where many of us have been missing the boat. And have been defeated, because we have thought that our conflict was with flesh and blood and we have been fighting the battle on a physical plane. We wrestle not with flesh and blood but with principalities and powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places; it is a spiritual battle. And I ~~just~~ discovered why the church has been losing its battles so often. You know why we've been losing the battles? We haven't even been showing up for the war. That's what's wrong. Now there's just no way that you can win a war if you don't show up for it. We have been losing by forfeit. We're no show. You know what's wrong with us? We've been going to the wrong theater of war and I want you to know it's hard put to win a battle if the war's going on in the Pacific Ocean and you're fighting in the Atlantic Ocean. We've not even been showing up for the war. We thought the war was waged on flesh and blood scale and we've been using flesh and blood weapons and all the time, the war is not there. It is a spiritual warfare. It is a spiritual warfare. It is fought with spiritual weapons; the enemy is not flesh and blood. That person you can't get along with; that is not your conflict. Your conflict is with the power behind that. You remember when Jesus was confronted with Simon Peter and Simon said, "Lord, you're not supposed to do this and you're never gonig the cross and you're never gong to die." Jesus didn't talk to Simon Peter about it; He said, "Get thee behind me Satan." Jesus recognized that His conflict at that moment was not with flesh and blood; there was no use arguing with Simon Peter. There was no

use appealing to Simon Peter's rationale and logic and trying to show him and convince him that it was wrong. Jesus recognized that He was wrestling not with flesh and blood but with spiritual wickedness in high places, and He said, "Get thee behind me, Satan." In Acts chapter 16, verse 16, when Paul and Silas roam that missionary journey in the city of Philippi, they were being trailed by a fortune-teller and after a few days Paul said I don't have to put up with this, following us around and giving us testimonies saying these men are servants of the most high God and by the way, the Lord doesn't like the devil to advertise His business. Finally the apostle Paul turned to that woman. 'He didn't try to convince her of the evils of fortune-telling. He did not try to convince her to give up her evil ways, the Bible says, "He turned and he spoke to the spirit within her and said, 'In the name of Jesus I command you to come out of her.'" Paul had enough sense to know that our Battle was a spiritual battle. I heard a great testimony this morning. A member of our church, a young lady, met me afterwards and she said, "I led my first person to Jesus this past week." She was so thrilled. I wish she was able to be here tonight and give her good testimony herself. But she said, "You know as I began to witness to her I prayed first and I just bound the devil like the Bible says, just used all that good stuff. And I just rebuked the devil and I bound the devil and I didn't think anything more about it and after she was saved she said, 'And you know in your prayer when in the name of Jesus you commanded Satan to be bound, all of a sudden something happened inside me. Something happened inside me.'" Now that young lady had enough sense to know that our wrestling is not with flesh and blood. The war is on a spiritual level and the reason the church of Jesus Christ today is being defeated by the devil is we've not even been showing up for the war. We've been fighting the battle on a fleshly material plane and that's not where the battle is. You don't win the battle

the battle is not won by the church with organizations and programs.



not where you win the battle. We thought if we had big enough buildings and a high-powered preacher and ~~x~~ the right kind of facilities and all these good oirganization and programs, we could just completely wipe out the ~~devil~~ devil. But we haven't done it. He stood back and ~~at~~ laughed at us because we're not even in the theater of war. It's a spiritual battle. I want you to know that you're going to have to find out what are the spiritual weapons that God has placed within your hands. So Paul says, Wake up to this battle. Be aware of the war. Be acquainted with your enemies. Be armed for the conflict. Notice in verse 13. If ;you're going to fight a spiritual battle you're going to have spiritual armor and spiritual weapons. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand." Now beginning in verse 14 it describes the armor with which the Christian is to clothe himself for the war. Stand, therefore, having your loins girded about with truth, Have on the ~~breastplate~~ breastplate of righteousness, your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God. Now I want to share with you one of the great discoveries I've ever made in the Word of God. Paul says there's a war~~x~~. It's a spiritual war. Now you get ready for it. Put on the whole armor of God. Arm yourself. Equip yourself. Make your weapon the sword of the spirit. All right, here I am Paul. I'm already to go. Got the helmet of salvation on. Got this ~~big~~ big old body shield of faith. I've got the belt girded tight around me to secure me and to hold the other weapons in place. My feet are shod with the preparation, with the readiness fo obey the will of God. I've got the sword, where's the war? Point me to the war. I'm ready to fight. I want you to notice something. What does Paul tell us to do after we've made this minute preparation? What does he tell us to do? Verse 18, praying always with all prayer and supplication. Can you beat that? After I have made this intense preparation and I put on me the whole armor of God, I got the sword, I'm ready to go...All He tells me to do is pray. He doesn't tell me to go out and build a building. He doesn't



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tell me to go out and witness. He doesn't tell me to go out and preach. He doesn't tell me to organize a ~~big~~ visitation program. He simply tells me to pray. Did you know that the warfare is prayer. That's the warfare. The warfare is prayer. That's the warfare. That's why we've been losing, that's why we've been suffering defeat. We thought the warfare was my going out and locking horns with some sinner and trying to convince him to believe what I believe, building up this ~~is~~ program, doing this and doing that. The warfare is not that at all. The warfare is prayer. And everything that Paul is telling us to do in preparation in verses ten through 17 is so that we'll be able to pray. After you've put on all this armor, then you're ready to go into battle. Where do I engage the enemy? Where is the enemy? Where is the war? The war is prayer. The war is prayer. You know what evangelism is? Do you know what witnessing is? Do you know what soul-winning is? Soul-winning and witnessing and evangelism is going out on the field of battle and picking up spoils of victory that have already been won by the cross of Christ. My appropriating that cross through prayer. Do you know what the place of buildings is? Do you know what the place of organizations is? Do you know what the place of programs is? Programs and organizations and all of this is the trucks that we drive out to the field to load up all the spoils of victory. Those are the methods, those are the machines, those are the trucks that we use to pick up the spoils of war. Jesus already did it on the cross 2,000 years ago. I appropriate that, make it real today through the ministry of prayer and intercession, then I can go out and witness. Then I can stand up and preach and then we can build ~~extra~~ ~~extra~~ our buildings and promote our programs. Then we can go pick up and just pick up the dead bodies from off the ground. That Jesus has won. That is what evangelism is. Evangelism isn't trying to win the battle, evangelism is going out and picking up the spoils already fought and won by Jesus, appropriated by me through the ministry of intercession. You remember in Exodus 17, when they met Emelech who was always the enemy of God's people? They met him in the valley of Rephidim. And here is what Moses did; He told Joshua to go

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into the valley and meet the enemy. I'm going to stand on the mountain and hold up the Rod of God. And I love that passage and wish we had time to read it tonight. Once in a while, I turn to it and just read it, and like a friend of mine says, I just read myself 'happy'. And so Moses stood on the mountain and held high the Rod of God, and when he held up the Rod of God, Joshua, down in the battle, prevailed. The battle went with Israel. When Moses lowered the rod, the battle went to the enemy. After a while, they caught on to it and said, "Listen, as long as that rod is in the air, we can beat him." So Aaron and Hur got either side, one held up one arm and the other one, the other arm. And they propped up his arms until the going down of the sun. And Israel prevailed because the rod was held high. What one won the battle? Was it Joshua down in the valley? No, it was Moses holding up the rod. Friend, that is the principle of intercession. What was Moses doing on the mountain? He was interceding for Joshua. He was winning the battle for Joshua. What was Joshua doing? Joshua was the quarterback called in during the last quarter when they were ahead 100 to nothing and it was easy to just go ahead and complete the victory. That is what Joshua was doing. He was just on the field entering into the victory that was being won by God through the ministry of intercession. In Romans 15:30, Paul says, "Strive together with me in your prayers to God for me." Strive together. There again the word 'wrestle'. Paul recognizes that prayer is a warfare. Prayer is the warfare. Colossians 4:12, Paul says, "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always laboring fervently (the same word again, striving and wrestling for you. You see, it's intercession. Wrestling for you, striving for you. But you see, it's a warfare, a hand to hand combat.)" The word of God teaches me, that the battle, the warfare is in the realm of prayer. And my experiences taught it too. Because there is no area of my life that the devil does not try to get the victory in the area of prayer. It seems to me that I have the time to do everything else but pray. Have you ever noticed that? I have to read my Bible, I have time to study, I have time to do this, and I have time to do that, I have time to visit my friends, and to go here and to go there, but I never have time to pray. And when I get on my knees, that's when

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the telephone rings, that's when someone knocks on the door, that's when all of these thoughts crowd into my mind, that's when I'm in a wrestling match with the devil.

I heard Stephen, that great preacher in New York City say, "The most terrible time, the most evil thoughts that come to me are when I'm on my knees in prayer. Well no wonder. That's when you're engaged with the enemy. And this ministry of intercession, Paul says in verse 18, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saint." There is the warfare. And when you're praying, and when you enter into the ministry of intercession, you are going to be entering in right at the front line of the battle.

~~And~~ And you're going to be standing and wrestling with the devil in this matter of intercession. Now we touched on this a few weeks ago and I want us to go back to it tonight. In Daniel 10, we have one of the most unusual accounts in all the word of God of prayer. Verse 3, Daniel says, "I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all till three whole weeks were fulfilled."

Now Daniel began to pray and to fast. And this prayer and fasting period lasted for three weeks, for 21 days. Now let's look at verse ~~10~~ 9. "Yet heard I the voice of his words and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face and my face towards the ground. And behold an hand touched me ~~which~~ which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands and said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee and stand upright. For unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

(Now listen to the message of the angel) Then said he unto me, Fear not Daniel for from the first day that thou ~~didst~~ didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before God, thy words were heard (notice from the first day, from the first day, God heard) and I am come for thy words." The angel said, I am here in answer to your prayer. Now isn't that great? I bet you never knew that. That the angels move at your prayers. Did you know that? In Hebrews 1:14, and it says the angels are ministering spirits to minister for us, the heirs of salvation.



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And the angel has said, I am come for thy words. From the very first day you began to pray and to fast, I left the throne of heaven to come and meet your need. But the Prince of the kingdom of Persia, withstood me one and twenty days, (21 days, three weeks) (the Prince of Persia is the devil) but ~~low~~, lo, Michael, came to help me and I remained there with the king of Persia. Now am I come to make thee understand...etc., etc.

Now get this. Daniel ~~pea~~ praying and fasting, needing a message from God for the people, interceding. His prayer puts God to work. That's what Jesus said, "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." And from the first moment, that Daniel began to pray, the angel left the throne of God, but there was a battle. There was a traffic jam up there. The Prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days. The devil will always oppose the movement of God. The devil will always ~~wi~~ try to stop the word of God from reaching the heart and mind of a person who is in need.

There was a battle for 21 days. And for 21 days, Daniel prayed and fasted. And when Daniel prayed and fasted for 21 days, he was getting the angel through and withstanding the devil. Daniel was wrestling, not with flesh and blood, with the powers of darkness and wickedness in high places. That's why when you begin to intercede and you pray that God will run and meet the need of this person, and this person may hear the word of God and this person may have his need met, and this person's eyes may be open to the word of God and his mind may be made receptive to the word of God, the devil immediately begins to withstand, to oppose and to fight. That's why you must continue to stand praying. That's why you must continue to stand, waging that warfare. You make up your mind to it tonight Christian. :If you are serious about entering into the ministry of intercession, you're going to have opposition from the devil. And that opposition is going to come in two ways. First of all, it is going to be opposition Godward. The devil was going to do everything to keep the word of God from reaching that lost person. He's going to do everything to oppose the power of God meeting the need of that lost person, and so you need to stand constantly against the devil in that man's life. The attack is going to come in a second way. It is

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going to come to you personally. The devil is going to assault you, he is going to try to fill your mind with doubt and uncertainty as you kneel to pray he is going to cram into your mind all sorts of evil thoughts. He is going to cause this and that thing to happen. He is going to raise up this obstacle. He is going to do everything he can to discourage you and defeat you personally. Now ~~that~~ does that discourage you from entering into the ministry of intercession? It is a warfare. It is a warfare. So Paul says, "If you're going to stand praying, then you had best put on the whole armor of God." Now I want us to ~~look~~ look at this passage in Ephesians 6 tonight and just briefly glance at the armor that's going to be necessary for you to put on if you're going to be able to pray and intercede successfully. Everything Paul talks about in this passage is to prepare ourselves to pray. Now I want to say three things. First of all, in this spiritual warfare, we are to pray standing. Notice how many times he uses the word 'stand'. Now in verse four, he uses the word 'stand' again and that applies to everything else that follows in that passage. You're to stand with the loins gird about, you're to stand having on the breastplate of righteousness, you're to stand with your feet shod, you're to stand with the spirit of God, you're to stand praying. The word 'stand' is a military word that means to hold your ground. Now that is significant. The word 'stand' means to hold your ground. What ground? The ground Jesus won 2,000 years ago when he died on the cross. He's ~~call~~ called you into the battle. You just hold the ground. You don't have to win any victory, you don't have to win any ground, you don't have to obtain any ground. You just hold the ground that I won 2,000 years ago by my death on the cross. You stand against the devil. And if you're going to stand against him in prayer, first of all, you must have your loins gird about with truth. ~~With a wide belt~~ This was a wide belt. The purpose of this belt was twofold. First of all it was to give support to the soldier so that he wouldn't grow weary in the battle and secondly it secured the other pieces of armor and the sword hung from that belt. He says, having your loins gird about with truth. Now what's kind of truth is he talking about? There is no definite Greek article. He doesn't say having your loins gird about with "the truth". He is not

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talking about the body of ~~real~~ revealed truth. ~~Th~~ He's not talking about doctrine, but he's talking about the character of truth. He's talking about loyalty, sincerity, serious loyalty, seriously loyal is the way that I would phrase it. And I want you to know that if you're not serious about entering into this matter of the ;ministry of intercession, if it's just a lark to you and it's just something that you want to try, if it's just another thing that you're interested in momentarily, you'll never last. The devil will shoot you down right off the bat. If you're going to refuse to grow weary, if you're going to be supported from growing weary in this ministry of ~~inner-inner~~ intercession, and keeping it all together, you're going to have to make ceratain that you are dead serious about this and you come to it with serious loyalty to this matter of intercession. The truth there has the idea of sincerity and integrity and truthfulness. And notice next that he says, having on the breastplate of righteousness. Now this isn't referring to the Righteousness of God which is given to us when we receive Jesus Christ as Saviour. It is referring to personal righteousness. The ~~personale~~ persoanl character of the prayer. Listen, every unconfessed sin in your life is a chink in your armor. The breastplate was that piece of armor that covered the vital parts of the chest. And if the soldier didn't have that, he didn't have a chance because the largest area, the most vulnerable spot was covered by the breastplate of righteousness. Remember what James 5:16 says? "Fervent effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much." If you're not righteous, just forget it, don't bother to pray, don't bother to ;intercede. If there is not personal holiness and you are not right with God and other people, then just forget it. You'll never last. Because you see, as we said last Sunday morning, every sin in your life that is unconfessed and unddalt with is an area in which the devil has you in his grip. And every sin in your life tonight that you have not confessed and dealt with in Jesus Christ is a vulnerable spot. And any time the devil wants to, he can defeat you because of that spot in your life. David said, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." I think it's importanst to know that he said, "If I regard iniquity..."



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That means if I take notice of it and leave it there. If I look upon iniquity and give it a place in my life, the Lord will not hear me. You may as well forget about your praying. The thing is, many of you would love to pray, and you want to pray, but you know a sin in your life. And here is the tragedy: you're letting some little sin some habit, some failure, some area of defeat in your life rob you from the blessed ministry of prayer and intercession. Having on the breastplate of righteousness. Notice verse 15. Your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. That word 'preparation' means readiness. The Roman soldiers wore sandals that had hobnails on them to give good footing so they could move out quickly. And it was said of the Roman legionnaires, they were always ready to move. They didn't have to have a 24 hour notice, they were always ready to move. And if you're going to be successful in the ministry of intercession, you must always be ready to obey the will of God. Always ready to do what God tells you to do. Because the very moment you pray, God says, "OK, you've been praying for this person, so I'm going to use you to go win him." You've been interceding, but I want you to make reconciliation with this person." You've been interceding, but there is this one thing ~~in~~ in your life I want you to take care of," and when you hesitate and you're not ready to ~~move~~ move out to do what God tells you to do, all the powers of God are withdrawn from your praying. You must be ready to obey his will. Unhesitating, unquestioning obedience. And notice verse 16. "Above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Now this ~~shield~~ shield of faith was a body shield. It was ~~as~~ as large as the soldier. And the enemy would take arrows and dip them into pitch and set it afire and shoot it at the soldiers. And these soldiers would kneel behind this shield of faith and those fiery arrows would hit into the shield and be extinguished. And I want you to know that the devil is going to throw his burning arrows at you, he's going to assault you, attack you, he's going to try to make you miserable, he's going to take away your good feeling, he's going to cram your mind with doubts and uncertainties. How are you going to be able to stand against him? Faith. Faith in

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God's word. I don't feel like praying. That's a firey dart of the devil. I don't feel like praying. It doesn't make any difference. God says if we ask anything according to his will, he hears it. Thank you Lord, I know you're hearing me whether I feel like it or not. And he's going to come to you and ~~he~~ assail you, and you're going to have to stand in faith. Faith in God's word. Not faith in your feelings, not faith in circumstances. You know, some of you have been wanting to pray for someone, but the devil ~~have~~ has said, "Listen, that boy is too hard, you'll never reach ~~in~~ him. You know how ~~it~~ is. He'll never be saved. You know what kind of life he lives, You know stubborn he is, When people go to see him, he slams the door in ~~his face~~ their face. You'll never reach him." And you listen to that and your prayer and intercession grows weaker and weaker and you know you need to stand in faith. "Is anything too hard for me ~~saith~~ the Lord." And of course the answer is no. With God, all things ~~are~~ are possible. You must stand behind that shield of faith. Just faith in God's word. And notice the last ~~hi~~ thing. The helmet of salvation. The helmet fits over the head. There must be my friend, a conscienciousness and the assurance of your salvation. I want you to know that one of the first lines of ~~that~~ attack that the devil uses against the Christian is in this area of doubt. He'll try to get you to doubt your salvation. And it's pretty hard for you to ~~pray~~ pray for somebody else's salvation if you're not sure of own. The helmet of salvation. I know that I'm saved I have the assurance that I'm saved because the word of God says so. And so I put on that conscienciousness, that assurance, that awareness that I'm saved and I'm able to pray. That's the armor. Friend, If you're going to pray and intercede, you're going to have to do it in truthfulness and sincerity. You're going to have to do it in personal holiness and righteousness. You can't have any sin separating you from God. You're going to have to do it with obedience, always being obedient to the will of God. You're going to have to do it trusting the will of God, the word of God. The naked word of God in cold blood just trusting his word regardless of the circumstances and what your feelings tell you. And you're going to have to be aware and assured of your salvation.

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You must pray standing, secondly, you must pray with the sword. And we're just going to have to ~~we~~ run through this briefly. The sword is the word of God and friend, you had better know how to use your sword. ~~Sharpen~~ Sharpen up that sword, better learn the word of God. And you do two things with the word of God when you pray, when you intercede. First of all, you hold the word of God up to the Lord, that's his IOU signed by the blood of Jesus Christ, and you say, "Now Father, I come to you in Jesus name and you said in I John 5:14, if we ask anything according to your will, we have this confidence." You have to pray with confidence, we have this confidence, this boldness that you hear us. And so you learn the word of God and you hold ~~that~~ that word of God up to the Father because he is bound, he is obligated to keep his word. He watches over his word to perform it. And then secondly, you know the word of God to hold it up against the devil. When the devil begins to attack you with that fiery dart, doubt, you ~~say~~ say, "Jesus said, 'He that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.'" I came to ~~him~~ him and he hasn't cast me out." The Bible says in Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." I did that, I'm either saved or God is a liar. You learn to use the word of God against the devil. When he fills your mind with worry and anxiety, quote Philippians 4, "Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. And the ~~hearts and minds~~ ~~peace~~ peace of God shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." When the devil fights you, you quote Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment ~~shall~~ thou shalt condemn." This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord. You quote the word of God to the devil. Quote to him Psalm 60:12, "Throughout God we shall do valiantly, for it is he that shall tread upon our enemies." When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the <sup>spirit</sup> ~~fear~~ of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. You learn the word of God and you beat the devil down with the word of God like Jesus did in Matthew 4. Pray with the sword and I want you to know something that will open up your prayer life. If you have a little trouble getting going, you start to pray and there is just so much heaviness and so much deadness and so much pressure. Do you ever find that when you begin to pray? I'll tell you ~~the~~



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how to get that prayer moving. You start quoting the word of God. Just quoting the word of God. Now somebody might over hear you and think you're crazy, but that's alright. You start quoting the word of God. You turn over there to the book of Psalms, read ~~h-ta~~ that 46 chapter. Our God is a refuge. You read ~~Palm~~ Psalm 106, Psalm 107, O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness. Just read those and quote the word of God. And I want you to know that your prayer will lift up with eagle wings. Paul knew what he was talking about when he said, "You take the word of God (that's the sword, that's the only offensive weapon that God gives you.) Now the last thing, in this spiritual warfare, you must not only pray standing against the devil, you must not only pray with the sword of the spirit, you must also pray in the spirit. Notice verse 18, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit." You either pray in the flesh or in the spirit. You either live in the flesh or in the spirit. What does it mean to pray in the spirit? First of all it means to be filled with the spirit, I believe. :I don't think you can pray in the spirit if you're not filled with the spirit. We're getting ready to have a deacons election before long, I want the church to be reminded that no man is qualified to be a deacon that is not spiritfilled. If we don't have any men that are spiritfilled, then we won't have any deacons. But we do have men that are spiritfilled. You read Acts 6, they must be men full of faith, ~~hope~~ the Holy Ghost, and full of wisdom. Now when they are filled with the Holy Ghost, they will have the wisdom and faith. The spiritfilled life is prerequisite to victory. Does the spirit of God have absolut control of you tonight? Can he do anything he wants to with you? To pray in the spirit, meanst that God directs my prayer, and energizes my prayer and motivates my praying. It's so important that when you begin to pray, to submit yourself to the control of the Holy Spirit, knowing that he is the spirit of prayer and supplication. And you know what will happen? The spirit of God will give birth to prayer in your life. The spirit of God, maybe not while you're on your ~~knawed~~ knees, but maybe while you're washing dishes or driving to work. All of a sudden you feel the need to pray for a certain person.