

Scriptures from Prayer Meeting of January 5, 2021

Intercession is made powerful by many intercessors:

You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us in answer to many prayers (2 Corinthians 1:11)

The most powerful intercessor is innocent human blood:

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!" (Genesis 4:8-10)

The spirits of the righteous made perfect make intercession through the blood of Jesus:

You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Hebrews 12:22-24)

The angels do not pray for us, but they take the prayers of the saints to the Lamb seated on the throne of God:

"I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who present the prayers of the saints and enter into the presence of the glory of the Holy One." (Tobit 12:15)

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders, I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth; and He went and took the scroll from the right hand of Him Who was seated on the throne. And when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints; The living creatures and the elders in John's vision presented the prayers of the saints to the Lamb Who has entered the presence of God. (Rev 5:6-8).

And the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God. (Rev 8:4)

Intercession is made by saints on earth and the spirits of the saints who have died, but spiritual warfare is made only by saints on earth:

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world-- he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (Revelation 12:7-9)

They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death (Revelation 12:11).

Because Satan was expelled from heaven by Michael and the other angels, the task of crushing and conquering the demons is give to us mortals. Jesus has given us that authority.

The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” Jesus said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. (Luke 10:17-19).”

Initially, Jesus gave authority over demons only to the twelve apostles (Mark 3:14 – 15). Then he extended that authority to the seventy disciples that he sent out (Luke 10: 17-19). After his resurrection Jesus gave authority to all people who believe and are baptized.

And Jesus said to them (the apostles), “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16:15-18).

Spiritual warfare requires discipline. Our enemies are not human beings. Our real enemies are invisible, evil powers. They are Satan and his fellow demons, whom St. Paul refers to as “rulers, authorities, powers and forces”.

For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:12-18)

The key to effective spiritual warfare is constant prayer. We need to pray for one another (“supplication for all the saints”). Our weapon of defense is the shield of faith, and our weapon of offense is the “sword of the Spirit”, which is the word of God. So we need to read the bible daily in order to grow in faith and effectively combat evil.