

Rules of Engagement!

Spiritual Warfare Tactics in the Prayer Ministries?

Introduction: Church prayer meetings are to be Christ-focused. There we can learn to operate in the realm of the prophetic, welcoming the Holy Spirit to speak to hurting hearts as He chooses. We serve God in helping to start, or augment, the conversation between the Lord and those He loves. While occasionally we may encounter evident demonic activity in our guests, the prayer team is not call on to shift focus to a “deliverance” posture. We can remain effective in our primary focus if we understand and practice what we call our “Rules of Engagement.”



A. Nature of the Battle: The Kingdom of Light is in a constant battle with the Kingdom of Darkness.

📖 **Ephesians 6:12.** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

1. Satan fell before man fell. He rebelled and enticed man to rebel. The fall of man came from the challenge to the Word of God – an ancient challenge to the authority of God.
2. Satan is attempting to become “the god of this world.” His minions (demons) actively attack and manipulate people with lies, accusation, temptations, fear, shaming, and other “fiery darts.”
3. In varying degrees, demonic influence can touch people mentally, emotionally, and physically.
4. The enemy exercises influence by gaining permission from the human will. People open the door to the enemy through such things as fear, rebellion, ignorance, curiosity, unforgiveness, pride, anger, etc.
5. Exercising the human will is essential to freedom. We support people in exercising their own choice.

B. Authority of the Believer: The resurrected Christ has given us authority over the powers of darkness.

📖 **Luke 10:17-20.** *¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” ¹⁸ And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. ²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”*

📖 **1 John 4:4.** *You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*

C. Tactics of Demons: Satan is a liar. He distorts the truth about God, to defeat and divide the saints. Just as the Holy Spirit can speak to our spirit, so can an “unholy spirit.” Observe the devil’s fingerprints:

1. **Deception** – Satan is a liar, and he is self-deceived. Our carnal minds may be filled with his lies.
2. **Division** – God commands the blessing when believers are united. Psalm 133. Satan knows this.
3. **Dissention** – He promotes contentious quarreling to disrupt relationships, families, and churches.
4. **Devices** – Such as unforgiveness which opens the door to the enemy’s schemes. 2 Corinthians 2:10-11.
5. **Distraction** – He puts “detours” and preoccupations in the thinking of guests to keep them off target.
6. **Distortion** – He can use Scripture in a “truthy” way, such as legalism, distorting the truth about God.
7. **Distress** – Fear is a signature tactic. God has not given us the spirit of fear (*dielia*). See 2 Timothy 1:7.
8. **Discouragement** – Demons, even in a prayer room, seek to wear out the saints. So, see John 16:33.
9. **Destruction** – Depression and suicidal thoughts can come from the devil. Consider Hebrews 2:14-15.

Caution: Prayer partners should be prepared at times to experience a personal attack on their own minds and emotions following ministry to people being set free. Be strong and glad. When we matter to God, we also matter to the enemy of God. Recognize the source of the attack and thank God for His sure victory.

D. Defensive Posture: Let's be prepared with all the armor God provides, and stand in confident faith.

📖 **Ephesians 6:10-18.** ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. . . . ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, . . . [And here is the checklist of pieces of armor:]

1. **Loins** girded with **truth**. This means dressing for easy movement in battle by on-going Bible study.
2. **Chest** (heart) protected by the "**breastplate of righteousness**." Embrace the righteousness of Christ.
3. **Feet** shod with the "**preparation of the gospel**," so you can both stand firm and advance rapidly.
4. **Left Hand** holding the "**shield of faith**," to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
5. **Head** protected by the "**helmet of salvation**." Assurance protects the mind from darts of doubts, fears.
6. **Right Hand** armed with the "**sword of the Spirit**," i.e., the Word of God, and "word" from the Lord.
7. **Thoughts** in conversation with God. ". . . with **all prayer** and **petition** pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints." (v. 19)

E. Offensive Weapons: Paul, an experienced spiritual warrior, gives truths we embrace before we battle.

📖 **2 Corinthians 10:3-5.** ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but **divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses**. ⁵ We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

(1) We must walk in the spirit, not the flesh. (2) We must trust the weapons of our warfare as "state of the art." (3) Fortresses are "strongholds" in the mind where the enemy "holds on strongly." (4) Mental fortresses constructed of Satanic lies can be demolished by truth spoken in the power of the Spirit. (5) Truth that sets the captive free is always centered in Christ Jesus. Every lofty, lying thought must be dragged down and made obedient to Christ. Here are the most obviously "weapons" of our warfare:

1. **The Word** – Declare it in faith, boldly, over the prayer team and the "captive." Light dispels darkness.
2. **Worshiping** – Rejoice that your name is written in heaven. Luke 10:20. See Acts 16:25-26.
3. **Our Testimony** to the blood of the Lamb – Speak forth in God-given authority. Revelation 12:11.
4. **Authority in Jesus' Name** – Luke 10:19. God makes the change when we make the choice.
5. **Discerning of Spirits** – This manifestation of the Spirit is a valuable tool in the realm of the prophetic.

F. Tactical Matters in the Prayer Room: This is the heart of our "Rules of Engagement."

1. **Heart Checklist** – ☑ Unity Check. ☑ Humility Check. ☑ Faith Check. ☑ Peace Check. ☑ Joy Check.
2. **Welcome His Presence** – This is done through unhurried worship and seeking His face with joy.
3. **Pray with your eyes open** to the seeker, and your heart open to God. Keep your heart focus...UP!
4. **Access discernment** from those with a proven gift of the Spirit. Test what you discern with leaders.
5. **Watch for "fingerprints" of the enemy** – This might come by observation or by revelation.
6. **If demons "manifest,"** leaders bind them in the name of Jesus, silencing and/or binding them to truth.
7. **Keep the focus on Christ** – His victory, glory, power, plan, presence, sovereignty, grace and love.
8. **Guide the seeker to exercise their own will.** They have the right to freedom in Christ. But they must choose to be free, by choosing to turn and embrace Christ whole-heartedly. James 4:7-10.
9. **Explore Any Point of Permission:** Quietly look for the "open door." Ask: "What right does the enemy claim as permission to be active here?" Rebellion? Any form of idolatry? Curses? Addiction? Unforgiveness? Authority abuse? Et.al. Help the seeker to "close the door" by repentance and faith.
10. **Strategic Disengagement** – Disengagement is not defeat. We will strategically deny the enemy the "schemes" he uses to sidetrack the prayer meeting. Fight battles of God's choosing, in God's timing.
11. **Refer** – Not every prayer meeting is the preferred context for "heavy" deliverance ministry. Consult with pastors and elders for their discernment about next steps. Release the seeker to their follow-up.
12. **Caution:** Those new to such spiritual encounters must resist either of two reactions: They must not be afraid of the battle, and they must not become obsessed with the battle. Talk to a pastor. Peace! DN