Spiritual Warfare

God is drawing us into a season of prayer and one of the themes, that we feel stirred with, is the theme of battle.

Jeremiah 51v 11 – 12

“Lift up a banner against the walls of Babylon (the enemy)
Reinforce the guard
Station the watchman
Prepare an ambush
The Lord will carry out His purpose,
His decree against… Babylon.”

v 20 You are my war club
My weapon for battle
With you I shatter nations
With you I destroy kingdoms

v 27 Lift up a banner in the land
Blow the trumpet among the nations
Prepare the nations for battle against her
Summon against her these kingdoms…
Appoint a commander against her…”

God is raising up a prayer army in this season. He is raising spiritual castles; places of prayer that are a place of presence in the city/ region to bring Peace and Rule – to bring order and hold territory.

So the question of how we war has been a subject that we have been searching out. We’ve been seeking an effective prayer strategy for the prophetic season which:

1) Deals with the negative things against our Church/ towns, city

2) Aims to draw together a united army with a correct grasp of authority

3) Brings peace and focus to folk who don’t feel comfortable with warfare

4) Deals with those who “rush in where angels fear to tread” (Jude v 9)

5) Addresses the high incidence of sickness among intercessors resulting from the lack of the above.
6) Reflects the cohesion of the Lord’s Prayer – where the praise and authority, humility and petition, the repentance and the unity, the purity and the freedom are all covered.

A dream from Sarah, one of our intercessors:-

“I had a dream........You and I were standing on the ramparts of a castle with crossbows. A demonic army was heading towards this fortress on what looked like horses, they were a vast army. You were in command and took the first section I was second in command and took the next section. I could see other individuals but they had no faces, however i was aware of them fighting as well. Every so often you would write answers down on a list, I remember reading them and carrying out the instructions. The demonic army were not in battle positions but just heading towards us, we were shooting arrows at them and I was hit on the breastplate by one and you asked me if I was okay , I replied that I was and carried on fighting. Then I woke up.”

NB – “you” in the dream was Stewart Keiller.

Sarah was given two weapons to pray – a sword and a violin

Highlights
- 1 army cohesion and unity in the body
- leadership involvement and active strategy
- care for and covering of the intercessors
- all warring from a strong base with angelic help
- Praise and worship as warfare
- The breastplate of righteousness in place as protection

The challenge

What is our level of effectiveness and authority in spiritual warfare? Are we like David’s mighty men “Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them.” (I Sam 25:16). Does darkness leave when we appear/ operate?

There are 2 approaches to warfare when it comes to territorial issues over a city/ Church/ nation.

1) **Identify power, repent and pull it down.**

Jim Cymbala

“ Why is there still so much evil rampant in the earth if the devil has indeed been “bound” so many times by Christians today? One well known preacher went into a well known city a few years ago, rented a stadium, and did “spiritual warfare” for the night, claiming to bind and rebuke every evil spirit and principality in the city. The next day he and his entourage flew home again. Is San Francisco a more Godly place today as a result?”

Problems:
1) No follow through – leaves people unchanged and prevalent sin still in place.
2) Doesn’t raise up an occupying force to hold the ground.
3) Issues of authority – It doesn’t recognise levels and spheres of authority.
   - We have a level of increased authority in measure with our responsibility for something.
   - Spiritual authority grows as we mature
   - There are spheres of authority – what has God given us individually to rule over? – e.g. as a parent you can pray for someone else’s family, but you have authority over your own family.
   - There are realms of authority.
     “God operates through delegated authority. Authority, is defined as “a measure of the rule of God leant to mankind.” In His wisdom, boundaries have been measured to each minister; territorial lines have been set in motion, where each person has a specific sphere of influence in which to operate. If an evangelist or a pastor or a prophet or an apostle tries to step out of that sphere, difficulties can ensue and people can get hurt.”
     James Maloney

2) 2nd school of thought

   - We address the issues and remove legal ground and stay within our realm of authority – when evil is recognised we can do certain things to unseat the enemy and establish God’s rule:-
     1) Remove legal ground by repenting and forgiving as individuals and as a body.
     2) By teaching and practicing positive Godly ways – do good things and good things will come. Do bad things and bad will come. (Here the teaching and pastoral agenda join with the intercessional and prophetic agenda – God is rejoining the body together – the eye needs the body and the body needs the eye.)
     3) Praise, worship, pray and prayer walk to occupy spiritual territory.
     4) And we ask God to deliver us from evil.
   - Taking the Biblical models as our model:
     Daniel, Nehemiah, the Lord’s Prayer and 2 Chron 7:14
     - Repentance is key Jer 7:16 “Do not pray for this people…for I will not listen… do you not see what they are doing…”
     - Putting God in His rightful place (Lord we are sorry, we change our ways, deliver us from evil.)
     - Pray using scripture as our authority, “It is written”

Graham Cooke
“True spiritual warfare is not binding and loosing but knowing the majesty and supremacy of God.”

We bind and loose by our actions, by our words as well as by our prayers, in measure with our authority.
We need to recognise the full counsel of God and the model of Scripture.
“It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.”
John Paul Jackson:

“I believe that if people in a city would gather corporately to repent and to beseech God to remove a principality, God would then set in motion divine acts that would heal the people and the land. Principalities do exist over our cities and geographical areas, but wisdom encourages us to address our prayers to God and ask Him to deliver us from evil.”

We need to change our ways to come in the opposite spirit – (Bill and Beni Johnson dramatically impacted the economic climate of their location ‘Poverty Flats’ – by being generous and giving.)

Pray and sow the opposite spirit – not by “opposing” a spirit but by exposing evil and imposing the kingdom so darkness leaves.

This is more costly and time consuming, it is not a quick fix - but it is a real fruit bearing shift. It takes and occupies taken ground and bears fruit.

“I am releasing a Joshua and Caleb anointing not just to see the Promised Land but to occupy it.”

This land is ours. We want it back.

3 Protective devices for Intercessors

1) Submission to God and total commitment.
   Qu – Are we submitted to God?

   Victorious living in our battles with Satan and his demonic kingdom is accomplished to the degree that we submit to Jesus’ Lordship. The more we submit every area of our life to Jesus, the greater the victories we will see. It is yielding to His Lordship and remaining faithful to His Lordship that brings not only great but consistent victories. To be given spiritual authority requires that we humbly submit to God’s authority.

2) Spheres of authority – what are our responsibilities and corresponding authority areas?

3) Personal holiness and repentance – Is 58:8 “If … then the Lord will be your rear guard.”

4) Working peacefully with leaders and authority placed over us – secular and Spiritual.

2 Offensive Weapons

- Eph 6
- a) “sword” – Use the Word of God
“Who can speak and have it happen, if the Lord has not decreed it?” Lev 3:37
“It is written…”

b) Prayer – Use the model of the Lord’s Prayer.