

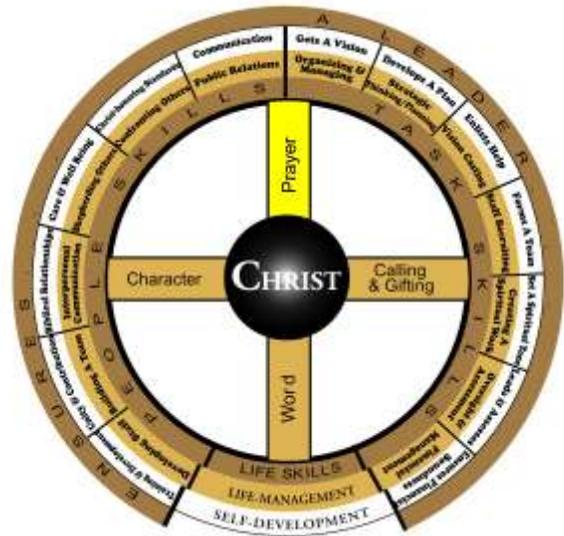
# Leadership University

## Core Components – Prayer

### Spiritual Warfare

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Spiritual warfare is one of the most talked about subjects among Christians today. The Bible has much to say about the war in the spiritual realm. But the main theme of the Bible is the Lord, not the spiritual war. In these days, we need to make sure that our Lord is the focus of our praying.

Here are a few observations about involvement in the spiritual war.

- 1) Beware of giving the devil too much attention. For example: Making spiritual warfare the focus of our conversations, being absorbed in trying to identify evil powers, directing a lot of prayers against evil rather than for good, etc.

When Jesus was on earth He said that the Son “..can do only what he sees his Father doing..”(Jn 5:19). The question in Jesus’ mind was: What is the Father doing? He was not absorbed with: What is the devil doing? Our prayers should reflect this mentality.

In Matthew 4:9 the devil said to Jesus, “All this (kingdoms of the world) I will give you, ... if you will bow down and worship me.” One way to worship something is to simply give it a lot of attention – make it a focus. Satan will actually give ground in exchange for attention. But remember, the ground gained that way is only temporary.

- 2) Beware of trying to take too much ground from the enemy too quickly. God can do anything anyway He wants to, but He restricts Himself to the pace of His people. In speaking to His people in Exodus 23:29,30 God said, “But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.”

Until we have “possessed” what God has already given, it is dangerous and counterproductive to take more. One demon is willing to leave temporarily if he can return with seven more (Mt 12:43-45).

- 3) Fight the battle on two fronts: 1) Prayers to God and 2) Resistance of Satan. Tom White, in his excellent book, The Believer's Guide to Spiritual Warfare, says, "First, there is communion with the Lord and petition offered to him and, second, there is resistance, the authoritative rebuke, directed at Satan and his forces. These two radically different functions go side-by-side. We draw strength and inspiration from prayer, and then we allow the Spirit to anoint truth as arrows against the lies of the devil. This is precisely what Jesus did in the wilderness temptation. Drawing vertically from his relationship with the Father, he horizontally unraveled Satan's deception with a verbal rebuke. We pray to God, motivated by a desire to draw near to him. We resist Satan, motivated by a holy hatred of evil."

We need to remember that the purpose of involvement in the spiritual war is to advance the Kingdom of God. At the end of Paul's great discourse on Spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, he tells us to pray "for all the saints." (v.18) Paul concluded that the best use of an armored soldier was that he pray.

All of us have a lot to learn about being scripturally involved in the spiritual war. I hope you have a deep interest in this subject. The enemy is targeting your life as well as the ministries of those for whom you are praying. We must learn how we are to fight.