

Series: **EQUIPPED TO PRAY**

Title: **Call to Strength – Protection**

Text: Psalm 35

We have taught on....

- Call to relationship with a Holy God
- Call to recognition of His voice
- Call to the invitation into in the three unseen arenas of spiritual battles: The Heavens, The Mind, The Ministry Moment
- Last week we looked at the call to the position of persistent and constant prayer

**Today I want to speak of the offensive prayer that protects you from the enemy**

## **CALLED TO STRENGTH (Protection)**

### **PRIORITIES IN PERSPECTIVE**

#### **Matthew 6:33**

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

- “seeking first the kingdom of God”
- It sets our mind on the eternal. It places us in the heart and mind and will of the Lord
- It is focused on and what is of lasting, not temporary, significance.

#### **James 4:7**

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

**The beginning of Strength is submission: His will; His way; His work. – Our thoughts and mindset are to be on eternal matters.**

**Not only are we told to have our priorities on eternal things, but we must know who we are in Christ.**

### **IDENTITY IN PLACE**

**We must know our identity in Christ as we walk through this life.**

**Not what we think about ourselves....but what God says about us.**

#### **Prayer of a righteous person**

- Yes... a righteous person

- That eliminates all of us in our own strength and ability and worth.
- But not in HIS eyes.

### **James 5: 16- 18**

<sup>16</sup> *The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.* <sup>17</sup> *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.* <sup>18</sup> *Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.*

- His righteousness
- We are the righteousness of God

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### **Isa. 54:17**

*"...no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord."*

- He vindicates us and gives us this heritage.
- NO weapon...shall succeed!
- We WILL REFUTE every word against us.
- We are righteous in HIS sight

### **Psalms 34:15**

*The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.*

**Our identity not only is righteous, but we know that our identity is a people who are called; or commissioned for the work.**

### **Prayer of a commissioned person**

#### **Luke 10:19**

*Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.*

#### **Luke 9:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> *And he called the twelve together **and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,*** <sup>2</sup> *and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal."*

## **Eph. 6:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

He called us, He commissioned us, He strengthens us to have power, authority, and to be strong.

**Our identity as we move through the realm of authoritative prayer is righteous, called and also to be faith filled**

### **Prayer of a Faith Filled person**

- He is the author of our faith, the perfecter of our faith and the finisher of our faith. He, by the Spirit, empowers us with the gift of faith and develops the fruit of faith.
- **But listen.....He is not the user of our faith**

### **James 1:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

### **Matt. 13:58**

*And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.*

Our Identity in Christ is key in gaining and sustaining victory in life.

Our Priorities need to be in the right perspective. Our identity must be in place...

And finally, our strategy must be in play

## **STRATEGY IN PLAY**

### **Punish the enemy and pound down the thoughts**

#### **2 Cor. 10:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, <sup>6</sup> being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

- Weapon is divine power.
- Meant to destroy strongholds.
- Some of those strongholds are arguments against the knowledge of God.

- Take every thought.
- Take it captive.
- Shake it down for the lie that it is.
- **Punish the disobedience when you are obedient.**

## Praying Offensively

### Call for God to enter the fight

Psalm 35 shows King David undertaking a kind of prayer we modern Christians don't often utilize: the offensive rather than defensive prayer.

#### Psalm 35:1-8

<sup>1</sup> *Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me!*  
<sup>2</sup> *Take hold of shield and buckler and rise for my help!*  
<sup>3</sup> *Draw the spear and javelin against my pursuers! Say to my soul, "I am your salvation!"*  
<sup>4</sup> *Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life! Let them be turned back and disappointed who devise evil against me!* <sup>5</sup> *Let them be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the Lord driving them away!* <sup>6</sup> *Let their way be dark and slippery, with the angel of the Lord pursuing them!* <sup>7</sup> *For without cause they hid their net for me; without cause they dug a pit for my life.* <sup>8</sup> *Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it! And let the net that he hid ensnare him; let him fall into it—to his destruction!*

- Normally, we ask the Lord to “deliver us” or “protect us” from trying circumstances.
- These are **defensive** words.
- When we pray these, we're hunkering down trying to avoid the storm and asking God to get us out of the roiling mess.

In the **offensive** prayer, we rise and stare at the evil one who causes the storm.

- Then, like King David, we ask the Lord to “contend with those who contend with me” (vs 1).
- We invite the Lord to let them be “turned back and disappointed” (vs 4),
- ...and to “let the net that he hid ensnare him” (vs 8).
- We go on the offensive, standing behind the authority of Christ. Through the advancing prayer, we're able to take ground not by fleeing the battlefield, but by inviting the Lord to turn the battle on the enemy.
- Psalm 109 calls on God to bring wicked people and accusers against those who would persecute us...and that their children would wander and beg.
  - *But you, O God my Lord, deal on my behalf for your name's sake... (v 21)*
- Remember our battle is not against people... but the forces that are around, influencing those people

## Bringing the Counterpunch

### Counterpunch - Praise Out Loud

#### Psalm 35:9-10,18,27,28

<sup>9</sup> Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his salvation. <sup>10</sup> All my bones shall say, "O Lord, who is like you, the second action when gratitude seems far off.

<sup>18</sup> I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise you.

<sup>27</sup> Let those who delight in my righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, "Great is the Lord, who delights in the welfare of his servant!" <sup>28</sup> Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

- As a worshiper, King David knew the significance of praising God. We should be unsurprised when worship becomes an act of liberation. David invites his very bones to speak.
- At the strength of his structure praise bubbles forth; his skeleton declares the glory of God, "who is like you?" (vs 10)!
- His praise will not be hidden for he will worship amidst "the mighty throng" (vs 18) of people.
- And here we see the hope of gratitude in the face of sure destruction, for it is in the congregation, visible among God's people, and living within their secure community that David can say, "I will thank you." (vs 18)
- He describes the power of his "tongue...tell[ing] of [God's] righteousness" (vs 28), and doing so all day long.
- And he invites all who delight in righteousness (and for us, that is only attainable through the work of Christ) to shout for joy, to be glad, and to say out loud till the end of their days, "Great is the Lord!" (vs 27)

### Counterpunch - Quote the Scripture

#### Matt 4: 4, 7, 10

<sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

- Satan loves to twist the truth and cause confusion about what God has said.
- He is the father of lies, called the deceiver
- To Eve the serpent said, Has God really said that?
- He said, Surely He did not mean that!
- We counter the enemy with the TRUTH of Scripture

## **2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV**

*<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

## **Counterpunch - Pray to God's for others' salvation**

### **Romans 10:1 ESV**

*Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.*

### **Matt 5:44**

*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*

## **Counterpunch - Proclaim your testimony**

### **Rev. 12:11**

*And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

### **What causes him to flee?**

- Resistance
- The Scripture
- The name of Jesus

### **Challenge**

I will have my priorities in place.

- Eternal things
- His Will

I will have my identity known.

- Righteous in Him
- Commissioned by Him
- Faith filled by Him

I will have my strategy in use.

- Punish the enemy by taking possession of thoughts
- Pray offensively
- Use the Counterpunch
  - Praise, Scripture, Evangelistic prayer, Testimony