



I have found it to produce amazing results in a very short time. After more than 20 years of fruitless praying, it seemed that there was no possible chance for my loved ones to ever return to the faith. But after only a few weeks of the type of praying that I have outlined here I have seen them studying the Bible by the hour and attending every church service possible. Also, their whole attitude toward Christianity has changed, and all resistance seems to be gone. I have taken my place of authority in Christ and am using it against the enemy. I have not looked at myself to see if I am fit or not; I have just taken my place and have prayed that the Holy Spirit may He do His convicting work. If each and every member of the Body of Christ would do this, what a change would be made in this world!"

Believers everywhere are burdened for

unsaved or backsliding loved ones. However, many are praying in the spirit of fear and worry instead of in faith. This has caused me to seek for definite light on how to pray, feeling the need of praying the right prayer and also the need for a definite promise or word from God on which to base my faith when praying for the unsaved. Praise God--He never fails to give such needed help. Perhaps because the salvation of some seemed to me to be an impossibility, the first verse of Scripture that was given me was Mark 10:27: 'With God all things are possible.' The next Scripture verse had occupied my attention for some time, but it took on a new meaning: 'For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations [speculations] and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (II Corinthians 10:4,5). This shows the mighty power of our spiritual weapons. We must pray that all of this will be accomplished in the ones for whom we are concerned; that is, that the works of the enemy will be torn down.

Finally, I was given the solid foundation for my prayers-- the basis of redemption. In reality, Christ's redemption purchased all mankind, so that we may say that each one is actually God's purchased possession, although he is still held by the enemy. We must, through the prayer of faith, claim and take for God in the name of the Lord Jesus that which is rightfully His. This can be done only on the basis

of redemption. This is not meant to imply that, because all persons have been purchased by God through redemption, they are automatically saved. They must believe and receive the Gospel for themselves' but our intercession enables them to do this.

To pray in the name of the Lord Jesus is to ask for, or to claim the things which the blood of Christ has secured. Therefore, each individual for whom prayer is made should be claimed by name as God purchased, in the name of the Lord Jesus and on the basis of His shed blood. We should claim the tearing down of all the works of Satan, such as false doctrine, unbelief, atheistic teaching and hatred which the enemy may have built up in their thinking. We must pray that their very thoughts will be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

With the authority of the name of the Lord Jesus, we must claim their deliverance from the power and persuasion of the evil one and from the love of the world and the lust of the flesh. We should also pray that their conscience may be convicted, that they may listen and believe as they hear or read the Word of God. Our prayer must be that God's will and purposes may be accomplished in and through them.

Intercession must be persistent--not to persuade God, for redemption is by God, but because of the enemy. Our prayer and resistance are against the enemy--the awful powers and rulers of darkness. It is our duty before God to fight for the souls for whom Christ died. Just as some

must preach to them the good news of redemption, others must fight the powers of darkness on their behalf through prayer. Satan yields only what and when he must, and he renews his attacks in subtle ways. Therefore, prayer must be definite and persistent, even long after definite results are seen. And we must pray for the new Christian even after he begins to be established in the faith.

We will find that as we pray, the Holy Spirit will give new directions. At one time I was interceding for a soul and began to feel that my prayers were largely ineffective. Then the Holy Spirit inspired me to begin presenting that person to God in the name of the Lord Jesus. As I obeyed this leading, praying, 'I present so-and-so to God in the name of the Lord Jesus,' I felt that my prayers were gradually becoming more effective. It seemed that I was drawing that person from deep within the very camp of the enemy. Then I was able to proceed as usual, claiming every detail of that life for God, using the power of the blood against the enemy. This is true warfare in the spiritual realm. Thank God that our spiritual weapons are mighty and that our authority in Christ is far above all the authority of the rulers, powers and forces of darkness, so that the Enemy must yield. But it takes faith and patience and persistence.

Missionaries on foreign and home fields can resist the enemy in their districts, communities and schools by using the power of the blood of Jesus against the powers of darkness, sin and unbelief. With the authority of the name of the

Lord Jesus they can demand the enemy retreat. Note that 'it is the spirit that quickeneth the flesh profiteth nothing' (John 6:63) and that 'the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life' (II Cor. 3:6). Therefore, we must constantly seek the motivation of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, in our faith, in our prayer and in our testimony. It is most important also that we confess our own sins and have them forgiven.

The enemy will use every possible means to silence our intercession and to block our attack against him. We must not only understand our enemy, our authority in Christ and how to use our spiritual weapons but also how to wear the armor that God has provided for our protection. Thus equipped and protected, we need not have any fear. But let us always remember that we have no power and no authority other than that of Christ.

'Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ' (II Cor. 2:14)

'Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world' (I John 4:4)

---L.M.

How I Learned to Pray for the Lost



Here is a remarkable testimony which should be of real help to many readers. Since the nature of the testimony is personal, the writer requested that her name be withheld. The letter accompanying this testimony says in part: "This is the result of my search for the right way of praying for the unsaved.