

"Thank you, Dr. Dennis Nelson, for writing this book and including my instructions on how to "Praying the Heavens." We do battle with the forces of darkness and those who control those who live on Earth. When we examine the instructions from Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we see that there is a battle waging in the heavens and on earth. It is not a fight of flesh and blood, but of principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness. Truly the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but powerful."

--from the forward by Prophet **Rusty Russell**
Miracle Life Ministries

"Dennis J. Nelson gives a humbling account of being on the front lines in the battle for the Kingdom of God. It is a thought-provoking, practical, and Spirit-filled handbook for reclaiming our cities and evangelizing the nations. A must read for those who have a love for the lost, the bound up, and the broken hearted."

--Rev. **Laura Lee Rand**
Director of Missions and Outreach, CROSSROADS Church

"Riveting...I didn't want to put it down! The reality of spiritual forces at work are revealed in Dr. Dennis' experiences, shaping for good and evil here in the physical realm on earth. The message encourages believers to lean into the heavens in agreement with God's purposes to direct and affect outcomes in daily life through influencing the spiritual realm using our arsenal of weapons of the faith. A quick and practical read worth your time."

--Brother In Christ **Mickey Hanner**

"Dr. Dennis Nelson does a remarkable job in giving us a true spiritual handbook on the interaction between prayer, fasting and the Word. All three are necessary for those that want to be used by God. In particular, I loved his emphasis on fasting and the importance of humility. Dennis shows us that these three: prayer, fasting, and the Word will be the key that unlocks the heavenly powers. Whether we are doing battle with demonic forces, praying for the healing of a loved one or keeping ourselves in tune with the will of the living God, there is great wisdom in this book that comes from his personal experiences as well as the Word of God."

--Pastor **Ken Behr**
Founder/Executive Director Faith Dialogue, Palm Beach Gardens

"Dr. Dennis shares some personal experiences that point us to prayer. The Lord has given believers a direct connection to Him so that we can call on the Creator of the universe at any moment through prayer. As we align ourselves with His will, He is faithful to act on our behalf and through us. What a privilege! Praying the Heavenly is an encouragement to turn to the Lord and pray with purpose as we face the darkness of this world. Never, never stop praying..."

--Elder **Eric Bostrom**
Palos Bible Church, Palos Heights

"I enjoyed the personal stories of how prayer, fasting, and the Word of God made a difference in spiritual warfare. I especially could relate to the power of prayer and fasting done together."

--Senior Pastor **Paul Marzahn**
CROSSROADS Multi-Site Ministry

Praying the HEAVENLIES

through Prayer, Fasting, and the Word



"Truly I say to you,
whatever you bind on earth
shall have been bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth
shall have been loosed in heaven."
(Matthew 18:18)

Dennis J. Nelson D.B.S.

Prophet Rusty Russell

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PRAYING THE
HEAVENLIES
through Prayer, Fasting,
and the Word
Dennis J. Nelson D.B.S.
and
Prophet Rusty Russell

This is dedicated to all the

baggage handlers

and

prayer soldiers.



The HEAVENLIES!
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,
and I was delivered from my enemies...
He brought me out into a wide open place;
He delivered me because he was pleased with me...
For you deliver oppressed people,
but you bring down those who have a proud look...
The LORD is alive! My protector is praiseworthy!
The God, who delivers me, is exalted as king!...
He delivers me from my enemies;
you snatch me away from those who attack me;
you rescue me from violent men."
(Psalms 18:3, 19, 27, 46, 48)

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	1
FORWARD.....	3
WARNING -Caution-	7
INTRODUCTION.....	11
CHAPTER ONE:	
PRAYER.....	23
CHAPTER TWO:	
FASTING.....	39
CHAPTER THREE:	
The WORD.....	59
CHAPTER FOUR:	
STAND and PRAY.....	69
CHAPTER FIVE:	
MESSAGES from GOD.....	83
CHAPTER SIX:	
HOW to PRAY.....	97
CHAPTER SEVEN:	
PRAYING WITH APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY.....	113
CHAPTER EIGHT:	
PROPHETIC INTERCESSORY PRAYERS.....	131
CHAPTER NINE:	
AMAZED, ASTONISHED, and ASTOUNDED.....	149
APPENDIX.....	177
ABOUT: Prophet Rusty Russell.....	205
ABOUT: Dennis J. Nelson D.B.S.....	207



House church in Medellín, Colombia,
La Casa Inglesia.

"Who loves me and is my stronghold,
my refuge and my deliverer,
my shield and the one in whom I take shelter,
who makes nations submit to me."
(Psalm 144:2)

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To my wife, Ruth, who has believed and encouraged me to follow God's will.

Thank You JESUS!

Dennis



Colombia's heavenly mountain tops.

"O' LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me!
Give ear to my voice when I call to You!
May my prayer be counted as incense before You;
The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering."
(Psalm 141:1-2)

FORWARD

By Prophet Rusty Russell

"Thank you, Dr. Dennis Nelson, for writing this book *"Praying the Heav- enlies."* We do battle with the forces of darkness and those who control those living on Earth. When we examine the instructions from Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we see that there is a battle waging in the heavenlies and on earth. It is not a fight of flesh and blood, but of principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness. Truly the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but powerful, especially when we invoke the name of Jesus and His blood.

Dr. Dennis cites Luke 10:17 when the 70 disciples returned to Jesus with joy proclaiming that even the demons were subject to them in Jesus name! Years ago when I read this verse, I never really wanted to share it because I didn't have the revelation (Rhema) of what Jesus was truly speaking, and so I thought it was anticlimactic.

"Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."
And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. 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. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven" (Luk. 10:1-20).

Since Jesus revealed this truth, I count it as greater joy when casting out demons because I am in actuality bringing the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven! Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall-



ing from the heaven like lighting."

Satan is the prince and power of the air. Whenever we cast out a demon or win in spiritual warfare, Jesus sees Satan falling from a place of authority, not floating to earth. But, just as lightning quickly hits the earth and dissipates, so too, the enemies of Jesus are quickly broken! We can claim this new territory, be it a nation, be it a city, a home, a family or a person; they are now under the authority and Lordship of Jesus.

Here is the power of our prayers in the heavenlies. Picture this example: take a candle and set it on a stand and light it. Place in the trail of smoke, about 4 or 5 inches above the candle an unlit match; wait a mo-



ment, soon you will see that the heat from the flame lights the match without it ever touching the flame. The power from one match jumps to light and start the power, in another match. When we pray our prayers they go up to heaven like this flame; never do we touch the demonic princes, but our prayers have the power to burn up or set on fire and destroy that demonic kingdom. Remember also our prayers go up like incense, which means it is like smoke.

Now, imagine blowing out the candle and leaving the match lit. Place the match in the upward trail of the smoke from the candle; watch what happens! The flame will follow the trail of smoke down to relight the candle. God, who is the ever consuming fire, desires to cause His divine flame of fire to meet us as we are pray-



Praying the HEAVENLIES

ing in unison with the Holy Spirit, now with a clear heaven or open heaven. God can manifest more of His glory and power for greater victory with those for whom we have been interceding. And He breaks the yoke that Satan had over the lives of the people. They are now freed!

Yes, let us rise to the occasion, to stand in the battle, fully armored with the shield of faith and sword of the Spirit knowing that the battle is the Lord's. This is when we enter in, already victorious in Jesus!"



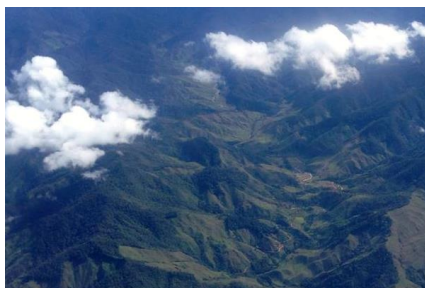
Prophet Rusty Russell

Miracle Life Ministries

www.RustyRussellsBlog.com



(Prophet Rusty and Apostle Caesar)



Colombia from the airplane.

"The LORD protects the untrained;
I was in serious trouble, and he delivered me...
I will celebrate my deliverance,
and call on the name of the LORD."
(Psalm 116:13)



WARNING - Caution -

"The LORD rebuke you, Satan!"
(Zechariah 3:1-7)

It is the authors' opinions based upon personal revelations from God and direct confrontations with evil that we (Christians) should not directly confront SATAN or any other higher spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies (i.e. territorial spirits). But, instead, we should Pray, Fast, and use God's Word to reveal His will. Then, when we know God's will, we should pray the heavenlies, and against evil earthly circumstances, the trials, and the dangers that encamp around us.

THE LORD REBUKES

Jude recounts the tale of "Michael the archangel" disputing with the devil over the "body of Moses." This angel did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jud. 1:9) This demonstrates positional authority and how we can pray God's will in defeating the enemy. Michael knew God's will, and while in the heavenlies battling Satan, Jude says it is the Lord who rebukes Satan.

Zechariah records a picture of Joshua the high priest in the heavenlies with Satan. He is standing before God, who is the Judge; the Angel of

the LORD, and Joshua's defense attorney. Here, Satan has access to this heavenly realm and stands in the presence of God and Jesus. He is here to accuse Joshua of Israel's sins. The LORD (Jesus) said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" (Zec. 3:1-7) Even Jesus does not rebuke Satan, but says, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan!" The principle, not to directly rebuke Satan, is also demonstrated with Jesus' rebuff of the devil in the wilderness.

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

Ezra retells the story of Nathaniel's prophetic words that the battle is the LORD's to those who stand in God's righteousness.

"O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You." All Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants, their wives, and their children. Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Nathaniel...he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. 'Tomorrow go down against them....'You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O' Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you." Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshipping the LORD." (2 Chr. 20:12-18)

Wow! In the midst of peril, even mothers and infants are all falling down to worship God. Israel desired and needed God's deliverance. This is a key principle: we need to stand in God's protective arms. In Ephesians, Paul teaches that this is the armor of God. He instructs Christians to stand in the righteousness that has already been obtained in Christ (Eph.

Praying the HEAVENLIES

6). This is the faith that unlocks God's heavenly forces that act upon our prayers. We can stand with the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat to see the salvation of the Lord.

HUMILITY!

God's graces are upon those who humbly submit to Him. It is humility and our resistance to the devil that produces His desired result. The devil must flee. Humility comes when we "draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (Jam. 4:6-8). As, Rusty and I will convey, in the stories that follow, we should humbly follow Ezra's, Paul's, and James' instructions. It is only through humility and unity that we are to Pray, Fast, and use His Word to fulfill God's will.

Prophet Rusty and I believe, we are NOT to confront Satan directly!

But, instead, we are to use God's word according to His will.

Simply, we are to pray and fast in seeking God's will in the heavenlies.

And then we are to pray for His will to be done upon the earth.





Medellin, Colombia.

"Let those delivered by the LORD speak out,
those whom He delivered from the power of the enemy...
They cried out to the LORD in their distress;
He delivered them from their troubles..."
(Psalm 107:2, 6, 13, 19, 28)



INTRODUCTION

"Truly I say to you,
whatever you bind on earth
shall have been bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth
shall have been loosed in heaven."
(Matthew 18:18)

WHY PRAY?

The following is God's revelation to me (Dennis) and through my teaching and mentoring under Prophet Rusty Russell. As soldiers in Christ, we need to Pray, Fast, and stand upon the Word of God when binding the earthly and heavenly authorities. It has been through my liberation ministry and mission trips that I have encountered these evil heavenly powers. I have had to learn to Pray, Fast, and seek the Word for His will in these power encounters. I found it necessary to learn about God's spiritual war and how I could better fight. Prayer is the weapon we have to battle these evil heavenly forces. As we share these stories of God's great protection and deliverance from evil, Rusty, and I hope to convey some practical principles that will assist you in defeating these world rulers.

MINISTRY PRECEDES AND PRODUCES THEOLOGY!

Theologian Ray Anderson is attributed with stating: "Ministry precedes and produces theology!" What I (Dennis) believe Anderson means is that in order to understand God's word and His practical theology, we must

be willing to make leaps of faith. These steps of faith are played out as we fulfill our small part in God's great commission. I want your life to be pleasing to God and that you may have a great reward in Heaven. "And without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." (Heb. 11:6) These steps cause us to better understand the faith of Christ, the disciples, the early Church, and the many works of God in the world today. I want your faith to increase and to be encouraged by these astonishing testimonies of our Lord Jesus Christ. "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Rom. 10:17) It is my desire that you will take a step in learning the Whys? And the Hows? Of pursuing God through Prayer, Fasting, and the Word.

As Christians, we should prayerfully stand in the greatest position of righteous strength. The victory over these evil rulers is obtained by standing and praying while wearing all of God's spiritual battle armor. Over the last five years of deliverance ministry, my theology has had to explain and believe the many spiritual promises inherited in Christ. I have come face-to-face with demons, witches, cocaine filled demoniacs, attempts upon my life, and spiritual attacks by territorial forces. These experiences have taught me one thing: the heavenly battles belong to the Lord. It is only through unified prayers, fasting, and standing together that we can raise our shield of faith to defeat the flaming arrows of the enemy.

My journey in learning how to pray for God's intervention in the spiritual world encompasses missions to Colombia and Haiti. On my first mission to Colombia, the team conducted training



classes for pastors in Medellin. Many came from the far away jungles. It was good to impart faith and biblical training to those who were missionaries and pastors. Before this trip, I did not sense a need to do much prayer, nor did I feel spiritually attacked or in any danger during this mission.

Well, this all changed five months later when I led the second mission to Medellin. It consisted of three pastors, and our U.S. resident, Colombian translator. This was a very different mission. The team experienced many spiritual attacks, near death experiences, health problems, and divisions. I realized afterward that the enemy knew we were coming, and witches had infiltrated the local church to set traps in the spiritual world. So, upon my return to the USA, I wanted to know how to battle these dark forces. I needed to learn how to pray the heavenlies.

It took me three months seeking other missionaries' advice and my learning, how to fast and pray. For the next mission to Colombia, I learned from my mentor, Prophet Rusty Russell, how to prayerfully battle the spiritual world in the heavenly realms.¹ For this mission, our prayers were offered up as incense, and God heard them and answered them in astonishing ways. God gave us (the mission team and prayer warriors) great successes as evident in salvations, physical healings, and demonic liberations. We are composing this book after the return of the fourth mission team. I (Dennis) was unable to make this journey with Prophet Rusty Russell, Reverend Michael Armbrust, and Panamanian Pastor/Translator Alberto Tribaldos Pino. Even though I stayed back with the "baggage" per-'se', I joined this team as a prayer warrior.

All who pray for others can claim this ordinance. King David said:

¹ See **ABOUT: Prophet Rusty Russell**.

"He (God) has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us...The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." (1 Sam. 30:22-25 NIV)

I was one of many prayer soldiers who joined the team and shared equally in God's rewards. Just as David instituted, those who journey to the mission field, prayer intercessors, and financial supporters all share alike.

PRAYING THE HEAVENLIES

Heavenly praying is when Christians embrace their inheritances in Christ. We can make heavenly petitions that affect the earthly and the spiritual realms. Think of the term "heavenly or heavenlies" as comprising the spiritual world. Even though we live in the earthly world, we are still affected by heavenly authorities and powers. And vice versa; while we live on earth we can prayerfully affect the spiritual world of the heavenlies. Jesus promised: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." (Mat. 16:19 and 18:18) Jesus teaches the duplicity of our prayers. Although we live in a physical world, we are to pray for the heavens to be loosed on earth.

When Jesus instructs the disciples to pray, He teaches this principle of "binding" and "loosing." The metaphysical world is affected and impacted by the heavenly spiritual world. So to our prayers impact both the heavenly and earthly spheres. I believe this is how God activates the heavenly authorities, the angels, on our behalf and according to His will. God did this for Daniel, and He will certainly do it for you (Daniel 10-11). We have been created as both earthly (metaphysical) and spiritual (celestial) be-

ings. When heavenly prayers are combined with earthly petitions, God then brings more of His Kingdom down to earth.²

Bible scholar Thayer explains "heavenlies" as a place that exists. It is the place most people call Heaven. There are also other heavenly regions that are inhabited by God and the angels. Many theologians and I believe there are heavenly areas that Satan and demons inhabit and exert authority. These heavenly areas of authority and power are mentioned by Job and Zechariah. In Genesis 1:1 we learn that Heaven is a place where God resides and in John's Revelation Heaven is the place where the angels and the Saints worship Christ for eternity.

The Bible dictionary explains heavenly as "heavenly places" or "heavenly things."³ This is the highest and most holy of places in the heavens. Bradford A. Mullen says, "'Heaven' designates two interrelated and broad concepts the physical reality beyond the earth and the spiritual reality in which God dwells." Thayer continues by explaining that there might be "lower heavens" that are comprised of the stars and clouds.⁴ Rusty and I share this belief.

The Jews believed that there were seven parts/levels to the heavenlies and Paul talks about a Christian, who was caught up to "Paradise" the third heaven. I know a man who was brought up to the heavenlies into the presence of Jesus. He could not tell me much about this experience, and I asked him why? He said: "It was too intimate and personal!"

² God can and does act with and without our prayers. It is our purpose in this life to align our prayers with His purposes.

³ International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

⁴ I am still learning the "levels" of the heavenlies, but what I do know is that Satan and the principalities of darkness have areas of the heavenlies that they can enter and others where they exercise authority and power, Job 1, Zec. 3, and Luk. 4.

Wow, this is like Paul's explanation of the man who "was caught up to the third heaven." Paul said that this man "heard inexpressible words" and was not "permitted to speak" them. (2 Cor. 12:1-4) Paul said it was OK to boast in this man's revelation. The heavenlies we are talking about comprise all the heavenly spiritual areas. When you see, the word heavenlies think of the spiritual world. These are levels and spheres where God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Saints, the angels, Satan, and all his devils can reside. More on this later.

In Ephesians, Paul explains our rights and privileges as God's children. Paul says to stand and pray in the "sphere of the super-earthly." Our praying according to God's will activates these heavenly powers. We are to pray in the name of Jesus



Christ. He is our mediator to God so that we can partake of God's will and works. Our prayers bring honor to the Son Jesus Christ.

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel." (Heb. 12:22-24)

In Christ, we now have direct access to the heavenly Jerusalem. He is the mediator between the earthly and heavenly worlds. What a wonderful right inherited as adopted sons and daughters.

PRAY THE SPIRIT

Dr. David Yong-Gi Cho talks about this heavenly battle in: *"4th Dimensional Living in a 3 Dimensional World."* He explains: "In order for our

lives, businesses, and ministries to succeed, we need to diagnose and pinpoint what elements of our fourth-dimensional realm (heavenlies) that must be changed so that our three-dimensional realm (earth) will move accordingly."⁵ In other words, what we do upon the earth the good, the bad, or to pray, and not to pray will affect this 4th dimension. For those that pray, they are moving in a 4th dimension, the spiritual world, and can affect it in such a way as to enlist God's will upon earth. Paul said: "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" (Eph. 6:18). This is Dr. Cho's message and ours. When we pray, we are to make our petitions with the heavenly 4th dimension in mind.

Paul explains how the earthly and the heavenlies are separated and that flesh and blood cannot inherit God's spiritual Kingdom, but when our spirit is reborn into Christ, we now have a new spiritual identity.

"There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies...If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body...As is earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly..." (1 Cor. 15:40-50)

We have a metaphysical body that holds our celestial spirit. It is through this duality of God's creation that we are now able to pray with our hearts, our minds, and our spirits.

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

When John baptizes Jesus, He receives the Holy Spirit, and then God speaks from the heavens declaring, "**This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased.**" (Mat. 3:17)

⁵ pp 24-25.

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But He answered and said, "It is written, **'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'**" Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, **'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU'**; and **'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'**" Jesus said to him, **"On the other hand, it is written, 'YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.'**" Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, **"Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'**" Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him." (Mat. 4:1-11)

This is foundational to learning how to pray the heavenlies. Those who do will be able to move the spiritual mountains in their and others lives. Jesus demonstrated how to defeat Satan through the highest of all power struggles. At the end of the 40 days of PRAYER and FASTING in the wilderness, Satan (a fallen angel) tempted Jesus three times. Each time the devil was defeated with Jesus quoting the WORD of God. This is how we can defeat Satan and the devils. Jesus Prayed, Fasted, and when attacked used God's WORD to defeat the master of all dark spirits.

JESUS TAUGHT

Christ spoke of these things: **"If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"** (Joh. 3:12)

Jesus demonstrates authority and power over the demons through liberations and miraculous healings. He teaches the disciples and the 70 by sending them out to do as He did. They go with a mission, a plan to exercise authority and power over the demons, to proclaim the Gospel, and to heal the sick. The disciples learned to practice God's theology before they penned one word of the New Testament. Here the ministry of the Gospel demonstrated and taught them the spiritual theology of God. Their ministry produced greater faith in God. This has been true for me, my spiritual encounters (faith works) have forced me to believe in a BIGger God.

EPHESIANS

Paul says that Christ has "blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Eph. 1:3). It is through our righteous standing "in Christ" that we can pray to affect these heavenly realms. Because Christ is seated at the "right hand in the heavenly places," He is over all these spiritual forces, both good and evil (Eph. 1:20). We partake with Jesus in His positional authority because He has seated us with Himself "in the heavenly places" (Eph. 2:6).

There are wicked forces that operate in the high places of the heavens. Paul says in Ephesians 6:12 that there are "spiritual hosts of wickedness" operating against us. The Greek word that Paul uses refers to the dwelling places of angels and Satan's evil spirits. Don Dickerman states: "This also translates to 'heavenly places,' a sphere of activity or existence that is above that of earth."⁶

Paul further explains why God has done this; it is "so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rul-

⁶ Don Dickerman, *People Pigs & Principalities* (Lake Mary: Charisma Media, 2014), 7.

ers and the authorities in the heavenly places." (Eph. 3:10) It is the church (us) who pray to release more of God's power that sets the captives free. I have experienced this first hand, through many demonic liberation sessions. It is when prayers of faith are combined with Jesus' authority that the demons have to flee. My liberation ministry has forced me to believe in a BIGger God. My theology and understanding of God had to come into alignment with works and power of the Holy Spirit. I was changing so that the compassion and love of Christ could be demonstrated.

Paul concludes by explaining the spiritual armor that is necessary to win in these power encounters. "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." (Eph. 6:12) Prayer is Paul's point: "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." (Eph. 6:18)

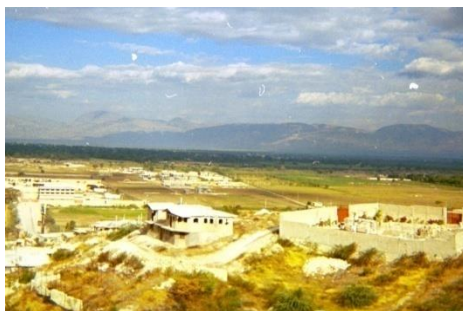
Praying the heavenlies is through standing in the righteous promises we have already inherited through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. We are to use our position, as a son and a daughter of the King of Kings, in seeking the Father's will. These prayers will activate God's angels on our behalf and against the evil in the heavenly places. (Psa. 91) Paul's teaching in Ephesians demonstrates the practical applications of Prayer, Fasting, and using God's Word.

NOTE: The following testimonies are from four missions to Colombia, one to Haiti and most recent to Cuba. The events are real and are retold to the best of our abilities. Those that are from Prophet Rusty Russell and Rev. Michael Armbrust are used with permission, in their words, and

Praying the HEAVENLIES

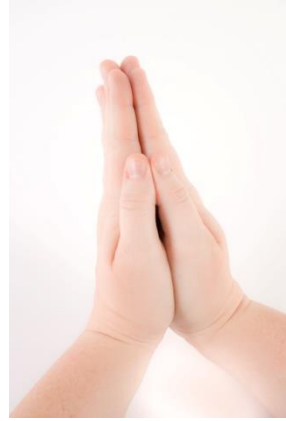
with some minor editing. It is the intent of the author(s) not to add or subtract from these mighty works of God. Many of these precious people, whom I do not even know, prayed for these mission teams. It is my hope that you will be encouraged to pray the heavenlies and to make a step of faith by believing God will move mountains in your life. I know He will!

NOTES:



Haiti.

"The LORD strengthens his people;
he protects and delivers his chosen king.
Deliver your people!
Empower the nation that belongs to you!
Care for them like a shepherd
and carry them in your arms at all times!"
(Psalm 28:8-9)



CHAPTER ONE: PRAYER

"I urge that entreaties and prayers,
petitions and thanksgivings,
be made on behalf of all men,
for kings and all who are in authority,
so that we may lead a tranquil and
quiet life in all godliness and dignity.
This is good and acceptable
in the sight of God our Savior,
who desires all men to be saved
and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Paul encourages Timothy to pray on "behalf of all men" to fulfill God's will. God desires that all men are "saved" and "come to the knowledge of the truth" in Christ. (Tim. 2:1-4) Our heavenly prayers have all the necessary authority and power to remove obstacles and perils. These prayers act upon the authority and power found in Christ. It is in this standing that we are to battle prayerfully on "behalf of all men."

Jesus led the way to victory. After being baptized, the Spirit brought Him into the wilderness where He was "tempted by the devil." There is no

higher spiritual battle than confronting Satan directly. Christ, as a man, fasted, (and prayed) before these temptations. He uses the power given to Him by the Holy Spirit and His authority as the second Adam. This power and authority were foretold. The Messiah would be the one to stomp on the head of Satan (Gen. 1-3; Mat. 4:1-11). "Jesus...spoke..., 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'" (Mat. 28:18)

AUTHORITY AND POWER

One cannot have authority without power. And vice versa, one cannot have power without authority. There is a symbiotic relationship between authority and power. Jesus gave "all the power" to the disciples and us!

"And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases...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. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven." (Luk. 9:1 and 10:19-20)

This authority comes with the power to influence the heavenly spheres. It includes the earthly battles with demons (Satan's devils) and the heavenly battles waged on our behalf by God's angels. Jesus said we are to intercede in the arenas that are controlled by these devils.

I find it very interesting that God has chosen us to be instruments for His glory. The Greek word for authority is *exousia* meaning the "power of choice," "physical or mental power," "power of authority and of right" or a "sign of regal authority, a crown." I like this last definition because we are children of the King, and we now have His "regal authority." We have this by offering our prayers in the name of Jesus.

AUTHORITY AND POWER GO TOGETHER?

Jesus demonstrated the authority to forgive sins through His power to heal and cast out demons. "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." (Mat. 9:6-8) And "They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, 'What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.'" (Mar. 1:27) The crowds were "awestruck" because Jesus, a man, had been given such authority and power. The working of miracles is a testament, proof, to those that speak in Jesus' name. When the lame man and many others were healed and liberated from demons, they all glorified God. For what man could have such authority and power over demons? We know the answer. It is Jesus who demonstrated "all authority" and power as a testament to God's love.

There is no authority without power, and there is no power without authority. "And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing." (Luk. 9:1-2) In the spiritual world, we have the positional authority to exercise power over evil spirits. This authority and power were given to the twelve disciples. (Mar. 3:14-15. They had the power to cast out unclean spirits (demons) and to heal "every kind of disease and every kind of sickness." (Mat. 10:1) Wow, what would the hospitals look like, if before anyone is admitted, they would have a Christian pray with them!

Jesus, "summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits...They went out and preached that men should repent. And they were casting out many de-

mons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them" (Mar. 6:7-13).

Are you a disciple of Christ? You have been given this same authority and power. Hmm, I wonder, maybe God is calling you to pray for the sick or cast out a demon or two?



(Witchcraft graffiti, Colombia.)

WITCH ENCOUNTERS

My Colombian friend, Pastor Dario, gave me this encouraging word: "God is going to give you greater authority!" At the time, I did not know what it meant. But, now I believe it is more power to cast out demons and to pray for those who need physical healing through a touch from the Comforter. This was demonstrated through the prayerful liberation of a woman (a witch) who wanted to become a Christian. Due to the power and the special anointing of the Holy Spirit, she came forward at a meeting seeking salvation in Christ.

The power of darkness still had a very strong hold, she could not open her eyes, nor could she speak. I prayed on her behalf and in the authority and power of Jesus, I began to bind the demonic forces. I exercised Christ's authority and commanded the evil spirits to release control. In a moment she was able to see. I then looked directly through her eyes into

the heart soul. I claimed salvation and that her will would be released for her to choose Christ. I then bound up the demonic powers that held her tongue, because she still could not speak. I commanded these powers of witchcraft to release her vocal cords.⁷ She was then able to profess and claim Jesus. Then there was a powerful move of the Holy Spirit; as I continued to pray, she fell backward and was bathed in God's power. I thought, "Thank you, Jesus! Another one set free, indeed!!"

When counseling liberation and confronting demons I often feel like when:

"...The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name...Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven". (Luk. 10:1-20)

We are not to rejoice in power that we command over evil spirits, but to point all to Christ. In contrast, there are those who want power and authority to control. Acts record the story of Simon, who wanted power.

"Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." (Act. 8:17-19)

Before the fourth mission, one of the pastors ministered to a witch who had come to church. He prayed for her, and the Holy Spirit came down in such power that she could not stand, then collapsed. After this experience, she was never seen again. The pastor told me that she just wanted a higher power to control others. We are not to use Jesus' authority

⁷ Note: See **APPENDIX** for Ruth Brown's prayers.

for our glory, but instead for the advancement of His Church. (2 Cor. 2:9-10)

It is through the new birth, in the righteousness of Christ, that we have the legal right to battle on earth and to implore God's will in the heavenlies. Paul affirms that this authority has been passed to us complete. "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him, you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority." (Col. 2:9-10) What was given up through the first Adam is restored in the second Adam, Christ. This is the authority we have to wage our battles on earth and to entreat God to fight in the heavenlies.

There are many who believe Jesus accomplished the victory over the evil spiritual forces at the cross and the resurrection. I propose, as Paul does, we are in a spiritual wrestling match to reclaim the dominion that was lost in Adam. John reminds: "We know that we are of God and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." (1 Joh. 5:19) Dickerman says, "We cannot destroy the demonic realm in the heavenly realm. If He (Jesus) came to destroy the devil himself, we would not be dealing with this. He (Jesus) came to destroy his works, and when He (Jesus) comes again, He will destroy Satan himself."⁸ We are to destroy the present works of Satan and his devils.

I am in agreement that much was achieved in the heavenlies through the resurrection. But, I have come to realize through these earthly experiences, that I must battle with a humble heart to enter into the complete authority and power that was paid at the cross. Even though Jesus put Satan and his devils on notice, they do not know that they have lost. Our

⁸ Dickerman, *People Pigs & Principalities*, 44.

present reality is we must wrestle for what is rightfully ours in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

HUMILITY

Repentance cleans the heart and obedience to God's will enable the angels to battle on our behalf. I have learned that when we are on a mission, we need to submit ourselves to the local rulers and authorities. This is important in combating ground level demonic forces that are empowered through demonic heavenly powers.

We are waging a two-front war. There are the powers and despots who control the heavenlies, and there are ground level demons who try to carry out the commands of the principalities by killing, stealing, and destroying. (Joh. 10:10) The cleansing of our heart is the key to closing any spiritual avenues of attack (open doors). "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." (Act. 3:19) Repentance and humility go hand-in-hand. Anytime we are in the battle with demonic forces we must conduct ourselves as humble children.



In 2004, my first mission was to help the people of Haiti. It is a nation filled with beautiful people that have had many centuries of slavery and governmental oppression. I wanted to learn as much about the people and country as I could, so I went to the library to read the CIA report. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere and the millions of dollars from the United States government, and missionaries have not changed their sit-

uation. The current economy has become completely dependent upon relief funds.

The report told a tale of many years of despotism and poverty that left deep marks upon the Haitians. Unlike America's Christian foundation, Haiti started as a French controlled slave colony. It became the only slave country to revolt and overthrow its oppressors. In 1804, through the inspiration of Voodoo priests, the new country was dedicated to the Voodoo god Bondye. The problem was that to become liberated from one oppressor they had to vow allegiance to the god of Vodouism.

On this mission, we were able to walk about several different villages, and it was obvious which property belonged to the Voodoo priest. Two of our missionaries even came upon a priest performing Voodoo rituals and magic. We asked our Haitian pastor about what we could do to combat these evil forces. He said would we should not do anything, because Vodouism, and all religions (including Christianity), are protected under the constitution.

Well, this is where the Christian bravado of one my pastor friends got the best of him. While touring a village we saw the local Voodoo priest's enchantment pit. He said: *"Let's us go over there and kick it down!"* I told him that God was not telling me to do that and that our Haitian pastor had specifically told us not to do anything of the sort. Well, my dear friend quoted: "...because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (1 Joh.



4:4) His meaning was that we have the spiritual authority over such demonic powers, and we can use them (at our will)!⁹ We had walked away from the priest's property, and I thought that would be the end of it. It was not.

Two years later, I received a call from this pastor telling me a strange and compelling story of demonic oppression and deliverance. I knew he had been experiencing rough times as a church plant pastor. I thought nothing more of the past witch encounter until he told the following story. Unknown to me, he had gone back to the priest's property to tear down the Voodoo enchantments. This act had opened a spiritual door to the priest's demonic powers. This pastor had learned, through the Holy Spirit, that a demon had been sent by the Voodooist in retaliation.

I asked how that could happen since he is a strong pastor of faith. God told him it was because of disobeying the local pastor. I then asked how he got liberated from this demon. Simply put, he said, "*I repented for my disobedience and asked God to save me.*" This humility cleansed his heart. James instructs us to be humble to cause demons to flee. "But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (Jas. 4:6-7)

You see, earlier when my friend quoted 1 John 4:4, we forgot to remember the first part of the verse. "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" (1 Joh. 4:4). God wants us to be like little children, without any guile, cunning, or tricks. This pastor was able to close the spiritual door

⁹ Note: This pastor was right and wrong at the same time.

to the demonic by becoming like a child. The demon had no choice, but to submit to the authority of Christ and leave.

Thinking back on this experience, I should have recalled Paul's instructions:

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 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." (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

Fleshly bravado will only cause great harm when we try to wrestle with demons outside of God's will. I tell this story to reinforce the importance of cleaning our house of any sin before stepping into the battlefields of the heavenlies.

ARMOR OF GOD

Paul urges us to become soldiers who are ready to battle. It is our prayers that win the fight.

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil...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, and pray on my behalf..." (Eph. 6:11-19)

We are instructed to put on the "full armor" and to pray "at all times in the Spirit" to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ.¹⁰



¹⁰ More on this in **CHAPTER FOUR: STAND and PRAY!**

ONE EYED SNAKES

Ground level warfare is demonstrated through people's liberation from demons. In 2012, after reading parts of John's Revelation a few days earlier, I had a very odd dream. I was in a modern Chinese market where they sell apparel and items to the locals that have not made export standards. While shopping, I had, on three separate occasions, different Chinese men came up to me with a green one-eyed snake coiled around the top of each their heads.

I felt that they wanted me to buy something from them, even though I was not in their store. I did not have a good feeling and avoided each one as they tried to approach. I did not sense fear or that they came to attack me, but instead they wanted me to hold and embrace them. My spirit determined that this was something from the heavenlies and that each of them needed to repent of some evil. So, in the dream, I commanded that each man had 30 days to repent. One would be blind, one would be deaf, and one would be mute until they turned to God.

God speaks in dreams.

"Indeed God speaks once, Or twice, yet no one notices it. In a dream, a vision of the night, When sound sleep falls on men, While they slumber in their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction" (Job 33:14-16).

God uses dreams to guide and direct us to understanding His will. Well, what does a one-eyed snake mean? Maybe the "Eye of Ra,"¹¹ second sight, or a witchcraft spirit operating between the eyes in the forehead area. I am not sure of the full meaning to this dream. But, I do believe it

¹¹ Dennis and Rusty encounter this power while on the mission to Artemisa, Cuba.

was a spiritual battle (kind of a test) to prepare my faith for the future battles to come.¹²

INTERCESSORS

Why should prayer intercessors attempt to wage war in the heavenlies? Because Paul encourages us to do so.

"[The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere." (Eph. 3:10 AMP)

Those who utilize the Lord's authority to bind up the strong man will release those bound by evil. Remember the witch who could not open her eyes, nor speak. I believe the authority over the demonic witchcraft was defeated (in the heavenlies) before me praying. Our prayer team had asked God to bind up the powers of the enemy and bring salvation to those who were bound by witchcraft. It is us, the church, who are to intercede and ask God to break these demonic strongholds.

THE LORD REBUKES

I had been praying, fasting, and seeking God's wisdom about this authority and power we have in Christ. How are we to battle the powers and principalities that rule over a specific area, city, and country? An answer came to me through another dream.

After my second mission, I visited my dad, who had suffered two strokes while I was on the first mission to Colombia. As I slept at my parent's house while my dad was at a rehab facility. One morning, I awoke after having a dream of a man coming towards me with a green snake (viper)

¹² More on dreams in **CHAPTER FIVE: MESSAGES from GOD.**

coiled on top of his head like a turban. He also had a large python hanging over the left shoulder. My first thought was to rebuke this man in the name of Jesus. But something in my spirit held me back, I paused, and then said in the in the dream, "The Lord rebukes you!" Instantly, the image disappeared.

After some research, I found that a snake charmer is "indicative of needing to be skillful, cautious, and wise" and that snakes are symbols "of lying spirits and spirits of confusion." "Green means flourishing or life" and I am not sure how these fit. But, I do know that a python snake represents a spirit of divination (witchcraft), and it can be related to drug use, murder, theft, and mockery. Later, I would learn that these are some of the evils that have left deep scars upon the people of Colombia and other peoples.

INTERPRETATION

I am new to higher power encounters and one year ago sought materials and other ministers advice on how to confront "territorial spirits." Some ministers say we can expel them. Some advised that we can bind and rebuke these spirits in the supernatural sphere, all in the name of Jesus. Others suggested that we cannot confront these master spirits at all and should leave them alone. Dickerman gives this view: "I have encountered hundreds of territorial spirits...I do not fight with them...I do however, command them to return to the heavenly realm and not to interfere with the individual's deliverance. They always obey."¹³ Initially, I had believed, I could rebuke or not rebuke these powers according to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. That, I could act and be led by faith! (Remember, the Haitian mission.) But, since this dream and advice from intercessors, I now believe and through Rusty's training, that I should follow Jesus' example

¹³ Dickerman, *People Pigs & Principalities*, 33.

when confronted by Satan's territorial powers. I (we) should let the Lord rebuke and bind these heavenly authorities, while I (we) pray for His will to be done upon earth.

KEYS

Jesus defeated Satan through the Word of God. This is the key to unlocking the heavenlies. Jesus said:

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." (Mat. 16:19)

Jesus won by using the Word of God. After this conflict, I believe Jesus began reclaiming the territories given up through the first Adam. Jesus has given this authority to us. I would suggest that those who choose to engage and battle the devil will find more success by following Jesus' example.

FAITH

If we are to move mountains, we must have faith to believe God's heavenly will on earth. Jesus said:

"Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive." (Mat. 21:21-22)

All prayer operates in the spiritual heavenlies. This is when our spirit connects with the Holy Spirit. "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (Joh. 4:24) We, like children, can ask our Father, who is in Heaven. This is so that our joy may be complete and that we bear fruit. When we pray in the name of Jesus we come un-

der His authority as the second Adam and the power received through the Holy Spirit.

ASK

Rusty reminded me of the NIKE sales slogan that says: "Just Do It!" and that we can do much more. Instead of doing "It" we are to "Just LIVE IT!!!" through the power and graces of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The authority we have comes through the new inheritance in the second Adam, Jesus Christ. John records this important principle.

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it...You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you." (Joh. 14:13-14, 16)

"In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive so that your joy may be made full...In that day you will ask in My name..." (Joh. 16:23-24, 26)

We need to ask to receive. Those who doubt and do not ask will not have complete joy. I certainly want the full joy of God in my life and know I need to ask. Will you try it? Ask God for the keys to the spiritual car. I bet He has the exact model that you need. When you receive it to give glory to the Son, Jesus Christ.



Medellin, Colombia.

Guide me into your truth and teach me.
For you are the God who delivers me;
on you, I rely all day long.
Deliver me from my distress;
rescue me from my suffering!
Protect me and deliver me!
Please do not let me be humiliated,
for I have taken shelter in You!"
(Psalm 25:5, 17, 20)