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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

40. Dangers in Prayer Warfare

This chapter warns that Satan fights hardest against people who pray, so intercession invites real spiritual attack. It names six specific dangers that can weaken or stop a prayer warrior, and urges the reader to claim God's protection and press on. Fierce opposition is a sign that prayer is working, not that the battle is lost.

Key takeaways

- Satan opposes serious prayer more than anything else; he ignores prayerless busyness but trembles at real intercession. Attacks prove prayer's power, not defeat.
- Claim God's protection for body, mind, spirit, and work — through God's Word, the blood of Christ, and the name of Jesus.
- Danger 1 — being engrossed in your work: we become workaholics who work when we ought to pray. Prayer must be planned, reserved, and given priority.
- Danger 2 — fear: Satan is a defeated foe who wants to immobilize us. Don't be reckless, but pray boldly under the protection of Jesus' name (and take a Spirit-filled partner when casting out demons).

- Danger 3 — unfocused prayer: vague prayer brings no clear answers. Pray for specific people and needs by name, detailed enough that you'll recognize the answer.
- Danger 4 — unguided prayer: seek God's will and listen, not just ask. Get in harmony with the Spirit's intercession before adding the force of your prayer.
- Danger 5 — wrong motives: guard against self-interest disguised as zeal. Glory in Christ, not in your authority or success; pray for God's sake and the person's sake.
- Danger 6 — giving up too soon: many answers arrive just after people quit. Battles are won in the last hour; persist until the answer comes.

Passages worth keeping

“He does not fear prayerless study, prayerless preaching, prayerless work, or prayerless Christianity... but trembles when we take prayer warfare seriously.”

Sums up why Satan targets prayer specifically.

How it connects

The stilled storm on Galilee frames the chapter's core claim: opposition shows Satan is angry, but one word from Christ routs him — so the prayer warrior fights from victory, not toward it.

Scripture referenced

- **Zech. 3:1-7** -- Satan hinders the high priest's intercession until rebuked
- **John 17:11** -- Jesus prays for our protection by the Father's name
- **Hab. 2:1** -- the intercessor must watch and listen for God's word
- **Luke 18:1-8** -- parable urging persistent prayer that does not give up
- **Col. 4:2** -- devote yourselves to prayer, watchful and thankful
- **Gal. 6:9** -- reap a harvest in due time if we do not give up