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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

43. The Militant Use of Jesus' Name

This chapter teaches how to pray in the name of Jesus, and then how to use that name as a weapon in spiritual warfare. First it explains what praying 'in Jesus' name' really means and what it depends on in your life. Then it lists concrete ways to wield the name militantly against Satan.

Key takeaways

- You don't have to say the exact words 'in Jesus' name' in every quick prayer, but structured and public prayer should be offered in His name as a prayer-testimony.
- The name stands for the whole person. To pray in Jesus' name is to pray in harmony with His character, mind, and will — not to use a magic phrase.
- Praying in His name depends on your life: a half-hearted, defeated Christian cannot pray with real authority. Total obedience and a Spirit-filled life are the basis.
- The role of the name: it gives instant access to God, identifies you with who Jesus is, sanctifies your prayer (an unworthy prayer 'dies on your lips'), unites you to His will, gives you His authority, and carries His endorsement (His 'amen').

- Militant uses of the name: clear the spiritual atmosphere, claim protection, express longing too deep for words, defend Christ's honor, pray in militant faith and determination, and issue the command of faith against demons and strongholds.
- Demons recognize a genuine prayer in Jesus' name — and a fake one (the sons of Sceva were beaten for treating it as a spell).

Passages worth keeping

“Prayer fails when it is silenced by His name. His holy name is a flaming fire that consumes all that is unworthy in His sight and contrary to His will.”

Captures why a selfish or wrong-motive prayer cannot survive being prayed in Jesus' name.

“Pray as if I were praying, and then I will pray through you... I will present it before God as the joint prayer of you and Me.”

Sums up what real authority in Jesus' name means — Christ making your prayer His own.

How it connects

The chapter ties the everyday habit of praying in Jesus' name to the militant stand pictured in Moses lifting holy hands at Rephidim (Exod. 17) and the psalmist trampling foes 'through your name' (Ps. 44:5) — authority that only holds when your life is truly Christlike.

Scripture referenced

- **Col. 3:17** -- Whatever you do in word or deed, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus — so pray in His name.
- **Gal. 2:20** -- 'Christ lives in me' — the crucified-self basis for praying rightly in His name.
- **1 John 5:14-15** -- Confidence that God hears whatever we ask according to His will.
- **Acts 19:14-16** -- The sons of Sceva — the name is not a magic formula for the uncommitted.
- **2 Chron. 14:11** -- King Asa's militant faith: coming against a vast army in God's name.
- **Acts 3:6; 16:18** -- Peter and Paul issue the command of faith 'in the name of Jesus.'