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Mighty Prevailing Prayer: Experiencing the Power of Answered Prayer

44. Chapter 41: The Militant Use of the Word

This chapter argues that God's Word and prayer are inseparable, especially in spiritual warfare. Feeding daily on Scripture is what nourishes, guides, arms, and refreshes a strong prayer life. The Word is not just food and comfort — it is a weapon to be used on the attack.

Key takeaways

- Prayer and the Word feed each other. Neglecting Scripture leaves your prayer life weak and shallow; devotional books are 'skim milk' next to the Bible.
- Begin prayer time with the Word: it brings a sense of God's nearness, shuts out distractions, and prepares your heart to pray.
- The Word guides militant prayer — it shows what to pray for, exposes Satan's methods, and points to where his power should be resisted.
- The Word arms you with faith: grasping God's purpose, focusing on His power, and standing on His specific promises.

- Use Scripture as your one offensive weapon (the Sword of the Spirit): remind God of His promises, silence Satan in Jesus' name, and fill your prayers with Scripture phrases like 'Your will be done.'
- In battle-weariness, saturate your soul in the Word and Scripture-based hymns to find renewed courage and zeal.
- Andrew Murray's balance: a full measure of both Word and prayer each day gives a healthy, powerful spiritual life.

Passages worth keeping

"Little of the Word with little prayer is death to the spiritual life... A full measure of the Word and prayer each day gives a healthy and powerful life."

Murray's summary of why both must go together

"Our prayers are to remind God. The truest prayer is that which bases itself on God's uttered Word. The prayer that prevails is a reflected promise."

Maclaren on praying God's own promises back to Him

How it connects

The chapter ties the whole armor of Ephesians 6 to daily Bible intake: the Sword of the Spirit is only as sharp in your hand as the Word is stored in your heart.

Scripture referenced

- **Matt. 4:4** -- Jesus defeats Satan by the Word — man lives on every word from God
- **John 15:7-8** -- abiding in Christ's words is the secret of answered prayer and fruit
- **Eph. 6:16-17** -- faith as shield, the Word as the Sword of the Spirit
- **Matt. 6:6** -- shut the door and pray — reading the Word helps close out distractions
- **Num. 14:19-20** -- Moses quotes God's own Word back to Him and God forgives
- **Acts 27:25** -- Paul stands on God's word when all seems hopeless