Copeland, Kenneth
Prayer - Your Foundation For Success

5. The Battlefield of Prayer

This chapter frames prayer as spiritual warfare against Satan, not people. It walks through the whole armor of God from Ephesians 6, the offensive weapons the believer wields (the Word and the Name of Jesus), the role of the Holy Spirit, and the legal basis of the believer's authority rooted in creation, the Fall, and Christ's redemption.

Key takeaways

- Your enemy is Satan, never other people or God. God supplies the weapons to get you out of trouble, not into it.
- Prayer is the battlefield; time in the Word is the supply line. Stop feeding on the Word and Satan can overtake you.
- The armor: truth girds you against Satan's lies, the breastplate of righteousness means right-standing with God (not moral performance), feet shod to share the gospel, the shield of faith quenches every fiery dart, the helmet guards your mind, the sword is the Word.
- Righteousness is right-standing with God. See yourself as unworthy and your prayers stall; grasp your standing as a child and joint-heir and you have the right to resist Satan.

- The Word works like seed: plant it in your heart, guard it against doubt, and don't 'dig it up' by giving up when symptoms linger.
- The Name of Jesus carries the authority of Almighty God. Praying in His Name places a demand on His power; Satan flees from it.
- The Holy Spirit is the power that makes the armor and weapons effective; He lives in you to carry out God's will.
- Authority was given to man at creation (Adam), forfeited to Satan at the Fall, and recaptured by Jesus, who died spiritually and physically, defeated Satan, and handed that authority to the Body of Christ.

Passages worth keeping

> *"Prayer is the battlefield. The time spent in the Word is the base of supply."*

The chapter's controlling image for the whole study.

> *"With the face mask pulled down, you could not tell the difference between him and Jesus... The only way a believer reveals himself to Satan is by lifting his faceplate through unbelief."*

Ties the armor back to living by faith; unbelief is the one gap in the armor.

How it connects

The argument hinges on legal authority: Genesis 1:28 gives man dominion, Adam forfeits it (Romans 5:12; 2 Corinthians 4:4), and Christ recaptures it (1 John 3:8), so the believer's prayer authority rests on the finished work of redemption, not personal holiness.

Scripture referenced

- **Ephesians 6:10-18** -- The whole armor of God, the chapter's foundation text.
- **John 17:17 / John 8:44** -- God's Word is truth; Satan is the father of lies.
- **Colossians 1:12-13** -- Believers translated out of darkness into the kingdom of God's Son.
- **Philippians 2:9-10** -- The Name of Jesus above every name; every knee bows.
- **Mark 4:14-15** -- The Word as seed; Satan comes immediately to steal it.
- **Colossians 2:14-15** -- Christ wiped out the charges against us and spoiled principalities, basis of our authority.