

MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

PRAYER

1. **REVIEW: THE SWORD of THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD of GOD**

A. **Ephesians 6:17 (NASB)** And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

B. **“THE WORD of GOD”... NOTE:** There are **DIFFERENT GREEK WORDS** for **“THE WORD OF GOD”**.

1. **GRAPHE... The WRITTEN WORD of GOD**

a. The **BIBLE**

b. The **WORD of GOD** in **WRITTEN FORM**

c. **2 Timothy 3:16 (NASB)** All **Scripture** (“**Graphe**”) is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2. The **GRAPHE** is the **GRAPHE WHETHER** we **OPEN** it, **READ** it, or **LEAVE IT** on the **SHELF**.

C. **LOGOS... The UNDERSTANDING of the WRITTEN WORD of GOD (GRAPHE).**

1. **John 1:1 (NASB)** In the beginning was the **Word (LOGOS)**, and the **Word (LOGOS)** was **with God**, and **the Word (LOGOS) was God**.

a. **“The WORD”** here is translated **LOGOS**

2. God uses the **LOGOS** (the **UNDERSTANDING of THE WORD**) to cut through our **thoughts**, our **habits**, and our **strongholds** in order to **REMOVE THEIR INFLUENCE OVER US...** so the **SPIRIT** can have **CONTROL**.

D. **RHEMA... Is SPEAKING OUT LOUD the “WRITTEN WORD of GOD” (LOGOS).**

1. In **Ephesians 6:17** the **WORD** Paul uses for **“THE WORD of GOD”** is **RHEMA...** the **SPOKEN “WORD of GOD”**.

2. **Ephesians 6:17 (NASB)** And **take** THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is **the word of God (RHEMA)**.

3. **RHEMA** Is a **SPECIFIC ORAL DECLARATION** regarding our **UNDERSTANDING** of the **WORD of GOD**.

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E. **JESUS OVERCAME Satan with THE WORD of GOD... the RHEMA, the SPOKEN WORD of GOD.**

1. **QUESTION... Are WE USING THE WORD of GOD (the SPOKEN WORD of GOD) to make Satan LEAVE US ALONE?**
2. **IT IS FOOLISH FOR ANY CHRISTIAN to have KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESS to THE FULL ARMOR of GOD... BUT NOT USE IT TO LIVE A VICTORIOUS LIFE.**

F. **THE POINT OF THIS SECTION IS... FOR US TO LEARN TO SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD (LOGOS) OUT LOUD TO OUR COMMON ENEMY, SATAN!!!**

2. **REVIEW of SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

A. The **FIRST PRINCIPLE of SPIRITUAL WARFARE**:

1. **IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE... whatever is ATTACKING us today in the PHYSICAL REALM is EMANATING from the SPIRITUAL REALM.**
2. **IF we do NOT ADDRESS THE CAUSE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE, WE WILL NEVER GET TO THE CURE FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE!**
3. The devil wants us to **FORGET ABOUT THE CAUSE**.
4. He wants us to **CONTINUE to BELIEVE THAT**...
 - a. our **spouse**,
 - b. our **boss**,
 - c. that **co-worker**
 - d. that **friend**,
 - e. that **drink**,
 - f. that **drug**,
 - g. that **emotion**,
 - h. or even **ourselves... ARE THE PROBLEM**.

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- i. **ALL of these (and more) MAY be MANIFESTATIONS OF THE PROBLEM, BUT NONE are the ROOT CAUSE... The BATTLE BEGINS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.**
5. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NASB) 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,**
- B. **IF we DESIRE to WALK in VICTORY, we MUST ADDRESS the PHYSICAL in a SPIRITUAL MANNER.**
 1. Paul gives us the SECRET for HOW we can do this.
 2. **After INSTRUCTING us to PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR of GOD, he goes to the NEXT STEP in the PROCESS of BATTLING IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE when he says:**
 3. **Ephesians 6:18 (NASB) 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,**
3. **PRAYER**
 - A. Paul **PURPOSELY CHOSE to EMPHASIZE PRAYER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS INSTRUCTIONS ON TAKING UP THE ARMOR OF GOD.**
 - B. The **TRUTH** is that **VERY FEW** of us actually **UNDERSTAND PRAYER.**
 1. When we **TRULY UNDERSTAND PRAYER**, that **UNDERSTANDING CHANGES...**
 - a. **how we live,**
 - b. **how we pray**
 - c. **what we pray,**
 - d. **when we pray,**
 - e. **whether or not we pray,**

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- f. as well as the EXPECTATIONS we have ABOUT PRAYER.
2. For many people, even some Christians, PRAYER is like the NATIONAL ANTHEM BEFORE a SPORTING EVENT.
 - a. IT GET'S THE GAME STARTED... BUT has ABSOLUTELY NO RELEVANCE TO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN ON THE FIELD.
- C. PRAYER for too many of us is merely a HABIT.
 1. For EXAMPLE: When MANY of us PRAY BEFORE WE EAT, we don't really UTILIZE OUR MINDS as we're PRAYING...
 - a. We just say the SAME GENERAL THINGS each time.
 2. Or when MANY of us PRAY BEFORE GOING TO BED at night,
 - a. We simply RECITE a CALL FOR BLESSING and PROTECTION with a little bit of GRATITUDE thrown in for good measure.
 - 1) "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take."
 - i. NOOOO!!
 - ii. Matthew 6:5-7 (NASB) WRITTEN IN RED... "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you. "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.
 - iii. AND THEN WE USE THE MODEL OF HOW TO PRAY (THE LORD'S PRAYER) INTO ROTE PRAYER!!
 1. THE VERY THING JESUS SAID NOT TO DO!
 3. PRAYER has become a ROUTINE for many of us.
 - a. Another way to look at it is that PRAYER has become like a SPARE TIRE...

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- 1) We want it there **IN CASE WE REALLY NEED IT**.
- 2) **BUT**, we too often we want it **OUT OF THE WAY** where we don't have to deal with it or see it.

D. Simply defined, **PRAYER is EARTHLY PERMISSION for HEAVENLY INTERFERENCE.**

1. **QUESTION?... "WHAT... WHY do I have to GIVE HEVEN PERMISSION to do ANYTHING down here?"**

- a. That's a **DIFFICULT QUESTION**, but it can be summarized by looking at **HOW GOD DESIGNED THE WORLD TO FUNCTION**:
- b. When **GOD CREATED** the heavens and the earth and placed **mankind on it**, He said...
- c. **Genesis 1:26 (NASB)** Then God said, "Let **Us** make **man** in Our image, according to Our likeness; **and let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and **over all the earth**, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

2. **NOTE: God CHOSE to GIVE MANKIND RULERSHIP over the EARTH.**

- a. In doing so, He has done **TWO** things
 - 1) **FIRST**, He has given mankind the **OPTION of LEAVING HIM OUT**.
The first chapter of Romans summarizes **the results of what happens when God is left out**.
 - 2) **Romans 1:21-32 (NASB)**
²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore, **God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity**, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason, **God gave them over to degrading passions**; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function

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of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, **God gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

3) The **SECOND** thing He's done is **GIVEN MANKIND** the **OPTION** of **CALLING ON HIM** to **JOIN IN** on the **RULERSHIP** He has **WILLINGLY GIVEN US**.

3. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING... BUT MANY TIMES HE DOES NOT ACT** simply because **HE HAS NOT BEEN REQUESTED TO ACT**.
4. **BUT... WHEN we go to God IN PRAYER and ASK FOR HIS DIVINE INTERVENTION BASED ON...**
 - a. His **WORD**,
 - b. His **TRUTH**,
 - c. His **WILL**,
 - d. His **PROMISES**,
 - e. and His **CHARACTER**,
 - f. He **INTERVENES IN RESPONSE TO...**
 - 1) **HIS WILL**,
 - 2) **OUR FAITH**,
 - 3) **OUR DESIRE FOR HIM**,
 - 4) **OUR SUBMISSION TO HIM**, and
 - 5) **OUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUR NEED FOR HIM**.

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5. **OR... WE CAN CHOOSE TO LEAVE HIM OUT... HE'S GIVEN US THAT OPTION!**
 - a. We can **ACT INDEPENDENTLY OF GOD ALL DAY LONG.**
 - b. **OR... we can bring him into OUR CIRCUMSTANCES and SITUATIONS and watch Him show up in ways we've never even imagined.**
 - c. **THAT IS DONE THROUGH PRAYER.**
- E. **REMEMBER: PRAYER CAN NEVER FORCE GOD TO DO ANYTHING.**
 1. We can **NEVER MAKE GOD...**
 - a. **DO ANYTHING OUTSIDE HIS WILL.**
 - b. Do something He didn't **INTEND** to do or **PLAN** to do.
 - c. **EVEN IF** you **prayed all day long, every day,** God is **NOT** a puppet on our prayer-string.
 - d. **THE PRAYER THAT NEVER FAILS... "IN YOUR WILL" ... "NOT MY WILL, BUT YOUR WILL BE DONE"!**
 2. **BUT... WHEN OUR PRAYER calls on God to INTERVENE IN WAYS that He has ALREADY DECLARED IN HIS WORD OR HIS CHARACTER THAT HE WILL DO... HE WILL ANSWER.**
 - a. **IF... THAT PRAYER IS IN HIS WILL.**
 - b. **"YOUR WILL BE DONE"**
 - c. **He's just WAITING FOR US TO ASK HIM.**
 - d. **James 5:13-16 (NASB)** Is anyone among you suffering? *Then he must pray.* Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? *Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him,* anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and *the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick,* and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. **The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.**

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- F. James begins by giving a **CONDITION** for **HEALING TO OCCUR**, and
1. That **CONDITION** is **PRAYER**.
 2. Following that **CONDITION**, James makes a **general statement** that **MUCH** will be accomplished through the **FEVERENT PRAYER** of a **RIGHTEOUS** person.
 - a. He **DOES NOT** say that only a **LITTLE** will be **accomplished**.
 - b. He doesn't even say that **SOME THINGS** will be **accomplished**.
 - c. James clearly says that **MUCH WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED** through the **effective prayer of a RIGHTEOUS person**.
 3. **"BUT** Rusty, I'm **NOT** what most people would consider a **RIGHTEOUS PERSON**."
 - a. I hear you... **NONE** of us can claim to be **PERFECT**.
 - b. **B U T**... I want to remind you that when we discussed the **BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS**, we said that **JESUS CHRIST IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS** that **GOD SEES IN US... WHEN** we, by **FAITH**, access, receive, and walk in **HIS GRACE**.

4. QUESTIONS and COMMENTS

SPEAKING GOD'S WORD (RHEMA) INTO SPIRITUAL BATTLES

1. **SPEAKING GOD'S WORD INTO OUR TRIALS, TEMPTATIONS, AND SPIRITUAL BATTLES**

A. If you are **A CHRISTIAN**, you **NEED** to **KNOW**:

1. **YOU ARE GOING TO FACE TEMPTATION...**

a. You are **NOT IMMUNE TO FACING TEMPTATION...** no one is.

2. It's **NOT** a matter of **WHETHER** it will happen it is simply a matter of **WHEN**.

B. **FROM THE VERY BEGINNING**, with the first two people (**Adam and Eve**) who ever lived, Satan **HAS BEEN USING TEMPTATION TO TRY TO DESTROY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND HUMANS**.

1. Therefore, as a general rule, **WHEN WE ARE TEMPTED**, look for the exit.

a. God has **PROMISED** he will provide **A WAY of ESCAPE** so we can **"STAND"** and **NOT** give in to the **TEMPTATION**.

b. **1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.**

c. That **"WAY OF ESCAPE" IS** the **RHEMA**, the **SPOKEN WORD of GOD**.

C. **COMMON TEMPTATIONS:**

1. **FEAR**

a. **LIES:**

1) **I CAN'T...**

i. Overcome alcohol, expect a good marriage, I'm a failure, start a business, follow God...

2) **GOD WON'T...**

i. Help me, forgive me, hear me...

3) **NOBODY CARES...**

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- i. God cares, people care...

4) I DON'T MATTER...

- i. We matter to God... not because of what we do, but because of Whose we are

5) IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME...

- i. No... the feeling of guilt should prompt us to repentance... **NOT** helplessness.

b. TRUTH:

- 1) **Philippians 4:13 (NASB)** I can do **all things** through **Him** who strengthens
- 2) me.
- 3) **Lamentations 3:22-23 (NASB)** The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. *They* are **new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.**
- 4) **Psalms 23:4 (NASB)** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- 5) **Psalms 34:4 (NASB)** I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.
- 6) **2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NASB)** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline.

c. APPLICATION...

2. **MONEY**

- a. **LIE**: Your fulfillment in life is tied to how much you have.
- b. **TRUTH**: **1 Timothy 6:10 (NASB)** For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

c. APPLICATION...

3. **PRIDE**

- a. **LIE #1**: Don't admit your struggle because people will look down on you. You need to seem like you have it all together.

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- b. **LIE #2:** Look at how wonderful you are, and all that you have done with your hands. People should be praising you.
 - c. **TRUTH: 1 Peter 5:5c (NASB)** for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.
 - d. **TRUTH: Proverbs 16:18 (NASB)** Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.
 - e. **APPLICATION...**
4. **SEX**
- a. **LIE:** I can look and flirt with it, as long as I don't indulge.
 - b. **TRUTH: 1 Corinthians 6:18 (NASB)** Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.
 - c. **APPLICATION...**
5. **ENVY**
- a. **LIE:** I'm better than that person. The only reason they got that is because... (You can fill in the rest).
 - b. **TRUTH: Exodus 20:17 (NASB)** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."
 - c. **APPLICATION...**
6. **LUST**
- a. **LIE:** You see it. You want it. You can have it.
 - b. **TRUTH: 1 John 2:16 (NASB)** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
 - c. **APPLICATION...**
7. **ANGER**
- a. **LIE:** There isn't anything wrong with a little righteous indignation.

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- b. **TRUTH:** **James 1:19-20 (NASB)** *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.
- c. **APPLICATION...**