

# Praying for Nations: How to Win the War

## *A Guide for NK Prayer Leaders*

### The Bad News: It's Not Easy

Praying for a nation like North Korea is serious business. Think about it. The principalities and powers ruling over North Korea are keeping millions of people locked in bondage, including tens of thousands of Christians. We should not approach such a task lightly, presumptuously or with a cocky attitude. Such attitudes of the heart are a sure road to spiritual derailment. Spiritual warfare is real! Spiritual forces – i.e. demonic principalities -- are real! We can pray for a country half way around the world, and experience spiritual attacks, even severe ones, in our home as a direct result.

I have experienced greater spiritual attacks in my life since becoming involved in prayer for NK. I have also witnessed Christians get blindsided by such attacks because they were ill prepared for them. The attacks come in a variety of forms – temptations, morally compromising situations, attacks on the thought life, severe discouragement or depression, accidents or near accidents, illnesses, and other calamities. A spiritual power that moves in a nation to murder all known Christians has no qualms about attempting to bring calamity in your own life.

### The Good News: We Can Win!

I do not bring up these issues to bring fear into our lives. I firmly believe the Word of God which tells us that the one in us is greater than “he who is in the world”! Satan is simply a created creature, while God ALONE is the creator. But contrary to what people say, our enemy is not a “lion with no teeth”. He does have teeth, as the suffering of our brothers and sisters in NK proves to us. HOWEVER, if we walk under the authority of Christ, we have authority over our enemy just as Christ did. We can shut the mouth of the “roaring lion” just as Daniel did.

### How to Win

What does it mean to be under the authority of Christ? In a general sense we all are under that authority when we choose to come to Christ and let him live in our hearts, however, we may still not walk in the fullness of that authority. So how can we walk in the fullness of Jesus' authority? Here are a few principles:

1. Know that Jesus Himself has all authority. Jesus said, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**” (Matt 28:18). God the Father has given Jesus this authority, and it is complete! When he walked on the earth people marveled that “even the evil spirits” obeyed him! (Mark 1:27) When He was raised from the dead, He proved that He had authority even over death!
2. Understand that Jesus has can delegate His authority. Luke 9:1 & Mark 6:7 both tell us that Jesus gave authority to his disciples, and when He did they were able to walk in the same authority as He did.

**“And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.” (Luke 9:1)**

3. Understand that Jesus has delegated His authority to you. In Luke 10:19, Jesus said, **“Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.”** (*italics mine*). Jesus has said he has given us authority **“over all the power of the enemy”**. We can stand on and believe this word without fear.
4. Recognize you are fighting principalities not people. Scripture tells us:

**“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6:12)**

Our opponent in spiritual warfare is not Kim Jong Il or the NK government; instead it is the demonic forces that are keeping NK in bondage. Do not focus on human agents as your enemy, but focus on the demonic strongholds behind them.

5. Respond in the opposite spirit. When facing sin, our first reaction is to respond in like kind. If others are critical of us, it is hard to resist the temptation to be critical of them. When praying for a nation, such as NK, whose regime is practicing evil, our natural reaction is to become angry, and suddenly we find ourselves being motivated out of hate rather than love. As a prayer leader, you *will* find yourself tempted at times to respond in the same spirit as the principalities ruling NK. We must train ourselves in our prayers and in our hearts to respond in the opposite spirit.

<b><i>Spirit holding NK in Bondage</i></b>	<b><i>Opposite Spirit to Respond in</i></b>
Unforgiveness & Bitterness	Forgiveness
Hatred	Love
Fear	Faith
Despair	Hope
Cruelty	Mercy
Arrogance	Humility
Moral Compromise	Transparency

**“Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord. “BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:19-21)**

6. Begin with Personal Repentance. It’s easy to look at another’s sin, and be blind to the very same sin in our own lives. Do you become angry at the apparent arrogance of the NK leaders, and yet fail to recognize the arrogance your own culture may have toward others? Do you pray asking God to grant NK repentance, and yet have

unrepentant areas in your own life? If so, be warned, Satan will take advantage of this.

Think of it this way: I, as an intercessor, am fighting a war against the evil that rules NK. But what if I have the same spirit operating in my own heart – say, hatred? The hatred can be likened to an enemy agent that I am letting live with me in my house. As you pray for North Korea, ask God to search your own heart for the same areas of sin. Do not allow the sin of self-righteousness and spiritual pride to enter your heart. Let the Holy Spirit search your heart daily for sin – hatred, fear, cruelty, pride, unforgiveness. Resist the temptation to say “I have only a little of these things. It’s not a big deal.” Sin is sin. When you become aware of them in your life, however “small” they seem to you, confess them, and ask God to cleanse you.

**“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”** (2 Chron 2:14, emphasis mine,)

7. Walk in Forgiveness. You are going to need to walk in forgiveness. If you learn the reality of what is *really* happening in NK, you *will* have moments of passionately hating Kim Jong Il, other NK leaders, NK soldiers and prison guards, Chinese government officials, Chinese soldiers, sex traffickers, and others who are oppressing the people of NK.

**“But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”** (Matt 6:15)

**“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.”** (Luke 6:27-28)

**“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”** (Romans 12:14)

8. Walk in Humility. You don’t have to be a spiritual giant to be used mightily as a prayer leader for NK. If you will respond to His call as Gideon did, fully aware of your own weaknesses, and yet willing to obey and to “go in the strength that you have” (Judges 6:14 NIV), then God will answer and move mightily to answer you!

**“All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.”**