

Theme: How to Cultivate The Miraculous In The Local Church
Topic: The Force of Prayer

I. To Fight Against Our Enemy

Matthew 13:24-28 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'..." (NIV)

A. The Devil Is The Believer's Number One Enemy, And The Bible Warns Us Against Him:

1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (NIV)

B. Why Is He So Determined On Seeing You Fail?

Isaiah 5:1-2 I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ²He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well... (NIV)

Psalms 92:13-14 ...planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green... (NIV)

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (NIV)

II. Arise! And Fight Him

Psalms 68:1 May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him. (NIV)

A. Satan Was Blocking Our Access To Results In Ministry

Matthew 17:20-21 ...Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

B. The Three Forces Outlined For Victory Are Faith, Prayer and Fasting

1 John 5:4 ...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. (NIV)

III. What Prayer Does

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...

A. It Provokes Help From Above

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Psalms 127:1 Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Acts 26:22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

Psalms 60:11-12 Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.

2 Chronicles 26:1, 5, 7 Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah. ⁵And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper. ⁷And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gurbaal, and the Mehunims.

Isaiah 41:10-13 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ¹¹“All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. ¹²Though you search for your enemies, you will not find them. Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. ¹³For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. (NIV)

Psalms 56:9 Then my enemies will turn back when I call for help. By this I will know that God is for me. (NIV)

B. It Brings God's Mercy

Hebrews 4:16 “...That we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Lamentations 3:22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

C. It Brings Angelic Intervention

Acts 12:5-8,11 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. ⁶And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. ⁷And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. ⁸And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. ¹¹And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

D. It Brings Deliverance From Afflictions

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

Psalms 125:3 For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.