

# Not Against Flesh & Blood

A stone statue of an angel with large, feathered wings, holding a sword, set against a cloudy sky. The angel is depicted in a standing pose, looking upwards and to the right. The wings are spread wide, and the sword is held in the right hand, pointing downwards. The statue appears to be made of a light-colored stone, possibly marble or limestone, and shows signs of weathering and age. The background is a dramatic, cloudy sky with varying shades of grey and white.

***A Seven Week Series on Spiritual Warfare  
Week Three: Prayer as Holy Resistance***

# Not Against Flesh & Blood

1. Creation & Chaos
2. Cruciformed Sovereignty
- 3. Prayer as Holy Resistance**
4. Prayer in Imagination
5. Sword of the Spirit
6. Worship as Warfare
7. Hell Will Not Prevail

Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
**[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)**

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,  
but against the rulers, against the authorities,  
against the powers of this dark world and against  
the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Paul, Ephesians 6:12 NIV

“The Devil is not a peripheral concept that can easily be discarded without doing violence to the essence of Christianity. He stands at the center of the New Testament teaching that the Kingdom of God is at war with, and is now at last defeating, the Kingdom of the Devil.”

Jeffrey Burton Russell, *The Devil: Perceptions of Evil From Antiquity to Primitive Christianity*







## **James 4:7-8 NIV**

**7** Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Come near to God and he will come near to you.

## **Daniel 10:1-3 NIV**

**1** In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

**2** At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks.

**3** I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

## **Daniel 10:4-6 NIV**

**4** On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, **5** I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.

**6** His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.



## **Daniel 10:7-9 NIV**

**7** I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. **8** So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. **9** Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

## **Daniel 10:10-11 NIV**

**10** A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. **11** He said, “Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

## Daniel 10:12-14 NIV

**12** Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. **13** But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. **14** Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”

“...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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” **1 Chronicles 7:14 NIV**



## Jesus, Matthew 5:5-8 NLT

5 “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites...

6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

7 “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as people of other religions [pagans] do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again.

8 Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

## Jesus, Matthew 5:9-13 NLT

**9** Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be kept holy.

**10** May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.

**11** Give us today the food we need,

**12** and forgive us our sins,

as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

**13** And don't let us yield to temptation,  
but rescue us from the evil one [Satan].

“Living as a Christian means living in the world as it's been reshaped by and around Jesus and his Spirit. And that means that Christian prayer is a different kind of thing—different both from the prayer of the pantheist, getting in touch with the inwardness of nature, and that of the Deist, sending out messages across a lonely emptiness.

Christian prayer is about standing at the fault line, being shaped by the Jesus who knelt in Gethsemane, groaning in travail, holding heaven and earth together like someone trying to tie two pieces of rope with people tugging at the other ends to pull them apart.”

N.T. Wright, *Simply Christian* (pg.164)

## Luke 18:1-5 NIV

1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

2 He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.

3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

4 “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”



## **Luke 18:6-8 NIV**

**6** And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. **7** And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

**8** I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

## **Jesus, Matthew 7:9-11 NIV**

**9** “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? **10** Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? **11** If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

## **Mark 9:17-18 NLT**

**17** One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, “Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk. **18** And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”

## **Mark 9:26-29 NLT**

**26** Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, “He’s dead.”

**27** But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.

**28** Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, “Why couldn’t we cast out that evil spirit?” **29** Jesus replied, “This kind can be cast out only by prayer.”



“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Paul, Ephesians 6:18 NIV

## James 5:13-16 NIV

**13** Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

**14** Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

**15** And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. **16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

# Prayer as Holy Resistance—A *Summary*

- Spiritual evil requires spiritual warfare in prayer
- Our impulse to fight should be exercised in prayer
- We have the ability to resist evil influences and the powers that seek to exploit weaknesses
- A delayed response to our prayers could be the result of a number of different unseen factors
- The *aim* of our prayers is to bring heaven to earth, to call down the Kingdom in the present evil age
- Persistent resistance through prayer changes things

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