

# **Singapore - spiritual warfare from the tower**

**Rev Jim Smith**

**jimsmithghana@yahoo.co.uk  
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**The Singapore tower is a warrior tower. Those who intercede within it and from it must understand many things, including the spiritual battle in which they are involved. This material gives some idea of that battle and how to wage it.**

## **Introduction**

**“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)**

The spiritual battle rages all the time. it never stops, as this young priest discovered -

*A priest came to begin work in a town, and he was called out to see a sick member of his church. To his astonishment, when he met the person, a strange voice addressed him. It said, “We are in charge of this town.” The priest had never experienced such a thing before, but he found the right response. “No you are not. We are going to preach about the blood of Jesus.” There was a pause, and then the strange voice replied “We know. That is what we are afraid of.”*

Intercessors must be constantly alert with weapons ready or they will be overwhelmed by a battle which never stops. What is the battle? What are the weapons? How are they to be used? Every spiritual soldier needs to know the answers to these questions.

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## **The battle**

**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. (Ephesians 6:12)**

### **The spiritual battle – it's origins**

**Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." (Matthew 4:1-3)**

The spiritual battle will come to God's people - into lives, into homes, into work and families. Here is why -

#### **1. Satan was thrown out of heaven**

**War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:7-10)**

When Satan was thrown out of heaven and landed on the earth the battle began.

#### **2. He was determined to reclaim his position**

**Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1)**

Satan couldn't wait to fight his way back into the Kingdom from which he had been ejected. He began to fight in Genesis chapter 3 and he continued during the ministry Jesus -

**Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give you if you will fall down and worship me." (Matthew 4:8-9)**

#### **3. To do this he has to chain humanity**

**It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.**

(Revelation 13:16-17) This chaining of humanity would prove that he has the power over creation and would give him his way back to heaven.

#### **4. To do this he has to destroy the only group which knows his plans – the church**

**But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison. (Acts 8:3)**

Satan must destroy the church first, because the church is the only group that knows his true plans and purposes. The key to his destructive plan is to break the intercessory stream because he knows what prayer can do -

**During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them. (Exodus 2:23-25)**

#### **Spiritual battle - it's a long struggle against a disciplined enemy**

**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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.**  
(Ephesians 6:10-12)

There are no quick victories in this war. This is a long hard battle against a relentless enemy. It is, as Paul writes, a struggle (Greek - "wrestling.") and a long one. It is a spiritual struggle, although it will often reveal itself in the earthy places - in lives, bodies and families of those who fight.

There is no truce. "The thief comes to kill." (John 10:10) The enemy is strong and well organized, using the systems of this world against the church and evil dark powers in the spiritual world - **"But against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world."**

This is not a game. It is war and demands well trained and determined warriors, willing to give all for the Lord and the struggle.

#### **Spiritual battle - the fight touches the heart and mind**

**Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:39-42)**

The spiritual battle is fought out in the hearts and minds of those who fight. These things are the marks of the battleground -

\* **Doubt:** "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." (John 20:25)

\* **Deceit:** “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” (Genesis 3:1)

\* **Lies:** “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44)

\* **Death:** Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus. (Mark 3:6)

In the end, it comes down to a battle of wills, and often the very existence of those who pray is threatened. This is the only defence -

**“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”** (Mark 14:36)

### **Spiritual battle – it is tough and dangerous**

Apostle Paul makes this clear -

**I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move.**

**I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.**

**I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.** (2 Corinthians 11:23-28)

God calls the toughest soldiers to the toughest tasks, and spiritual warfare is one of the toughest, because it brings those who pray into direct opposition to dark spiritual powers. This is to be expected. God’s people need determination, endurance, and protection. Another old breastplate prayer offers this protection -

### **Spiritual battle - it is active**

**Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.** (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Many Intercessors miss this point. The enemy is prowling around - moving from place to place looking for prey. It is not a static battlefield, but one which is very active and mobile. The enemy switches his attack and those who pray must be quick to switch attack as well, or they will end up fighting an empty space. One older intercessor, put it like this -

*To cling to God and the things of God - this must be our major effort and this must be the road the heart follows unswervingly.*

## **What can towers intercessors do?**

The weapons of spiritual warfare have not changed since the fight began.

### **1. 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.”** (Ephesians 6:18)

Prayer is the oldest weapon and one of the most effective weapons. All those who fight must remember that it is prayer and prayer alone which changes things. It the weapon and the strong defence. One old Intercessor put it like this -

*“Prayer is the indestructible wall of the church, the unconquerable fortress which terrifies the demons and protects us in the way of righteousness.”*

Prayer is hard work. Its motivation and inspiration come from the Spirit moving in the prayer warrior. The Holy Spirit promises to help.

**The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.** (Romans 8:26)

### **2. Authority**

**For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.** (2 Corinthians 10: 3-4)

The church must fight with the certainty of victory. Jesus is the stronger one who has overcome the strong man. Jesus made this clear -

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.” (Matthew 12: 25-29)

Apostle Paul said this -

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37-39)

### 3. The power to overcome

In the end the enemy has to be faced. David gives a good pattern here -

David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.” (1 Samuel 17:45-47)

There is no greater name (Philippians 2:9-11) than the Lord’s name and it needs to be proclaimed as often as possible. Satan is a defiler, an invader, a thief and a liar. (John 10:10) He is entitled to no respect. Satan never recognises his defeat. He is a dangerous opponent but was defeated at Calvary. This defeat will be finally established at the return of the Lord. There is no doubt about who is the winner and who is the loser.

Power belongs to God, and as that power is released, so God establishes his victory. Those who pray are the agents by which that victory is established. **“The battle is the Lord’s battle.”** There is great strength in these words. They strengthen the soul in the intensity of the battle. It is his battle - one in which he has already earned his victory at Calvary.

### 4. Love

**“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”** (1 John 4:10)

Victory is won by the power of love, not the power of aggression or anger. Those who fight in prayer have to be firm, but firm in the victory of love. Many warriors do not understand this. They shout and rave! The danger here is that they begin to pray in their own strength. If they do that, they will be ineffective and in danger. Paul said it - "Love never fails."

## 5. Plead the blood

**"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." (1 Peter 1:18)**

One older Intercessor put it like this - *To enjoy the victory that is ours in the Lord, we must be clothed with truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace and the helmet of salvation – all given us freely at no price, having been purchased by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

This is where warriors must begin with the blood -

**"Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel." (Hebrews 12:24)**

The blood of Jesus breaks the power of sin by his blood shed on the cross. It "speaks" – challenging Satan's power -

**Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (Hebrews 2:14-15)**

## 6. Spiritual weapons

**The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:4)**

One old Intercessor added this - *"We must be well equipped with the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. We must not neglect the communications link with the command-and-control centre through the practice of unceasing prayer."*

There are many weapons available. Paul lists some -

**"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:14-17)**

**Belt of truth.** This is easy to understand, since Satan is said to be the “father of lies”. Those who pray must put on truth for their own sanctification and deliverance.

**Breastplate of righteousness.** A breastplate shielded a warrior’s vital organs from blows that would otherwise be fatal. Warriors must on the righteousness of Christ, received by faith, which guards their hearts against the accusations and charges of Satan and secures their innermost being from his attacks.

**Feet.** In warfare, sometimes an enemy puts dangerous obstacles in the path of advancing soldiers. Warriors must advance into Satan's territory with the message of grace as a secure foundation.

**The shield of faith.** Faith in the Lord is like a shield, precious, solid, and substantial.

**The helmet of salvation.** The helmet is protection for the head. The head is the seat of the mind, where God’s people hold the truths of faith in the Lord.

**The sword of the Spirit.** While all the other pieces of spiritual armour are defensive in nature, this one is the only offensive weapon in the armour of God. It speaks of the holiness and power of the Word of God.

Paul adds this, and it is easily overlooked –

**“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 saints”** (Ephesians 6:18).

The old intercessor again said this - *“In a battle environment with constantly changing fronts, any soldier that is not in continuous contact with the centre is doomed. God guarantees the link and frequency but the choice to keep the line switched on is the individuals. Similarly, we must not neglect the strength and support derivable from being in communication and fellowship from fellow soldiers.*

## **7. Worship**

**“Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever.”** (Revelation 4:9-10)

Heaven is full of worship, and in the spiritual battle, God’s praying people must be full of powerful worship. This was true at Antioch, where the Spirit spoke to the leaders while they were worshipping. What does worship do?

\* Worship brings closeness and knowledge of God.

\* Worship brings warriors into the heavenly places, and then to the throne of God.

\* Worship tunes warriors into the worship of heaven and gives encouragement and strength which flows from the presence of God.

\* Worship helps warriors move into the flow of the Spirit - "Then the angel showed me the river of water of life, as clear as crystal flowing from the throne of God and from the lamb." (Revelation 22:1)

Within this worship, warriors are established again in the victory of the cross of Jesus -

**"He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the written code with all its regulations that was against us and stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."** (Colossians2: 13-15)

**"Now has come the salvation and the power and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night has been hurled down."** (Revelation.12:10-11)

Within worship, God speaks through the prophets, and prepares a way for the preaching of the word of God. The Church at Antioch worshipped, and their hearts were prepared to hear from God about the direction of the Church.

Many who want to fight the spiritual battle are not aware of what they're up against. it's time to take a deeper look into the spiritual world.