

Four Keys To Stop Enemy Attacks

By Paul D. Norcross

God bless you in His power and majesty this day in the name of our King, Jesus Christ! Having just returned from ministering to God's precious saints in Romania, let me say it this way – Domnul sava bine coventeza!!

God is so good to us! We can't help but praise Him for His mighty hand to intervene on behalf of His people. How often we are tempted to do even Godly things our own way (just like Cain's sacrifice) instead of His way. But when we stop and seek His counsel, and obey it, there is no end to His marvelous solutions and blessings. Hallelujah!

While in Romania last month, Brother Ed Johnson and I were invited to teach at a Christian Policemen's conference. The Lord stirred some things in my heart at that conference that I believe are valuable for all of us as we continue to live for Jesus Christ in these times of increasing spiritual pressure, and worldly instability. Jesus' answer to worldly pressures is very simple – ...be of good cheer, I have overcome the world (John 16:33b).

How wonderful it is to know that our Lord and Savior has the answer to every situation we face (I Corinthians 10:13). Our privilege is to pursue Him to find those answers, and in the course of doing so, we learn to live by faith, and not by sight.

As I considered the life of a Christian policeman who lives with constant danger, the Lord led me to share the following four keys to stop enemy attacks quickly. I would like to share them with you because they are powerful and necessary for the days ahead.

Key No. 1 PRAISE STILL THE AVENGER

In Matthew 21:16 we learn that out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, He has perfected praise. This verse is a quote from Psalm 8:2 wherein it is translated a little differently:

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

The enemy of God's people is the devil. He is the avenger, the one who continually seeks to destroy God's people. He seeks to steal, kill, and destroy your blessings that come from God. Praise is one of the **first** keys in defeating demonic attacks. Why? Because praise to God shuts up and foils (stills) the avenger's attack.

You see, praising God in the midst of an attack triggers God's supply of supernatural strength. I Peter 5:6 and 7 associates submitting to God (via humility in such things as praise) with not only resisting the devil and causing him to flee, but also in God pouring out more grace (divine favor) to us.

Praise stills the avenger. Have you developed the ability to praise God when the going gets tough? If not, a good place to start is to read several Psalms **out loud** to acquire a good praise vocabulary. Merlin Caruther's classic book, *Prison To Praise*, is also a great help. And don't forget, speaking in tongues is the most powerful, perfect praise there is. Five minutes or so of loud speaking in tongues changes the entire atmosphere! What do you think an hour or two of aggressive speaking in tongues (perfect prayer – Romans 8:26) will do to permanently change your situation? Come on church, let's get serious about this stuff! The Apostle Paul didn't say "I'm glad I speak in tongues more than ye all" for no reason!

Key No. 2 **USE THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST**

Philippians 2:10-11 declares that at the name of Jesus Christ, every knee must bow, and everything in heaven, in the earth, and under the earth must bow to the name of Jesus Christ. Now hear this – every Christian has the full right to use the name of Jesus Christ. Never is the Christian to be held hostage to the power of the devil. Colossians 1:13 tells us that we have been rescued out from under the power (literally "the exercised authority") of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear son, Jesus Christ.

In Romania last Spring I experienced a dramatic example of power in using the name of Jesus Christ. Our team was driving through the city of Sibiu in the central mountain region. Suddenly our car stopped working, so we coasted into a side street. While diagnosing the problem in the middle of the street, a few cars made their way around us. But one of them stopped. That driver got out of his car and began yelling at our driver. In typical Romanian fashion, he yelled back. Face-to-face, they shouted at each other for a few moments, and then the antagonist spun around and walked to his car. We thought he was going to drive off, but instead he retrieved a hatchet from his car and ran after our driver!

I was off to the side talking with Pastor Carl Fox while this incident was taking place. When I saw the man swing the hatchet at our driver, I shouted "Stop in the name of Jesus Christ!" It was the first time I can remember using the name of Jesus Christ on impulse, without thinking. What happened next will always be a classic reminder to me of the power in that name. The man's hatchet hand was stopped in mid-swing. He could not move his hand! After another moment, he turned around and returned to his car.

But then his wife got in the fray. As the man began to get into his car, his angry wife got him riled up again. The murder spirits were again aroused, and he ran from his car to again attack our driver with the hatchet. Again in mid-swing, he was stopped, this time by Pastor Carl who yelled, "In the name of Jesus Christ, stop, and get out of here!" At that, the man's swing was again supernaturally arrested, and he spun around, got in his car, and drove off. Glory to God!

My point is this. The name of Jesus Christ has power to change your circumstances. At the name of Jesus Christ, every knee must bow. That means that every sin, sickness, disease, situation, and circumstance must bow when you use the name of Jesus Christ in faith. Do you believe this? For example, when your doctor prophesies a diagnosis (read that as a curse) upon you, are you going to take what he or she says as the final end of the story, or are you going to believe I Peter 2:24b (by His stripes you were healed)? What capacity you have previously built in your heart to first praise God, and then use the name of Jesus Christ to break the curse and supernaturally change your circumstance will either spell the victory, or permit defeat.

Key No. 3 KEEP YOUR CAMP HOLY

So often in Christian circles today we hear the phrase "Spiritual Warfare". It is certainly true that we are in a war that has been declared by the devil against all of God's people. But as often happens, doctrines become established from such catch-phrases which co-opt our ability to gain our victory in Christ. The modern notion of spiritual warfare is that if we yell loud enough at the devil, he will run away, or if we pray with particular fervency, our result will come faster.

The truth is, God honors faith, and faith alone (Hebrews 11:6). Short prayers of faith move the heart of God more than long prayers of high volume or complaining. When it comes to dealing with spiritual enemies, Deuteronomy 23:14 about says it all:

For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

The quality of our heart before God is paramount. This is why Ephesians 6 tells us simply to stand against the wiles of the devil. Standing does not mean simply "enduring". Standing means standing in the presence of God. This is how we become strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. We build our relationship with God by spending time in His presence, learning to listen to His voice, and enjoying His fellowship.

It is axiomatic that it is impossible to fellowship with the Father or with Jesus Christ if our hearts are preoccupied with sin, condemnation, pride, and disobedience, or anxiety. That's why praise is such a vital conditioner of the heart! The Lord taught me a long time ago that He doesn't need our praise. After all, Luke 19:36-40 tells us that He could make the stones cry out in praise to Him. But why He nevertheless requires praise is not for Him, but for us. Why? Because praise is what tunes our hearts to the right frequency to hear Him, and keep our hearts holy.

Think about it. The condition of your heart before the Lord enables Him to walk through your camp to deliver you, and give up your enemies before you.

II Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. If you like to have constant wars, by all means, neglect your personal appointments with Jesus Christ! But if you want to make the transition from

Egypt (the place of constant complaining)

to the wilderness (the place of refining through learning daily dependence on hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord)

to the Promised Land (of learning to overcome and fulfill your God-given destiny)

then you will have to learn to keep your camp holy, and your heart adjusted to hear and obey the Master's voice. And how wonderful it is when He fights your battles for you, often even before you know you are in a fire fight!

Key No. 4
REMEMBER THE COVENANT

The New Covenant, written in the blood of Jesus Christ, is God's Magna Carta for His people. In simple terms, it is God's iron-clad, promised objective for us. Just like He spelled out His intentions to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with a covenant, so has He spelled out contractual obligations to us (and us to Him) in the New Covenant. The terms of the New Covenant are taught in Hebrews 8 and 10. Briefly, they consist of the following. As you read them, consider this fact – God moved to deliver His people from Egypt when they remembered the covenant, not before.

There are three terms to the New Covenant:

1. He will be our God, and we will be His people
2. He will remember our sins and iniquities no more
3. He will write His word in the fleshly tables of our hearts

Sounds simple. Do you think if you remember the covenant, He will move to deliver you from your Egypt too? Do you think if you learn the lessons He tried to teach His people in the relatively benign laboratory of the wilderness (where they were insulated from enemies and could focus on learning to live by every word that proceeded from His mouth – Deuteronomy 8:3) that He will also teach you what you need to do to move into your Promised Land purpose? God's purpose for your life really is simple. It has everything to do with learning to depend upon Him, through learning to depend upon Jesus Christ.

This is the "why" of the third term of the covenant – that He will write His word in the fleshly table of our hearts. His word has a name – Jesus Christ. The Father will write Jesus Christ, the Living Word, into our hearts. It's talking about a living and personal relationship! Hallelujah! Jesus comes in to the degree we invite Him each day. That's what learning to live by every word that proceeds out of His mouth is all about. Take time to listen and cultivate your relationship with Him, and He really will direct your path, straight into your assigned territory in His Promised Land!

You see, Joshua 5:6 tells us that the reason all the men of war died was because they failed to hear and obey the voice of the Lord. It is not just an old Testament message, for John 10:27, Revelation 3:20, and Hebrews chapters 3 and 4, as well as 12:25 all underscore the vital necessity to learn to hear His voice. God teaches every one of His people how to hear. Consider how He taught Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and Elijah how to hear. Consider that every man and woman featured in Hebrews 11 learned how to hear His voice. Consider that he will teach you if you ask Him to. After all, He is no respecter of persons!

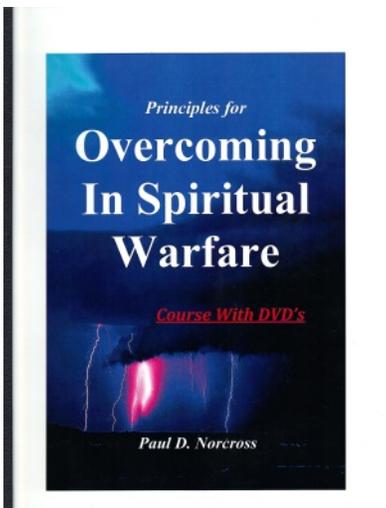
CONCLUSION

The Lord loves you so much. He is so willing and eager to build a personal relationship with you. He is so eager to launch you into fulfillment of your personal place of victory and blessing in your life and ministry. The cry of every heart is completely fulfilled in the comfort and joy in His presence, for this is the path of life (Psalm 16:11). So may these closing hours of the age be a time of great personal growth for you in your walk with the Head of the Church, our Friend, and our Redeemer. May His life poured out for you enable you to pour your life out for others. May the pursuit of bringing His Kingdom into every heart be yours as well. How wonderful it is to look forward to His return! How rewarding it is to be found doing His business, and not wallowing in our own swamps of defeat. You are God's precious inheritance, and a citizen of heaven. What an awesome time to be alive in His presence, and living for Him. May the Lord bless you in all His ways, and keep you safely standing upon the Rock, Jesus Christ.

We love you and praise God for your wonderful heart! Isus te iubeste (Jesus loves you!).

Praising Him with you,

Paul & Rita Norcross



For powerful help with topics in Spiritual Warfare including casting out spirits, and overcoming witchcraft you may also want to explore the DVD course *Principles For Overcoming In Spiritual Warfare*. Available in the bookstore at www.KingdomFaithMinistries.Org