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ME 780 Spiritual Warfare in Mission and Ministry

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN MISSION AND MINISTRY
Spring 2008

I. PURPOSE: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the place of spiritual warfare in mission and ministry. During the course topics such as the warfare perspective in scripture; the role of spiritual warfare in Christian history; warfare, worldview, and world religions; spiritual warfare in contemporary world mission; and the practice of ground level and strategic level spiritual warfare will be discussed. A wide variety of teaching methods (lectures, group discussion, videos, guest speakers, etc) will be used during class sessions.

II. OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course students will have:

A. Developed substantial biblical and theological foundations for the practice of spiritual warfare.

B. Reflected critically on theological issues related to the subject of spiritual warfare.

C. Been equipped with strategies and tools for engaging in the practice of spiritual warfare.

D. Been exposed to a reasonable range of literature related to spiritual warfare.

E. Recognized the importance of spiritual warfare in their personal lives and ministries, and in the life and mission of the church.

F. Grown in their love for God and their awareness of Christ’s victory over evil through their study of spiritual warfare.

III. TEXTS:

Neil Anderson, *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*
Clinton Arnold, *Three Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*
Gregory Boyd, *God at War*
Wesley Duewel, *Mighty Prevailing Prayer*
Charles Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*
Marguerite Kraft, *Understanding Spiritual Power*
Francis MacNutt, *Deliverance from Evil Spirits*
Russ Parker, *Healing Wounded History*
IV. REQUIREMENTS:

A. Regular class attendance (at least 90%).

B. Attend the Conference on Prayer led by Margaret Therkelsen in Estes Chapel, Thursday, February 21 (7-9 pm) and Friday, February 22 (9am-3 pm).

C. Participate in a small group that will engage both individually and corporately in a project related to intercessory prayer (our most important weapon in spiritual warfare). This project will be described in more detail on the first day of class. Each group will develop a corporate intercessory prayer covenant and will report to the class at the end of the semester concerning their experience in intercession. Groups will meet on a bi-weekly basis during class sessions.

D. A Journal (20% of grade) based primarily on your daily or weekly reading of Wesley Duewel’s *Mighty Prevailing Prayer* and your experiences of intercessory prayer for others. Include in your journal insights you are gaining about intercessory prayer from the text, attending the conference (see above), questions that are being raised in your mind, experiences you have had related to the practice of intercession, and prayers and reflections as to how this is affecting your own spiritual life. Your journal should include at least one entry for each week of the semester and should be at least 15 pages (double-spaced 12 font typed) in length. Your journal will be turned in for evaluation in the middle and at the end of the semester.

Each week of the semester you should read the assigned chapters in *Mighty Prevailing Prayer* as follows:

February 13-20. Chapters 1-3.
February 20-27. Chapters 4-6.
March 5-12. Chapters 10-12.
Turn Journal in on March 26.
April 23-30. Chapters 32-34.
April 30- May 7. Chapters 35-37.
May 7-14. Chapters 38-41.
May 14-21. Chapters 42-44.
Turn Journal in on May 21.
E. Write four 5-page papers related to the key content areas of the course. See below for due dates and descriptions of each paper (80%).

D. COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1 - Introduction. Spiritual Warfare in Scripture. February 13-March 12

In this module we will be seeking to answer the following questions: Why is there a increased interest among evangelical Christians worldwide in the subject of spiritual warfare? Why have evangelicals neglected this subject in the past? What Old Testament concepts and motifs are relevant to the subject of spiritual warfare? What important developments emerge during the intertestamental period? How does Jesus’ understanding of the Kingdom of God relate to spiritual warfare? How does the New Testament understand the role of Satan and demons? What is accomplished through the work of Christ in “destroying the works of the devil” (1 Jn 3:8)? What is the role of spiritual warfare in the advancement of the church as presented in the book of Acts? How do the Pauline epistles, the General Epistles and the book of Revelation present spiritual warfare motifs? What critical theological issues are bound up with the subject of spiritual warfare as presented in scripture.

Learning resources for this module:
Arnold, 3 Crucial Questions, 17-72.
Kraft, Confronting Powerless Christianity, 7-26
Boyd, God at War, 10-293

Based on the content of the class presentations and the learning resources for this module, write a 5 page paper (doublespaced typed, 12 font size) titled “The Importance of Spiritual Warfare for Ministry Today.” In your paper make sure you discuss (a) its foundations in scripture (b) its contemporary relevance (c) the need for a balanced approach to the subject, and (d) its relation to your future ministry. Make sure you interact with the learning resources in your paper. Due March 12.

Module 2, Warfare, Worldview and World Religions (March 12-April 9)

Here are some of the questions we will be wrestling with in this module: How does the biblical worldview contrast with the modern Western Worldview? Why have Westerners excluded the middle spiritual realm? How does a Christian worldview differ from animism on the one hand, and Enlightenment rationalism on the other? How should Christians view non-Christian religions in relation to spiritual warfare? What is the role of the divine in non-Christian religions (through general revelation)? What is the role of the demonic in non-Christian religions?
Learning Resources:
Charles Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 27-199
Marguerite Kraft, *Understanding Spiritual Power*

Based on the content of the class presentations and the learning resources, write a 5 page (doublespaced typed, 12 font) paper titled “The Importance of Worldview.” Make sure you include in your paper a discussion of (a) the importance of worldview in general (b) key elements of a biblical worldview and (c) your own worldview—what has shaped it, how it has changed, and how it has affected your approach to spiritual warfare. Make sure you interact with the learning resources in your paper. Due April 9.

**Module 3. Ground Level Spiritual Warfare (April 9-30)**

In this module we will be attempting to answer some of the following questions: What is the role of the demonic in the lives of believers? Can a Christian be demonized? How does one practice deliverance ministry today? What is the role of the demonic in relation to places and objects? What is the role of worship, intercessory prayer and fasting in relation to ground level spiritual warfare?

Learning Resources:
Clinton Arnold, *3 Crucial Questions About Spiritual Warfare*, 73-139.
Francis MacNutt, *Deliverance from Evil Spirits*, 9-277
Neil Anderson, *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*
Charles Kraft, *Confronting Powerless Christianity*, 200-216.

Based on the content of the class presentations and learning resources, write a 5 page (doublespaced typed, 12 font) paper titled “Deliverance for Those who are Bound.” Make sure you discuss (a) the nature and extent of demonic influence in the lives of Christians (b) your approach to ministering to those experiencing demonic bondage (c) questions and concerns you have in relation to ministering in this area. Don’t forget to interact with the learning resources in your paper. Due April 30.

**Module 4. Corporate or Strategic-level Spiritual Warfare (April 30-May 21)**

Here are some of the questions we will be attempting to answer in this module: Are there such things as “territorial spirits”? If so, how do Christians engage them? What differences of opinion exist within the spiritual warfare movement on how to engage territorial spirits? What spiritual warfare issues are relevant to healing families, churches, communities, and nations. How does one go about bringing healing in these areas? What is the role of worship, individual and corporate intercessory prayer, fasting, representational confession, and acts of reconciliation in relation to corporate or strategic level spiritual warfare?

Learning Resources:
Clinton Arnold, *3 Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*, 143-199.
Russ Parker, *Healing Wounded History*, 1-192.
Based on the class presentations and learning resources write a 5-page paper (doublespaced typed, 12 font) titled “Corporate Level Spiritual Warfare” outlining what you believe about the reality of corporate level spiritual warfare and how one goes about engaging in spiritual warfare in relation to corporate entities like families, churches, communities and nations. Be sure to interact with the learning resources in your paper. Due May 21.

TURN THE KEY

Fasting Project for ME 780 – Spring 2005

Slow down and go fast!

February 9-16. Discovering the Key. Read Chapters 1-3, 15 of The Fasting Key. Fast two meals this week. Invite the Holy Spirit to release a greater passion for Jesus in you.

February 16-23. The Door to Revelation. Read Daniel 1:1-21 and Chapter 4 of The Fasting Key. Fast two meals this week. Spend time reading the Bible while you fast and ask the Lord to speak to you through His written Word.

February 23-March 2. The Door of Healing. Read 2 Samuel 12:15-23 and Chapter 5 of The Fasting Key. Fast 24 hours this week. Pray specifically for the healing of an individual you know during your fast.

March 2-9. The Door to Holiness. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and Chapter 6 of The Fasting Key. Fast 24 hours this week. As you fast, ask the Lord to transform an area of your life that needs to be made holy.
March 9-16. **The Door to Protection.** Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 and Chapter 7 of *The Fasting Key.* Fast two meals this week. Pray for protection over your life, your family, and any other particular person or group you sense is in need of it.

March 16-30. **The Door to Answers and to Presence.** Read Deuteronomy 9:7-29 and Mark 2:18-22. Also read Chapters 8-9 of *The Fasting Key.* Fast 24 hours during Holy Week. Listen to a worship CD and worship the Lord during this time of fasting.

March 30-April 6. **The Door to Deliverance.** Read Joel 2:12-27 and Chapter 10 of *The Fasting Key.* Fast 48 hours this week and during your fast, pray for the deliverance and freedom from captivity of someone you know or some area of your own life.

April 6-13. **The Door to Guidance.** Read Acts 13:1-3 and Chapter 11 of *The Fasting Key.* Fast 24 hours this week and pray for the Lord’s guidance in the life of someone making a decision.

April 13-20. **The Door to Provision.** Read 1 Samuel 1:3-28 and Chapter 12 of *The Fasting Key.* Fast 48 hours this week for specific spiritual, emotional or financial provision. Fast for the upcoming Ichthus Festival.

April 20-27. **The Door to Anointing.** Read Luke 4:1-14 and Chapter 13 of *The Fasting Key.* Fast 24 hours this week. Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on your life and on our campus.

April 27-May 3. **The Door to Revival.** Read Zechariah 8:18-23 and Chapter 14 of *The Fasting Key.* Fast two meals this week. Pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit to fill your church.

May 4-11. Come prepared to class to share with others concern your experience with the fasting key this semester.

1. You will be placed in a small group which will meet for 20 minutes every two weeks at the end of class where you can share about your experience of fasting, encourage one another, hold one another accountable, and pray for one another.

2. You are also asked to keep a journal related to your fasting each week. Record in it what/who you are fasting for along with your thoughts, prayers, reflections, scriptures, etc.

慢下来，冲呀！

“当祈求神加上禁食，便不能祈求祂的脸被掩藏。”—约翰·卫斯理

“祷告是那抓取无形的手，禁食是那抛开有形的手。”—安德鲁·默里

“当你渴望加强和约束你的祷告习惯，并为增加祷告的一个新维度，加入禁食。”—韦斯利·杜维尔

“祷告打开了上帝的手，但禁食绑住了魔鬼的手。”—盖恩·肖
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ancient Religions


**Archaeology, Language and Prehistory**


**Demons, Dragons and the Devil**


**Divination and Occultism**


**Eastern Religions and New Age**


### Goddess History and Theology


**Idols, Gods and Symbols**

Magic, Superstition and the Paranormal


Memes and the Forces of History


Myths and Mythology
Prayer and Spiritual Warfare

Breuninger, C., “Where Angels Fear to Tread: Appraising the Current Fascination with
Gibson, Noel and Phyl. *Evicting Demonic Squatters and Breaking Bondages*.
Hammond, Frank and Ida Mae. *Demons & Deliverance in the Ministry of Jesus*.
Hawthorne, Steve, and Graham Kendrick. *Prayerwalking: Praying on Site with Insight*.


--------. *This Present Darkness*. Westchester, IL: Crossway, 1986.


--------. *Confronting the Powers.* Ventura, Calif.: Regal, 1996.


**Religious Festivals and Pilgrimages**


**Sacred Sites and Places of Power**


Swan, James, ed. The Power of Place and Human Environments. Wheaton, Ill.: Quest, 1991.

Shamanism and Traditional Religions


**Signs, Wonders and Power Evangelism**


So spiritual warfare is a given in the life of Christian individuals and communities. Why, then, the resistance to the language and the substance of such conflict? Arnold deals patiently and fairly with six common objectives to emphasizing spiritual warfare today. Since the 1970s, the English-speaking world has become awash with bizarre claims about ministries that do at the risk of considerable understatement emphasize spiritual warfare. Too often, the most high-profile among them are personality driven and theologically impoverished. However, Arnold credits the practitioners concern for the lost and suggests other ways of ministering to a city that do not involve human beings taking authority over the purported demonic lords of a region or a city. Spiritual warfare is real. But don't worry, Priscilla Shirer shows with her study “The Armor of God” that God has provided everything you need in order to live victoriously. “When Paul talks about spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6, prayer is the seventh piece of armor. It activates all of the rest of the spiritual armor,” she said. “When we refuse to pray, it's like having a refrigerator without plugging it in. Prayer is the divinely authorized mechanism God has given us to tap into His power. Without prayer, we'll be ineffective in spiritual warfare. But with it, we will be victorious.” The Truth About Spiritual Warfare. Priscilla believes we tend to see our problems and struggles in non-spiritual terms. And because of that, we tend to Spiritual warfare in animistic societies is seen as an ongoing battle between different alliances of beings. For the most part these alliances are based on ethnicity and territory. The battle is not primarily between good and evil, but between us and them. The gods, spirits, ancestors and people of one village or tribe are in constant battle with those of surrounding villages and tribes. When the men of one group defeat those of another, they attribute their success to the power of their gods and spirits. When they are defeated, they blame this on the weakness of their gods.