



Day 39: This is Spiritual Warfare. Our most powerful weapon is prayer!

By Dave Atkins

Dear Hoosier prayer warriors:

When I'm not living in Mansfield, Ohio, I'm training high-risk orphan girls in Cambodia and Thailand to be followers of Jesus and change their cultures as adults. I've been following

Representative Curt Nisly and praying for your movement since early 2019, when I joined his prayer page. If I didn't have this inside perspective, I might believe what I'm hearing from the news media about Indiana's abortion bill. On the other hand, I rarely believe anything from the news media.

Your battle with abortion is spiritual warfare. Not valuing life is a global spiritual battle. In Asia, our ministry is saving young girls from human trafficking. I'm focused today on your work in Indiana. As a spiritual battle, is it any wonder you are dealing with deception and lies? The father of lies is the enemy of our souls. What you saw at your Statehouse, those screaming for the ability to kill babies, is sourced from our spiritual enemy. This is ugly work. As you know, it's worth it. It's what we've been saved to do. We are on mission.

Throughout scripture, we are reminded that the battles we face daily are not PHYSICAL, but SPIRITUAL. As Christ-followers, often we lose sight of that fact and as a result, we lose our perspective.

I will use a few passages in the New Testament that address this spiritual warfare. The first one is found in 2 Corinthians 10. In verses 3-5, Paul tells us, **"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.** We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

There certainly is a lot of truth in this passage! **Paul reminds us that our battle is a SPIRITUAL ONE fought with SPIRITUAL WEAPONS. Our most powerful weapon in spiritual warfare is PRAYER.** Unfortunately, in many cases today, that's the LAST weapon that believers seem to employ. Some would much rather argue their point or speak louder and louder—not realizing that these tactics will never bring about the result that brings glory to our Lord. Time and time again, in the Old and New Testaments, we see where prayer was **THE** weapon used to overcome strongholds—both spiritual and physical.

In the many challenges facing Christ-followers today, I see prayer as the most powerful **underused** weapon that we have. We like to complain about how our country is going downhill, and it certainly is, in many ways. However, are we upset about it enough to make a commitment to **pray**—both as individuals and as the local church? Put quite simply—we've generally stopped wrestling in prayer over the state of our nation. We've filled our weeks with other activities that seem "more important" or give us the joy that we think we need.

Intercessory prayer is hard work. It's serious business. It takes time. It takes **focus.** So, we don't do it like we used to. The church's calendar is full of activities except a prayer meeting. We've stopped wrestling for souls, we've stopped pleading to our God for revival in our country. So, how do we increase the "spiritual power" of our country? Our churches? Our families? Ourselves?

There is a second passage I'd like us to look at. Paul continues this theme of spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10-18. In this passage, he points out again that our battle is NOT a physical one but a spiritual one. Verse 12 says, "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 spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

When we engage in intercessory prayer, we are accessing the power of God to be unleashed in these heavenly realms against evil forces that control so many aspects of our world. God did not leave us defenseless—He gave us the mighty weapon of prayer to use any time we desire to use it.

We must realize how formidable the enemy is! We must realize that we bring **NOTHING** to the table that can engage in warfare with the evil one and his demons—nothing. **The only way we will ever be victorious is through HIS power at work within us, through prayer. We fight spiritual battles on our knees. We fight spiritual battles in "His mighty power" (vs. 10).**

God is working mightily in our world today! He's working all over the world! That's good news! There are many, many evil strongholds that are being destroyed daily...but ALL by HIS mighty power, not ours. I'm sure we could all cite examples of this that we are aware of—I know that in my ministry in Asia, God is answering our prayers daily and we are seeing people come to know Jesus like never before. This is the result of the intercessory prayer of the saints. The Christ-followers in Asia are getting serious about using the spiritual weapon of prayer. **The church is ENGAGED in spiritual warfare against evil forces that they cannot see.**

I want to encourage all of us to USE our weapon of PRAYER daily to remove mountains. Jesus once said, "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have **prayed** for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers," Luke 22:31-32.

Jesus' prayer **MATTERED**. Our prayers MATTER. This is how we fight to take down evil strongholds—no matter what they are! We PRAY! **PRAYER is our greatest spiritual weapon!** Paul tells us, "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.

It's been encouraging for me to see this commitment of prayer brought into the work throughout your state.

Let's pray:

Father, these Hoosiers fought a tough battle to end abortion in their state. Although You gave them significant victories, it must also be discouraging that this bad bill is being praised as a good bill that ends abortion when it doesn't. As a Buckeye, I grieve with my Hoosier friends that babies are still being murdered. Father, I pray for insight and wisdom for those leading who are planning the next steps. Thank You for Curt and John who were the tip of the spear and did the visible work. Thank You for the people behind the scenes who faithfully prayed and fought this battle on their knees and in their hearts. Father, we are not satisfied with crumbs. We are not satisfied with incremental changes. We boldly ask You to end abortion. We know that is Your will. We know the battle for the lives of these babies needs to be won in the heavenlies first. We thank You for the opportunity to join You in this battle. We thank You that our prayers matter and that, at some point, our prayers will be the tipping point for the work that You want to do. Father, use this Indiana bill to expose truth. Shine Your light of truth in the dark corners of Indiana politics and use this bill as a victory for ending abortion in Indiana with no exceptions. We know You are still at work. We know you have a plan. Accomplish Your will in Indiana. Save babies in the womb. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Thanks for being obedient to your calling. God bless,

Dr. David Atkins

Executive Director, [Sending Hope International](#)

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022 SPECIAL SESSION NEWS

- ◆ At the time of this writing, we have no idea what is happening this week. Both of the primary bills (Senate Bill 1 and Senate Bill 2—\$200 refund and other spending¹) have passed and have been signed into law. We will know more today as both chambers meet. We plan to continue this series through this week, ending Sunday, August 14th. We will continue to lay a foundation for our future work to end abortion with no exceptions. Thank you for participating and praying!
- ◆ Our hearts were broken on [Day 8](#) when we prayed for **Hudson Schrank**. Brad Skiles has created a *Facebook Fundraiser* that can be found by [clicking here](#). Thank you for considering a gift! We will close this fundraising after this session, on August 14th.
- ◆ Archive folder of these daily devotionals: [click here](#). List of 14 Indiana Prayer Requests: [click here](#).