"Their eyes are dry, their sense of sin absent; nor is there any sign of penitence and contrition….But oh, if there were conviction! If they came with hearts bowed down, yea!, broken and contrite, came with the cry of the guilt-laden soul…what converts they would be!"
Oswald J. Smith

First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia USA
Prayer Study #333

THE PURPOSES AND PLANS OF GOD FOR THIS MINISTRY

My Vision Statement: We desire to advance the Kingdom of God on the earth and to lead all people into a more intimate relationship with Jesus.

To walk out this vision we have three mission goals:

A. To train, equip, and send out mature believers, who will go into all the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20 & Acts 1:8)

B. To lay a foundation of the Word of God in believers' lives, especially emphasizing what Peter calls *present truth* (2nd Peter 1:12)

C. To prepare believers for the end times, and to be like the Sons of Issachar, who knew the times and knew what to do (1st Chronicles 12:32)

To achieve these goals, we will do the following:

1. **Preach the Word**: *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.* 2nd Timothy 4:2 *Thy word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.* Psalm 119:11
2. **Love**: *Let all that you do be done with love.* 1st Corinthians 16:14
3. **Strive to become more like Jesus**: *But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.* 2nd Corinthians 3:18
4. **Be witnesses of Jesus and bring the lost to Him**: *Be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.* Acts 1:8 *Let him know that he who converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins.* James 5:20

5. **Obey the Word of God and the Holy Spirit rather than men**: *Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men."* Acts 5:29
6. **Promote unity in this body of believers**: *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.* 1st Corinthians 1:10
7. **Preach the cross**: *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.* 1st Corinthians 1:18
8. **Give Him all the glory**: *That no flesh should glory in His presence.* 1st Corinthians 1:29
9. **Walk in faith:** *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.* 1st Corinthians 16:13 *For we walk by faith, not by sight.* 2nd Corinthians 5:7 *But without faith it is impossible to please* **Him…**Hebrews 11:6a
10. **Put on the whole armor of God and do Spiritual Warfare**: *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may b able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* Ephesians 10-11 *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shot your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God….*Ephesians 6:13-17 *The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."* Psalm 110:1 *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.* 1st John 3:8.
11. **Praise:** *I will bless the LORD at all times*; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Psalm 34:1
12. **Pray:** *Pray without ceasing.* 1st Thessalonians 5:17

Spiritual Warfare

Hierarchy of Satan's Kingdom

Satan

AKA Lucifer, Angel of Light, Lord of the Flies, the Wicked One, Appolyon, King of Tyre, Prince of this World, etc.

Principalities

These are over territories of land or ministries. They are the generals in Satan's army. Two specific princes that are mentioned, in Daniel, in regard to the Last Days are the Prince of Persia and the Prince of Greece. The Archangel Michael is also referred to as a prince. We know from Daniel 10 and other passages, such as James 4:7-8, that there that there are supernatural champions both for good and for evil taking part in earthly conflicts.

Powers

These are demonic powers over systems such as prisons, schools, and government.

Rulers of the darkness of this world

These rulers affect music, news media, literature including pornography, etc.

Spiritual wickedness in high places

These demonic forces concentrate on occults, false doctrines, cults, the anti-Christ system on the earth today, false religions, etc.

Demons and Spirits

I am not sure we can make a Biblical distinction between these two low level demonic identities. I myself have always thought that demons have more power than spirits. At any rate demonic forces on this level go after individual people.

Application and Challenge

I challenge you to declare war against the Principality over this area. Your assignment, if you choose to take it, will be to wrestle this Prince down to the ground. We will be daily fighting this force for 21 days. Warfare is not a pretty business, and, if you are struggling with a crisis in your life, I would not recommend your joining this prayer effort. You are going to get

attacked. On the other hand, unless we can pull this force down, we are not going to see breakthrough for the Kingdom of God in this area.

Ephesians 6:10-12

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies] that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil. For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere. Therefore put on God's complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day (of danger). And having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].

On my Knees
Twila Paris and Dennis Jernigan

When I don't know what I need, I need to get on my knees
When waves of doubt crash over me, I need to get on my knees.

On my knees I find refuge, on my knees I find grace
On my knees I can feel You like we're meeting face to face
When I don't know what I need, I need to get on my knees.

When I don't have strength to stand, I need to reach for Your hand
When life feels like sinking sand, I need to reach for Your hand.

In Your hand I find refuge, in Your hand I find grace
In Your hand I can feel You, like we're meeting face to face
When I don't have strength to stand, I need to reach for Your hand.

When life leaves me with no choice, I must listen for Your voice.
When lies confuse me with their noise, I must listen for Your voice.

In Your voice I find refuge, in Your voice I find grace
In Your voice I can feel You like we're meeting face to face.
When life leaves me with no choice, I will listen to Your voice.

On my knees I find refuge, on my knees I find grace
On my knees I can feel You like we're meeting face to face
When life leaves me with no choice, I will listen to Your voice.

On my knees I find refuge, on my knees I find grace
On my knees I can feel You like we're meeting face to face
When I don't know what I need, I need to get on my knees.