

# **ROUTING PERSISTENT DEMONS**

*5 keys to victorious spiritual warfare*

By Jennifer LeClaire

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## DEDICATION

*Routing Persistent Demons* is dedicated to every believer who has made up their mind to engage in the good fight of faith to see souls saved, churches revived and nations awakened. As I always say, sometimes spiritual warfare is just outlasting the devil. I applaud you—and all my Awakening Prayer Hubs leaders around the world—for picking up this book and determining within yourself that you will not allow the enemy to steal, kill and destroy in your life.

## **CONTENTS**

1. The Warrior's Call.....	6
2. Intercessory Warfare in Action.....	9
3. Five Steps to Strategic Intercessory Warfare.....	13
4. Activation: Entering the Battle.....	17
5. Your Commissioning.....	21



# 1

## THE WARRIOR'S CALL

Imagine a soldier standing on the front lines, battle-weary yet resolute, scanning the horizon for signs of the enemy. This soldier is not fighting alone but is part of a well-coordinated force, each one playing a crucial role in the battle's outcome.

This image is akin to the role of an intercessor in spiritual warfare. In the realm of spiritual warfare, intercessory prayer is not merely a task but a divine commission. It involves standing in the gaps between the kingdom of God—His will—and the current reality of a person, group, nation, or situation on earth. It's about pulling down God's will from heaven to earth, engaging in a spiritual battle to see His purposes prevail.

God said something to Ezekiel that I have heard over and over—and you've probably heard it too. But while I was on my [\*Mornings with the Holy Spirit\*](#) prayer broadcast, I got a new revelation about it as it relates to intercessors—gatekeepers—in any given city. Let's read the verse in Ezekiel 22:30-31:

“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. So in my fierce anger, I will punish the Israelites for what they have done, and they will know that I am furious. I, the Lord, have spoken” (Ezekiel 22:30).

Ezekiel must have felt all alone. Jeremiah and Daniel were his contemporaries but there's no evidence they had prayer meetings together, judged each other's prophecies or otherwise had a relationship.

Ezekiel was a priest, then God called him as a watchman and finally he walked in the office of the prophet. But we see he walked alone. He didn't have an Elisha.

- He probably watched alone.

- He prayed alone.
- Prophets, watchmen and intercessors sometimes have to stand alone, at least for a season, before God brings others to stand, watch and pray with them.

*The Contemporary English Version* puts it this way:

“I looked for someone to defend the city and to protect it from my anger, as well as to stop me from destroying it. But I found no one. So in my fierce anger, I will punish the Israelites for what they have done, and they will know that I am furious. I, the Lord, have spoken.”

And *The Message Bible* offers:

“I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the city, to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this land so I wouldn’t have to destroy it. I couldn’t find anyone. Not one. So I’ll empty out my wrath on them, burn them to a crisp with my hot anger, serve them with the consequences of all they’ve done. Decree of God, the Master.”

Sometimes the call to warfare means standing alone in the gap God has called you to. That’s one reason why we launched [Awakening Prayer Hubs](#) in 2017. While there are some battles we must fight alone, generally speaking we are not called to battle alone. Remember, Deuteronomy 32:30 (ESV) tells us:

“How could one have chased a thousand, and two have put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock shad sold them, and the Lord had given them up?

And again, Leviticus 26:8 asserts, “Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.”

## 2

# INTERCESSORY WARFARE IN ACTION

Intercessory warfare is not a 21st Century idea. Rather, it's an ancient practice. Although many of the heroes of the faith in the Bible were wrestling against flesh and blood, their battles were often types and shadows of the spiritual war we face today. In other words, demons were pulling a lot of strings behind the scenes.

Paul outlines our intercessory warfare this way: "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" (Eph. 6:12, AMPC).

Consider Moses and the Battle with the Amalekites: In Exodus, we see Moses standing on a hill with the staff of God in his hands while Joshua fought the Amalekites. Joshua advanced when Moses' arms were raised. Clearly, there was a spiritual dynamic at work. Moses wasn't just raising his hands, he was engaging in intercessory warfare. This illustrates the power of intercession in the midst of battle and the need for support and persistence in prayer.

Exodus 17:8-13 reads, "The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.' So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of the hill.

"As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one

on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.”

When Moses lifted up his hands in prayer, Joshua was winning. Joshua later said, “One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the Lord your God who fights for you, just as he promised you” (Josh. 23:10).

### **Nehemiah Overcomes Opposition**

Nehemiah was facing flesh-and-blood opposition, but again, that flesh and blood was driven by persistent demon powers hell-bent on opposing God’s will in the earth. Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem made repeated attempts to shut down the building project. Nehemiah 6:1-3 shows us some of the aggression:

“Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono.” But they intended to do me harm. And I sent messengers to them, saying, ‘I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?’”

Notice how Nehemiah was persistent. He was more persistent than the persistent demons coming against him. God gave him a battle plan to war off the enemy. Nehemiah 4:16-20 reads:

“From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall.

“Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

“Then I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, ‘The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!’”

This is a vivid picture of how intercessors must be ready to pray and fight spiritually while engaging in God’s work. We are in an era where it’s no longer one or the other. It’s both.

### **The Persistent Widow**

In Luke 18, we hear the parable about a persistent widow. She was more persistent than the enemy. Jesus said we should engage in persistent prayer like her if we want to see justice from our adversary. Luke 18:1-8 reads:

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: ‘In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.

“And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ For some time he refused. But finally, he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’

“And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?’”



# 3

## FIVE STEPS TO STRATEGIC INTERCESSORY WARFARE

Every battle you fight is won with a mix of foundational principles and specific strategies and tactics. I write more about this in my book, [\*The Spiritual Warfare Battle Plan\*](#). It's critical that you lay the groundwork before you step on the battlefield. This is where many spiritual warriors miss it.

We can't assume and presume in spiritual warfare. We don't want to, as Paul said, beat the air (see 1 Cor. 9:26). We want to be laser beam focused on the enemy and know exactly how to defeat him. In this way, we can avoid an unnecessarily prolonged battle.

The keys are identifying the enemy target, dying to self, seeking the Commander's strategy, preparing your mind for opposition, and recognizing God's sovereignty in victory. Let's look at each point.

### **1. Identifying the Enemy Target**

It starts with identifying the enemy target. As spiritual warriors, we are aware of many battles raging around us. We cannot engage them all at once. It is crucial to ask the Holy Spirit to highlight specific targets, burdening our hearts for particular people or situations. His guidance ensures that our efforts are focused where they are most needed and effective.

Jesus said in Matthew 25:13: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." And Peter said in 1 Peter 5:8, "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

### **2. Laying Your Life Down for the Cause**

Often, we need to die to self and identify with the struggles of others in order to engage effectively in the battle zone. Effective intercessory warfare requires a deep understanding of the person's or situation's reality.

Hebrews 2:9 tells us that Jesus tasted death for everyone, fully embracing our human experience. By immersing ourselves in the pain and struggles of others, we can engage in intercession with empathy and precision, just as Jesus did.

Remember this: We overcome by the blood of the lamb, the word of our testimony, and being self-less (Revelation 12:11). Intercessory warfare is a selfless act. When David fought Goliath, he was risking life and limb. But his heart's cry was, "Is there not a cause? (1 Samuel 17:29). David was willing to lay his life down in intercessory warfare for Israel.

### **3. Seeking the Commander's Strategy**

Before we run to the battle line, we must also seek the commander's strategy. Jesus is the Captain of the Hosts, and He's also our Chief Commander. Jesus gives us marching orders through the Holy Spirit, who lives in us.

Our human understanding is limited, but the Spirit searches our hearts and aligns our prayers with God's will. We must be patient and attentive, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our intercession according to divine strategy, not human logic.

Remember, Romans 8:26-27 tells us, "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

Just because we've fought and won an intercessory warfare battle in the past with one prayer strategy, doesn't mean that same strategy will work again. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

I heard the story of about a Global Disciples event in Africa. A young director sought prayer for protection against evil dreams. Initially, the prayer team planned to pray against these attacks, but the Holy Spirit revealed that the dreams were divine warnings. Instead of praying for protection, they prayed for the courage to address underlying issues, leading to freedom from fear.

### **4. Preparing Your Mind for Opposition**

The story of Daniel's intercession (Daniel 9-10) reminds us of the spiritual battles that accompany our intercessory warfare prayers. Daniel's prayers were met with immediate divine response, but the answer was delayed due to spiritual warfare. Let's look at Daniel 10:2-14:

"In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.

"His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.

"And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. And he said to me, 'O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you.' And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

"Then he said to me, 'Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come.'

Our warfare intercession may also face delays, but persistent prayer ensures that God's will prevails. Even when results are not immediate, we trust in God's timing and continued work. We have to set our mind to it. Peter said to "gird up the loins of our minds (1 Peter 1:13). *The World English Bible* translation says, "prepare your minds for action." Remember, there's always a battle against your mind in the world of spiritual warfare. And when you enter intercessory warfare, you will face mind battles, including the temptation to give up.

I have an entire course called Conquering Hindering Spirits, which is one of the enemy's favorite strategies to keep you out of victory. You can find it [here](#).

## **5. Recognizing God's Sovereignty in Victory**

Proverbs 21:31 tells us, “The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the Lord.” When breakthroughs occur, it is crucial to remember that we are merely vessels of God’s power. The glory belongs to Him alone. Our role is to partner with God, allowing His power to flow through our prayers. We need to give him all the praise! Zechariah 4:6, “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

# 4

## ACTIVATION: ENTERING THE BATTLE

Now that you have prepared your heart and mind and received the battle plan, it's time to engage in intercessory warfare. What follows is a practical model to follow for intercessory warfare, whether individually or in a group. These are your five keys to routing persistent demons.

It all begins with repentance, praise and thanksgiving. From there, move out into warfare with the knowledge you already have in the natural—you can see the enemy's fingerprints on people, place and things. But also seek strategic guidance as you go along. The battle plan can change mid-war.

In prolonged battles, you may need to ask God to deepen your burden for the assignment so that you don't grow weary in "well praying." When you engage, pray with fervent passion. Finally, expand your intercessory warfare agenda as needed. You may start out targeting one enemy but find that other hindrances manifest as you make your way to intercessory warfare victory.

### **1. Repentance, Praise and Thanksgiving**

We should never go into spiritual warfare without repenting. We may have common ground with the enemy or some unknown sin in our lives that will render us ineffective. Search your heart and ask God to forgive you of your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness according to 1 John 1:9.

Now, start honoring God for who He is and what He has already done. Psalm 100:4 tells us to, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." We know Jesus already won the victory. Colossians 2:15 (AMPC) assures:

“[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].” We must enforce His will on the earth, but it’s a fixed ight.

Praise and thanksgiving not only bless God but also fortify our spirits for the battle ahead. Abraham never staggered in unbelief but he became strong in faith as he gave glory to God (see Romans 4:20).

## **2. Seek Strategic Guidance**

As you engage in battle, you may find resistance you didn’t anticipate. If that happens, ask the Holy Spirit where you need to shift. Listen for the Spirit’s leading. He knows what demon powers are opposing you as you take more steps toward victory.

Psalm 32:8 promises, “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”

And John 16:13 tells us, “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” And Proverbs 16:9 teaches, “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”

## **3. Deepen Your Burden for the Battle**

In a prolonged battle, you may start growing weary. In that case ask God to strengthen you in your inner man. Paul prayed this for the believers at Ephesus: “May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the [Holy] Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality]” (Ephesians 3:16). You can pray this over yourself.

Philippians 2:13 tells us, “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” If God called you into battle, He will strengthen you for the long haul and battle through you until victory. Remember, what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, “Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”

**4. Pray with Fervent Passion:** Charles Spurgeon once said, “The prayers that come leaping out of the soul—the gust of strong emotion, fervent desire, lively faith—these are the truly spiritual; and no prayers but spiritual prayers will God accept.” That’s a heavy statement.

We do need to be fervent. James 5:16-17 (AMPC) tells us, “The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its

working]. Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months.”

What does fervent mean? It means very hot, glowing, and exhibited or marked by great intensity of feeling. It means zealous, according to Merriam-Webster’s dictionary. I wrote an entire book on the topic called *Fervent Faith: Discovering How a Fervent Spirit is a Defense Against the Devil*. [Find it here](#).

**5. Expand the Warfare as Led:** You may need to expand your target as you engage the enemy. The enemy can bring in reinforcements to battle you. If the enemy rises up against you in retaliation, you’ll have to fight what I call “side battles” in order to get to the ultimate victory. This is where Romans 12:12 comes in, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Always follow the Spirit’s leading and keep in mind 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 assures us, “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.”



# 5

## YOUR COMMISSIONG

Intercessory prayer is a vital and powerful aspect of spiritual warfare. As we stand in the gap, lifting up others and situations before God, we engage in a divine partnership that brings about His will on earth. We must be diligent, persistent, and passionate in our intercession, trusting in the power of God to bring about His purposes.

God is looking for people to stand in the gap. Don't make God wonder, as He did in Isaiah 59:16, "He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor." *The New International Version* uses even stronger language: "He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene." *The New Living Translation* brings it home: "He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed."

As I write in *The Intercessor's Devotional*, "Being an intercessor is not glamorous but is it glorious in that we are standing before the King of Glory. Being an intercessor is hard work, but we must remember we are co-laboring with Christ the Intercessor in our prayer endeavors. Being an intercessor can be inconvenient but the eternal rewards are worth it."

As warriors of intercession, let us rise to the call, faithfully engaging in the battle through prayer, knowing that our intercession can make a profound difference in the lives of individuals, communities, and nations. May God find us standing faithfully in the gap, bringing His kingdom to earth through our fervent and faithful prayers.

Join my prayer army in over 100 nations! I'm commissioning personally equipping my intercessors every month, offering true prayer community and more. You'll never have to pray—or war—alone again. You'll always have someone to stand in the gap with you.

Join the movement at [www.awakeningprayerhubs.com](http://www.awakeningprayerhubs.com)

## ABOUT JENNIFER LECLAIRE

Jennifer LeClaire is senior leader of Awakening House of Prayer in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, founder of the Ignite Network, and founder of the Awakening Prayer Hubs prayer movement. Jennifer formerly served as the first-ever female editor of *Charisma* magazine and is a prolific author of over 50 books. You can find Jennifer online at [www.jenniferleclaire.org](http://www.jenniferleclaire.org).

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