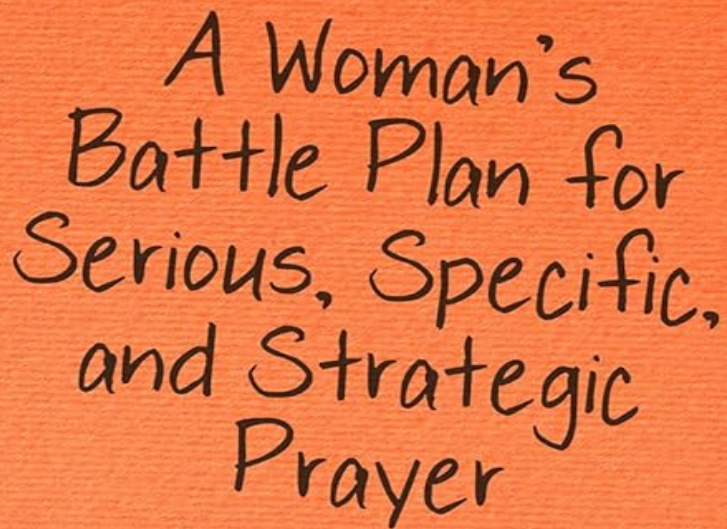


INSPIRED BY THE FEATURE FILM
WAR ROOM
GO TO WWW.WARROOMTHEMOVIE.COM
FOR MORE INFO

FERVENT



A Woman's
Battle Plan for
Serious, Specific,
and Strategic
Prayer

PRISCILLA SHIRER

Table of Contents

This Means War

Opening in Prayer

Strategy 1: Your Passion: Getting It Back When It's Gone

Strategy 2: Your Focus: Fighting the Real Enemy

Strategy 3: Your Identity: Remembering Who You Are

Strategy 4: Your Family: Fortifying the Lives of Those You Love

Strategy 5: Your Past: Ending the Reign of Guilt, Shame, and Regret

Strategy 6: Your Fears: Confronting Your Worries, Claiming Your Calling

Strategy 7: Your Purity: Staying Strong in Your Most Susceptible Places

Strategy 8: Your Pressures: Reclaiming Peace, Rest, and Contentment

Strategy 9: Your Hurts: Turning Bitterness to Forgiveness

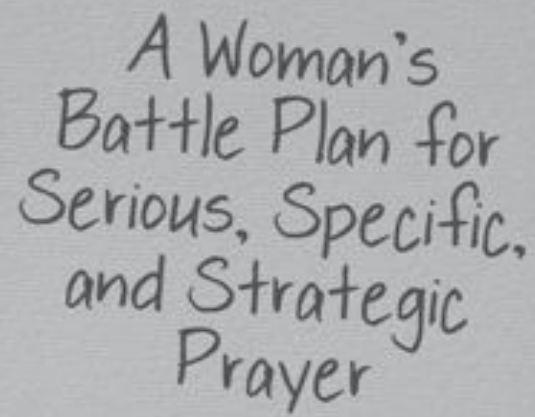
Strategy 10: Your Relationships: Uniting in a Common Cause

Amen

Note Pages

Prayer Strategy Pages

FERVENT



A Woman's
Battle Plan for
Serious, Specific,
and Strategic
Prayer

PRISCILLA SHIRER


PUBLISHING GROUP
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Copyright © 2015 by Priscilla Shirer
All rights reserved.
Printed in the United States of America

978-1-4336-8867-6

Published by B&H Publishing Group
Nashville, Tennessee

Dewey Decimal Classification: 248.843
Subject Heading: PRAYER \ SPIRITUAL WARFARE \ WOMEN

Unless otherwise stated, Scripture is taken from the
New American Standard Bible (NASB), © the Lockman Foundation, 1960, 1962,
1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977; used by permission.

Also used: New King James Version (NKJV), copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982,
Thomas Nelson Publishers, Inc.

Also used: The New Living Translation (NLT), copyright 1996, 2004. Used by
permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights
reserved.

Also used: English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a
publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights
reserved.

Also used: Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB), Copyright © 1999, 2000,
2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.

Also used: King James Version which is public domain.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 • 21 20 19 18 17 16 15

For

Annie Eleen Cannings

Because you've taught me the power
of writing down my prayers

Theoden: I will not risk open war.

Aragorn: Open war is upon you, whether you would risk it or not.

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS

This Means War

Just so you know what you're getting into . . .

By the time you've finished reading (and working) through this book, the front cover shouldn't be able to close neatly back over on itself. It should be noticeably disfigured. Ski-ramping up from the spine at such a scooped angle that even if you laid an old-school telephone book on top, you still couldn't smooth out what's become so harshly, permanently misshapen. From heartfelt use. War torn. An impossible option for regifting at Christmastime.

I'm expecting grass stains. Ink smears. Dog-ears. Battle scars. A few of those little wrinkly circles that form on the page when an accidental drop of tea, if not a tear escaping from your eye, spills across two or three lines of text. Unmistakable signs that you've been here and been involved here, invested here.

I want pages ripped out and written on. The edges tattered and the corners curled. I want your kids afraid to touch it without using plastic gloves. Perhaps even the salad tongs.

This book is just not meant for pretty reading. It's not for coffee-table curiosity and other such cameo appearances. Think of it instead as industrial-grade survival gear. Duct tape and superglue. Leather straps lashed around it. Old shoelaces maybe. In tight double knots. Whatever it takes to keep it all together.

Because this is war. The fight of your life. A very real enemy has been strategizing and scheming against you, assaulting you, coming after your emotions, your mind, your man, your child, your future. In fact, he's doing it right this second. Right where you're sitting. Right where you are.

But I say his reign of terror stops *here*. Stops *now*. He might keep coming, but he won't have victory anymore.

Because it all starts failing when we start praying.

Now if you want a book *about* prayer, this one's probably not for you. You can find some wonderful books on prayer by some scholarly writers, books that are well worth the time spent reading them. In fact, I highly suggest you do. Can't really learn too much about prayer, can you? But here, in these pages, we aren't going to merely *talk* about prayer or *think* about praying.

No.

Get ready.

To pray.

Because life is just too impossible otherwise—yours, mine, everybody’s. We simply don’t have the luxury of playing nice with prayer. Not if we want things to change. Not if we want to be free—from whatever’s keeping us held down and held back. Not if we want our hearts whole and thriving and deep and grounded . . . different. Not if we want to reach our destinies and experience God’s promises. Not if we want our husbands and children living out what God has called them to do and be and become. Not if we want a fence of God’s protection around us. Not if we want to bear the unmistakable mark of His favor upon us. Not if we want the devil and his plans to go back to the hell where they came from.

But none of that is going to happen—no matter how badly we may want it—as long as prayer remains an afterthought, a formality, a mindless mix of duty and manipulation, something we do but usually don’t do, and rarely if ever do with any meaning and vitality, with confidence and clarity. As a result, we waste a whole lot of years, doing a whole lot of other things. Things that thoroughly exhaust us but ultimately don’t work. We end up, for all our trying, missing the point, missing out on what God intended, missing the whole heart of what really matters. So now we’re going to pray specifically and strategically.

Praying with *precision* is key. When we pray about the places where we seriously suspect the enemy is at work—that’s how we keep our prayers focused, not only on particular situations but on biblical truths that are consistent with maintaining victory in the midst of them. It’s how our praying stays integrated with reality, rather than aimlessly wandering down a side, spiritual hallway that never seems to connect with the living room, where we, you know . . . live. It’s how we keep our whole selves engaged

and alert, trusting God for the right things, confident He's giving them, able to sense His direction about what to do and then to take action accordingly.

If all we're doing is flinging words and emotions in all directions without any real consideration for the specific ways the enemy is targeting us and the promises of God that apply to us, we're mostly just wasting our time. We're adding to the confusion while not really making a noticeable dent in the problem or the process. We're fighting to keep our heads above water, yet feeling pretty sure on most days we're fighting a losing battle.

Well, part of that idea is right: *WE ARE in a battle*. A battle with a long history that reaches back before the annals of time began. But it's one in which the victor has already been determined. A battle, yes. But a *losing battle*?

Not. Even. Possible.

And prayer is our not-so-secret weapon in the fight. I'd even venture to say, our most potent one.

I'm willing to admit, right up front, there's an undeniable, unknowable, invisible mystery to prayer. That's why our first reaction to it often leans toward dismissing it, downplaying it, devaluing its critical importance. Prayer, we think, is a good idea in theory, if only it actually did anything or made a difference. But here's the deal. Despite what we may or may not understand about prayer, God has deliberately chosen this particular vehicle as the one that drives His activity in people's lives. It's what He allows us to use to cooperate and partner with Him in the fulfilling of His will. He's

created prayer as a primary way of putting us into personal contact with Him and with His eternal realities, any hour of the day or night.

So as we begin to grasp its significance, and as we practice implementing this incredible power tool He's placed in our hands, He divinely positions us—even a little life like ours—in His grand purposes for the ages. Through the connective tissue of prayer, He cracks open the door that makes us at least a small part of how these massive plans of His are translated into the lives of people we know.

Including ours.

Prayer is the portal that brings the power of heaven down to earth. It is kryptonite to the enemy and to all his ploys against you.

That's why you and I need this book. That's why this intersection of our life journeys in these pages is so crucial—not because of what I'm writing but because of what we are going to be doing with our time together—and what our God is going to be doing as a result.

You and I, once we've gotten just a little better acquainted, will begin actively crafting some prayer strategies tailor-made for your victory. We're going to do it by touching on the areas of your life that the enemy is targeting the hardest—the bulk of what frustrates you, worries you, defeats you, exasperates you, angers you, taunts you, deflates you, and sometimes makes impossible demands on you. And if you come to a chapter that doesn't seem to strike a red-hot chord with you now, read it anyway, because sooner or later it will. And then, at the end of each chapter, you'll compose a strategy of prayer in regard to your own life in that particular

area. Then with your personalized prayer strategies in place—yanked right out of this book (did you notice the perforated pages in the back?)—then posted where you can regularly see them and read them and launch them against the enemy’s most well-disguised hideouts—you’ll be able to fight back as hard (and harder) than the one who’s fighting against you.

Strategies? Yes. Because as you may have noticed, the battles your enemy wages against you—especially the most acute, consistent ones—possess a personality to them, an intimate knowledge of who you are and the precise pressure points where you can most easily be taken down. Random accident? Lucky guess? I don’t think so. These areas of greatest fear and anxiety in your life are clues to some important spiritual information. They reveal, among other things, that a personalized strategy has been insidiously put in place to destroy your vibrancy and render you defeated. It’s been drawn up on the blackboard by someone who knows where you live and whom you love, knows your customary tendencies, and knows from long experience how best to exploit every single one of them. And maybe up until now, it’s been working.

But I assume, by your presence here, that you’re sick of that. I know *I* most certainly am. Sick of losing these daily battles of mine. Sick of watching things deteriorate around me, as well as in the lives of those I care about. But what I’m beginning to understand is that I can’t just go barreling into this fight blindly. I can’t just throw something up against the wall and hope it sticks. I need a plan. Just as *you* need a plan. A strategy for war.

And funneled through the experiences outlined in this book, as well as through the specific work of God’s Spirit in your life and (most

importantly) the living power of God's Word, a number of personal prayer strategies will begin to develop. You're going to march out of here with some battle options that will not only help you deflect every assault trained against you but will allow you to actively advance against them—against scrappy, tenacious opposition. You'll be able to tread across stretches of high-voltage ground that you've never known how to navigate before, places that have always seemed too impossible to figure out. Through prayer you'll not only be able to defend yourself from incoming sniper fire but through Almighty God will be able to push into enemy territory and take . . . stuff . . . back.

Trust me, it can happen.

It *will* happen.

But not by happenstance. God's plan for you is to move you into a position of impact by infusing you with truth and employing you in prayer. You don't need to be a genius to do it. You don't need to learn ten-dollar words and be able to spout them with theological ease. You just need to bring your honest, transparent, available—and, let's just say it—your fed-up, over-it, stepped-on-your-last-nerve self, and be ready to become fervently relentless. All in His name.

At the end of the day, the enemy is going to be sorry he ever messed with you. You're about to become his worst nightmare a million times over. He thought he could wear you down, sure that after a while you'd give up without much of a fight.

Well, just wait till he encounters the fight of God's Spirit in you.

Because . . .

This.

Means.

War.