

Born for Battle Zoom Bible Study
The Wonder of it All!
Romans 8:36-39

Welcome to *Born for Battle: Titus Women Bible Study on Prayer*. We are so excited to gather in May for a 3 week study on God's invitation to pray. You and I will never know or be able to grasp all the facets and dimensions of prayer until we reach heaven. In heaven there will be an unsurpassable experience of continual prayer. The reason being we shall never stop living in worship for the lamb who was slain, worthy of all honor, praise, and adoration. Prayer is an act of worship.

As you begin to prepare for Bible Study, I invite you to take some time to look up these scriptures and allow the Lord Jesus to speak His Word into your life. He is calling us to be women who live in Christ Jesus, who know the Father's heart, and pray in accordance with His will. This takes time and energy and space but the results are an intimacy with Jesus and a co-laboring with Him in the redemption of His world.

Allow your Bible study a time to prayerfully (worshipfully) see and hear what the Spirit says. As you read the following scriptures may I suggest you have a notebook handy for writing what the Holy Spirit may give you in these priceless passages. Record how these passages are appropriate for our life of prayer to grow. Compare different translations. For a broader challenge-- in the weeks ahead, read the following verses in the context of the book and/or entire chapter in which it was written. Oh, the wonder of it all!

1. Wonderful Intention! Wonderful Invitation!
 - a. Genesis 1; Genesis 3:8 4:26; 5:22-24
 - b. Psalm 27: 7,8
 - c. Matthew 11:28-30
2. Wages of Sin!
 - a. Genesis 3: 9-15
 - b. Genesis 4:16
3. War!
 - a. Be Prepared!
 - i. Ephesians 6:10-18
 - b. Battle in the Heavens – Between God and Satan; Good & Evil
 - i. Genesis 3: 13-15;
 - ii. John 10:10,25,30
 - iii. Ephesians 6: 10-18
 - c. Battle of the Flesh & Spirit
 - i. Genesis 6:5,6,11-13
 - ii. Jeremiah 17:9-10
 - iii. Romans 7: 14-24; 8:5,7
 - iv. James 4:1-4
 - v. John 15:18-25
4. Weapons!
 - a. Be equipped!
 - i. Galatians 2:20
 - ii. II Corinthians 10:3-6
 - iii. Ephesians 1:17-19
 - iv. II Timothy 2: 8a,9 The Word of God is not imprisoned!
5. Weakness!
 - a. When I am weak, He works Best!

- i. II Corinthians 12:7-9
 - ii. Luke 18:1-8
 - iii. Matthew 26:41
 - iv. Romans 8:26-30
 - v. Romans 8: 32-25
 - vi. Mark 11:25; Matthew 5: 23-24
- 6. Wealth in His name!
 - a. All resources of the Godhead are at our bidding.
 - i. II Corinthians 13:14
 - ii. Ephesians 1:1-3
 - iii. Ephesians 3: 18-21
 - iv. John 15: 16,17
 - v. Jeremiah 33:3
 - vi. II Peter 1: 3-4
 - vii. I John 3:21,22; 5: 11-115
- 7. Work of the enemy!
 - a. We are overcomers in Prayer!
 - i. Daniel 10:12-13
 - ii. I Thessalonians 2:18
 - iii. John 10:10
 - iv. Romans 8:37
 - v. I John 3:8
 - b. Remember, he is a conquered foe.
 - i. I Peter 5:8 He is "like" a lion and makes a lot of noise!
 - ii. I John 3:8
 - iii. Hebrews 2:14-15
- 8. Warnings!
 - a. Take Heed! Jesus is coming soon!
 - i. Luke 18:1-8
 - ii. I Peter 4:7,8,12,14,19
 - iii. II Peter 3:10-14
 - iv. Matthew 26:41
 - v. James 1:4-8
- 9. WORTHY ARE YOU LORD!
 - i. Revelation 4:8-12
 - ii. Revelation 5: 9-14

Hebrews 4:16

***Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.***

Revelation 4:13b

***"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb,
be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."***

Titus Bible Study – May 12
Suggested Preparation – Patsy Lewis

We see early in Scripture that God created humanity for a personal relationship with Him by the way He initiated conversation, which is what I call prayer. My simple definition for prayer is conversing with our Creator. A good conversation involves both speaking and listening and is often guided by questions. I suggest you begin this Bible study on prayer by reading these passages in Genesis 1-4:

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:15-25

Genesis 3:1-24

Genesis 4:1-15

Look for all the times God initiated communication with Adam, Eve, and their firstborn son, Cain.

Wherever your Bible reading takes you, watch for questions and responses.

- In the Old Testament, look for questions God asks.
- In the New Testament Gospels, watch for both questions Jesus asked and those others asked Jesus. Try starting with Matthew 16 and John 11:1-44 for good examples.
- As your Bible reading continues in the future, search for times prayer is mentioned in Acts and Paul's letters to the early church and the variety of places where prayer took place.

Reflect:

- What questions has God asked you in the past?
- Ask Him if He has any questions for you today?
- What question do you have for Him?

Ask it.

Pause and quietly wait for an answer.

If it doesn't come right away, continue to listen and watch as you move forward with your day. The response may come in an unexpected way.

- Converse with God about some Scripture you have read today. Ask Him what He has to say to you from that Bible passage. Envision Jesus sitting with you as you read, and discuss the Word together.
- Thank Him for any way He has enlightened His Word to you.

Born for Battle Overview by Arthur Matthews

1. Jesus in Gethsemane – soldier of the cross. “Thy Will be done!”
 - a. Submit to God
 - b. Resist the Enemy
2. Soldier’s Best Friend – Our Weapon – The Word of God
 - a. God’s specific Word – thrust at the enemy in the power of the controlling Holy Spirit.
 - b. “It is Written” and “Thus sayeth the Lord”
3. Our Wrestling – We wrestle with rulers and authorities in spiritual places. Beware of a life that does not bring us in contact with the enemy. It is when we claim new ground for Jesus that we face attack. The victory is won In Jesus on the cross. We claim His victory.
 - a. We must develop spiritual muscle
 - b. Our position in prayer is in Christ Jesus
4. Enemy in Society – Barriers are not moved by God’s omnipotence until the believer takes the initiative and stands his ground in the heavenly places to engage the powers of evil and resists them in the name of Jesus. This can only be accomplished by Spirit-filled believers. (30)
5. Rendering Enemy Powerless – Need for prayer eagles who will mount up in the full assurance of faith that they are seated in the heavenlies with Jesus.
 - a. Definite resistance on the ground of the cross
 - b. Humble dependence
 - c. Relinquishing the dream of ease
6. Long Range Penetration – Going behind enemy lines
 - a. Initiative placed on Body of Christ. Father will listen and respond Matthew 18:18
7. Slackened Bowstrings
 - a. 4 attitudes – offense, defense, détente, desertion
 - b. No safe battles but also no safe compromises
 - c. Clean hearts – refusing to shelter one little lust in our hearts.
8. Weapons and the Will – weapons are ineffective unless they are used - Deborah
9. Peace through Victory – I Samuel 7 – Samuel’s prayer role in God’s War
 - a. Cleanup – Calls a revival
 - b. Crisis – Threat from Outside
 - c. Climax – Offers a Sacrificial Lamb
10. Measuring Victories – Claiming inheritance in Christ Jesus 2 Kings 13:14-19
 - a. Claiming only a small portion of your inheritance is forfeiting your inheritance. Do not obey partially!
 - b. Demonstrate intention to fight, plan on divine faithfulness, expose place of failure and defeat, put action to your faith, take the measuring cup of victory and fill it.
11. The Cutting Edge – Prayer is the cutting edge of any work for God. The central thrust. Expression of corporate life is measured in prayer depth
 - a. Beware of prayers with blunted edges.
 - b. Inner reality over outward means
 - c. Truth of the Word, Applied to the Heart, Offered Back in Prayer
 - d. Prayer – theocentric trust not egocentric quest
12. God’s Will/My Will
 - a. Praying God’s Will and Accepting the Circumstances He allows
 - b. “Instead of being chained to our circumstances, our hearts leapt Godward in the sheer joy of communion and oneness with him in his will. We gladly took our stand as the bond-slaves of Jesus Christ.” We found we could pray, Not my will but yours be done.’
13. Our Father

- a. Our – We pray with Jesus and the Holy Spirit and come with the rest of the Body of Christ. Not a solitary activity
 - b. Father – He is our loving Father, and He invites us to come into His presence through Jesus and the Spirit.
14. Hallowed be Thy Name – This first prayer orients us outside ourselves and keeps us centered on Him.
15. The Predictable and the Prophesied – The Lamb becomes the Lion and the Lord returns to rule over His creation. God’s redemptive purposes for the lost move ahead along a path of suffering and sacrifice.
16. Prayer – Persuasion or Penetration
- a. Persuasion – sort out our requests and advance to throne to claim answer. Not surprised when no answer is given. Try to persuade God with answers we specify.
 - b. The Penetration of Prayer
 - i. Prayer will not penetrate Godward if I am presumptuous Deut 1:45
 - ii. Prayer will not penetrate if I reject His Lordship I Samuel 8:18
 - iii. Prayer will not penetrate if I do not help the needy – Prov 21:13
 - iv. Prayer will not penetrate if I have sin in my heart – Psalm 66:18
17. Faith – Attitude or Act – Acting on the faith in Christ Jesus. Prayer is “diligent application” of God’s will in heaven.
18. Authority – Assumed or Authentic
- a. Servant of God initiates a confrontation with the enemy holding the rod of God. Exodus 17 Delegated authority
 - b. For every provocation against God’s cause, there is a provision for victory.
 - c. Victory is an accomplished fact, but it does need a person to lay hold of that victory and precipitate a confrontation and resist the enemy. Watch and Pray (97)
19. My Praying or my Prayer – Not in my praying
- a. My Prayer - Prayer through the inner constraint of God’s Holy Spirit in my spirit, pressing me to this duty of adoption (adopting His burdens as my own) and enabling me for its every involvement.
 - b. “For those willing to commit themselves to Christ for this kind of warfare, enlistment could well be the watershed of their lives. On one side are half-developed values, wrong priorities, and a frustrated casting around for spiritual shortcuts to exorcise a sense of failure. But over the watershed, new standards are discovered – new touchstones. We learn how few things are essential and how essential those few things really are.” (102)
20. Perspective
- “One of the harder lessons of life is to learn that our low-centered, sens- oriented subjectivism militates against our effective cooperation with God in his purpose for us in a given trial.” (103)
- “How do you pray when the future becomes a dead-end street?” Above the dead end streets of human perspective there is the divine perspective that unfolds limitless opportunities within the will of God.... Nowhere is the greatness of God seen to such advantage as it is in his ability to use as his chariot of conquest the circumstances that pose the greatest threat to his cause.” (106).
21. Opportunity Price Tag
- “God’s redemptive opportunities never come disguised. Jesus Christ does not coerce men to follow him by pandering to the taste of natural man. He doesn’t sugar-coat his opportunities and then dangle them in front of us...all opportunities on his list have a fixed price sacrifice. They are available to those who repudiate self’s claims.” (108).

22. The Architect of Victory

“All prayer first begins with God...God sometimes arranges circumstances that will lay a burden of constraint on someone to direct specific prayer toward the particular thing God wants to accomplish. The Spirit-sensitized soul, seeking after God’s will in the circumstances, becomes aware of what God is aiming to do. So he gives himself to prayer to seek its accomplishment.” (112)

Day 23. Faith Alternates

- a. Through suffering the church is fitted for the task of evangelization of the world.
- b. Victory lies with the weakest not the strongest.
- c. Prepare to enter the school of discipline and give your life without reserve
- d. God’s recklessness – putting into human hands an instrument of victory to bring glory to His name.

Day 24. Lion’s Den Loyalty

- a. God has ways of scattering his witness
- b. He commits his precious treasure into hands of a feeble few and sends them as victims into the lions den or as sheep amid wolves.
- c. God’s last word is vindication and his purpose salvation
- d. In selecting His witnesses, God looks for loyalty!

Day 25. Eternal Symbol – Why God allows doors to close for the gospel?

The Lion has triumphed – the mastery of the Lion explains the mystery of the Lamb. Only the slain lamb can become the prevailing lion. The victim reigns!

Day 26. Fuel-less Fire

- a. Moses knew at the burning bush that he could never trust his emotions to supply motive power for spiritual work.
- b. He is confronted by the God of the fire and hears him say, “I AM...”
- c. God shows Moses his fire of covenant faithfulness. God will abide faithful!

Day 27. A Working Relationship

“In the unfolding of God’s redemptive purposes...he chooses to unite with himself human instruments and share with them the excitement of creativity.... The vital, indispensable part of this working relationship is prayer.”

“Abiding in Him is the condition he established for our asking and his acting.”

“The quintessence of prayer is the intertwining of the will of man with the will of God but only on the basis of surrender.” (138-139)

Day 28. A Problem and a Prayer – Hannah

The pain of a woman becomes the ground of God’s work in a nation. Does our pain become the impetus for prayer for God to send forth laborers into the field.

Do I have the faith to believe God will fulfill his own word as I pray?

Day 29. Christian’s Vital Breath

Band of prayer helpers – God’s effective means for achieving results through on the mission field. Gathered information and sent it to those who could give themselves to prayer. This calls for discipline, sacrifice of time, deep desire – Christian’s vital breath.

Day 30. Discipline Accepted...Mission Accomplished!

Who can press through to finish his course?

Jesus learned obedience, accepted discipline, finished His mission. "The treasure he guarded was more than his life; it was his dying. To have relinquished this dying at any point in favor of some escape scheme would have forfeited the right to claim mission accomplished.

The one who will go through to the end with steady pace is the one who accepts the daily discipline of dying. He chooses to renounce and repudiate the competitive voice of self.

Why does God have to mediate his disciplines through the clumsy and unsympathetic hands of those we dislike or despise or whose authority we resent?

God purposes to build into us the quality of endurance.

Adjusting to the limitations of those we are forced to live with mellows and matures us.

Bearing about in our bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus is the way the idealist has his vision transmuted into the kind of living that counts in the murky world of human relationships.

The one who will finish well is the one who carries this record: Discipline Accepted

She is more concerned to guard her daily dying than her living rights.

If we want to be used of God year after year in the place of his appointment, then let us welcome the incompatibilities that toughen spiritual temper and at the same time drive us to the resources of the life that was laid down for us.

Day 31. God's Scramble Squadron

Learn to look to God as First Cause

Concentrate thinking on the purpose of Calvary and the implications for me

Live seated in Christ Jesus at the right hand of the Father – united with Christ