

## CAS, Close Air Support

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 A.L. Comm Xmas Opp. [Children at Risk] Young Adult Retreat. Kneppers.
- B. Slide5 Christian Audio - Here *next Sun* to sell audio books \$1,2. Great Stocking Stuffer.
- C. Slide6 Xmas Times - 9&11am, 3&5pm.
- D. Slide7 Xmas Gift Cards - bring *1 gift card*, of any amount, to Christmas Eve service.
  1. It will be incorporated into our worship service. We will bless *Local Org's* we work with. *Our finest gift cards we bring, par rum pa pum pum. To lay before the king...*
- E. Slide7b Prayer: Forgive us for our *ding-dong-ditch* prayers. Teach us to stay alert, to remain on our watchtower.

### II. Slide8 Intro: CAS, Close Air Support

- A. In military tactics, *close air support (CAS)* is defined as **air action** such as air strikes by fixed or rotary-winged aircraft **against hostile targets** that are in **close proximity** to **friendly forces**. [*In our spiritual application:* it's calling in air strikes from up **above**, against a hostile enemy, who is in close proximity to us, or our allies]
  1. It's a direct walkie-talkie transmission to our Generals headquarters.
  2. Slide9 Did you know: **78%** of all Americans pray at least **once a week**. More than half, **57%** report praying at least **once a day**. Even among the 13% of Americans who are *atheist or agnostics*, nearly 1 in 5 still **prays daily**. **But...**
  3. **Prayer is not...**a **civilian device**, like an intercom system large homes have to talk to each other in the house. **Prayer is not...a bell** you ring when you want God to do something for you. Slide10a,b **Prayer is...communication we use in battle conditions.**
    - a) Our key this morning is to exclude all *tricks, mechanical formulas & gimmicks* for finding out what God wants us to do.
- B. Slide10c,d **Armor & weapons** are not *sufficient* to win a battle; there must be **energy** to do the job.
  1. Our energy comes from prayer. We use the **sword** of the Spirit **and** we **pray** in the spirit: the Holy Spirit **empowers** us to win the battle.

2. The **Word of God** (sword) and **prayer** are the 2 resources God has given **the church** to overcome the **enemy** and gain territory for God's glory. *Wiersbe*

a) eg. When **Moses & Joshua** fought against the Amalekites in Ex.17. **Moses** prayed up on the hill, holding up the rod of God in his hand. **Joshua** used the sword down in the valley with the enemy. It took **both** to defeat Amalek. **Prayer is the power for victory, but not just any kind prayer...**

C. Let's read our text & find **6** aspects of **Prayer's battle strategy...**

### III. Slide11 **1 PRAY AT ALL TIMES (18a)** *praying always*

A. The command to **stand** (4 x's) is now joined with a command to **pray**.

1. But we really can't learn how to **stand** until we learn how to **kneel**.

B. **Not** always saying your prayers, **but**, *praying w/o ceasing* means, **always be in communion w/the Lord**. Keep the receiver off the hook. Have an ongoing conversation.

1. We must **pray always** because we are always subject to **temptation** and the attacks of the devil. **It helps us against surprise attacks.**

C. **Prayer** should not be an afterthought for believers, **but** rather our primary source of strength.

### IV. Slide12a **2 PRAY WITH ALL PRAYERS (18b)** *with all prayers & supplication*

A. The Military analogy is vital for us to understand. **We are at war!**

1. It's **seriousness** is found in the **all's** contained in the command...

**Always; All prayers; All perseverance; for All the saints.**

B. **Slide12b All types of prayer** (or each kind of prayer): Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.

1. **Slide12c 5 fingers: Thumb** (those closest to you), **Next** (pointing finger/those who teach, instruct, & heal), **Tallest** (leaders), **4th finger** (Weakest. Those who are weak, sick, in trouble, in pain) **Pinky** (Smallest. Pray for yourself).

2. Another method for prayer is **Fasting** [It adds **intensity** & **focus** to your prayer life]

C. The believer who prays only to **ask for things** is missing out on blessings that come with **intercessions** and **giving of thanks**.

1. **Thanksgiving** is a great prayer weapon for defeating Satan. ***Praise changes things, as much as prayer changes things.*** Wiersbe
2. **Also, Intercession** for others can bring victory to our own lives. ***And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.*** Job 42:10

#### V. Slide13 **3 PRAY IN THE SPIRIT (18c)** *in the spirit*

- A. *You can't just **decide** to be a warrior; you must be **prepared** to do so.*
- B. *We pray **to** the Father, **through** the Son, and **in** the Spirit.*
- C. *In the spirit* – does not necessarily mean *in tongues/in your prayer language* (it could).
  1. If it did mean this, it would mean only those w/this gift could pray?
  2. It means, *in the energy & with the purposes of the Spirit.* Praying in concert w/the HS.
- D. *Only in the Spirit's power can we pray in the will of God.*
  1. Romans 8:26,27 nlt ***And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.***
- E. *Incense in Scripture is a picture of prayer.* [It had to be mixed a certain way prescribed by God, and could not be counterfeited by man]
  1. The fire on the altar was a picture of the Holy Spirit, for it is He who takes our prayers and **ignites** them in the will of God.
  2. Slide14 *It's possible to pray fervently in the flesh and never get through to God. It's possible to pray quietly in the Spirit and see God's hand do great things.*

#### VI. Slide15 **4 PRAY WITH YOUR EYES OPEN (18c)** *being watchful*

- A. **Watchful** - Christian soldiers must pray with *their eyes open*.  
*Watch and pray* is God's secret for overcoming *the world, the flesh & the devil*.
- B. **Watching** means *keeping on the alert*.

1. Nehemiah is a good example of this when he said, *But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.* Neh.4:9

C. Remember what we learned from sleeping birds? The tendons of the bird's legs are so constructed that when the leg is bent at knee, the claws contract and grip like a steel trap. The claws refuse to let go until the knees are *unbent* again. (actually called ankle, knee's higher)

1. Our knee bent in prayer, gives us a firm grip on those values which make life worth living. When we hold firmly to God in prayer, we can rest assured He will hold tightly to us.

## VII. Slide 16a **5 PRAY WITH PERSISTENCE (18d)** *w/all perseverance*

A. The word perseverance simply means, *to stick to it and not quit.* The sense is *holding out & waiting.* It's a continuous, unbroken action. LKGNT

B. *Perseverance in prayer* does not mean we are trying to *twist God's arm*, but rather that we are *deeply concerned and burdened* and cannot rest until we get **God's answer.**

1. Slide 16b Robert Law puts it, *Prayer is not getting man's will done in heaven; it is getting God's will done on earth.*

## VIII. Slide 17a **6 PRAY FOR ALL BELIEVERS (18d-20)** *supplication for all the saints*

A. The Lord's Prayer begins with *Our Father* not *My Father*.

1. We pray as part of *a great family* that is also talking to God.

2. We pray for the *other members* of the family.

3. Paul here calls in for *prayer support* from his Ephesian family.

B. Slide 17b Christian soldiers, don't go it alone.

1. Remember the example of Moses praying up on the hill top...*he didn't go it alone, Moses commanded Joshua, Choose some men to go out and fight the army of Amalek for us. Tomorrow, I will stand at the top of the hill, holding the staff of God in my hand. 10 So Joshua did what Moses had commanded and fought the army of Amalek. Meanwhile, Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of a nearby hill.* Ex.17:9,10

2. Christians, I know we live in such a individualistic society/culture. We like our space & walls. **But** we need people around us *who know what's going on in our lives*. We need those around us to hold our arms up, a shoulder to cry on.
3. Where in the NT do you find an isolated believer?
  - a) We are like sheep we need to *flock together. Stand together. Fight together. Pray together. Love the world together. Worship together.*
- C. Paul asked for prayer for...*what to say, the courage to say it, & say it at the right time.*
- D. Paul was a **prisoner** of Rome **in chains**, **yet** he was richer than the emperor.
- E. It isn't a pastor's goal to make the saints comfortable. *Comfortable saints don't fight.*
  1. What did Jesus mean when He said, *the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church* (sounds kinda serious!) *Not the doorway to Disneyland.*
- F. **Slide18 Irina Ratu-shin-skaya's** (a Russian Soviet dissident) at age 28 was arrested & sentenced to 7 years hard labor in the *Bareshevo labor camp*. There she was subjected to relentless interrogations, chilling cold, starvation, hard labor, and months of solitary confinement.
  1. **Irina's faith did not break.** During the lonely nights, huddled against the cold wall of her cell, she composed **poetry** in her head about God. When Irina was finally released, she credited the prayers of believers for sustaining her. In one of her poems, she wrote: [Her memoir, *Grey is the Colour of Hope*]
    - a) *Believe me, it was often thus: In solitary cells, on winter nights  
A sudden sense of joy and warmth, And a resounding note of love.  
And then, unsleeping, I would know, A-huddle by an icy wall:  
Someone is thinking of me now, Petitioning the Lord for me. Pray for all believers*

## IX. Slide19a GRACIOUS GREETING (21-24)

- A. (21) **Tychicus** - (A Gentile [non-Jewish] believer from province of Asia) A companion of Paul during his ministry; courier for **this** letter, as well as **Colossians** and likely **Philemon**.
- B. (21,22) Mail and other news were normally carried by travelers, because the Roman Empire had no official postal service except for imperial business.
- C. (23,24) The OT promised *God's covenant love* to all who loved **God**; **here** the promise applies specifically to those who love **the Lord Jesus Christ**.

1. **Slide19b** Msg - *Good-bye, friends. Love mixed with faith be yours from God the Father and from the Master, Jesus Christ. Pure grace and nothing but grace be with all who love our Master, Jesus Christ.*

D. **Slide19c** Eph.3:20,21 *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

E. **Slide20a** Our spiritual armor is to be used in war that has already been won.

It is said of **Napoleon Bonaparte** that as he attempted to conquer all the kingdoms of the known world, he spread out a map on a table, pointed to a specific place, and said to his lieutenants, *“Sirs, if it were not for that red spot, I can conquer the world.”* The spot to which he pointed was the British Isles, the very nation that met Napoleon at Waterloo in Belgium and defeated him in league with the group of nations.

1. There is no doubt that when Satan talks with his minions about conquering the world, he says the same thing about the red hilltop of Calvary where Christ’s **Slide21,22** blood was spilled: *“if it were not for that red spot, I would rule the world!”*

2. But that **red spot** is what makes all the difference in our spiritual battle. **We do not have to live in fear the devil.** We need enter only the spiritual battle which we have been called, aware of it’s reality and it’s subtlety, and armed with the truth that the ultimate victory against Satan has already been achieved. Therefore, right now at this moment *“we are more than conquerors through him who loved us”*. [David Jeremiah Study Bible, pg.1648]