

## JEREMIAH 29:11-14

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity...*

Spiritual Warfare and seeking God go together. As you read throughout Scripture you will find repeated references to God's people seeking after Him. Reading on, we see implied in these passages, is a quest for God that includes a level of intensity beyond what might be termed ordinary prayer.

Jeremiah 29:11 is a Scripture that is very familiar to most Christians. We repeat it often when we are going through difficult circumstances yet; we stop there—on verse eleven. I would encourage you to continue reading and praying in verses twelve through fourteen. For in these Scriptures we discover that the word “search” along with the phrase “with all your heart” suggests an earnestness that borders on desperation.

I have fought many spiritual battles and often in desperation, I called out to the Lord many times for help when encountering the powers of darkness. When the gates of hell opened wide and the attacks came against me fast and furious—oh yes, I became desperate—I called out to the Lord with all that was within me for H E L P!

In the Spirit Filled Life Bible in the Kingdom Dynamics it tells us that the word “search” suggests a “following after,” or close pursuit of a desired objective; it also implies a diligence in the searching process. In 2 Chr. 15:2, Azariah promises the Lord will be with His people if they ‘seek’ after Him—another indicator of God's emphasis on intensity and diligence in prayer.

It is important for the believer to understand his position in Christ in order to effectively be victorious in Spiritual Warfare. James pictures a level of prayer that is beyond any believer's normal capacity—it is divinely energized by the direct involvement of the Holy Spirit. In 1 Thess. 2:13 Paul says, *For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also **effectively** works in you who believe.* This has to do with the active operation of working power and its effectual results. God hears and answers in active power the **effective—fervent** prayers of the believer. Paul used the word in describing the power of God's Word as it works special energy in those who believe. And it only works in those who “believe.”

Satan loves it when we are lazy and do not read the Word. We need to remember that our focus (emphasis) should always be on Jesus and the things of God. We are to maintain a balance in the Lord while we are in daily battles with the enemy of our soul. Satan seeks to steal the fruit of the Spirit in your life, getting your eyes off Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) and onto yourself and your problems. The **fervent** prayers of the believer will keep you balanced and pursuing life in Christ. Remember, we have a hope and a future! Let us pursue God's plans!

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) – *For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Amen!*

Lord Jesus, we thank You that Your Word is our prayer manual. Its principles show us many things that we should and shouldn’t pray for / Help us to study it wisely and *hang in there*, because Satan was defeated at the cross. We chose to walk in peace of mind, seek good counsel for decisions we must make, find God given solutions for tough problems and we will continue through the Word to have victory over fleshly temptations. All that we need Lord, You will provide—especially the **effective, fervent** prayers of the saints.

Let us remember Lord that the way we pray reveals what we think of God, therefore, help us keep our eyes upon You and our hearts seeking you at all times. We will not be afraid to face our Goliaths. We will choose to believe as Noah did. We will be willing to sleep in the lion’s den as Daniel did as our faith is also in You Lord Jesus and we will trust you with our whole hearts. We will be willing to be a Caleb in the land of the giants, and we are willing to face our Red Seas(s) with confidence. We will remember that impossibilities are the stages for God’s miracles. We will choose to praise God in all situations and we will sing Your praises as we march in Your Army. For truly God rules the world by the prayers of His saints! Prayer warriors affect the unseen realm! We make a difference!

*Praying in the victory puts a smile on your face, and a frown on the devil’s.*

*Denial might ease the pain of the moment but will keep the lesson from being learned. The same pain will occur again in another experience until you are willing to take an honest look.*

*God without man is still God. Man without God is nothing.*

*Faith isn’t faith until that’s all you’re holding onto!*

*When the devil comes knocking at your door, simply say... "Jesus, could you get that for me please"?*

*Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, but FAITH looks up.*

*Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps, if you are not willing to move your feet.*