

## PRAYER LESSON 132

### Fight On Your Knees

Two thousand years ago Jesus came to earth with this announcement, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." He then began to demonstrate the present rule and reign of God on earth that had been held captive by the kingdom of darkness. He reversed the effects of the Fall by healing the sick and casting out demons and forgiving sins. Satan would never again have unfettered rule over people's lives.

The great climax of his time on earth was his sacrificial death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins and then his rising from the grave to defeat even death itself. Jesus struck the decisive blow in this war against sin and death. The war was not over but the outcome was no longer in doubt. Jesus was determined to be the ultimate victor. The only thing to be decided was the final body count.

Many Christians seem to think that the battle ended on Easter morning. The outcome was decided but the battle continues. Christians are called to continue the battle until Christ returns to finish off the enemy once and for all. We are living in a world at war, but our weapons are not of this world. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 **For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.**

Chief among the weapons at our disposal is prayer. Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**" Prayer is rooted in the present reality of God's kingdom. Prayer works because God responds to the intercession of his people. Not everything that happens in this world is God's will. Therefore, we are called to use prayer as a weapon of warfare to bring his kingdom to the ends of the earth.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of believers are not even in the battle, they are content to sit out the fight on the sidelines. Yet, some continue to fight to bring the kingdom to reality in the here and now. God has unlimited power to see that his kingdom comes on this earth, but he only seems to act in response to our prayers. How dare we sit this one out. The world needs the kingdom of God and we need to get in the battle and begin fighting, and we begin on our knees.