

Values Matter Discovery Starters

We Want to Know God

4. PRACTICE WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER

YWAM is dedicated to worship God and engage in intercessory prayer as integral aspects of daily life. We also recognize the intent of Satan to destroy the work of God and we rely upon God's empowering presence, the Holy Spirit, to overcome his strategies in the lives of individuals and in the affairs of nations.

[1Sa 7:5](#); [2Ch 7:14](#); [Psa 84:1-8](#); [Psa 95:6-7](#); [Psa 100:1-5](#);
[Mar 11:24-25](#); [Act 1:14](#); [Eph 6:13-20](#); [1Th 5:16-19](#); [1Ti 2:1-4](#)

Value #4 – Practice Worship and Intercessory Prayer: Spiritual Warfare

Biblical Foundation:

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground,

- *putting on the belt of truth*
- *and the body armor of God's righteousness.*
- *For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.*
- *In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.*
- *Put on salvation as your helmet,*
- *and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should (Eph 6:13-20).

Discovery Starter:

We are impressed with God, the lover of our soul. "Who is like you among the gods, O LORD—glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?" (Exo 15:11). No one! Only our God is rightly called "Wonderful" (Isa 9:6) for he alone fills us with enduring wonder. We are not the only ones amazed by such a remarkable God! "The highest angelic powers stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than all who surround his throne. O LORD God of Heaven's Armies! Where is there anyone as mighty

as you, O LORD? You are entirely faithful" (Psa 89:7-8). God's unparalleled capacity and his spotless character deserves our undivided admiration.

We are not impressed with Satan, the enemy of our soul. Now, we don't discount Satan or ignore his activity. But neither are we awed by him, for he is a defeated enemy. God is great; Satan is not. The story of Simon the Sorcerer (Act 8:9-13) illustrates that even when the enemy seeks to amaze people with counterfeit efforts; only God's work is genuinely amazing. We are not intimidated by the enemy for "we use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons" (2Co 10:4). Indeed, "we use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense" (2Co 6:7).

Spiritual warfare surrounds us, but God "has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son" (Col 1:13). God invites us to participate with him in the retaking of planet earth. For this reason, we are to "put on all of God's armor" (Eph 6:11) and take a stand with God. We are to arm ourselves with his mighty acts – with the truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation which come from God, relying on Holy Spirit and the Word of God for victory. Then we will be counted among those who "sing for joy as they lie on their beds" because they have "the praises of God ... in their mouths, and a sharp sword in their hands" (Psa 149:5-6) to establish God's good and kind purposes in our world.

Keep Going:

Time and again we are told in the Original Testament that God astounds people "with amazing wonders" (Isa 29:14). The gospel writers do the same when they record how people were astonished and amazed with Jesus' words and actions. Take some time to look at the following passages: Mat 7:28; 12:23; 13:54; 19:25; 22:33; Mar 1:22; 2:12; 5:42; 6:2,51; 7:37; 10:26; 11:18; Luk 2:47-48; 4:32; 8:56; 9:43; 24:22. Ponder on those things which most amaze you about God. Set your heart to praise him for his extraordinary capacity and excellent character.

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