

Prayers *for* Victory  
in  
Spiritual Warfare

TONY EVANS



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the unsung heroes of our church.  
Thank you for your commitment  
in doing battle in the spiritual realm  
on behalf of so many in our body.*

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## FOREWORD

by Priscilla Shirer

**M**y dad, Dr. Tony Evans, is a man of prayer, plain and simple. My childhood memories of his praying are deeply ingrained—hearing his voice resonate with fervor and passion as he lifted up his requests and thanksgiving to God. Not just once a week on Sunday as he led the congregation. No, my father prayed as a lifestyle. He'd gather my siblings and me and our mom, ask us to bow our heads and close our eyes, and then, *then*, he'd talk to God. I admit sometimes I'd peek, opening my eyes just enough to peer up into his face. That's when I *knew*. I knew for sure this discipline was not one he took lightly. His expression was tender and yet serious, compassionate and yet somehow still intent and purposeful. He didn't just pick the usual words and phrases that most easily came to mind. He wasn't hurried or rushed, hoping to quickly return to more important endeavors. This *was*

the important task. And as a result of his belief in the power of prayer, I saw God's answers and responses. His Spirit-filled prayer life encouraged our faith as a family and has helped to shape my own personal prayer life as an adult. I'm grateful to call this godly man my pastor...and my father. Grateful, too, that he's sharing some of his wisdom with you in this important book.

In *Prayers for Victory in Spiritual Warfare*, Dr. Tony Evans gives you a jump start in praying for the various needs in your life. In each of the 30 topics covered, he provides you with prayers based on the six pieces of armor outlined in Ephesians 6:10-17. You can pray these prayers verbatim, paraphrase them, or simply let them provoke your thoughts as you craft your own prayers related to these 30 topics—or any other topics you wish to add. The key, however, is to pray. Like my daddy did and still does. Don't just think about prayer, talk about prayer, or learn about prayer. *Actually pray*. Our great God is looking forward to hearing from you and me as we seek His face for victory in the battles we are fighting in our lives.

I will be joining you in claiming the spiritual victory that is ours because we are already more than conquerors in Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. And as you pray, remember that no matter the struggle you are facing, greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Shirer

## RECEIVING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Walk by the Spirit, and you will not  
carry out the desire of the flesh.*

GALATIANS 5:16

**H**ave you ever been to a gas station to fill up your car? I imagine you have. One thing you know for sure—when you fill up your car, the gas is not going to last forever. Eventually, the fuel gauge on your dashboard is going to remind you that you are nearing empty and you need to find a gas station again. If you want to continue driving your car, you must keep gas in the tank. No gas, no trip.

Many believers today don't realize that even though we received the Holy Spirit when we trusted in Christ for salvation from our sins, the ongoing dwelling of the Holy Spirit's presence is something we need to seek on a regular basis. Just



as driving your car is difficult if it's running on fumes, living the victorious Christian life is impossible without the flame of the Spirit burning bright.

So how do you fill yourself with the Spirit's presence? There are a number of ways. One is to regularly acknowledge and confess your sin because the Holy Spirit is holy and does not dwell intimately in the presence of sin. Another way is by reading God's Word and singing spiritual songs and psalms. Praying and meditating on the character and attributes of God, keeping your mind set on truth, engaging in an atmosphere of communication and communion with God...these things draw you into His presence.

Walk by the Spirit, and you will fully live out the plan God has for you. But remember—to walk by the Spirit, you need to intentionally remain tethered to Him.

### **Put On the Belt of Truth**

Dear Lord, You remind me, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth" [John 16:13]. So many voices and perspectives surround me—coming from friends, the media, or even my own thoughts—that seek to compete with or counter Your truth. I realize that my history and the things I have experienced may sometimes cloud what I believe to be true. Please let Your Holy Spirit guide me each and every day into all truth. Guide my thoughts and my decisions. Reveal to me where I am thinking wrong. Correct

me where I have gotten off track. And grant me the grace to apply the truth You show me through the Spirit to my words and actions so that I reflect Your image more fully in all I do. In Christ's name, amen.

### **Put On the Breastplate of Righteousness**

Father, Your Word tells me that You have “made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” [2 Corinthians 3:6]. The law is not my righteousness because on my own, even on my best day, I can only claim like Paul that I am unrighteous [Romans 3:10]. Give me the grace to live according to the newness of the Spirit, pleasing You in all that I do, and may I do this out of a heart filled with gratitude for all You have done for me. In Christ's name, amen.

### **Put On the Shoes of Peace**

Lord, one of the evidences of a Spirit-filled life is peace [Galatians 5:22]. You have given me the Holy Spirit so I can speak to the chaos around me or in me just as Jesus spoke to the storm on the sea, “Be still.” Thank You, God, for empowering me to wear the shoes of peace. Holy Spirit, I pray I may know and be protected by Your peace—peace that passes comprehension [Philippians 4:7]—so that I will respond calmly when other people disappoint me or when circumstances seem to be against me. In Christ's name, amen.

### **Take Up the Shield of Faith**

Dear God, in times of doubting, fear, or anxiety, I might try to turn to a crutch to get me through that moment or that day. Whatever that crutch is, Lord, if it is not faith in You, I am choosing to fill myself with something other than Your Holy Spirit. Help me in those times to remember that I have access to Your presence and the Spirit's power. Remind me to whisper a simple prayer, turning my thoughts to You, and not to seek something else to cover my fears and doubts or distract me from them. In Christ's name, amen.

### **Take the Helmet of Salvation**

Lord, I am secure. I am secure because of the work of Christ on the cross and because He sent the Holy Spirit to remain with me all of my days on earth. I thank You that whatever I face, nothing will separate me from Your love. The Holy Spirit is a constant reminder of that promise. I bless Your name because "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set [me] free from the law of sin and death" [Romans 8:1-2]. I want to live as if I believe that fully, Lord. Take my guilt and hesitation over things I have done wrong so that I may boldly walk in the confidence of my relationship with You. In Christ's name, amen.

### **Take Up the Sword of the Spirit**

Lord, as I take up the sword of the Spirit today, give me wisdom through Your Word to align my thoughts, words, and actions under You. Where I am struggling, Lord, direct me to Scriptures that reveal the truth so I can apply it to my own mind and repel Satan's attacks. Jesus, You used the Word of God when Satan tempted You in the desert. You countered Satan's lies with the truth by saying, "It is written..." and then proclaiming the truth. Show me where I have been duped by the devil, and guide me to the correlating truth to counteract it in each of these areas I am bringing to You in prayer. In Christ's name, amen.

### **Victory**

Pray and ask God to reveal any of your misguided thoughts, beliefs, or words about the Holy Spirit or your relationship to the Spirit. Ask Him to show you how you have tried to cope with difficulties in life instead of turning to the filling of the Spirit. For each untruth, look for a countering truth from God's Word. When you write down the countering truth, be sure to cross out the untruth and pray, in Christ's name, that it will no longer affect your life and the lives of those around you. Then thank God that the power of His truth has been let loose to do its work of healing, empowerment, and grace in you. Here's an example.

- *Untruth*: I have coped with pain through [overspending, drinking, yelling...] for so long, I could never stop it now.
- *Truth*: “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).