

MISSION: POSSIBLE SERIES

Title: Mission Possible Part 4: Our Personal Mission with the Larger Mission
Acts 20:13-24 NLT

January 22, 2017

Prayer for Spiritual Warfare

Jesus, sometimes I can almost sense the heaviness of pressure mounting and the ominous presence of darkness around me. I recognize my enemy is at work again. Whether he's trying to discourage me to get sidetracked, to fall into temptation, to give up, or to take my eyes off you, he's always hanging around.

I need your supernatural power, Lord, to stand strong and not surrender. Physical force won't help, because you've said the weapons of our warfare are different from those in this world. As believers, ours are powerful and can demolish strongholds and lies. These supernatural weapons originate from you. By your precious name and blood, Jesus, I'm asking you to confuse Satan and cancel his attempts to shut me and my influence down. Help me not to become discouraged or to give in when heavy times of testing come.

When I'm tired and weak, you are strong, Lord, and you are my only source of help. I cannot fight without you. Teach me how to pray and to trust you to pull down those strongholds that keep me or others helpless. Guard me from isolation that leaves me exposed and vulnerable. I believe you destroyed the power of my enemy by your death and resurrection. But like a bad penny, my enemy keeps showing up, whispering lies, twisting truth, and attempting to inflate my selfish pride. He never gives up.

I am declaring the devil and his demons liars today, Lord. Through the power of your precious name and blood, I agree with your Word and the truth that you are in me and that you are greater than my enemy who wants to rule the world. You, your Word, and prayer, Lord, are my secret weapons. I belong to you, and that fills me with a powerful God-confidence. I want to constantly dress in the spiritual armor you give me. Because every day is an unseen fight in the heart and soul of mankind. I pray that today You will be pleased with my actions. I will put on the belt of truth and not deceive those around me. I will put on the breastplate of righteousness and treat all I see with fairness and integrity. I will keep my shoes laced tight to deliver the good news, hoping that some will come to know You. I will keep the shield of faith before me to extinguish the temptations that come my way. I will wear the helmet of salvation and live joyfully knowing that I am not home yet! I will have the sword of the Spirit ready at all times to deliver deadly blows to those that will listen to Your Word and truth, that they may come to realize how much they need You!

Help me use it to defend others from Satan's fiery darts as well. No one and nothing can snatch me away from your hand.

Strengthen my faith, Lord. Forgive my sins, so that I may be clean in your righteousness. Make me brave, so I can stand and fight the spiritual battles in my life and in our world. Give me your wisdom and discernment so I won't be caught off guard. Together, Lord, we'll win, because in truth, you already have.

In Jesus's powerful name before which every knee shall bow, Amen!

SERMON NOTES

In his book *How to Find Your Mission in Life*, Richard Nelson Bolles defines mission this way: “to exercise that Talent which you particularly came to earth to use—your greatest gift, which you most delight to use, in the place(s) or setting(s) which God has caused to appeal to you the most, and for those purposes which God most needs to have done in the world.”

Do you know your life mission or assignment?

Mission as defined this way does not change. It is given by God as a life-purpose. If it were defined by roles or jobs or results, it would change. We may not understand what it is or even define it well, but it is God’s purpose for your life as a believer.

The life of Paul provides a case study for us to examine this topic.

1. Jesus gives people a mission, work, or assignment.
 - A. _____ had a mission, work or assignment. Matthew 20:28; Luke 19:10; John 10:10; John 17:4
 - B. _____ had a mission, work or assignment. Acts 9:15-16; Philippians 3:13ff; 2 Timothy 4:7
 - C. _____ have a mission, work or assignment. Ephesians 2:10

Os Guinness says, “The truth is not that God is finding us a place for our gifts but that God has created us and our gifts for a place of his choosing—and we will only be ourselves when we are finally there.”

2. Finishing the work given by Jesus should be the ultimate priority in our lives.

In *The Power of Uniqueness* Arthur Miller identified the centrality of using your design. He said, “What lies at the heart of a seven-days-a-week faith: It is using one’s endowed giftedness to serve the world with excellence and, through that service, to love and honor God! The calling that fully engages what God has given you is a holy task!”

How did Paul carry out this work?

1. Humbly. V. 19
2. Tenderly. V. 19
3. Diligently. V. 19
4. Fully. V. 20
5. Faithfully. V. 21-23

Next Steps: Prayerfully Discern Your Personal Mission