

# The Spiritual War

## 12. WAGING WAR IN THE SPIRITUAL REALMS



Exactly what does it mean to wage in wage war in the spiritual realms? This might be a hard concept for some to understand. Most people in the world really do not understand this concept. Even Christians, who read the Bible don't comprehend what it means to wage war in the Spiritual Realms. Why, is this such a hard concept to comprehend?

First waging war is a spiritually mature undertaking, if you don't understand there is a war, how are you going to wag war? Only by understanding the deeper aspects of scripture, can someone learn about the battle raging all around. Paul calls these deeper doctrines in Hebrews, "Meat" as opposed to "Milk". Only those who pursue the deeper doctrines of scripture can expect to really understand and be engaged in the spiritual war.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. **Hebrews 5:12-14**

Secondly, waging war requires someone to understand who we (Christians) are, and why we are here. Then once understanding our position, we have to be willing to take God at His word and act. We have to be willing to clear the stronghold and traps Satan has put in our way. Satan's goal is to prevent the believer from engaging in the war against his realm. Therefore, to reach the point of waging war requires someone who pursues vision cast in scripture. Someone who is willing act on their authority and position they have in Jesus Christ.

We have to understand, God gives us the responsibility of making our choices with our life. We have 24 hours a day, 7-days a week, 168-hours per week until the day we die. This resource, *Time* is the great equalizer, regardless of whether we own a company that employs thousands, or a king who rules a kingdom of millions, or even a beggar in the streets, we all have the same resource. We can choose to spend this resource any way we want. What we choose to do with this resource is a good indication of who we are spiritually. How are we investing this resource? So many options abound; kids, work, education, friends, vacation, fun, sports, yard work just for starters. Despite all these options, we still only have 168-hours per week.

What investment of our time will outlast us in the end? Jesus addresses this dilemma in the Gospels. Peter the fisherman, who just heard Jesus reply to the rich young ruler about gaining eternal treasures, makes a statement, "See, we have left all and followed You". Jesus replied to Peter,

29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's,

30 "who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time-houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions-and in the age to come, eternal life.

31 "But many who are first will be last, and the last first." **Mark 10:29-31**

The disciples were the first line of offense, in the spread of the Gospel. They were the Lord's warriors, advancing His kingdom on Satan's domain, through the Church. We have been the same authority they have. We are the Lord's army advancing on enemy territory, the question is, how willing are we to use the resource of time, given to us by the Lord?

### *Counting the cost of warfare*

Is there a cost to being God's warrior? Yes, there is a cost for everything. Just ask the professional football or basketball player, was there a cost to being the top? Most have spent hours perfecting, their skills, sacrificing other aspects of their life to become the best. Today, many young athletes train with a vision of screaming crowds, multi-million dollar contracts, fame and notoriety, urging them on. Despite all this investment in time, the promise of their glory is temporary and fading. Few today can remember the great names beyond a couple of generations. The rewards this world offers is temporary, however the reward the Lord offers is eternal.

Spiritual warfare involves a commitment to the Lord's work, many times at the expense of our own lives, dreams and ambitions. This is why spiritual warfare is for the spiritual mature, those willing to exchange the temporary for the eternal. This is meaning behinds Jesus words. Serving the Lord, often requires someone to give up not only time, people who will keep someone from the Lord's service.

For example, many people who come to Christ in Muslim countries are often forced to choose between Christ and their families. The cost is great, because Satan has blinded the eyes of the lost, and prevents them from understanding the Gospel. Satan holds families hostage, to prevent God's people from using their authority to advance the Gospel.

### *Engaging in the Spiritual War*

Once we understand the battle, and have decided to be part of the Lord's army, advancing His Kingdom on enemy territory, you might ask yourself the question, "How do I start?" You might say, "I have so many commitments, how can I make time to engage in the wars of the Lord?" Whatever your situation, you can engage in the spiritual battle, advancing the kingdom of God on Satan's domain. God does not require us to have anything other than a sincere heart, with faith in Him, through Jesus Christ. Once we understand God can use us, wherever we are, we can let the power of the Holy Spirit do the work. Its not about our abilities, but our availability.

We just need to make ourselves available for His service. Being so busy to be used by God is one of Satan's methods. This was the problem of the rich young ruler. He loved his wealth too much to be of any use to God, money was the stronghold on his life, and he was not willing to part with it.

21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 "And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

**Matthew 19:16-24**

The rich young ruler in many ways reflected the church of Laodicea, he was not able to experience the power of God, because his wealth robbed him. He learned to trust in material wealth and power. Jesus describes the wealthy church of Laodicea as "*wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked*" (Revelation 3:14-20).

### *Where do I start?*

First, we need to know its not about us, God does not need our abilities, God wants our availability. When Jesus died on the cross, the veil in the Temple, which separated the Holy of Holies was ripped from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51). This signified a very important event, the separation between God and man is eliminated with the death of Jesus. We now have access to God's throne directly, we don't need a mortal High Priest, we now have a Heavenly High Priest Jesus Christ. Jesus is in Heaven, waiting for us to approach His throne.

9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.  
 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.  
 15 But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,  
 16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"  
 17 then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."  
 18 Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.  
 19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,  
 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,  
 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,  
 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.  
 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.  
**Hebrews 10:9-23**

Therefore the first place for us to start, when we engage in Spiritual Warfare, is to enter Heaven, before the throng of God in prayer, through the blood of Jesus Christ. What do I pray, you might ask? Here is a sample of a prayer, after praying to the Lord...listen for the Holy Spirit to speak to your inner man.

*Dear Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for my sins, and allowing me to approach your throne of Grace.... I am so unworthy, thank you for your mercy. Jesus I don't know where to start, but I want to be used by you. I come here to make my self available for service...I want to be your Spiritual warrior, Please Lord use me, wherever I can be used..... Please help me to make myself available for service..., Lord fill me with your Holy Spirit, let your love flow from me to those around me....In the name and blood of Jesus I pray....*

One the greatest example of prayer in recent memory is George Mueller, this story comes to us from the captain of a ship who witnessed the power of prayer first hand. Who himself became a man of prayer after witnessing it from George Mueller. Mueller was a prayer warrior who established orphanages and was a man of prayer. One day he was on a ship headed to Quebec Canada, for a particular meeting, a thick fog settled in on the water.<sup>1</sup>



**George Mueller 1805-1898**

the Mueller's set off for the United States in August 1877 aboard the Sardian...Off Newfoundland the weather turned cold and the ship's progress was seriously retarded by fog. The captain had been on the bridge for 24 hours when something happened which was to revolutionize his life. George Mueller appeared on the bridge.

"Captain, I have come to tell you I must be in Quebec by Saturday afternoon."

"It is impossible," said the captain.

"Very well, " said Mueller, "if your ship cannot take me, God will find some other way--I have never broken an engagement for 52 years. Let us go down into the chart-room and pray."

The Captain wondered which lunatic asylum Mueller had come from.

"Mr. Mueller," he said, "do you know how dense this fog is?"

"No, my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life."

Mueller then knelt down and prayed simply. When he had finished the captain was about to pray, but Mueller put his hand on his shoulder, and told him not to.

"First, you do not believe He will" and second, I believe He has, and there is no need whatever for you to pray about it."

The captain looked at Mueller in amazement.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.christianadoption.com/goals/mueller.htm>

"Captain," he continued, I have known my Lord for 52 years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to get an audience with the King. Get up, captain, and open the door, and you will find the fog is gone."

The captain walked across to the door and opened it. The fog had lifted. It was the captain himself, who later told the story of this incident, and who was subsequently described by a well known evangelist as "one of the most devoted men I ever knew."

It was prayer that swept his soul free of doubt, distemper, and the after-effects of a trial by the incoming tide of peace. For this reason he could make such remarks as this entry on March 9, 1847, "The greater the difficulties, the easier for faith." And a later one, "The greater the trial, the sweeter the victory."

His victories came through prayer, trust in the Lord's unfailing promises and a faith that God's truth would not fail.

"It is not enough to begin to pray," he advises us, "nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly continue in prayer, until we obtain an answer; and further, we have not only to continue in prayer unto the end, but we have also to believe that God does hear us and will answer our prayers. Most frequently we fail in not continuing in prayer until the blessing is obtained, and in not expecting the blessing."

George Mueller illustrates our need to depend on Prayer and the Holy Spirit to direct us in the Spiritual war.

*Pray to be equipped and trained*

Armor of God	
	girded your waist with truth (Vs. 14)
	breastplate of righteousness, (Vs. 14)
	shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace (Vs. 15)
	taking the shield of faith (Vs. 16)
	helmet of salvation (Vs. 17)
	sword of the Spirit (Vs. 17)
	praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit (Vs. 18)

Whatever area of Spiritual Warfare the Holy Spirit chooses to assign to us, we need to be equipped. Again, its not about our abilities, but about our willingness. We need to learn to allow the power of the Holy Spirit work through us. So again, we need to pray for the Lord to equip us for service. We need to wear His armor and not the worlds armor. A sample prayer might go something like this....

*Lord Jesus I come before your throne because I need the Armor of God, to enter the battle of spiritual realms, I do not want to trust in the armor of flesh, but your armor.... Equip me Lord with the .....belt of truth....breastplate of righteousness....Gospel of peace...shield of faith.....helmet of salvation....the sword of your Spirit....power of prayer and supplication.... Equip me for your war, like your servants David and Paul...*

*Let me know Lord where I need to grow in my knowledge and understanding so I can be used by you. Help me to understand and read your. Put people in my life, to help me Lord. Direct me to the resources I need.... Give me a desire to grow... fill me with your Holy Spirit ...In Jesus Name I pray...Amen*

*Where can I be used?*

After praying we need to let the Spirit of God direct our direction in warfare, so we need to be sensitive to the supernatural yearnings of the Holy Spirit. Remember, in Spiritual warfare, we are advancing the kingdom of God on Satan's domain. First in our life, overcoming our personal strongholds, then taking in the battle Satan's domain.

The Spiritual warrior must never forget, we operate not in our authority but Christ's authority, which has been given us to advance the Lord's Kingdom. Since our battle is taking place in heavenly realms we are not limited by physical terrain. I might live in Cleveland, Ohio but my warfare is not restricted to Ohio. I have authority to advance the Kingdom of God on Satan's domain. I am only limited, by my lack of faith,



**Spiritual warfare is a battle between for the souls of lost humanity.**

20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?"

21 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done.

22 "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

**Matthew 21:20-22**

We just need to be faithful, and let the Spirit of God direct us in the Lord's battle. The Spirit moved David in his fight against Goliath, God moved him to challenge the giant, who degraded and the God of Israel. We can allow God to move us, in the battle God wants us to engage in.

In Spiritual warfare, there are vast number of options available, being where God wants us is where we will be the most

effective.

### *Battlefields to engage the enemy*

The range of options in Spiritual Warfare is only limited by the amount of faith, which the Spiritual warrior has. Lets look at how anyone willing to engage in Spiritual warfare, can do exactly that. However, lets just review some of the key verses, on spiritual warfare.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**Ephesians 6:11-12**

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **Matthew 28:18-20**

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, **II Corinthians 10:3-5**

Any sincere person who knows the Lord, can engage in the war of the Heavenly realms. Since this type of warfare takes place in spiritual realms, it is not limited by physical limitations. Daniel probably the most well known prayer warrior in the Bible, was in his eighties when he battled against the Prince of Persia (Daniel 10). Age or health is no limitation to Spiritual warfare, only availability and faith are.

### 1. Prayer War

One of the most accessible means of Spiritual warfare is the power of prayer, as exhibited by George Mueller. Faith is the main factor in prayer warfare, do you really believe God is able to answer prayer? So how can you be involved in prayer warfare?

*Missionaries*

One place to start is the missionaries; they are often front-line workers, who are representing the kingdom of God, to the lost. They need prayer support, especially because they are assaulting Satan domain. Get specific information, which can be used during your prayer time. Find out such items as;

1. What are their greatest struggles?
2. What risks do they face?
3. Specific names of souls and families who are seeking? (To can pray for their salvation)
4. Do they need materials, finances, help?
5. Can they send you pictures?

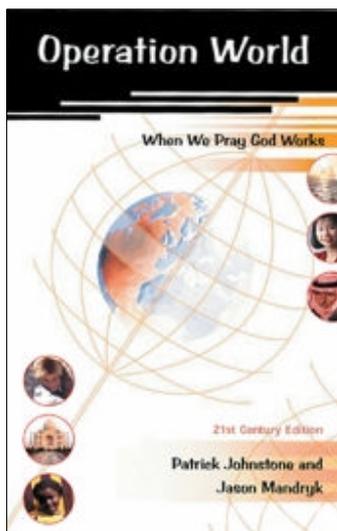
The goal here is to take the missionary before the throne of God, in the process you are empowering God to intercede, through your prayers. God works through the prayers of His people, we are told to bring everything to God in prayer (Phil. 4;6)

### *Intercessory Prayer*

All around us souls are seeking God, yet Satan has them captive in blindness. As an intercessor, we have the ability to take a soul before the throne of God and plead for salvation. Through the blood of Christ, we have direct access to Heaven. Every lost soul, which comes to Christ, is an advancement of the God's Kingdom on enemy territory. To be involved in this aspect of warfare, start by collecting names of people who are lost. Ask those around you who are witnessing or working with people, find out who needs prayer for salvation. Intercede for their soul, before the throne of God.

Also find out, who might be struggling with their walk, pray for them to endure. Pray for their protection against Satan's attack. Satan wants to disable saints, taking away authority.

### *Pulling down strongholds in spiritual realms*



Our work is not limited by physical terrain. We do not have to be in a location, to be involved in the spiritual realms. Remember our battle is against *principalities* and *rulers* in *heavenly realms*. For example we can pray for believers in countries where there is persecution. For example, we can take North Korea, before God's throne, praying against the realms, like Daniel prayed about Persia. We can pray for angelic intervention, we can empower the Kingdom of Heaven, against demonic strongholds.

#### *A. Territorial strongholds*

In Matthew 28, Jesus was given all authority in Heaven and on Earth, we have access to that authority. Our problem is our lack of faith, are we willing to use the authority we have? You can start by getting specific information about the region, what is happening there? the strongholds? How many Christians are there? A great place to start is a book called *Operation World*<sup>2</sup> by *Patrick Johnstone* and *Jason Mandryk*, containing over 700-pages of vital prayer information, for the prayer warrior.

#### *B. False Arguments and mental strongholds*

Satan also works in this world by creating false doctrines, working through cults. These cults entrap people by presenting an "false christ". We can pray for their downfall, we can pray their foundations crumble, since souls are entrapped by their false doctrines.

We can ask the Lord of the Harvest to send the workers, to pull down these strongholds. To be involved in this type of warfare, get specific information to take before the throne of God. Ask the Lord to equip saints to combat heretical teachings. Choose a stronghold and take it to the Lord in prayer, some examples,

- New Age cults,
- Mormonism,

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gmi.org/ow/>

- Islam
- Jehovah Witnesses
- Atheism
- Earth worship
- Buddhism

Other stronghold established, which saints can pray against are ways of thinking, which entrap souls in darkness. Some examples here are;

- Racism
- Homosexuality
- Violence
- Pornography
- Abortion
- Materialism
- Adultery

### 2. Taking authority around us

We have authority from Christ, we need to learn how to use the authority, we already have. One of the best training grounds is the world around us. When we come to Christ, we have the awesome promise of Heaven, why keep such a good thing to yourself. Around each of us, is a lost and dying world. Lets exercise the authority we have in the world God has placed us.

Start by collecting names of people around you,

1. People around me, family, friends, work, etc., etc.....
2. Begin to pray for their salvation
3. Ask God to fill you with love and compassion for the lost.
4. Pray God that eternity becomes real to you...Heaven....Hell
5. Pray that you take the position serious, its a matter of eternal life of death.

### 3. Expanding our personal victories

Have you overcome strongholds in your life? Maybe God has called you to help others with a similar stronghold. Maybe God wants you to use your experience, to rescue people trapped, people who are today, where you were. This might include, Alcohol, drugs, gambling, abortion, pornography, money, pride and more. Once you have been freed, its might be your calling to engage in Spiritual warfare, in these very same issues. You can partner with people who have experienced like events and form a ministry. Or you can join a ministry, already working with people.

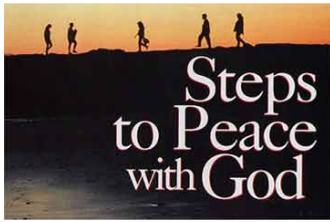
### 4. Attacking strongholds

One area of Spiritual warfare, you might choose is front line work, allowing the power of the Holy Spirit to lead you into the enemy camp. Examples of this work include *missionaries, track ministry* and outreach ministries.

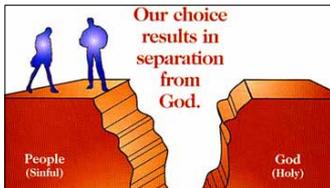
This type of work is often specialized, requiring training and study, to reach a specific group or group of people The goal here is summed up in 2 Corinthians 10.

4b pulling down strongholds,

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, **II Corinthians 10;4b,5**



Missionaries in Muslim countries, have to understand Islam to reach Muslims. Those who want to reach atheists or skeptics, should learn how to counter their arguments, and lead them to Christ. For example to reach this group, the warrior should learn to demonstrate the evidence of scripture. He should also prove, why belief in God is logical, based on cosmos and creation.



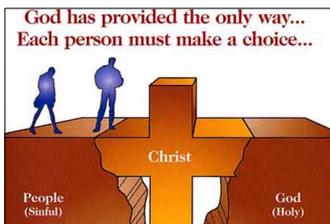
### 5. Rescuing the lost

Another area of Spiritual warfare is the rescue of lost souls. This is the heart of Spiritual warfare. Because Satan has blinded the minds of the lost, therefore the core of every soldier of the Lord is bringing people to Christ. Since this is the case, we need to know how to lead someone to Christ. Being able to explain the Gospel step by step, is essential to winning souls to Christ.



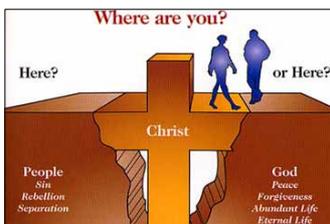
Wherever we are, we represent Christ, if we learn to make ourselves available to people, the Spirit will send the lost our way. To get involved in this aspect of Spiritual warfare, approach God, with prayer and supplication. You might want to ask the Lord for the following.

1. Pray the Lord gives you a love for lost humanity
2. Pray the Lord makes eternity real to you, give you an urgency for the lost.
3. Pray the Lord, send the lost to you
4. Pray the Lord gives you the desire to spend time with lost people.
5. Pray the Lord gives you the ability to clearly explain the gospel to the lost.



### 6. Disciplining warriors

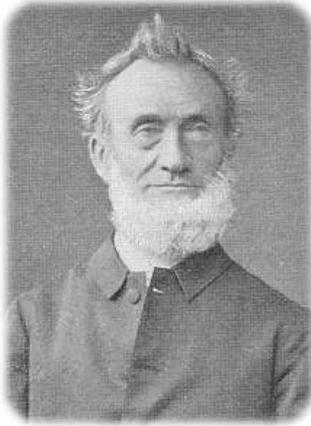
Once you have honed your skill in Spiritual warfare, and reaching people, you can discipline others. Paul set this example with Timothy, he took time to help Timothy grow in his walk, understanding his work would be carried on through Timothy.



Jesus did the same with the disciples, therefore if Jesus and Paul used this method to advance the Gospel; this is probably the most effective form of Spiritual warfare. This does mean we should not witness and advance the Gospel on our own, but only we should also be looking for people to train and disciple to do the same.

God gives us knowledge, not to keep to ourselves but to share. Discipling is imparting the knowledge of your experience in Christ to younger believers, helping them to advance the Gospel. Jesus gives us the mandate to disciple the nations.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **Matthew 28:18-20**



**George Mueller 1805-1898**

#### GEORGE MUELLER (1805-1898)

If we were to list only a few men of God that have had the most influence upon the Christian Adoption ministry, the life and example of George Mueller would have to appear in that list.

Of course--our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the perfect example for us to follow and to imitate.

George Mueller was a man of faith and miracles. Certainly he was one of the greatest prayer warriors of the past century. His ministry was prospered because he trusted fully in God and he started a work that was born in his heart. During his ministry of 63 years, he supported missionaries, established the Scriptural Knowledge Institute in England, taught Sunday schools as well as day schools where teachers were Christian, distributed Bibles and religious tracts, and cared for orphans. He was directly involved in the Christian instruction of 121,683 pupils. He distributed 281,652 Bibles, 1,448,662 New Testaments, 21,343 copies of the Book of Psalms, and 222,196 other portions of the Holy Scriptures. He financially supported missionary operations in 26 different countries. He distributed 111,489,067 tracts/booklets/pamphlets, and was directly involved in the conversion of 2,813 orphans. He mastered 6 languages: French, German, Hebrew, Latin, Greek, and English.

Mr. Mueller was a native of Prussia, born in Kroppenstaedt, on September 27, 1805. He looked, after the shadow of God's glory rested upon him, beyond time and saw God. He realized that God alone was able, and in that realization the puny supplies of man dwarfed beside the reservoirs of God's grace which he tapped by faith. He learned the secret of getting things from God, the simple expedient of boldly coming to the throne to receive. He practiced this daily for 73 years, and in coming he never found the throne vacant nor the supplies exhausted. He learned not to bind God by the limits of his own faith. He asked, knowing that God, Who heard, was able.

Near the end of his life he affirmed that he had read the Bible through approximately 200 times, 100 of which was on his knees. He found God's promises in the Bible and experienced the truth of them in his everyday life. He learned to believe what he read and to act accordingly. He learned to tell not man but God his needs and to believe God would supply them. Mueller had mastered the lesson of outlooks--for he lived by the heavenly uplook, and not the earthly outlook!

"The Lord pours in, while we seek to pour out." This was always his plan of operation. He sought God to pour in the supplies, and he diligently furnished sources through which they might be distributed. As long as Mueller saw to the careful distribution of money and supplies, God never failed in pouring in the needed materials.

Mr. Mueller testified that in his lifetime 50,000 specific prayers were answered. Years before he died, about the middle of his career, he affirmed that up to that time 5000 of his definite prayers had been answered on the day of asking. He made it a habit to keep a notebook with 2-page entries. On one page he gave the petition and the date, and on the opposite page he entered the date of the answer. In this manner he was able to keep record of definite petitions, and their specific answers. He recommended this form to believers who desired specific results to their prayers. Thus there is no guesswork as to when God answers prayers.

"...I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming. Thousands and tens of thousands of times have my prayers been answered. When once I am persuaded that a thing is right and for the glory of God, I go on praying for it until the answer comes. George Mueller never gives up!"

"Let not Satan deceive you," writes Mr. Mueller during those faith-wrenching days, "in making you think you could not have the same faith, but that is only for persons situated as I am. When I lose such a thing as a key, I ask the Lord to direct me to it, and I look for an answer to my prayer; when a person with whom I have an appointment does not come...I ask the Lord to be pleased to hasten him to me, and I look for an answer...Thus in all my temporal and spiritual concerns I pray to the Lord and expect an answer to my request; and may not you do the same dear believing reader?"

In giving advice gained through daily trials of his faith, this father of the orphans laid down rules for a Christian to follow by which they might also strengthen their faith. These rules are:

1. Read the Bible and meditate upon it. God has become known to us through prayer and meditation upon His own Word.
2. Seek to maintain an upright heart and a good conscience.
3. If we desire our faith to be strengthened, we should not shrink from opportunities where our faith may be tried, and therefore, through trial, be strengthened.

The last important point for the strengthening of our faith is that we let God work for us, when the hour of trial of our faith comes, and do not work a deliverance of our own. Would the believer therefore have his faith strengthened, he must give God time to work.

There was no detail too insignificant to take to the Lord in prayer. He lived literally according to the passage, "In all things by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." "Real trust in God is above circumstances and appearances," he affirmed.

...the Mueller's set off for the United States in August 1877 aboard the *Sardian*...Off Newfoundland the weather turned cold and the ship's progress was seriously retarded by fog. The captain had been on the bridge for 24 hours when something happened which was to revolutionize his life. George Mueller appeared on the bridge.

"Captain, I have come to tell you I must be in Quebec by Saturday afternoon."

"It is impossible," said the captain.

"Very well, " said Mueller, "if your ship cannot take me, God will find some other way--I have never broken an engagement for 52 years. Let us go down into the chart-room and pray."

The Captain wondered which lunatic asylum Mueller had come from.

"Mr. Mueller," he said, "do you know how dense this fog is?"

"No, my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life."

Mueller then knelt down and prayed simply. When he had finished the captain was about to pray, but Mueller put his hand on his shoulder, and told him not to.

"First, you do not believe He will" and second, I believe He has, and there is no need whatever for you to pray about it."

The captain looked at Mueller in amazement.

"Captain," he continued, I have known my Lord for 52 years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to get an audience with the King. Get up, captain, and open the door, and you will find the fog is gone."

The captain walked across to the door and opened it. The fog had lifted. It was the captain himself, who later told the story of this incident, and who was subsequently described by a well known evangelist as "one of the most devoted men I ever knew."

It was prayer that swept his soul free of doubt, distemper, and the after-effects of a trial by the incoming tide of peace. For this reason he could make such remarks as this entry on March 9, 1847, "The greater the difficulties, the easier for faith." And a later one, "The greater the trial, the sweeter the victory."

His victories came through prayer, trust in the Lord's unfailing promises and a faith that God's truth would not fail.

"It is not enough to begin to pray," he advises us, "nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly continue in prayer, until we obtain an answer; and further, we have not only to continue in prayer unto the end, but we have also to believe that God does hear us and will answer our prayers. Most frequently we fail in not continuing in prayer until the blessing is obtained, and in not expecting the blessing."

During the last year of Mr. Mueller's life, among the gifts (for the feeding of the orphans) recorded were 7, 203 loaves of bread; 5,222 buns; 20 boxes of soap; 9 tons of coal; 26 haunches of venison; 112 rabbits; 312 pheasants; 5 bags of oatmeal; 26 cases of oranges; 5 boxes of dates and 4,013 pounds of meat along with hundreds of other items. Additionally he had prayed for the financial needs of the orphan houses and had during the course of his lifetime received over 2 1/2 million dollars--always making his requests known only to God. All of these gifts were needed to help care for and feed the thousands of orphans under his careful wing.

George Mueller was a living demonstration of the reality of the Scripture,

But my God shall supply all our need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

Answers to Prayer by George Mueller; Moody Press

George Muller Delighted in God by Roger Steer; Harold Shaw Publishers

George Muller, Man of Faith & Miracles by Basil Miller; Dimension Books

The Autobiography of George Muller by George Muller; Whitaker House