PRAYER & FASTING: WEAPONS OF MASS INSTRUCTION

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"Our actions are evidence of our dependence on, or independence from Christ."

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II Timothy 4:2-8

*2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

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*3 For the time will come when they (those having a form of godliness, but denying its power) will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

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*4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

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*5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

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*6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

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*7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

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*8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (KJV)*

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Psalm 144:1-2

*1 Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;*

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*2 he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me." (ESV)*

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II Corinthians 10:1-4

*1 I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ-I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!-*

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*2 I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.*

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*3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.*

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*4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (ESV)*

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*The Greek word for "weapons" is "hop-lon" DEFINITION: "a tool, an implement or an instrument of war; an instrument to make war."*

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Matthew 6:16-18

*16 "And when (not if) you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.*

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*17 But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,*

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*18 that your fasting may not be seen (phaino - fah-ee-no "to shine a light on") by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (KJV)*

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The Hebrew word for fasting  "Tsuwm" (tsoom) – "To cover the mouth."

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The Greek word for fasting is "Nesteuo" – (Nace-tyoo-o) "To abstain from food."

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Matthew 16:24

*Then said Jesus unto His disciples, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me." (KJV)*

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The Greek word for "deny" is "aparneomai" (ap-ar-neh-om-ahee) and it means "to disown, to repudiate and/or to disregard".

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Isaiah 58

*1 Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.*

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*2 Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.*

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*3 'Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.*

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*4 Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.*

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*5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?*

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*6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?*

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*7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?*

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*8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.*

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*9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,*

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*10 if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.*

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*11 And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.*

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*12 And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.*

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*13 "If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;*

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*14 then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (ESV)*