

31 Days

of Power

Learning to Live in Spiritual Victory



Ruth Myers

with Warren Myers

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MULTNOMAH
BOOKS

THIRTY-ONE DAYS OF POWER
PUBLISHED BY MULTNOMAH BOOKS
12265 Oracle Boulevard, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80921

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Chapter epigraphs in Part II are from the hymns “We Rest on Thee” by Edith G. Cherry and “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” by Martin Luther.

ISBN 978-1-60142-338-2
ISBN 978-0-307-56333-0 (electronic)
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Published in the United States by WaterBrook Multnomah, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House Inc., New York.

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Myers, Ruth.

31 days of power / by Ruth Myers with Warren Myers
p. cm.

1. Spiritual warfare—Prayer-books and devotions—English. 2. Devotional calendars. I. Title.
BV4509.M94 2003
235'.4—dc22

2003016329

Printed in the United States of America
2011—First Trade Paperback Edition

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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P A R T I I

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THIS IS WAR

 The fighting bridges all of time. The battles began in ages past and are destined to keep growing in intensity until Jesus returns to reign over all the earth.

This is the supremely ultimate war, the conflict overarching all others. It is God's war against Satan and his subordinates. And in this war, God has called you and me to be His soldiers. What a privilege!

And yet—so challenging! And sometimes scary.

Our battle isn't against people with human bodies, but against invisible spiritual enemies who bitterly oppose us—vicious, murderous warriors in Satan's army. We face a ruthless foe who prowls about like a lion, grimly committed to defeat and devour us. As part of the conflict, we must also confront this world's system with its subtle corruptions and never-ending pressures, while we contend as well with our own indwelling sin which so easily ensnares us. How

overmatched and endangered our faith can seem at times!

But we know God's promise: The strength He offers us is so overpowering that we can be not only conquerors but "more than conquerors"... "we overwhelmingly conquer" through our Father who loves us (Romans 8:37, NKJV, NASB). We read that He "gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ," not only victory over eternal spiritual death but victory to live and reign as kings in this life (1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 5:17).

But how can this be real in our own experience? How can we actually live each day in the dynamic triumph God offers us in Christ?

The goal of this book is to help you answer that question for yourself in God's presence through prayer and praise, and through an overview of critical truths from God's Word concerning the power and victory that are ours. I want to help you develop a balanced and positive approach to your spiritual warfare, an approach that will increase your skill in resisting Satan's purposes and promoting those of our triumphant Lord. Another goal is to help you not to honor Satan through being preoccupied with him and his helpers.

THIS BOOK'S ARRANGEMENT

Any form of sincere, believing prayer will direct God's power into our lives and situations, and this is especially true of prayer blended with praise. Part I in this book includes thirty-one daily portions of prayer and praise. These will help you reflect and build on the rich treasures of truth God has revealed regarding spiritual conflict and triumph.

These days of prayer and praise are designed to help you lift your soul to God with greater freedom to sense His presence and count on His power. I pray that this will fortify you to overcome Satan in new ways, both in your life and in the lives of others.

Meanwhile, as we continue running into our own skirmishes and struggles—for all of life is a part of the great overarching spiritual conflict—we do well to ask ourselves again and again, *What is this war all about? Why am I wrestling, agonizing, in this current battle?* To help you keep this big picture in focus, in Part II you'll journey through foundational truths in Scripture about spiritual warfare and victory. These truths can guide you in keeping your response to this battle positive rather than negative—in focusing chiefly on God rather than on Satan.

BEHIND THESE WORDS

The truths in this book have been tested for years, for decades. I've found them to be indeed reliable in my personal needs and struggles. And I've seen them help others defeat the powers of darkness through our Lord Jesus Christ—through focusing on His grace and glory as the one true Victor and Conqueror.

These truths flow from digging into God's Word—from daily searching it, soaking in its truths, and meditating with praise on Jesus as Victor. During my years as a widow in the 1960s, I began to put some of these truths on paper in a study called "Jesus Is Victor." Later, my second husband Warren and I did considerable searching into the Scriptures on the subjects of spiritual warfare and strategic prayer. We further developed and used these truths during our decades as missionaries in Asia, including Warren's six years with cancer before the Lord called him Home in 2001.

We learned, for example, that warfare against Satan is far more than the obvious battles against demonic oppression, active demonism, Satan worship, and the occult. In every situation of our lives—in times of obvious blessing or in times of trial, large or small—

God has a purpose in mind, and so does Satan.

Basically, Satan always wants to bring about the opposite of what God has in mind. God wants to draw us closer to Himself; Satan wants to draw us away. God wants to strengthen our faith; Satan wants to weaken it, bringing in doubt and destruction. God wants to purify our character; Satan wants to corrupt it. God wants to liberate us from worldly values; Satan wants to entangle us, to whet our appetite for the things that grieve God and dilute our passion to honor Him and please Him. God wants to increase our love for people and our readiness to forgive offenses; Satan wants to nurture bitterness and resentment.

So our whole life is part of the battle between God and Satan.

We also learned that the primary goal of our warfare is not to defeat Satan. Our chief goal as soldiers of the King is to further God's gracious and glorious purposes in this world—to help fulfill His longing for a vast family of children conformed to the image of His Son. In pursuing this goal, we must resist Satan and bring Christ's power to bear against him as he seeks to frustrate our Father's purposes. But even as we resist him, even as we wrestle with his invisible powers, we're to be preoccupied not with our enemy but with our

victorious Lord and His purposes.

In this battle, one main task is to pray. Another is to share the good news of the reconciled life and the victorious life. Whether in large or small ways, we're to work with our Father as He rescues people from the domain of darkness and transfers them into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). Then we can watch for opportunities to help new citizens of the kingdom adjust their lives to the ways of their new spiritual culture, and to equip them for their part in the battle.

What about casting out demons? This is an important ministry, and I pray that God will continue to raise up mature believers equipped to help demonized people find deliverance. But this is not our main task. I see Paul as our model in this. His main thrust was proclaiming the gospel and building up those who had come to Christ, and now and then he cast out demons.

In all our warfare, our chief focus should be on God and His gracious purposes, not on Satan and demons and their evil strategies. We need to know what God tells us about our enemy and his methods, and we must learn to stand against his purposes. But far more, we need to grow in our knowledge of God

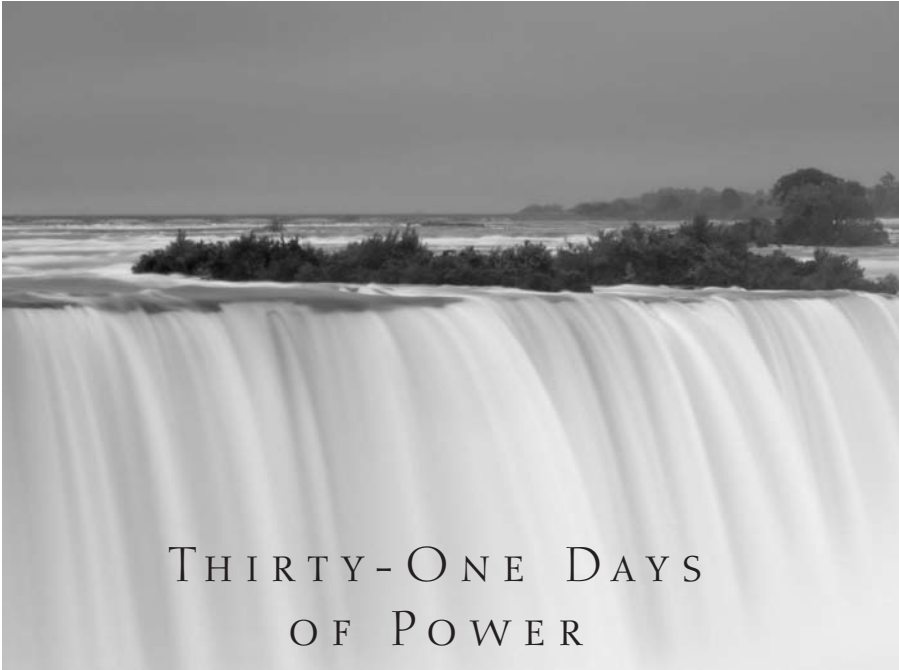
and of His directions for our warfare. This book will guide you as you seek to do this more effectively and more constantly.

By no means am I an expert on spiritual warfare. I have learned much—and still have much to learn. In my years of missionary service I was never actually in the front lines of an initial thrust into resistant enemy territory. But especially in Asia, Warren and I gleaned a lot from frontline soldiers about spiritual warfare, including such things as demon expulsion and the occult. This book doesn't attempt to cover thoroughly all the ways Satan seeks to invade people's lives. Rather it seeks to lead you into positive ways that you can overcome him.

I pray that God will use what is shared in these pages to deepen your experience of the One through whom we can win overwhelming victories. We can truly say with confidence, "Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies" (Psalm 60:12, NKJV).

PART

I



THIRTY-ONE DAYS
OF POWER

D A Y

1

COMMANDER
OF VICTORIES



Father in heaven, I lift up my heart to You as the gracious and almighty Ruler of all things everywhere. How grateful I am that You have given us the powerful weapons of prayer and praise to help win victories over our spiritual enemies.

Thank You that prayer and praise give me constant opportunities to be on active duty in the spiritual war that surrounds us. How glad I am, my King and my God, that through prayer I can influence You to command victories near and far—in my own life and service, in the lives of those around me, and in those laboring for You in the far corners of the earth. Through prayer and praise I can help them be strong in faith and bold in their witness even when Satan seeks to sift them as wheat. What a privilege this is!

PSALM 44:4; LUKE 22:31-32

I worship You as our supreme Ruler, sovereign over all. You are all-powerful and all-wise. You are

exalted far above all powers and rulers, both good and evil, visible and invisible. I praise You that You reign over all, with never the slightest alarm about the powers of evil, for Your throne is never threatened.

1 CHRONICLES 29:11–12

Thank You that You are infinitely greater than that old serpent, the devil, who started this centuries-long war against You, trying to usurp Your authority and power. I rejoice that ages ago You cast him out of Your headquarters in heaven. And You are constantly working all things according to the counsel of Your will, including everything regarding our enemy. You never look back and say “Oops, I shouldn’t have allowed Satan to do that.” Century after century he operates only under You and in ultimate subjection to Your purposes.

REVELATION 12:9; EPHESIANS 1:11

So I take my stand in You as the One who is sovereign over all evil influences. I count on You as a shield around me. I stand against the works of the flesh and the enticements of the world that so easily distract me and hinder my prayers. I choose to put off the filthy clothes of fleshly living—the selfishness, the lust, the distrust, the neglect of my privilege of prayer. As Your chosen child, I put on

the beautiful garments You've provided through the life of Christ in me. I give You thanks for my weakness, and I glory in the truth that Your strength is made perfect in weakness—that out of my weakness You are making me strong.

1 JOHN 2:15-17; 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9



How I praise You, Ruler of the ages, that You've brought me into the stream of Your purposes—into Your glorious plan. You've taught me to yield all my allegiance to You as my King. And You've enlisted me into Your army to join Your people in doing battle under Your sovereign rule. You're counting on all Your children to be involved in this ages-long battle to defeat Satan, turning people from his kingdom to Yours—"to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God." So I rejoice and pray, focusing on Your unparalleled power and Your glorious eternal plans.

2 TIMOTHY 2:3; 1 TIMOTHY 4:12; ACTS 26:18

You are the living Rock, solid and unshakable. Your glorious power surrounds me, overshadows me, and prepares the way before me. You are my Strength and Shield, my Saving Defense and Refuge, my Sure Footing, and my all-sufficient God who is enough. You

make me steadfast and immovable! I worship You as the greatest, most awesome of all beings—more impressive, more powerful than anything on earth. You are exalted high above any hindrances or adversaries that loom large in my life right now, whether in my personality or my present circumstances or my future.

DEUTERONOMY 32:4; PSALM 28:7; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

You, Lord God, are Yahweh Most High, the great King over all the earth, You are the Overcomer, the almighty Conqueror, able to win overwhelming victories. And You are my sanctuary, the holy, secluded, safe place where I can enter and be at rest in Your strength. Thank You that I can conquer because I trust in You!

PSALM 97:9; 47:2-3; 62:7; 2 CHRONICLES 13:18

I exult that You are seated in the heavenlies, high above all enemy powers, and I am seated with You! So in my battles with Satan I can come at him from above. I shout to You with a voice of joy and triumph, for You're the One who subdues the enemy under my feet.

EPHESIANS 1:20-22; 2:6; PSALM 47:1, 3

For everything I need, what a privilege it is to go right to the top—to the supreme Authority, the highest

Ruler, who is all-powerful and all-loving—to the One who deeply cares about my well-being and loves me with a perfect love. To the best of my knowledge, I surrender wholly to You. And I trust You to continue Your gracious work of cleansing and transforming my life—of sanctifying me wholly, body, soul, and spirit.

ROMANS 12:1; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23