

openly anti-Christian. On television, even the children's programs (*especially* the children's programs) are loaded with occult, violent and sensual themes, thus sowing the seeds of disrespect and rebellion. Witchcraft is blatantly promoted!

On another front, prayer has been banned from the classroom, abortion made legal, divorce, adultery and homosexuality have become acceptable, and the Ten Commandments have been removed from public display. Children are receiving contraceptives in school and if they have an abortion or contract a sexual disease, some states mandate that the parents not be told. What?!! We are in serious trouble. How has it gotten so out of hand? The wicked one has lulled us into complacency and would soon render the Church irrelevant and powerless.

How we need fervent prayer... and willing disciples to stand against the works of darkness using their God-given authority. We must take the time to pray! If not, judgment will come; our nation will decline, and another will take our place. Open your history book once more. Count the many great nations that have fallen from power. Only a fool would think that it could not happen to us! Revive us, Lord!

## Dispelling the Darkness

*"And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the Lord. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it."* 1Samuel 5:4

How we need the presence of God in our cities! We can clearly see from the text that the presence of God, represented by the Ark of the Covenant, caused Dagon to topple. How much more will the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit dispel the darkness and shatter strongholds in our land. Are you diligently seeking God for an increase of His manifest presence? There is such a thing, you know. Throughout the Bible, you can see stunning examples of miraculous intervention: God "showing up" to bring victory, healing, restoration, etc... God simply being God in the midst of a desperate situation!

We speak of Revival and recognize it by the manifestations that often accompany an outpouring of His Spirit: repentance, salvation, healing and deliverance. This is all true... and so desired. But isn't Revival simply this: the manifest presence of God coming into a region, dispelling the darkness and flooding the area with light? His presence causes the wicked one to flee. His presence brings conviction of sin; He penetrates even the hardest of hearts... Healing flows like a river; His blessings abound. Worship Him, like never before, beloved; offer your life as a living sacrifice of praise. He inhabits the praises of His people!

### The Capital Region Prayer & Healing Center

553 Clinton Avenue  
Albany, New York 12206  
(518) 432-7100

[www.prayerandhealingcenter.org](http://www.prayerandhealingcenter.org)



# An Open Heaven

*"No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house."* Mark 3:27

It was rough going. The well-seasoned preacher clearly proclaimed Christ to the 1,500 or so Hindus, Muslims and Christians in attendance, but when the invitation was given only a few came forward to accept Christ. Even these needed to be wrestled from the demons who held them back. The intercessors on the platform fought diligently for each soul. Powerful preaching, but little fruit. And when the sick received prayer you could only trust that God was answering because there was no apparent manifestation of healing. It continued like this for 5 nights... in northern India. But there is more to this story, dear believer. (I witnessed this with my own eyes.) God gave His strategy; the saints broke the strongholds of darkness and then... well, hold on a minute.

During the daytime we were teaching Christian leaders, about 300. In the evening, open air evangelistic meetings were conducted. And as I mentioned, these

evening meetings were not bearing much fruit even though the preaching was quite powerful. (This well known evangelist had preached in over 60 countries.) Nevertheless, on the 6th day the teacher spoke of spiritual warfare and the need to pierce the veil of darkness that canopied the region. The leaders were taught that the long entrenched spiritual powers and principalities needed to be uprooted before the blessings of God could begin to flow... the heavens needed to be opened!

And then came the strategy, unveiled by God Himself, and it was implemented without instruction. The 300 stood to their feet and began to shout into the heavens Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Over and over again, the eternal praise word was declared into the heavenlies for about 10 or 15 minutes! The sense of authority was profound. We felt as though we were brandishing ten foot swords. Let me reiterate; this was not orchestrated by any man, but a spontaneous act of God. It stopped with the same suddenness that it began... and we were exhausted. We knew something of significance had occurred. Something had changed in the atmosphere; we could sense it. Could the heavens be opened? Praise be to God!

During the evening meeting the air was electrified. The same evangelist preached with the same anointing but when the invitation was given many people rushed forward to repent of their sins. When it was time to pray for the sick all heaven broke loose! Let me remind you, this was not a pumped up emotional format. The gospel was preached and the sick were prayed for ... per tradition. But this night, the power of God descended like a flood, overwhelming many people. There were no ministry lines with people waiting to catch

those who might be overcome, as is customary in some Spirit-filled churches, but the people were falling on top of one another. Children were on the ground weeping and prophesying and seeing visions of angels and Jesus. Glory to God in the Highest! The heavens remained open for another night, a different preacher, but the same results. Even a notorious criminal fell to the ground weeping and repenting of his sins.

Dear intercessor, what has been described here is not unique. This type of warfare is commonplace around the world. And although the methods may vary, the stories are quite similar: Where the strongman is bound the fruit is abundant; where he is not, it is minimal. We must learn this lesson. Spiritual darkness is pervasive... over our region as well. Ask for God's strategy, and then implement it with all diligence. It will cost you a great deal to break the strongholds and open the heavens. Are you willing to pay the price? Prayer, worship, fasting, travail, warfare, prevailing prayer... walking in obedience, holiness, and total commitment. We're not playing games any longer. We must dislodge the enemy and open the heavens. With God's help... and with His holy angels we can do this. We must do this!

*"...Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia."* Daniel 10:12-13

## Pray and Fight

*"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."* Ephesians 6:10

Do you think the moral decline of our society has occurred because of the poor decisions made by politicians... or perhaps the failure of Church leaders to speak out against sin? Both answers are valid, but something far more sinister is at work.

Dear servant of God, we are at war. Our enemy the devil is a malevolent strategist. He is intelligent, powerful and cunning and has been plotting the demise of mankind for thousands of years. It only takes a glance at world history to be reminded of his successes. If he cannot overcome using all-out violence and destruction, he corrupts the heart of man, preying upon his weaknesses. And to make it even worse, he clothes himself as an angel of light and seeks to trample spiritual life through dogmatic deception and religious legalism. God help us!

During the 20th century, the wicked one began to take control of the media. Quite a good plan for this *information age*, don't you think? From the inception of our nation and throughout the 19th century, nearly all of the newspapers were owned by Christians. Sunday sermons were printed in the Monday edition-the editorials earnestly promoted righteousness. Now, newspapers, magazines, TV, and radio have become the unwitting pawns of demonic design. Many columnists are