

Spiritual Warfare in Prayer for Onsite Translators

Nineteen Suggestions for Effective Onsite Warfare Prayers

When one is found invading Satan's territory to translate the Scriptures into the heart language of a previously unreached people group, one must expect Satan and his demons to resist the efforts in any way possible. There are all kinds of ways that Satan will resist your efforts. These include fear in the translators, natural disasters, discouragement, direct or indirect confrontation by unbelieving people in the group, dissension among the translators, governmental interference and others not yet named. So, before starting a translation project, it is crucial that the effort be covered in prayer to learn of God's perspective on what will happen and how **He** will pull this off.

1. Recognize that this translation project is God's project. You may be the instrument that He is using, but He is in charge. His heart breaks over people groups that don't have access to the Word in their own heart language. So in your prayers, tell Him that You recognize He is involved in this project. He's the project director, you are just the worker. So when it is all done, He will get the glory for the translation as it survives in the people group going forward.
2. Know that you are praying in response to His command to pray. There are many places in the Bible that command us to pray. Here is one from Jesus. *"Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart..."* Luke 18:1. Since God commands it, we must pray wholeheartedly!
3. As one enters into prayer, recognize that you are entering into a battle in the spiritual realm. The battle is *"...not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."* Ephesians 6:12. Can you in your mind and earthly understanding battle those spiritually evil things? No, instead call upon Jesus who has already battled those things and won the victory for us. Since He lives to make intercession to the Father for us, He will help us with this battle. Implore Him to make a way in this battle for success in providing the new translation to the targeted people.
4. Gather the team involved in the translation together to hear your prayers. There may be some who can pray along with you, and some that have no experience in these things. But all of them need to hear the cry of your heart to the Father and Jesus for the benefit of the translation work. Be prepared to read aloud passages of Scripture that the Lord brings to your mind for the benefit of the team.
5. You have been briefed on what to expect in the translation project. As you pray, pray through and about all of those expectations. Pray the good ones be accomplished in the Spirit. Pray the bad ones be banned from this project. In Jesus' name!
6. The land into which this translation is to be introduced has probably been defiled by ignorance, evil, and/or wickedness, and has belonged up to this point to the kingdom of

darkness. Pray a prayer of repentance for the inhabitants of the land for their part in that, and for the Church in not spreading the Word of Truth to this place earlier in history. In doing so embrace the intention of the project to bring the Word to these people at this time.

7. After this repentance, cry out to God to bring the land and its inhabitants to salvation. Enter into this prayer wholeheartedly. Travail (work hard) in prayer for these peoples who have never experienced God's full salvation. Beg God for His mercy to fall upon them and show them His grace and love. Travail until you have received a release from God. You will sense this in your spirit. Then your prayers will be prayers of peace. Remember, you are in the struggle for these people's souls and eternal destiny. This is not to be taken lightly. Pour your whole mind, soul, strength, and spirit into this prayer.
8. Once a release has been obtained, thank the Lord for the victory. Begin to praise and worship Him in word and song as you are led. Remember Paul and Silas singing praise and worship to God in the Philippian prison and the resulting earthquake that resulted in the salvation of the prison keeper and his entire family.
9. As this area has been enslaved by the kingdom of darkness, it will no doubt have a territorial spirit assigned by Satan (see Daniel 10). As a part of your travail, ask the Holy Spirit to break his authority as a part of the prayer for salvation, so that the gospel will have free access to the land and its people.
10. Lands under the influence of the kingdom of darkness might have persons who act as channels to the spirit world for the people. Don't pray against that person or any other person, but pray for them and against the principalities and powers that enslave that person. See 1, above.
11. Once a breakthrough is obtained (i.e., a release from travail), you may be used as God's instrument to perform prophetic acts (miracles) to keep the project moving forward. Don't use those to draw any attention to yourself. Remember the source of the miracle is God, not you. Refocus attention for the act onto God, for He is validating His Word and the gospel, not you and your part.
12. Declare to the people a prophetic proclamation that the breakthrough against the spirits of the power of darkness has been achieved. Don't do this unless you know in your spirit that it is true. Proclaim that we are now free to accomplish the aim of the project. Explain that it is God's purpose to have all of His word into the hands of the people group, in their heart language, so that they may understand it and be blessed by it!
13. Pray that God's purpose for this land might be restored. Everything in God's universe has a purpose, and that includes this land and its people. Whatever darkness is present, speak light into it. If death, speak life (1 Corinthians 15:54). If fear, speak power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). If pride, speak a humble and contrite spirit of repentance (Psalm 51:17). If witchcraft, speak freedom and a spirit submissive to God (1 Peter 4:6-7).
14. Continue with worship and praise to God for His fulfillment of the good things spoken.

All things listed here may not happen in exactly the same order as listed. But as you enter into spiritual warfare for your project, know that the victory has been won by Jesus and so we can expect that victory to manifest itself as we prepare for the work ahead. Once we have the correct understanding and we bring our whole being in line with that understanding, God can use us to accomplish His will. Praise Jesus.

