

Colossians 2:1 – “I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you...”

PRAYER AS CONFLICT

I read a post that said, “Make no mistake. This is spiritual warfare. All of it.” This passage is about spiritual warfare – all of it! Prayer is the offensive weapon for spiritual conflict. Daniel prayed and fasted three weeks. The conflict was so fierce, he lost his strength. His prayer was finally answered by Michael the arc angel who informed Daniel his prayer was heard from the first, but he was delayed for 21 days by a powerful fallen angel, the Prince of Persia. When Paul talked about conflict, he knew whereof to speak. His prayers for the Colossian church (whom he had never met), were met with a demonic attack. Paul was familiar with demonic conflict. His “thorn in the flesh” was a result of an angel of Satan sent to buffet him, i.e. to beat him up. The Greek word translated “conflict” signified a place of assembly, like where the Greeks assembled for their Olympic games. Such athletic contests were called conflicts. Conflict is rendered “fight” in II Timothy 4:7. Conflict is the demonic resistance you will encounter in the ministry of prayer. Sometimes prayers are agonizing (the same word translated conflict). Sometimes the urgency will requires our prayers, regardless of the conflict. You may fight sleep; you may grow weary like Daniel; you may be buffeted like Paul. Nevertheless, the need will demand you drop everything, and go to war. Your enemy never goes away. When you get close to victory, expect increased demonic opposition when you pray. Think of it! Your conflict on earth is the same the conflict going on in the heavens between the good angels of God and the evil angels of the Devil. You are in a mortal battle. When you accept the burden to intercede for God’s people, you head straight into the eye of the storm. But that’s OK. “He caused the storm to be still, so that the waves of the sea were hushed” (Psalm 107:29). Eventually Lord will say, “Hush!” Your enemy is just another storm that will be hushed by the power of His word.