Ground Rules for Intercessors in Spiritual Warfare

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Understanding Spiritual Warfare in the Bible

The Biblical story of spiritual warfare begins in Genesis, where the serpent "more subtle than any other wild creature that the LORD God had made" (Genesis 3:1) enters the Garden and tempts humanity into disobedience. This moment reveals that the battle between good and evil is older than humanity itself. Scripture later unveils a cosmic conflict in heaven, where Satan is defeated "by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11). Cast down to earth "in great wrath" because his time is short, Satan becomes the adversary who prowls through human history, seeking to oppose God's purposes and test God's people.

The Book of Job provides one of the clearest windows into this unseen realm. Satan appears before God, claiming he has been "going to and fro on the earth," and challenges Job's integrity. With God's permission but under God's limits Satan inflicts devastating losses on Job. Yet Job refuses to curse God, demonstrating that faithfulness in suffering is itself a victory in spiritual warfare. Job's story teaches two foundational truths: God is sovereign over all things, and the Devil can do nothing without divine permission. Temptation and trial may come from Satan, but protection, purpose, and ultimate restoration come from God.

Throughout the Old Testament, the Psalms reveal the inner life of a spiritual warrior. David cries out for deliverance, trusts God amid danger, and proclaims that victory comes not from human strength but from God alone: "Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us" (Psalm 44:5). Even Moses' Psalm 91 portrays God as the refuge who shields His people from the snares and terrors of the enemy. These passages show that spiritual warfare is not merely external it is fought in the heart through trust, worship, and steadfastness.

The New Testament continues this theme through the life of Jesus. From Herod's attempt to kill Him as an infant to Satan's temptations in the wilderness, Jesus confronts the enemy directly. His response is always the same: He wields Scripture as His weapon, declaring, "It is written…" (Matthew 4:4). His ministry of healing, deliverance, and ultimately His victory over death reveals the authority He carries and the authority He imparts to His followers.

Paul's teaching in Ephesians 6 brings the reality of spiritual warfare into the daily life of every believer. He reminds us that "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood" but against spiritual forces of darkness. The Armor of God truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, the Word, and prayer is not symbolic but essential equipment for resisting the enemy's schemes. Spiritual warfare is not a rare event; it is the ongoing context of Christian life.

Spiritual warfare unfolds in three arenas: the spiritual realm, the world around us, and the battle within our own hearts. Scripture warns against occult practices, exposes the world's hostility toward God, and reveals the internal struggle between flesh and spirit. The Christian life is not passive; it requires discernment, vigilance, and daily surrender

to God. Yet the promise remains: Jesus has already won the ultimate victory, and believers fight from a place of His triumph, not their own strength.

The Ground Rules

Here is a clear, authoritative, Bible-grounded set of ground rules for intercessors engaged in spiritual warfare. It is concise, strong, and safe for training teams; a foundational protocol for safe, aligned, and effective Kingdom engagement.

1. Have Spiritual Covering

Intercessors must operate under a spiritual covering:

- Every intercessor must be submitted to their local pastor or prayer leader.
- No-one engages in warfare independently or without accountability.
- Covering provides protection, correction, and spiritual authority.

Biblical principles:

- Hebrews 13:17
- Proverbs 11:14
- 1 Corinthians 16:16

2. Be Part of a Team

Intercessors must be part of a recognised, trained team.

Effective spiritual warfare is never done by isolated individuals or a couple of intercessors. Teams should be intentionally formed under recognised and accountable servant-leaders, who must vet everything with each other and with God together. Team members must be adequately prepared for the team actions and their roles in them.

A healthy warfare team includes:

- Prophetic intercessors
- Researchers / spiritual intelligence gatherers
- Prayer leaders
- Prophets
- Wisdom intercessors
- Seers / discerners
- Administrative support (scribe, recorder)

Each role contributes a different layer of insight and safety.

Biblical principles:

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:18-21
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21

3. Do Not Go Alone

No intercessor should "go alone" into enemy territory. This is one of the most important rules. Therefore:

- No solo prayer journeys.
- No private "assignments".
- No personal confrontations with territorial spirits (see 8).
- No unapproved prophetic acts.
- No "spiritual tourism" (visiting sites to pray without covering).

Biblical principles:

- Mark 6:7
- Acts 13
- Acts 15 and 16

These days it is safer to be part of a group of at least 6 to 10 people

4. Assignments Are Commissioned

All warfare assignments must be commissioned. Before any engagement:

- The team must receive clear direction from the Lord.
- Leadership must confirm and bless the assignment.
- The team must be spiritually prepared (fasting, consecration, unity).
- The scope of the assignment must be defined and limited.

No one expands the assignment on their own initiative.

Biblical principles:

- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Acts 13:2-3
- 2 Corinthians 10:13

5. Know the Limits of Your Authority

Intercessors must stay within their measure of authority. Not every intercessor has authority for:

- Nations
- Regions
- Cities
- Government gates
- Ancestral altars
- Territorial spirits

Authority is assigned, not assumed.

Biblical principles:

- 2 Corinthians 10:13
- Jude 1:9
- Romans 12:3

6. Purity, Humility, and Unity

Intercessors must maintain purity, humility, and unity. Warfare requires:

- Clean hands
- Pure motives
- No offence
- No competition
- No hidden sin
- No personal agendas or "axes to grind"

The enemy exploits cracks in character.

Biblical principles:

- Psalm 24:3-4
- Proverbs 16:2
- Ephesians 4:27

7. Handle Information with Wisdom

All information gathered must be handled with wisdom. Intercessors often receive:

- Prophetic insight
- Dreams
- Discernment
- Research findings
- Patterns and spiritual intelligence
- Bible references

Each intercessor should keep a journal and note the date and time for everything received incl Biblical references.

This information must be:

- Submitted to leaders
- Tested
- Not shared publicly
- Not used to accuse individuals
- Not used to elevate oneself

Confidentiality is essential.

Biblical principles:

- 1 Corinthians 14:29
- Proverbs 11:13
- 1 Corinthians 8:1

8. Avoid High Level Confrontations

Intercessors must avoid direct confrontation with high level spirits. Unless the Lord clearly commissions and leadership confirm, intercessors should not:

- Challenge principalities
- Bind territorial rulers
- Issue decrees over nations
- Confront ancestral spirits
- Break covenants or altars
- Engage in land deliverance alone

These actions require:

- Apostolic authority
- Corporate covering
- Regional mandate
- Proper preparation

Before you pray ask the Lord to give you a deep love for your city and its people. Then wait on the Lord until you see/know your heart attitude change.

Biblical principles:

- Jude 1:9
- John 5:19
- 1 Corinthians 16:14

9. Worship, Alignment, and Listening

Intercessors must prioritise worship, alignment, and listening. Warfare is not primarily shouting at the enemy, it is:

- Aligning with heaven.
- Hearing the Lord's strategy.
- Worshipping until the atmosphere shifts.
- Declaring only what God says.
- Moving only when the Spirit leads.

Biblical principles:

- Isaiah 30:21
- Psalm 22:3
- John 12:49

10. Debrief and Cleanse

After warfare, teams must debrief and cleanse. Every assignment should end with:

- Thanksgiving
- Communion
- Renunciation of any spiritual residue
- Prayer of cleansing and protection
- Debrief with leadership
- Rest and recovery
- Build up relationship within the groups by meetings for informal social chats, coffee or a meal.

Individually and as a group, speak and pray for unity, and oneness within the group and acceptance and honouring one another and each one's gifting.

Biblical principles:

- Zachariah 4:6
- 2 Corinthians 4:6-7
- John 17.

About Bjorn and Lilian Schmid

Bjorn and Lilian Schmid have served Jesus faithfully in Australia and internationally since 1996, carrying God-given missions to strengthen His Church. Over the years they have been *Alpha Course* advisors, pioneers of marketplace ministry in Sydney, co-founders of the *Integrated Leadership Group* (in Sydney), and instrumental in establishing *Walk With Christ* with Archbishop Julian Porteous. They founded national and international initiatives including the *Businesswomen Healing Ministry*, *Transforming Sydney*, *Proclaiming Pentecost*, and the *Prayer Strategy for the Spheres of Influence*. Throughout their ministry journey they received blessings, impartations, and spiritual covering from Anglican, Catholic, Pentecostal, and prophetic leaders including Archbishop Peter Jensen, Archbishop Julian Porteous, Cardinal George Pell, Ps. Robyn Peebles, Noel and Barbara Bell, Ps. Norman and Barbara Miller, Ps. Djohan Handojo, and others. Their work has been recognised by global movements such as the *Lausanne Movement*, *Transform World*, *IPC Connect*, and the *US Prayer Council*, where Lilian represented Australia from 2015 to 2021. They've trained, discipled, and equipped believers across nations, with their prayer and spiritual warfare resources published through *International Prayer Connect*, always seeking to honour the Lord and serve His Body with integrity, obedience, and the anointing He has entrusted to them.