

"Power to Knock Down Walls!" by Valorie Cole

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American Baptist Women's Ministries

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Here we are--a new year with hope, peace, love, and joy in our hearts! What are we going to do with all this inner knowledge and contentment? As American Baptist women, we should stand up together and use the weapons God has given us to take on the devil, his lies, and chaos.

What weapons do we have to use? The FULL ARMOR OF GOD, that's what! We have the power! We have the power of:

- ✚ The helmet of Salvation
- ✚ The breastplate of Righteousness
- ✚ The belt of Truth
- ✚ The sword of the Spirit
- ✚ The shield of Faith
- ✚ The shoes of the Gospel



Two more strong weapons at our disposal are the power of prayer and the power in Numbers when we stand together as Christians to combat the evils of this world. Let us not forget these two extraordinary powers that we are given to use in this world.

Prayer is so powerful. The power of prayer is the power of God! Since God is all-powerful, there is no limit to what prayer can do. God is able to answer our prayers beyond our imagination! His power exceeds our capacity to ask or even think. One scripture reference for this information is Jeremiah 32:17, "*Sovereign Lord, you made the earth and the sky by your great power and might; nothing is too difficult for you!*"

At the beginning of this devotional, I mention taking on the devil, his lies, and chaos. The devil wants to destroy you and everyone you love. The Armor of God and the power of prayer can stop God. Some scripture references from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19- "*Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.*" Another scripture that is one of my favorite scriptures that I quote often is from 1 Peter 5:7- "*Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watching everything that concerns you.*"

Prayer:

- ✚ Heals the sick (James 5:13-15, Isaiah 12:2),
- ✚ Saves the sinner and those who backslide (Luke 18:13, Romans 10:13, Romans 18:13, 1 John 1:9, James 5:16),
- ✚ Is a strengthening exercise for the Christian (Jude 20),
- ✚ Shows us God's will for us (Luke 11:9-10, Colossians 4:12)
- ✚ Can keep us from sinning (temptation) (Matthew 26:41)
- ✚ Can accomplish the impossible (Matthew 21:22, Acts 12:5-7)
- ✚ Brings wisdom, knowledge, and common sense (James 1:5, Colossians 4:5-6)
- ✚ Brings peace (Hebrews 14:27, John 14:27, Philippians 4:7)

Prayer glorifies God! It affects what we do every single day! Prayer is timeless. Prayer builds gaps between distances. Prayer can alter circumstances! Prayer helps others in ways we will never see! PRAYER IS POWERFUL!

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What are we going to do with all this power? We do have the power to knock down the walls. But what walls are we going to attack? Human trafficking, domestic violence, hate...the list goes on and on. What injustice is tugging at you? Where do you want to make a difference? It is a new year, with new possibilities. Where are you going to stand together as a group for the Lord and knock some walls down for Christ?