



WARFARE PRAYER: AHAB

Week 28 | December 9, 2024

The *same spirits* on wicked king Ahab are still active and at work. Seen most obviously in the **destructive passivity** of many men, these forces strive to *pave the way* for other demonic powers seeking to gain influence and control. (1 Kings 21:25) While it can take on many forms, an Ahab spirit is one most often characterized by **complacency**, **compromise**, and **conflict avoidance**. In order to combat this spirit today, we need simply *look to scripture* at how God dealt with him in the past.

Throughout his reign God sent men, ordinary people like you and I, into Ahab's life to **speak the truth** in *boldness* and *love*. Prophets and men of God like Elijah, Micaiah, and Obadiah stood against this oppressive evil and their impact is felt to this day. What separated these men from others, and what made them **truly effective** against the spirits of Ahab, is what we must pray for God to *bless us with* this day. To defeat the **lazy**, **enabling**, and **passive** spirits that seek to *bring death* into our families, churches, and communities we must ask God to raise up men and women with His Spirit of:

1. CONVICTION (Hebrews 11:1; Acts 2:37)

- a. **NOTE:** *Complacency*, at its root, often comes from a heart of entitlement. Our **pride** and **arrogance** lead us to believe that nothing needs changing in our life or the world around us. *Humility*, on the other hand, allows for and leads to conviction. Conviction is defined as “**strong belief** that *results in action*”. It is the essence of true faith and is the means by which we **overcome the influence** of an *Ahab spirit* and *our flesh's* natural inclination to laziness. Conviction compels us **to move** when everything else is telling us to *lay still* and **drives us** forward in the *passionate pursuit* of all that God has promised. It is the **fire within** that *burns so hotly* that anything impure in its presence is **burned away** and is *the cure* for the complacency of Ahab.

(1 Kings 21:1-6; 1 Kings 19:10)

- i. **For Ex.** “Father God, thank You for *moving towards us* and **for us**, taking the divine initiative in our *creation, salvation, and sanctification*. There are so many forces at work trying to keep us from **responding** in pursuit of You and Your plans for us, please *cut them all down*. Remove **anyone** and **everything** encouraging our spiritual laziness and instead instill within us *the conviction* to overcome the **complacency** of Ahab and our flesh's sinful stagnation.”

1. **REMEMBER:** Conviction cannot be **fabricated** by man, instead it is *facilitated* by the Holy Spirit. (John 16:8)

2. CHARACTER (Philippians 1:11; 2 Peter 1:5)

- a. **NOTE:** When faced with *choices* that **seem appealing** but which inevitably lead to disaster, it can be so easy to **compromise** our values and *give in* on the things that matter most. These *moments of testing* are when **our character**—those particular moral qualities that set us apart from others—is revealed. We make so many **decisions** each day and with each one the core question being asked is “*What kind of person am I?*”

The answer to that question determines **the choices** we make and affects the *direction* and *content* of our life. For those with strong character, compromise is **not an option**. The beauty of Christianity is that at salvation we receive *the character of Christ* through the **divine heart transplant** that takes place. This character gives us the *capacity* to choose wisely and **avoid the trap** of *compromise* that Ahab loves so much.

(Psalm 105:19; Deut. 8:2; Hebrews 1:3; Proverbs 29:6)

- i. **For Ex.** “Lord Jesus, thank You for producing within us **Your character** upon our salvation and in the days that follow, making us *righteous* and *holy* in the sight of our Father in heaven. **You know** better than anyone how strong *the temptation* to compromise can be, especially when Satan’s forces are at work. Strengthen within us the **desire** and **power** to live in a way that *pleases You* and remind us of who we are in You. **Silence the lies** of the enemy, *shattering their teeth* and exposing their deception. Raise up instead men and women **of character** who are *guided by Your Spirit* alone.”

1. **REMEMBER:** Character is **strengthened** and **developed** through *endurance* birthed by suffering. (Romans 5:3-4)

3. **COURAGE** (Psalm 106:28-31; 1 Kings 2:2)

- a. **NOTE:** Doing **the right thing** and standing up to evil is *rarely easy*. So much can go wrong even when our **convictions** spur us *to movement* and our **character** guides our *decisions*. With so many unknown variables and different *possibilities of failure*, **fear** can easily take root. Wise men have often said, though, that courage is **not** the *absence of fear*, but the ability to act in spite of its presence. We know also that the Spirit of God is **not** one of *fear* or *timidity*, but one of power and love that **pursues peace** even in the face of potential conflict. True love, the *source of all courage*, compels us to do nothing less than **fight** when we would *rather run*, **stand** when it’s *easier to kneel*, and **speak out** when everyone is telling us to *remain silent*. To overcome the passivity and *conflict avoidance* of Ahab, we need to be filled with **courage from above** that stems from His love for us and others. (2 Timothy 1:7; 2 Chronicles 18:13; 1 Peter 3:11)

- i. **For Ex.** “Holy Spirit, thank You for **filling us** with the *power* and *love* of God Himself so that even when we are tempted to fear it does not have to **control us**. Bless us with *love*, for You and for others, that leads to courage in the face of adversity so that we might fight **alongside You** for the advancement of *truth*, *righteousness*, and *justice*. Make us bold and brave, Lord, for Satan and his forces are cowards and they will **flee** when we *resist* them with You.”

1. **REMEMBER:** Peacemakers do not *flee from conflict*, they run **towards it**. (Matthew 5:9)

Questions for Reflection:

- Where has your life grown **cold** or **stagnant**? Are you faking a passion that dimmed long ago?
 - Stop *trying to reignite it* on your own. **Invite Jesus** in and ask Him to stoke the flames.
- What have your tests **revealed** about your character?
 - Jesus answered the question of *who you are* long ago **on the cross**. Remember that with every decision you make.
- What **God-given fight** have you been avoiding?
 - There are blessings IN the battle that you will not find *on the sidelines*.