High-level intercession and spiritual warfare defined.

A. *The arena of high-level spiritual warfare*

High-level spiritual warfare is the confrontation that seeks to determine the allegiance of communities of people. These communities can be made up of any gathering of people who share a common bond. Such communities, for example, may include families, neighborhoods, cities, nations, people groups, professions (such as farmers, pastors, prostitutes, etc.), age groups (such as teens), congregations, denominations or any other segment of human society. Sometimes these communities are confined to geographical areas, while at other times they may span different geographical areas.

B. *Clarification of terminology: ’strategic-level,’ ‘cosmic-level,’ ‘high-level’*

A number of different terms have been used to describe this level of spiritual warfare. Among them, and their definitions, are the following:

1. **Strategic-level spiritual warfare and intercession**

Because we are dealing with high-level demons and their influence over large areas or groups of people, the military concept and terminology of “strategic” warfare has been adopted by Dr. C. Peter Wagner and the members of the Spiritual Warfare Network. Their thinking is that warfare with a broad focus and long-range goals (such as the work of the Strategic Air Command) is referred to as “strategic” in modern military science and that the term also applies in the arenas of spiritual warfare and intercessory prayer.

2. **Cosmic-level spiritual warfare**

The term “cosmic,” used by Dr. Charles Kraft\(^1\) and others makes a distinction between spiritual warfare, which is aimed at freeing individuals from demonic oppression and affliction (“ground-level” spiritual warfare), and the battle to free communities of people from the cosmic workings of higher-level demons. This term also may be used to describe the ultimate contest between Jesus Christ and Satan that Jesus won on the Cross.

Since the differences between these terms are largely a matter of emphasis or taste, “high-level,” “strategic-level,” and “cosmic-level” as they are used here mean exactly the same thing. We generally will use the term “high-level” spiritual warfare.

When it comes to intercession, only Jesus Christ who sits at the right hand of God the Father is doing cosmic-level intercession. Our place is in the area of “strategic-level” intercession because of the actions of Jesus Christ.

*Ephesians 2:4-7*

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But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions -- it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

C. The participants in high-level intercession and spiritual warfare

1. Peter Wagner’s summary statement

Spiritual warfare is a confrontation between two kingdoms, the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. I like the way Peter Wagner puts it in his cutting-edge book Confronting the Powers:

“His (Satan’s) kingdom consists in the control he possesses over people who inhabit the earth, and he maintains that control by securing their allegiance through various means known as ‘the wiles of the devil’” (Ephesians 6:11, NKJV).

Likewise, the Kingdom of God that Jesus brought is not a land that has territorial boundaries, but rather the reign of Jesus Christ over human beings. Wherever people declare their allegiance to Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God is in their midst. The battle between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan is essentially a battle for people and their allegiance (emphasis mine).”

This is a conflict with a known conclusion! This is not a clash between evenly matched opponents. The outcome is not undecided. God is the author of all creation, including the devil and his demons, and is supreme in His authority. While Satan does not have the authority to win the war in eternity, he does have the power to wage war in the present.

2. Chart showing the two kingdoms in conflict

The following charts show the two kingdoms that are engaged in this struggle. (Detailed descriptions of these two kingdoms are given in the Part II and III of the Dunamis Manual.)

The Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan are expressed through several different levels of reality. These levels are based on St. Paul’s understanding of reality, which is complex and involves both personal spiritual entities and transpersonal systems. It is important to note that these different realities are interconnected and inter-penetrate one another.

Human governmental systems (which are transpersonal), for instance, may be connected to ideological strongholds, and both the systems and the strongholds may be controlled by evil

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spirits. At the same time, systems of government also consist of individuals who may be part of the system and also may be oppressed by the system. Individuals, in turn, also may be influenced by evil spirits and/or the Holy Spirit.

It is important to note that a stronghold is both a spiritual and human organization. It is both a thought structure, composed of an ideology that is rooted in the human mind, and a cultural system that expresses that ideology. This human organization and culture becomes the means through which the demonic begins to express its evil intentions on Earth. An example of this is Nazism -- a stronghold of evil that had both human and spiritual dimensions. The practical implication is that it took both prayer and military force to stop Hitler’s death machine.

Likewise, prayer alone will not stop the demonic stronghold of Islamic terrorism. In addition to prayer, here also must be the use of political, economic and military power to accomplish that goal. The obverse is true, too -- military and other forms of human forces by themselves will not stop a stronghold. They need prayer.

Islamic terrorism has a spiritual core just like Nazism did, and only will be defeated by spiritual weapons. But because this spiritual stronghold has gained political and military power, human means of power (political, economic and military) also must be brought to bear against it. Failing to grasp this multidimensional nature of spiritual strongholds will result in our not taking the necessary actions in time to stop them from becoming stronger and more deadly.
What about the people involved in the demonic strongholds? Are they evil?

The ultimate source of the strongholds of Nazism and Islamic terrorism is the Devil. Our war is not with flesh and blood. Obviously, not all Muslims are evil or demonized – and this even may include some of those people who are involved in the stronghold of Islamic terrorism. This was very much the case in dealing with the stronghold of Nazism – not all Germans were Nazis, nor can one say that those Germans who took part in the structure that had been created by Nazism that was doing terrible things were all evil or demonized.

Within the stronghold, however, certain individuals are especially used by Satan and are evil, as well as demonized. These people must be understood to be enemies of the Gospel. If that sounds
rather harsh, I am sorry -- but that is reality. Both Jesus and St. Paul identified certain people as enemies - they were called false prophets and false apostles, wolves in sheep’s clothing and so forth. To focus on the fact that our war is not with flesh and blood and miss that there indeed are people who have joined Satan in the war against us is to fail in our discernment and to misunderstand the practical measures that must be taken to defeat them.

We also must recognize that around particular demonized people there will be complex social organizations coalescing that are the human aspect of the stronghold of evil spirits. The example of this is the Nazi party that formed around the demonized genius, Adolf Hitler. The Nazi party was an enemy of humanity and civilization and had to be destroyed. The same is true for the present organizations that have formed around the leaders of Islamic terrorism. This means that Osama bin Laden is our enemy and must be removed as a key player in this stronghold. The organization of Al-Qaeda also is our enemy and must be overcome.

For us as intercessors, our role as the Moses workers will be in the realm of the spirit. But our high-level intercessory prayer that leads us into engaging the demonic powers actually may be accomplished by those Joshua workers who are expressing political, economic or military power, as well as those witnesses to Jesus Christ who are witnessing, ministering, reaching out, and all the other activities that set individuals free from the power of the Devil.
3. **Chart showing levels of spiritual warfare - from personal to cosmic**

In this diagram, high-level spiritual warfare would be warfare with spirits and human systems beyond the individual.

![Levels of Spiritual Warfare Diagram](image)

- High-level intercessory prayer
- Deliverance Ministry
- Demons afflicting the individual
- Exousia - Authorities
- Stoicheia - Elementals
- Arche- Rulers - Principalities
- Satan
- Victory in Jesus Christ
- Cosmic-level spiritual warfare
- High-level spiritual warfare
- Personal Level

Keep these diagrams in mind as you read how high-level spiritual warfare is defined (below). These are the levels that we are dealing with through high-level intercessory prayer.

**D. Two summary definitions of high-level spiritual warfare**

1. **Tom Willcox’s definition:**

   High-level spiritual warfare is primarily, at least from our perspective, a battle between the believing Church on Earth and the invisible, spiritual forces of darkness. It often has to do with powerful demon rulers and authorities.
2. These high-level demons exert their evil power over people in communities or people in specific geographic regions.

They are sometimes called “territorial spirits.” These are the kinds of powers, principalities, and high things (“pretensions”) Paul speaks of in Ephesians 6:12 and in 2 Corinthians 10:5. The Church seeks to stand firm against the enemy for itself.

It also seeks to invade Satan’s kingdom, to bind and loose in the spiritual realm, to wield divinely given power and authority, all in order to set the captives free. Tom White’s definition:

Strategic (high-level) spiritual warfare is the focused endeavor of an individual or group of saints to move out in the authority of the Word of God and, anointed by the Spirit of God, to expose and overthrow the kingdom of darkness, and significantly advance the Kingdom of light.

Its right practice necessitates an obedient waiting for the revelation of the Lord’s purposes and promptings, the practice of intercessory prayer, and a dual identification with the heart of God for revival of the church and the redemption of the lost.

This becomes extremely important for us! As we are called into intercession, this will place us in the arena of spiritual warfare. When we pray “Thy Kingdom come,” we are engaging the God’s work of defeating the kingdom of Satan and advancing the Kingdom of God. This will involve us in all levels of spiritual warfare.