

Cindy Trimm Rules Of Engagement Prayer

Understanding the Spiritual Warfare Blueprint: The Rules of Engagement Prayer

In the realm of Christian spirituality and intercessory prayer, few resources have resonated as powerfully as Dr. Cindy Trimm's **Rules of Engagement Prayer**. This structured approach to spiritual warfare has transformed the prayer lives of countless believers around the world. Rather than offering a passive, reactive form of prayer, the Rules of Engagement Prayer provides a proactive, strategic framework for confronting spiritual challenges, breaking strongholds, and claiming victory in Christ. It is not merely a collection of words to recite; it is a tactical manual for the believer who understands that life is a battlefield and that prayer is the primary weapon.

Dr. Cindy Trimm, a former senator, author, and sought-after motivational speaker, is best known for her groundbreaking book *Rules of Engagement: The Art of Strategic Prayer and Spiritual Warfare*. This work has become a cornerstone for those who feel called to pray with authority, precision, and purpose. The central premise is that many Christians pray without a clear strategy, hoping for the best but lacking a defined battle plan. Trimm argues that just as a military commander would never send troops into battle without a clear strategy, believers should not enter the spiritual arena without understanding the rules that govern spiritual warfare. The Rules of Engagement Prayer is the practical application of that biblical truth.

What is the Rules of Engagement Prayer?

At its core, the Rules of Engagement Prayer is a systematic, daily prayer regimen designed to help believers exercise their spiritual authority. It is rooted in Ephesians 6:10-18, where the Apostle Paul describes the full armor of God. However, Trimm goes beyond a simple reading of the armor passage. She breaks down the spiritual battle into specific areas of engagement: the mind, the will, the emotions, relationships, finances, health, and destiny. The prayer is not a one-size-fits-all petition; it is a targeted assault on the works of the enemy, coupled with a declaration of God's promises over every area of life.

The prayer is often divided into distinct sections or "battle orders." These include:

- **Praise and Worship:** Entering God's presence with thanksgiving and acknowledging His sovereignty.
- **Taking Authority:** Verbally commanding the enemy to loose his grip on specific areas of life.
- **Armor Activation:** Putting on each piece of the armor of God with intentionality.
- **Declarations and Decrees:** Speaking God's Word over situations, families, cities, and nations.
- **Praying in the Spirit:** Engaging in tongues or silent intercession as led by the Holy Spirit.
- **Thanksgiving and Closing:** Sealing the prayer with gratitude and faith.

What makes the Rules of Engagement Prayer distinct from other intercessory prayers is its emphasis on **decrees**. Trimm teaches that a decree is a legal command issued by a person who has authority. In the spiritual realm, believers have been given authority through Christ (Luke 10:19). Therefore, the Rules of Engagement Prayer involves speaking directly to mountains, strongholds, and circumstances, commanding them to align with God's will. This is not a prayer of begging; it is a prayer of declaration.

The Biblical Foundation for Strategic Prayer

Critics sometimes question whether structured, aggressive prayer is truly biblical. However, a careful reading of Scripture reveals that strategic, authoritative prayer is modeled throughout the Bible. Consider Joshua commanding the sun to stand still (Joshua 10:12-13), Elijah decreeing a drought (1 Kings 17:1), or Jesus speaking to the fig tree and calming the storm (Mark 11:23-24). These examples show that prayer was never meant to be passive. The Rules of Engagement Prayer is built on this biblical precedent.

Dr. Trimm often emphasizes that prayer is not about informing God of your problems; it is about enforcing His will on earth. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, **"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"** (Matthew 6:10). The Rules of Engagement Prayer is a practical tool for seeing that prayer answered. It equips believers to identify the strongholds that keep God's will from being manifested and to dismantle them through prayer, fasting, and the Word.

The concept of "rules of engagement" itself is a military term that defines the circumstances, conditions, and limitations under which forces may be used. In the spiritual context, these rules are found in Scripture. Believers must understand their authority, the power of the blood of Jesus, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the importance of unity. The prayer is a disciplined application of these rules to daily life.

How to Pray the Rules of Engagement Prayer

Praying the Rules of Engagement Prayer is not about reciting a script flawlessly. It is about posture and intent. Dr. Trimm encourages believers to find a quiet place, to stand or kneel with purpose, and to pray aloud. There is power in speaking words of faith. Here is a practical guide to incorporating this prayer into your daily routine.

Begin with Spiritual Preparation

Before you launch into declarations, take a moment to quiet your heart. Confess any known sin. Forgive anyone who has wronged you. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers. This preparation ensures that your prayers are not hindered by unconfessed sin or a bitter heart (Psalm 66:18; Mark 11:25).

Enter with Praise and Thanksgiving

Start by praising God for who He is. Thank Him for His faithfulness, His love, and His power. Acknowledge that He is the Lord of hosts, the King of kings, and the victorious one. This shifts your focus from your problem to your Provider. Praise is a weapon that confuses the enemy and invites God's presence into your situation.

Put on the Armor of God

The Rules of Engagement Prayer includes a detailed activation of each piece of armor. For each piece, pray with intention:

- **Helmet of Salvation:** "Lord, I thank You for the mind of Christ. I pull down every thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. I wear the helmet of salvation to protect my mind from fear, doubt, and confusion."
- **Breastplate of Righteousness:** "I put on the breastplate of righteousness. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am protected from condemnation, shame, and accusation."
- **Belt of Truth:** "I gird myself with the belt of truth. I speak truth. I live truth. I reject every lie of the enemy."
- **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace:** "I shod my feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. I am stable, balanced, and ready to move where God leads."
- **Shield of Faith:** "I take up the shield of faith, with which I can quench every fiery dart of the wicked one. I believe God's Word above any circumstance."
- **Sword of the Spirit:** "I take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. I speak Scripture over my life, my family, and my nation."

Take Authority Over Spiritual Strongholds

With the armor in place, you can now take authority. This is a key component of the Rules of Engagement Prayer. Speak directly to the spiritual forces that oppose God's purposes in your life. For example:

"I take authority over the spirit of fear. I bind you and command you to loose my mind and my emotions. I release the spirit of power, love, and a sound mind in its place (2 Timothy 1:7). I take authority over the spirit of poverty. I command financial breakthrough to manifest in my life. I decree that I am the head and not the tail, above only and not beneath (Deuteronomy 28:13)."

Be specific. Name the issues: sickness, division, lust, pride, addiction, stagnation, or whatever is hindering your walk with God. The enemy is a legalist, and he must flee when you exercise your legal authority in Christ.

Make Declarations and Decrees

This is the heart of the Rules of Engagement Prayer. A declaration is a statement of truth based on God's Word. A decree is a legal command that creates a spiritual shift. For instance:

- "I declare that I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me (Romans 8:37)."
- "I decree that my children are taught of the Lord and great is their peace (Isaiah 54:13)."
- "I decree that my household is covered by the blood of Jesus and no weapon formed against us shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17)."
- "I declare that this is my season of open doors, divine favor, and supernatural acceleration."

Speak these words with confidence, not arrogance. You are not commanding God; you are commanding the circumstances to align with His will.

Pray in the Spirit

Dr. Trimm strongly emphasizes praying in tongues or praying in a heavenly language. According to 1 Corinthians 14:2, praying in the Spirit allows you to speak mysteries directly to God. It bypasses your limited understanding and allows the Holy Spirit to pray through you for the perfect will of God. Even if you do not speak in tongues, you can spend time in silent, deep intercession, allowing the Spirit to guide your thoughts.

Close with Thanksgiving and Rest

After you have prayed through your areas of concern, thank God that the battle is already won. Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Your role is to enforce that victory through prayer. Thank Him for the breakthroughs that are coming. Thank Him for the changes you cannot yet see. Then, rest in faith. Do not spend the rest of the day worrying. If the enemy tries to bring the same fear back, remind him that you have already prayed and that the matter is settled in heaven.

Common Areas Addressed by the Rules of Engagement Prayer

The versatility of the Rules of Engagement Prayer allows it to be adapted to nearly any situation. Here are some common areas where believers find this prayer particularly effective:

The Mind and Emotions

Anxiety, depression, obsessive thoughts, and emotional trauma are often rooted in spiritual strongholds. The Rules of Engagement Prayer helps believers take every thought captive and renew their minds with the truth of God's Word.

Relationships and Family

Praying for spouses, children, extended family, and even difficult coworkers. The prayer covers marriages, prodigal children, and broken family lines.

Finances and Career

Breaking the spirit of poverty, opening doors of opportunity, and decreeing wisdom for financial decisions. Many believers use this prayer to claim their inheritance in Christ regarding provision and abundance.

Health and Healing

Praying against sickness, decreeing divine health, and commanding cells, organs, and systems to function in alignment with God's design.

Nations and Communities

Dr. Trimm also encourages this prayer on a macro level: praying for governments, schools, churches, and cities. The Rules of Engagement Prayer can be used to intercede for national revival and transformation.

Practical Tips for Consistency

Developing a consistent prayer life using the Rules of Engagement Prayer requires discipline. Here are some practical suggestions:

- 1. **Set a Time:** Choose a specific time each day. Morning is often preferred, as it sets the tone for the day.
- 2. **Create a Prayer Journal:** Write down the specific decrees you are praying. Track the answers over time. This builds faith.
- 3. **Use a Prayer Guide:** Many believers use the actual *Rules of Engagement* book or companion prayer journal as a daily guide. It provides structure until the prayer becomes a natural part of your spiritual rhythm.
- 4. **Pray in Community:** While personal prayer is vital, there is power in agreement (Matthew 18:19). Join a prayer group or find a prayer partner who understands strategic prayer.
- 5. **Be Patient:** Some breakthroughs come instantly, while others require persistent prayer over days, weeks, or months. Do not give up. Consistency is key.

Conclusion

The Cindy Trimm Rules of Engagement Prayer is more than a religious exercise; it is a powerful, biblically grounded strategy for living a life of victory. It transforms prayer from a passive, reactive conversation into an active, authoritative engagement with the spiritual forces that seek to hinder your destiny. By understanding your identity in Christ, putting on the full armor of God, and making bold decrees based on Scripture, you can