



On Your Mark!

Connecting in prayer at the AVC

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1)

December 2006

Prayer groups at the AVC

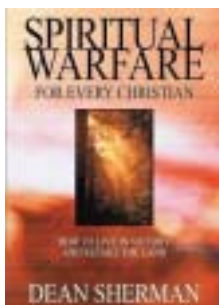
1st & 3rd **Sundays**, 6:00–7:30pm—
Unveiled (Great Room) 404-388-0518

Every **Sunday**, 10:00–10:20am—
" 20:20" (Prayer Room) 404-388-0518

1st **Sundays**, 9:00–10:00am—
Prayer for Lost Family & Friends (Prayer Room) 404-388-0518

2nd **Sundays**, 8:30–10:00am—
Prophetic Roundtable (Youth Room) 404-388-0518

3rd **Sundays**, 9:00–10:00am—
Prayer for Missions (Prayer Room) 404-388-0518



Spiritual Warfare classes every Monday night — see p. 2 for more details!

Prayer groups in the community

2nd & 4th **Fridays**, 7:30–9:00pm—
Derderian Prayer Group (Roswell) 404-667-2042

Every **Tuesday**, 7:30–9:00pm—
Men's Dias Prayer Group (Roswell) 404-660-7841

Aaaaaaargh!

By Karen Sculley
(karens@atlantavineyard.com)

You won't find this word in Strong's concordance or even in the original Hebrew or Greek, but the Bible makes reference to it several times. We've all said it with varying volumes, but we're in good company. Job said it, David said it, Isaiah said it, Paul said it, Jesus said it. In English we call it "sighing." "Sigh" is defined as to let out one's breath audibly, as from sorrow or weariness; to yearn or long; to pine. "Aaaaaaargh" is basically "a deep and prolonged audible inspiration or respiration of air, as when fatigued or grieved."

I don't think biblical sighing is the kind of momentary, breathy sound we make when we don't get a close parking place, or when we remember a Monday deadline on Sunday night, or when we didn't get the bonus we were hoping for. Biblical sighing is louder and longer than that. It happens when we reach the place of saying, "Enough is enough!" It's when grief, exhaustion, or frustration has filled our cup to the limit.



Circumstances, family, leaders, fellow believers, even God, can do things that make us feel like we just can't take it any more, that we're at our limit, that if one more thing happens we'll implode or explode or conk out. Jesus sighed *deeply*. He had just miraculously fed the 4000 with seven loaves and a few small fish. Then the Pharisees asked Him for a "sign from heaven." Hello. What did they think they had just personally experienced in the multiplication of food? Jesus responded to them with a noise that could be roughly translated as, "How long do I have to put up with this? These people have no clue!"

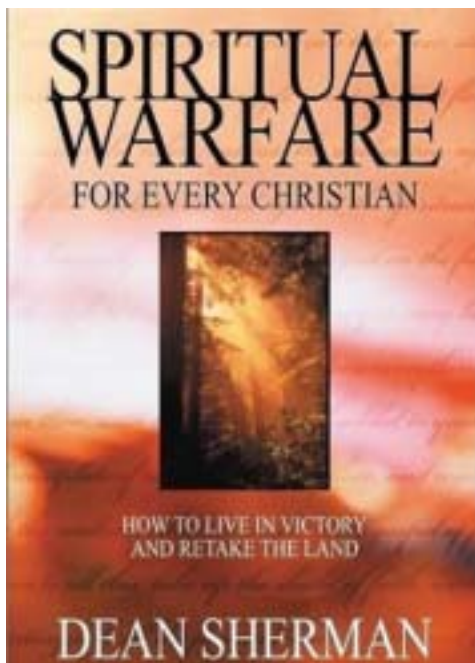
When we find ourselves sighing deeply, we have a choice. We can hang our heads and say it's over, as Jacob did in Genesis 37:35—"He refused to be comforted" and said, "*In mourning will I go down to the grave . . .*" (incidentally, he lived at least 30 more years after deciding he would go to his grave, likely spending more than half that time in a depressed state!). Or, we can take our focus off of distractors and detractors, and continue doing what God has called us to do, as Jesus did in Mark 8:13—"Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side."

God has given us a beautiful promise in Isaiah that one day all our "*sorrow and sighing will flee away*," with "*exuberant ecstasies transporting them*" (as The Message so colorfully puts it). Meanwhile, when we find ourselves sighing at life, God, or others, let's come humbly yet confidently before God and ask Him for help. "*Since we have a great high priest . . . Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*" (Hebrews 4:14 - 16)

Spiritual Warfare classes

Do you want to be a more effective spiritual warrior in the Kingdom of God? Come get equipped at these DVD teachings on Monday nights:

**Now through
January 5th, 2007
(7:30 - 9:00pm)**



The classes are taught by YWAM veteran teacher Dean Sherman and facilitated by Atlanta Vineyard leaders. Please visit www.atlantavineyard.com/prayer for individual class titles.

Come get equipped to live in victory and advance the Kingdom of God!

Prophetic Roundtable

2nd Sunday of every month, 8:30–10:00am, Youth Room

Coming in 2007 – “Prophetic Evangelism” – a 6 month DVD course in culturally relevant evangelism focusing on hearing God’s heart for others

**Teacher: Doug Addison from InLight Connection, author of “Prophecy, Dreams, and Evangelism”
Doug comes highly recommended by Steve Sjogren, John Paul Jackson, and other Vineyard congregations (he formerly served as a Vineyard church planter & pastor)**

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17)

A Little Inspiration . . .

“If you are a stranger to prayer,
you are a stranger to the greatest source
of power known to human beings.”

Billy Sunday

