

We Are at War, Part 5
Ephesians 6:18-24
Sunday a.m. 8//6/2017

- ❖ Prayer is primary to the war we are in
- ❖ The Christian soldier fights on his knees

John MacArthur

Ephesians begins by lifting us up to the heavenlies, and ends by pulling us down to our knees.

Charles Spurgeon

“When you cannot use your sword, and even when you can hardly grasp your shield, you can pray.”

A. C. Gaebelien

We do not detach this (prayer) from the armor of God. It belongs to it. Prayer always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, is next to the sword of the Spirit, the most powerful weapon against the devil and his wicked hosts.

■ **What is Prayer?**

“Prayer is dependence on God; we lean on Him.”

prayer - proseuche; **pros-yoo-khay'** used only of prayer to God.

“The prefix "pros" conveys the sense of being immediately before God and hence the ideas of adoration, devotion, and worship.”

✪ **The basic idea is to bring prayer requests to God**

Guidelines for Prayer

■ **Pray with Opportunity (Ephesians 6:18a)**

always - kairos, not a specific time, but an appropriate time

"In every season", at "every opportunity".

“When God's Spirit reveals to us an opportunity for prayer, we need to seize the moment, choosing to pray and thus redeeming the time.”

❖ Paul said to “redeem the time, because the days are evil.” **Ephesians 5:16**

Luke 18:1-7

✪ **Jesus urged His disciples to pray at all times, not to lose heart, not to be discouraged when our prayers are not answered quickly**

✚ **When do you pray? Just in times of crisis?**

✚ **Do you sense the prompting of God to pray?**

✚ **Do you get discouraged when you pray?**

■ Pray in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18b)

✚ Praying in the Spirit is seeking the will of God and His direction

✚ Praying in the Spirit is being in the sphere of influence of the Holy Spirit

✚ Praying in the Spirit is being led by the Spirit to pray

❖ Have you been prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray for someone?

✪ **There is no better time to pray for someone than the moment they ask you to pray for them and it does not matter where you are!**

Romans 8:26-27 (NKJV)

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

■ Pray with Vigilance (Ephesians 6:18c)

❖ Paul said to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

✪ **Prayer needs to be our lifestyle**

Acts 1:14 (NKJV)

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

- ❖ A soldier cannot afford to close his eyes to the enemy
- ❖ Scripture never tells us to close our eyes, bow our head
- ❖ The Jews prayed with their eyes open toward heaven and their hands lifted toward God to honor Him
- ❖ Jesus taught the disciples to “Watch and pray”

⊛ **We must be on the alert, keep watch and be on guard for the enemy**

■ Pray with Persistence (Ephesians 6:18d)

perseverance - continue to do something with intense effort with the possible implication of doing so despite difficulties

Romans 12:12 (NKJV)

rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

Luke 18:2-5

⊛ **We want instant answers to prayers. Sometimes that will happen, but when it does not, don't stop praying.**

■ Pray for Needs (Ephesians 6:18e)

supplication – request for needs

⊛ **Praying in God's will is separating or wants from God's will**

✚ Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy will be done.”

Philippians 4:6 (NKJV)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

⊛ **We must pray for the needs of the saints; Health, finances, spiritual**

■ Pray for Yourself (Ephesians 6:19–20)

- ❖ Paul asked the church to pray for him
- ❖ It is hard to think of Paul asking for prayer for himself

- ❖ This was not the first time

Colossians 4:2-3

² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;
³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, ⁴ that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Romans 15:30-32

³⁰ Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, ³¹ that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, ² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

✚ Paul just asks, “Brethren pray for us.” (1 Thessalonians 5:25)

🌀 Do not be afraid to ask people to pray for you

Close

✚ Tychicus was a faithful partner in ministry (Ephesians 6:21-22)

✚ Paul closed by asking for peace, harmony among Christians, and love (Ephesians 6:23-24)