

# PRAYING ALWAYS

## EPHESIANS 6:18

Text: Ephesians 6:18

### **Ephesians 6:18**

<sup>18</sup>Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Introduction:

This evening we begin Bible school, and our theme this year is “Put on the whole armour of God.”

### **Ephesians 6:11**

<sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

In this passage Paul is telling us how we ought as Christians to prepare for the battles we face day by day.

It is impossible to enter and win the battle in our own strength.

Remember when Paul penned these words he was under arrest and was probably surrounded by some Roman soldiers. No doubt he saw the armour that these soldiers were wearing and used that armour as an example, to make a spiritual application.

But Paul knew that no amount of armour or weapons could produce a victory.

That is why I believe verse 18 should be included in the list of godly armor. If the Word of God is our offensive weapon and the other pieces of armor are for our defense, then prayer can be said to be our secret weapon. Because it through prayer, and prayer alone, that we gain the necessary strength and courage to stand forth and fight in the day of battle. Without this necessary component we are doomed to failure, but with it, and with the other pieces of God's armor firmly fixed in their places, we cannot be defeated, but will surely prevail.

Notice:

## **1. THE DEFINITION OF THIS WEAPON**

"Praying can be defined as that spiritual activity in which the child of God engages the Heavenly Father in two-way dialogue.

Prayer is an undertaking that can be practiced anytime, in any place and for any valid purpose.

Prayer is the single greatest force ever unleashed on the earth, and it is the single most powerful weapon at the saint's disposal. This world may find a way to close

our churches and take away our Bibles, but no one will ever be able to stop God's people from calling on the Lord.

## **2. A DESCRIPTION OF THIS WEAPON**

### **A. It Should Be Constant – Always**

This does not mean that we are to carry on a constant babbling as we go through life; neither does it mean that we are to throw up a bunch of meaningless words and phrases.

It does mean that we are to take 1 Thess. 5:17 to heart.

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

<sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing.

It means that we are to be in a constant state of communion with God.

We are to walk in a constant sense and awareness of His presence, so that we are instantly able to communicate with Him throughout the day. We must have this kind of intimacy with the Lord if we are to remain close to Him and clean in this world.

## B. Classification – All prayer and supplication

Genuine praying covers all the bases. A good soldier employs all the various types of prayer that are at his disposal.

- There are formal and informal prayers
- There are silent and vocal prayers
- There are public and private prayers
- There are spontaneous and deliberate prayers
- There are prayers of supplication and intercession
- There are prayers of confession and adoration
- There are prayers of humiliation and thanksgiving

All these kinds of prayers have their place and all are used effectively by the wise Christian soldier.

## C. Our Companion in Prayer – In the Spirit

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit helps us in our praying.

### **Romans 8:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup> And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

When we are truly praying in the Spirit, we can always be confident that we are praying according to God's will and that He will hear and answer our prayers.

### **1 John 5:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

## **3. THE DETERMINATION TO US THIS WEAPON**

If we are to be truly effective, then prayer cannot be allowed to become a hit or miss proposition. It must instead be constant, consistent and centered in God. Paul uses some action oriented words here to teach us about using prayer more effectively.

### **A. We Must Be Alert**

Ever watchful for opportunities to pray and watching for things that would hinder prayer

## B. We Must Be Active – Perseverance

This simply means that we are to keep on praying until the answer comes from God,

### **Matthew 7:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: <sup>8</sup> For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Too often, we give up before the Spirit of God says stop, or before the answer comes. We ought to continue in prayer until God says stop or He gives us what we asking for.

## C. We Must be Asking – Supplication for all

Our duty is to be in prayer one for another

Close:

As Paul looked as those Roman soldiers he could see the girdle around their waists, the breastplates and shoes. He could see their helmets and shields and swords. He could see all the outward signs of their readiness for battle, but he could not see those soldier's strength of character of their courage.

So it is with you and me. All may look good on the outside, but inwardly, we may be lacking that one key ingredient that spells the difference between defeat and victory.

For the Roman soldier, it was inward strength and courage.

For the Christian, our secret weapon is prayer!

Remember, no amount of armor can produce a warrior for Christ, only prayer can accomplish this.