

PRAYING ALWAYS

EPHESIANS 6:18

Text: Ephesians 6:18

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¹⁸ **Praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Introduction:

Ephesians 6 is best known for the armor of God, yet we see an exhortation to the Christians for prevailing practice.

We understand we do have opposition as God's children – (the wiles of the Devil), and God has provided us with the equipment for us to be able to stand against this opposition.

However we must remember that 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 armor that these soldiers were wearing and used that armor as an example, to make a spiritual application.

Paul knew that no amount of armor or weapons could produce a victory by themselves.

I believe verse 18 should be considered in the list of this 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's through prayer, and prayer alone, that we gain the necessary strength and courage to stand forth and fight in the day of battle.

Without prayer 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 be victorious.

"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.

Notice:

1. THE ABUNDANCE OF PRAYER (VS. 18)

Ephesians 6:18

¹⁸ ***Praying always*** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The soldier must ensure the lines of communication remain open.

We need constant communication to defeat the enemy.

An attack can happen at any moment, from any direction, so we must be on guard.

Remember:

Satan likes to attack when we least expect it.

These attacks come suddenly without warning.

He often comes during our times of weakness, even when we are alone, without the aid of other believers.

Thank God, we have a direct link to the throne room.

We are not being told to spend every waking moment reciting a prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

We are to be praying always.

Note the aspects of prayer:

1 Timothy 2:1

¹ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

- Supplications – Special Prayers (asking for needs)
- Prayers – General Prayers (worship and adoration)

- Intercessions – Personal Prayers (plead the cause of others)
- Giving of Thanks – Thankful Prayers (appreciation)

A good soldier will use every aspect of prayer to defeat the enemy. We are not using prayer effectively if we only pray for ourselves. It must also include worship, pleading for others, and thankfulness for God's blessings. Prayer is powerful if we use it the way God intends.

Note not only “The Abundance of Prayer” but also:

2. THE ALLY OF PRAYER

Ephesians 6:18

¹⁸ *Praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

Prayer is the purest and most spiritual activity in which Christians engage.

We are never closer to our Lord than when we come before Him in humble, earnest prayer!

We are not alone when we pray; the Holy Spirit is there to help us.

Note:

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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.

You may have heard of self-guided weapons or missiles.

I'm thankful that our prayers aren't self-guided, but Spirit guided.

We may not know how to pray, what to pray, or who to pray for; but the Spirit makes intercession for us.

Our prayers won't be selfish and out of God's will when guided by the Spirit.

God will hear the faintest whisper when prayed in the Spirit.

Notice not only "The Abundance, and Ally in Prayer" but also:

3. THE ALERTNESS IN PRAYER (VS. 18)

Ephesians 6:18

¹⁸ *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and **watching thereunto** with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

This means “to be alert, not asleep; attentive and ready.” A good soldier is always alert, aware of his surroundings. We must be constantly looking for anything that might hinder and disrupt or stand in need of prayer.

Note what the Lord told His disciples:

Matthew 26:41

⁴¹ *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

Mark 14:38

³⁸ *Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.*

They were weary and neglected the watch.

They failed to recognize the battle Jesus was fighting.

Had they been aware they could've prayed. Often we hear of needs, but we fail to watch in prayer.

Note what Nehemiah did:

Nehemiah 4:7-9

⁷ *But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, ⁸ And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. ⁹ **Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.***

When it comes to the matter of prayer we should always be alert – watching and praying.

Notice not only the “Abundance, Ally and Alertness in Prayer” but also:

4. THE AIM OF PRAYER (VS. 18)

Ephesians 6:18

¹⁸ *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication **for all saints**;*

We are not in the battle alone. There are many who are engaged with the enemy. It is important that we lift up each other. It is no secret that we stand stronger together.

As we pray for each other; we help each other.

Galatians 6:2

² Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Remember:

The Spirit doesn't burden your heart to pray for others in vain.

They may be in the midst of a battle and need a touch from heaven.

They may be weary in the fight and are just before throwing in the towel.

They may be so injured and weak that they are literally unable to pray for themselves.

We help each other as we pray!

Let us bear one another's burdens, standing united in prayer.

Close:

Prayer is essential to overcoming the enemy. We are certainly thankful for the whole armor of God, but may we put it on and wear it with prayer.

May we remember each other as we pray daily.

The disciples understood the urgency in prayer. They didn't ask the Lord to teach them to preach, perform miracles, or many other endeavors. They did, however, ask Him to teach them to pray. Is your prayer life what it should be? Are you committed to daily prayer? I am sure the majority of us would benefit from an improved prayer life.