



# REVEALED

The Mystery of Christ in Ephesians

**Ephesians 6:18-24**

August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# PRAYER IS WAR! (WHY WE NEED TO SEE PRAYER AS A WARFARE ACTIVITY)

*Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup>and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak....<sup>24</sup>grace be with you all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. – Ephesians 6:18-20,24 (ESV)*

## BOOT CAMP BASICS

### 1. The Imperative of US over ME

*They devoted themselves to ... the prayers - Acts 2:42*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

### 2. The Influence of GOD'S VOICE over MY OWN

*And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" – Ephesians 5:8-14 (ESV)*

*Romans 5:5; Romans 8:13-16; 26-27*

*Acts 8:29; 13:2; 16:6, 7*

### 3. The Importance of OBEDIENCE over RITUAL

*"What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams." – 1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NLT)*

*Proverbs 28:9; Zechariah 7:13; Psalm 66:18-19; Isaiah 59:1-2*

## FRONTLINE PRAYER STRATEGIES

### 1. Fire Support = Spirit-Inspired Communication *"Praying at all times in the Spirit."*

*1 Samuel 17:47; 2 Chronicles 20*

*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? – Zechariah 4:6 (ESV)*

*But you, beloved, building yourself up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit. – Jude 20 (ESV)*

*For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit...the one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself...now I want you all to speak in tongues...for if I pray in a tongue my spirit prays – 1 Corinthians 14:2,4,5,14 (ESV)*

## **2. The Fire Team = The Power of Agreement**

***“..with all prayer and supplication...for all the saints”***

*Two are better than one...though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken – Ecclesiastes 4:9, 12 (NIV)*

*If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. – Matthew 18:19 (ESV)*

## **3. Holding Ground = Persistent Vigilance**

***“To that end keep alert with all perseverance”***

THE DEADLY “D’s” OF THE DEVIL

- Disrupt – 1 Thessalonians 2:18
- Devour – 1 Peter 5:8
- Disadvantage – Ephesians 4:27; 6:11
- Detain – 2 Timothy 2:26
- Defeat – 1 Timothy 3:6-7

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word... – Colossians 4:2-3 (ESV)*

## **4. Overwhelming Force = Holy Boldness**

***“that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel”***

*And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. – Acts 4:29-31 (ESV)*

**2 Kings 13:14-19**

## I Will Live The Mystery by...

- Memorizing *Ephesians 6:18*
- Equipping myself with the basics for spiritual battle.
- Employing the strategies of warfare prayer in my life.
- Surrendering my life to Christ as my commander.

## WALK THE TALK A Growth Group Guide

1. What was the most powerful prayer you have ever heard or the most powerful prayer service you ever attended? Why was it so moving?
2. Why is it so important to develop the concept of Team Prayer and move it out of simply something we do in private?
3. When you think of “praying in the Spirit” what does that look like to you? How can we be led by the Spirit more in our prayer life in some very practical ways?
4. What do you think holy boldness looks like when it is in operation in someone’s life? Do you think you have that measure of boldness? How can someone receive its fullness in their life?
5. Re-read 2 Kings 13:14-19: a) How are we like the king in that story sometimes? b) Do you think we miss a lot more victories in life simply because we do not give our all?
6. What do you think you specifically need to do this week to start “living the mystery of Christ” out?