

Prayer, Resourcing God's Power

INTRODUCTION

PRAYER

Ephesians 6:18–20 (ESV) 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, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Technically, this is not a separate sentence from the previous phrases. It is continuing on in the theme of spiritual armor.

At All Times vs. 18

- The sentence's grammatical structure implies that praying is to be a constant state of being (1 Thess 5:17).
- The grammatical structure suggests that we are to be *always praying ones*.

In the Spirit vs. 18

- This could be understood as either *continuously praying in the sphere of the Spirit* or *continuously praying by the means of the Holy Spirit*.
- We are to pray in the power and sphere of the Holy Spirit.
- Praying in or by the means of the Holy Spirit is a common exhortation in Scripture.
 - So, what do we know what to pray for,
 - So that our prayers are conformed to the will of God,
 - So that the power of God in His Holy Spirit energizes our prayers.
- This is not merely another weapon but the sphere and realm in which all the armour is put on and exercised.
- It is like the air we breathe when exercising ourselves in spiritual warfare.

With All Prayer and Supplication

- Our continual mindset of communication with God encompasses the many and diverse kinds of prayer available to Christians.

1 Timothy 2:1 (ESV) First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions,

and thanksgivings be made for all people,

- 1 Tim. 2:1 presents us with at least 4 types of prayers to be lifted up;
 - Prayer – general term emphasizing worship and reverence.
 - Supplication – specific petitions.
 - Intercession – coming before God on behalf of others; to intervene.
 - Thanksgiving – gratitude; it should accompany all prayer.
- It also can include all manners of prayer. *Public or private; quiet or in loud cries; deliberate or spontaneous; kneeling, or prostrate or standing; with eyes closed or open; with head bowed or lifted up,*

In Persevering Alertness vs. 18

- We must be alert, awake, and attentive to what is happening around us.
 - We Must be alert to the heavenlies realm both with a sensitive spirit to the Holy Spirit and with an eye for seeing the *heavenlies realm* while observing the natural realm activities.
- Jesus asked the disciples to be alert and watch,
 - But they were overcome with the elements of the natural realm and oblivious to the realities of the *heavenlies*.
 - All the while, Jesus was being assaulted by Satan.
- Peter later fell to the attacks of Satan; he did not stand because he was not watching.
- We are to use our God-given senses, which are sensitized to the Holy Spirit and the heavenlies, be led by the Spirit and God's Word, and detect Satan when he is beginning to work.

- We are to be ever persevering, steadfastly persistent.
- Stick to it, and don't quit.

Matthew 26:40–41 (ESV) And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Luke 21:36 (ESV) But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Romans 12:12 (ESV) Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Colossians 4:2 (ESV) Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

- We must always be perseveringly alert because Satan is always on the prowl, looking for opportunities to spring.

For All Saints

- Praying for all saints as the Spirit leads and guides. *Intercession* is important!! Praying and interceding for others' releases in a more powerful manner God's intervention in our lives.
- God always rewards and blesses the generous spirit—resources, time, finances, ministry, and/or prayer.
- If my prayers help defeat Satan in another Christian's life—by brother or sister—it helps the body of Christ and me.
- Our church family is spared and strengthened when Satan's assignment on a member of our church family is mitigated and averted.

NOTE "ALL":

- all prayers
- all times
- all perseverance
- for all saints

PAUL'S REQUEST

Ephesians 6:19–20 (ESV) and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Pray for Him

1. Right words when he speaks,

Colossians 4:2–4 (ESV) Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

2. Boldness

- As he is in prison,
- As he would stand trial,
- He asked twice in two verses for boldness, that fear would be overcome.
- A secret in growing in boldness, righteousness, etc., is to pray for it—Paul did, and asked for others to pray on his behalf!!

SUMMARY

- It takes more than merely wearing the armor and wielding the sword; it requires the supernatural power of God, appropriated in and through prayer.

ILLUST: **Ex. 17:8-16**; *When the Amalekites attacked Israel, Joshua went down into the valley with the sword, and Moses was above interceding in prayer. The sword is the weapon, prayer is the power!!*

- We must skillfully and strategically wield the sword of God's truth and pray in our battles of spiritual conflict against the enemy.
- Also, as an army, there are those God will call to the mountain to pray—like Moses, while other leaders are down on the front lines wielding a sword.
- Everyone can do both. Sometimes, our lives emphasize one or the other, while our battle partners do the other.

- Your prayers are powerful and moves God's hand in the heavenlies.

ILLUST. *Peter in prison* **Acts 12:1-17** — Daniel in ch. 9 – angels sent.

- We must take this seriously.
- God leaves no excuse for any soldier in God's army to be taken-out. He has given everything necessary to stand strong and prevail.
- As your inner man grows, so will the armor and the power that fills the armor.