

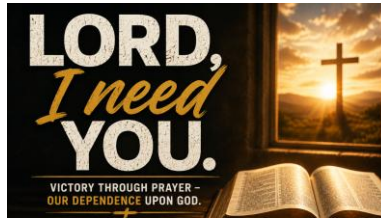
Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 6:18-24 – Our dependence on God until He comes for us

Today's Message:

"Lord, I need you."



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we took an in-depth look at the glorious sword of the Spirit! God has given you His words. Today, we will finish the book of Ephesians. After describing the whole armor of God, Paul will immediately turn our attention to prayer. It is because prayer is critical to our battle preparation and how we will stand in the battle. The armor prepares us for the battle, but prayer keeps us connected to the One who gives the victory. The Christian's victory in the battle is not found in self-sufficiency but in continual dependence upon God through prayer. We need God. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 6:18-24

A. Depend upon God Personally – a life of continual prayer

1. The first mark of dependence upon God is a **CONTINUAL** prayer life.

- **Ephesians 6:18** – Praying **always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

"Praying always" – a constant action; not reserved for emergencies!

Key Notes

- Paul connects prayer to "all" of these...
 - ✓ **All prayer** – Bringing every kind of communication with God for every circumstance of life.
 - ✓ **All supplication** – Presenting specific needs/requests with humility and dependence upon God.
 - ✓ **All perseverance** – Continuing faithfully in prayer; not stopping for delays and difficulties.
 - ✓ **All saints** – Interceding for every believer because we fight the spiritual battle together.
- A dependent Christian understand **John 15:5** and prays...
 - ✓ *In every season... before every decision... during every temptation... through every trial... after every blessing... in every victory... always and without ceasing.*

Biblical Examples

- **Moses** **Exodus 17** – victory depended on Joshua fighting and Moses **PRAYING!**
- **Jesus** He often withdrew to pray – He had continual **COMMUNION** with God!

Pray in every way.

(All Prayer)

Pray for every need.

(All Supplication)

Pray at every

opportunity

without quitting.

(All Perseverance)

Pray for every believer.

(All Saints)

Question

Your day begins with:

Phone?

Calendar?

News?

Social media?

God?

"Praying always..."

Jesus prayed in the morning before the day began. He prayed before making major decisions. He prayed before performing miracles. He prayed during the greatest trials of His life. He prayed for His disciples. He prayed for His enemies. He even died praying! If the perfect Son of God lived in continual dependence upon His Father through prayer, how much more should we?

B. Depend upon God Persistently – a life of watchful perseverance

2. Dependence is not demonstrated by praying once – but refusing to **STOP** praying.

Important Note

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance.

Prayer is learning to trust God's timing as

He often works beneath the surface long before we see visible answers.

Practical Application

Persistent prayer:
"Lord, I trust you even when I cannot yet see what you are doing."

- **Ephesians 6:18** – ...and **watching** thereunto **with all perseverance**...

"Watching" – spiritually awake; forbearance of sleep; close observation

"Perseverance" – persistence; continued pursuit; continuance by grace

Key Notes

- A soldier **must** watch. Sleeping leads to defeat not knowing the enemy is near.
 - ✓ Your heart... your marriage... your children... your testimony... your church...
 - ✓ Opportunities to serve... opportunities to witness... temptations in advance...
- God often develops our faith while we **WAIT** for Him. **Ps 37:7** "Rest in the Lord"

Biblical Examples

- **Elijah** **1 Kings 18:41-46; Jas 5:17-18** – Elijah prayed 7 times for rain to come.
- **Daniel** **Daniel 6:10-23; 10:12-13** – Daniel continued during opposition/delays.
- **Hannah** **1 Samuel 1:9-20** – persistent prayers through years of heartache.

C. Depend upon God Together – a life focused on God's work

3. Prayer moves our thinking and attention from ourselves to God's **PURPOSES**.

- **Ephesians 6:19** – And for me, that utterance may be given unto me...
- **Ephesians 6:20** – ... that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- **Ephesians 6:21-22** – ... Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister...
- **Ephesians 6:23-24** – Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith... Grace...

"Ambassador in bonds" – Paul's greatest concern was for the **GOSPEL**.

Key Notes

- We **must** strengthen each other through prayer. We do not fight **ALONE**.
 - ✓ Pray for your family, church, pastor, missionaries, ministry leaders, children, new believers, those who are suffering, those who need salvation...
- We **must** all serve **FAITHFULLY**.
 - ✓ Paul closed with Tychicus, a faithful servant who encouraged churches/carried letters.
 - ✓ The Christian life is not lived in isolation. God uses us to strengthen one another!
- Everything we have, everything accomplish, and every victory comes from God.
 - ✓ Peace, love, faith, grace... "... **from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**"

Prayer Request

Paul did not ask for:
Freedom
Comfort
Situation Change

1 Samuel 12:23

... God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you...

"Praying always..."

Paul does not leave us admiring the armor – he leaves us embracing *dependence upon God*.

The strongest Christian is **not** the one who knows the most Scripture.

The strongest Christian is **not** the one who has served the longest.

The strongest Christian is **not** the one with the greatest natural ability.

The strongest Christian is the one who has learned that apart from Jesus Christ, he can do nothing – and therefore lives every day in continual dependence upon God through prayer.