

10/08/23 Message

Part of Prayers for Victory (2023)

October 8, 2023

Message: Power in Prayer

Series: Prayers for Victory

Recap: This is our second message in the series Prayers for Victory. In this series you'll be challenged to be equipped and ready for the battles you'll face in life. More than that, you'll be encouraged to shape your prayers knowing the battle is approaching... even before the battle rages!

Introduction

I won't give up... I won't grow weary... I won't... Oh, who am I kidding. I do give up. I do grow weary.

We all do. The key = each other. God will never give up or grow weary with us, in simple terms, He hasn't gone anywhere - it's us that move away from each other, it's us that move away from Him. Don't push me, because I don't want you behind me - I want you WITH ME - so grab me by the hand and let's do this together. That's the family of God! When we get that, we PULL (instead of push) and bring others with us into His presence! We PULL (instead of push) each other into a circle of life that we do TOGETHER. Galatians 6:9 (NLT) So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

—Pastor Chad

We're in a series talking about spiritual warfare and how you use prayer to fight the battle. But here's the truth... prayer is part of your artillery... and it doesn't matter how much artillery you have - if you don't have anyone willing to step up and use it - you're powerless!

Prayer is not irrelevant, but neither are you! But without you, prayer is irrelevant!

God hasn't disappeared, He hasn't gone anywhere – He's right there! Prayer is there! It's always an option. The variable in the equation is you!

Paul ends his letter to the Ephesian church with a plea for prayer.

Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Ephesians 6:18 (MSG)

In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

Pray long and hard! Does this describe your prayer life?

What is Prayer

“Prayer is inviting God into our circumstances, into our hopes, into our fears, into our dreams, and into our pain; prayer is inviting God into our lives. Prayer is not working our way through a grocery list of our wants and needs; what we want God to do... the way I expect Him to do it. Prayer allows us to live relationally with God. We don't understand that because we suck at living relationally and we tend to live all alone. Living relationally means I know I can't do it alone. Living relationally means I talk to God, listen to God, and think about God throughout my day – when I wake up in the morning, when I'm getting ready for my day, when I'm driving or riding, when I'm at work or school, maybe afterwards when I'm all alone and I need that alone time, then I realize... I need relationships more than I need alone... so I intentionally spend more time with Him.”

If I could describe living relationally in any way – it'd simply be MORE! When I'm ok, that's when I need to remember, I need more. That works with our relationships with each other too by the way, but it is essential in our relationship with God. I assure you – He wants more of you. And I assure you – you need more of Him!

—Pastor Chad

Prayer is how you get dressed for battle.
Prayer is how you put on the armor of God!

Here's what prayer is:

- RELATIONAL communication with God
- Earthly permission for HEAVENLY intervention

Prayer is power and Satan knows it! He wants to through something in your path, trip you up, or distract you – anything he can to stop you in your tracks and keep you from praying. He knows how powerful it is. He knows what prayer does – it activates heavens response on your behalf in accordance with the will of God!

Prayer will never make God do something He doesn't want to do. But prayer will release God to do His will for us!

Daniel Teaches About Prayer

In Daniel 9, we see where Daniel prayed (in fact the majority of the chapter is his prayer); truthfully, he did more than pray, he pleaded with God.

In Daniel 10, an angel appears to Daniel and he says:

Daniel 10:12

Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer.

Daniel prayed – and God immediately responded by dispatching an angel in answer to his prayer!

But Daniel didn't get an immediate response, not for 21 days!

Daniel 10:13

But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. Now I'm here...

What does all that mean? It means God dispatched an angel, the angel was blocked by a demonic spirit, and because Daniel prayed –

God dispatched another angel who came and together they won the battle!

- When you pray, God RESPONDS
- Sometimes the answer to your prayer is BLOCKED by the enemy (cf. Ephesians 6:12)
- The solution to spiritual warfare is to PERSEVERE

As you pray, develop the fighting spirit that warriors need to win the battle and join the mighty army God is raising up as overcomers. Your part in carrying out spiritual warfare can change the course of history for you, your family, your church, your community, even your nation.

—Tony Evans

There is power in prayer – never give up!

Ephesians 6:18 (MSG)

In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

There is power in prayer!