

Christian Combat: Equipment Check - Combat Communication!

Ephesians 6:18

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - "...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints..."

NVI - "Oren en el Espiritu en todo momento, con peticiones y ruegos. Mantenganse alerta y perseveren en oracion por todos los santos.."

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

I. Combat Comm. - **HISTORICALLY!**

II. Combat Comm. - **BIBLICALLY!**

III. Combat Comm. - **PRACTICALLY!**

I. Combat Comm. - **HISTORICALLY!**

• **Ancient Roman Combat Communications:**

Roman officers overseeing a battle would have a team of

RUNNERS whose job it as to run at full tilt to the commander of a unit. On arrival they would pass a message verbally, or written on a wax tablet. But when the distances were over a mile, or the units were fighting on several fronts at once, multiple runners were not the answer. So the Romans had to develop a system of communication over longer distances

The Romans originally used **BONFIRES** to communicate

messages over long distances. Like many aspects of Roman life, this had been taken from the Greeks. Basically a series of bonfires were erected on hilltops from the scene of a battle to the capital town or city. As one fire was lit, the team at the next one in the chain would see it and light theirs, and so on until the last fire was lit.

The Romans developed a system using two sets of five **BATTLE FLAGS** that could be raised or lowered. These were no ordinary hand controlled, but poles some 12ft (3.65m) with a rigid triangular

or square flag at the top. These flags were normally painted bright red for clarity.

- **Modern Warfare Communications:**

In today's high tech world, the communication on the battlefield has been revolutionized as well. Soldiers today will typically employ **short range and long range sat-com radios** for operational communication. Troops might employ **high speed military computers** for GPS navigation and monitoring enemy troop locations. Flying miles above the battlefield, **remotely piloted drones** are often used to obtain intelligence on enemy movements, and relay communications. Finally, **orbiting satellites** are utilized to send encrypted data from soldiers in the field, miles away to their headquarters location, and even back to our nations capital. Long range satcom radios, unmanned drones, high speed computers, and orbiting satellites are the modern tools of military communications today.

CCT & JTAC soldiers - Air Force commandos

specifically trained in how to infiltrate with a Special Forces team behind enemy lines, engage the enemy, and bring to bear the most powerful weapon ground troops can wish for:

AIR POWER! The **CCT/JTAC** are specially trained to call in overwhelming **AIR SUPPORT** and **AIR STRIKES** to devastate enemy forces. These soldiers specialize in delivering heavy ordinance and bombs, with pinpoint accuracy on terrorist targets, while coming under heavy fire themselves. These operators carry the same weapons as the Special Forces commandos they accompany, but their most valuable weapon is the **RADIO** they wear on their backs. It is their **RADIO** that allows them to call down **FIRE FROM ABOVE** to protect their fellow soldiers, and to destroy the hostile armies opposing them!

Dec 7, 2001 in Afghanistan, the Battle of "Tora Bora" - fewer than 100 US soldiers were involved, all of them Special Operations soldiers. They were going to try to do what the entire Soviet military failed to do - dislodge an entrenched enemy from the steep mountain slopes of **TORA BORA** - specifically targeting Osama Bin Laden. During the battle, the US forces neutralized thousands of Al Qaida fighters, and destroyed most of their enemy stronghold.

Silver Star was awarded to USAF Tech Sgt.

Michael Stockdale for his outstanding valor and effectiveness during this battle: From Dec 6 to Dec 20, Tech Sgt. Stockdale volunteered to move to the forward most position of the battle, and call in "**Close Air Support**" to defeat the enemy, and protect US forces. While moving to the front battle position, he came under direct enemy fire from heavy machine guns, and enemy mortar fire. Though soldiers around him retreated, Stockdale pushed forward. Over the course of this battle, Stockdale called in over 300 different attack aircraft, and coordinated their missions of "**Close Air Support**" against the enemy. Tech Sgt. Stockdale skillfully directed these 300 aircraft, over the course of 14 days, to drop over 600,000 pounds of bombs on terrorist positions.

II. Combat Comm. - BIBLICALLY!

- The Weapon of **PRAYER!** - **2 Cor 10:3-5 NLT** - "We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God."
- Biblically, we can say that it is **THROUGH PRAYER** that spiritual strength and the Armor of God go to work. The prayerless Christian can be strong and wearing all the armor; but never accomplishes anything because he fails to go into battle **THROUGH PRAYER**. Often we just don't pray because we are simply overconfident in our own human abilities or resources.
 - "I must drop one word of caution, for next to cowardice and treachery, overconfidence leading to neglect and slothfulness, is the worst of wartime crimes." - **Winston Churchill**
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 - "In order that a prayer should be really unto God, there must be a definite and conscious approach to GOD when we pray; we must have a definite and vivid realization that GOD is bending over us, and listening as we pray." - **Andrew Murray**

III. Combat Comm. - PRACTICALLY!

- **WHEN to pray.** - "...praying always with all prayer and supplication..."
 - **NLT** - "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion."
 - **1 Thess 5:17 NKJV** - "Pray without ceasing."
 - **1 Thess 5:17 NLT** - "Never stop praying."

- **Who hasn't found it difficult to find the time to pray on a regular basis?** *There is always time to pray when the chips are down, but on a regular basis? That can be more difficult. Well, never fear! Now you can outsource your prayer life. For \$3.50 per month at InformationAgePrayer.com you can have the Lord's Prayer recited for you daily. Catholics can purchase a "Complete Rosary Package" for nearly \$50. We have the opportunity to converse with the sovereign Lord of the universe and we outsource it to a computer? I would say something is lacking in our faith.*
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- **Phil 4:4-7** NLT - "Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. 6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."
- **HOW to pray.** - *"..in the Spirit, being **watchful** to this end with all perseverance.."*
- **1. We should pray **SPIRITUALLY:**** *"...in the Spirit.."*
- **Rom 8:26-27** - *"..the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will."*
- *"Let the divine scripture be always in your hands, and give yourself so frequently to prayer that such shafts of evil thoughts as ever assail the young may thereby find a shield to repel them." - Jerome*
- *"If your soul grows weak, pray. As it is written, pray in fear and trembling, earnestly and watchfully. We ought to pray like that, especially because our unseen and wicked enemies are vehemently trying to hinder us." - Evagrius of Pontus*
- **2. We should pray **ALERTLY:**** *"...being watchful.."*
- **Col 4:2** NLT - *"Devote yourselves to prayer with **an alert mind** and a thankful heart."*
- **"The Town Without Distractions"** - *Solitude is a key spiritual discipline. Green Bank, West Virginia, is a great place to practice it. With a population of 143 and only one road into town, Green Bank has all the peace and quiet its residents need. In addition, it is also located in a National Radio Quiet Zone roughly the size of*

Maryland. This is the site of the Robert C. Byrd radio telescope that is searching the heavens for electromagnetic signals from the far reaches of creation. In Green Bank, you cannot make a call on your cell phone and you cannot text. There is no signal. Wireless internet is outlawed, as is Bluetooth. Journalist Michael J. Gaynor says, "It's a premodern place by design, devoid of the gadgets and technologies that define life today." A few days of solitude in Green Bank, devoid of all our communication devices, might enable the serious disciple to find ample time to communicate in the oldest form of all: prayer and meditation.

- **3. We should pray **PERSEVERINGLY**: **"..with all perseverance.."****
- **Matt 26:36-44** - "Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." 37 He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. 38 He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." 39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." 40 Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? 41 Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" 42 Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away* unless I drink it, your will be done." 43 When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. 44 So He went to pray a third time...
 - "It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray—but we must patiently, believingly continue in prayer until we obtain an answer. And further, we have not only to continue in prayer unto the end, but we have also to believe that God does hear us and will answer our prayers. Most frequently we fail in not continuing in prayer until the blessing is obtained, and in not expecting the blessing." - **George Mueller**
- **Matt 7:7-8** NLT - "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."
 - **Luke 11:5-10** - Pray like a **Persistent Friend**...
 - **Luke 18:1** - Pray like a **Persistent Widow**...
- **WHO to pray for.** - **"..supplication for all the saints.."**
 - NLT - **"..for all believers everywhere."**

"Pray for all the saints. Pray also for the kings, and for magistrates, and princes, and for those who persecute you and hate you, and for the enemies of the cross, that your fruit may be evident among all people, that you may be perfected in him." - Polycarp of Smyrna

• **Pray for Saints who are *PROSPERING*:**

- Col 1:3-4 - *"We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people.."*

• **Pray for Saints who are *PARTNERING*:**

- Phil 1:4-5 - *"Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, 5 for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now."*

• **Pray for Saints who are *PERSECUTED*:**

Heb 13:3 - *"Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies."*