when you pray a gateway collection

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First week: Prayer begins with God's presence. Luke 11:2, Psalm 46:10

<u>Second week:</u> Prayer explores God's promises. Genesis 13:14 18, Luke 11:1

Last week: Being rooted in the love of Jesus produces the fruit of simple, real and consistent talking and listening to God.

John 14:13, 15:7, 16, Ephesians 3:20



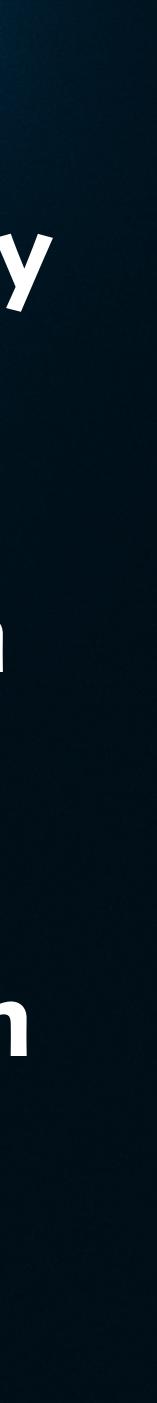
<u>This week:</u> Praying is a "faith-filled" practice of triumph in the midst of a dangerous world.

Romans 6:6-11, 8:15-17 Colossians 3:10 Ephesians 1:18, 22, 2:6, 3:10, 4:23-24, 6:10-18

Too often, we've felt the burn of temptation and accusation, as Paul calls it, "the flaming arrows of the evil one", in part, because we want the world to be a playground, when in reality, it is a battleground.



"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heaven's realms.



Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the dospel of peace.



In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Ephesians 6:10-18 New International Version



"The Devil's first trick is to convince us that he doesn't exist."

Charles Baudelaire



Three Perspectives to help us practice triumph in the form of prayer.

Our position in prayer
Our provision in prayer
Our practice of prayer

1. Our position in prayer "in the Lord" (V. 10)

Romans 6:6-11 The Message Ephesians 1:3, 11, 22, 2:6, 3:10



Questions to help us in the position of prayer:

 Diagnosis: What is the enemy's strategy?
Prognosis: What might be God's better plan?
Prescription: What can I prayerfully and practically do to welcome God's presence and purpose, thwarting the enemy's plan?

2. Our provision in prayer "put on the full armor of God" (v. 13)

Romans 8:15-17 The Message Ephesians 1:3 4:23-24, Colossians 3:10-14, Galatians 3:27

What are the Devil's schemes?

 <u>Temptation:</u> Hiding God's holiness and over-exposing His love.
<u>Accusation:</u> Hiding God's love and overexposing His holiness.

3. Our practice of prayer "and pray in the Spirit on all occasions..." (v. 18)

Colossians 3:1-2 The Message 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, 14:2, 14, 28

How can one take responsibility for this message?

1. Start your day with a reminder of who Jesus says you are. 2. Take a moment to thank Jesus for being each piece of your spiritual armor. 3. Pray. Stand strong. Don't quit. Rejoice.

