

Ephesians 6:18-24

Introduction:

Paul lists six pieces of armor that we as Christians need to wear and he was using a Roman soldier to illustrate because everyone back in those days was very familiar with the Roman soldier and his armor.

He adds one more piece of armor that the Roman soldier did not have nor use, it is the same piece of armor we also do not use- and that is prayer.

If we are really honest- I think all of us would say our prayer life is pretty puny, feeble if you will. We have tried making journals, lists, and tried to make a special time for it in our very busy life- but this last piece of armor is still pretty puny and feeble.

Effective dynamite prayer comes from putting on the other pieces of armor first.

The belt of truth- which stood for commitment to who God is, to what God has done, and to what God has said- you want to pray to Him.

Breastplate of righteousness- conforming to his standards in your life- you want to pray to him to ask for help changing things in your life to do what you are supposed to do.

Shoes- the gospel of peace- you want to pray to Him out of a thankful heart.

Shield of faith- you want to talk to the person who you trust in.

Helmet of salvation- living in confidence and expectancy- you want to talk to the one you can't wait to see.

Sword of the spirit- the Word where you read it and you see what great things He has done- we want to pray.

If we and our prayer life to be on fire for the Lord we need to 1. Put on the armor

Verse 18:

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, (Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

What prayer is-

If you would do a study of prayer in the Bible you would find that prayer is a conversation with God.

Types of prayer-

1. Supplication prayers

Supplication prayer is a specific plea for God to meet a need.

For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:32-33 ESV)

He is talking to believers who are following him—"I'm saying right here and now that I will meet your needs."

2. Praying in the Spirit

This is not praying for stuff that we need but what the Holy Spirit will put on our heart, other people and their needs.

3. Persistent in prayer

When Jesus talks about prayer he tells us to be persistent in prayer.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7 ESV)

"Ask" meant to ask for assistance. "Seek" involves asking but also doing. "Knock" is asking but be persistent.

Verses 19-20:

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

4. Intercessory prayer

Praying for other believers.

Verses 21-22:

So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. ²²I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts. (Ephesians 6:21-22 ESV)

You might say who is this Tychicus? He is the man writing down what Paul was saying but he is much more than a human word processor, he was the man behind the scenes.

Paul calls him his beloved brother-what does that mean?

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. (Ephesians 5:1 ESV)

Loved by God- also means we love God back- in other words we are bonded together with God.

His purposes become our purposes.

We get to heaven and when the rewards are passed out Tychicus will be blessed as much as Paul will be.

Paul then has three wishes for the churches that received this letter, but these wishes are also for us.

Verses 23-24:

Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. (Ephesians 6:23-24 ESV)

1. "Peace be to the brothers"

Since we have peace with God the fruit of that is being at peace with each other

2. "and love"

Your needs come before mine, you are more important than me- peace and love with the brethren- should be the norm for the church.

The Ephesians church did it.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, (Ephesians 1:15 ESV)

A church that is effective, a church that is getting it done for the Lord is a church at peace with love for the brethren.

Faith is not just believing something, real faith is believing and then trusting in it.

Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. (Ephesians 6:24 ESV)

3. Grace

It means God's love going out to people who do not deserve it.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 ESV)