

# PRAYER

## Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV)

- <sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
- <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- <sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.
- <sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- <sup>15</sup> And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- <sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
- <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- <sup>18</sup> Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Remember a few things with this warfare:

- **WE ARE AT WAR** - it isn't a war of natural means or happening in this realm to take things or people from you, this war is about your faith and is going on for you to give up on God
- **WE HAVE AN ENEMY** - the bible calls him the devil and the enemy of our soul. He hates us and desires to steal, kill, and destroy your faith with whatever means he can.
- **HE HAS A STRUCTURE** - found in this passage, it is a structure comprised of fallen angels and demon spirits and they do whatever they can to bring discouragement and stand in the way of the plan and will of God.
- **WE ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE** - we are to engage our enemy but the fight is the part that must be done correctly. We show up, God will show off.

Let me brush you up on the other pieces and then we will address this one:

- **The Helmet of Salvation** - this is the protection of the mind and the engagement of the thought life
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness** - this is the creation of protection of proper desires in the heart
- **The Loins Girt with Truth** - this is the replication of Christians and discipleship of them as well. As you help them fight their battles, yours are waged by God.
- **Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace** - this is the witness that we give others as a Christians. What others see from us is what they expect of God.
- **The Shield of Faith** - this is utilized by a believer going to God in everything and for everything. In doing so, they will find that every attempt of the enemy to bring harm will be blocked by the Lord.

- **The Sword of the Spirit** - this is to view the Word of God as the source of all answers and learn to use those answers and apply them in all circumstances. This is not faith building, this is fruit working.

And to wrap this all up tonight on spiritual warfare, we will finish up with PRAYER.

The Apostle Paul finished this out by saying these words in verse 18:

#### **Ephesians 6:18 (KJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

So it is very clear that prayer is an expected part of the assets given to us to do our part of standing during these spiritual engagements.

But look at the wording. It almost looks jumbled and repetitive, but it isn't. But there's three areas that are addressed:

- **Pray Always** - this doesn't mean stay in a constant state of prayer, it means pray about all things
- **With All Prayer** - this references that we are to utilize all types of prayer
- **Supplication in the Spirit** - this specifically addresses praying in the Spirit

And the wording of the final portion of this scripture validates that prayer is the hedge around all the armor. Listen to the last part again:

#### **Ephesians 6:18 (KJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, **and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;**

This is saying that our praying for the saints is another part of this warfare that helps them to endure. So pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

But let's look at how prayer fits with spiritual warfare.

#### **PRAY ALWAYS**

Again, this deals with us praying about all things when it is needed.

This isn't an isolated teaching in scripture:

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing.

#### **2 Thessalonians 1:11 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power:

### **Colossians 1:9 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup> For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

### **1 Timothy 2:8 (KJV)**

<sup>8</sup> I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

The Apostle Paul mentions this constantly throughout his letters. He prayed for the church and desired that the church pray for him as well.

Jesus addressed prayer as well:

### **Luke 21:36 (KJV)**

<sup>36</sup> Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

**Again, pray always, or pray for all things at that moment.**

If prayer is pushed so adamantly, it must be of high importance to God.

But here's a question that many have asked and saints have pondered in their own hearts: **Since the Lord knows all things and knows what we need before we ask, why pray about it?**

**There are many answers to this:**

- Prayer is the ultimate proof of where your faith is
- Prayer keeps you humble continually asking God to intervene
- Prayer removes worry and inserts peace
- Prayer is a source of rest
- Prayer is the human making a transaction with God and supernatural results follow
- Prayer is our communication with God
- Prayer is our time with our Heavenly Father
- Prayer changes things

**So friends, I encourage you to pray about all things, in all things, and for all things.**

Remember that the words don't have to be eloquent, and you don't have to know the bible inside and out, all you need to do is go before God with humility and reverence and let God reveal Himself.

### **WITH ALL PRAYER**

This speaks of the types of praying that we can utilize with God.

Since prayer is the means of communication and intimacy with God, we should know that there are all types of communication. **So just as there are different types of ways we communicate with each other and different ways those conversations are expressed, so it is with prayer.**

So keep up with me on this part. **There are three categories of prayers that all types fall in and three levels, if you will, that those types are utilized.**

The types of prayer are:

- Petition
- Intercession
- Intimate

The three levels of those prayers are:

- Asking
- Seeking
- Knocking

### **PETITION**

Petition praying is need and even want based. It is to express the daily needs and wants of life. Here are scriptures that support this praying:

#### **Matthew 6:11 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.

#### **Matthew 21:22 (KJV)**

<sup>22</sup> And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

#### **Philippians 4:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

So it is ok to petition God for things. **Who else could you ask that has your best of interests in mind?**

And the scriptures tell us about those requests:

#### **1 John 5:14-15 (KJV)**

<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

<sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

### **INTERCESSION**

This is where we go to God corporately or privately to agree together and ask God to move.

**There are many examples of intercession in scripture:**

- Abraham prayed for his heir and for Ishmael and for Lot
- Gideon prayed for Israel and the situation
- Moses prayed for Israel
- David prayed continually for his men, his children, his nation
- Jesus prayed for His disciples

It is all through scripture. But what is interesting is who we are expected to pray for:

#### **Ephesians 6:18 (KJV)**

<sup>18</sup> Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

**We are to pray for the church.**

#### **1 Timothy 2:1-2 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

<sup>2</sup> For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

**We are to pray for governmental leaders.**

#### **Matthew 5:44 (KJV)**

<sup>44</sup> But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

**We are to pray for our enemies.**

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:25 (KJV)**

<sup>25</sup> Brethren, pray for us.

#### **Hebrews 13:7 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

**We are to pray for Pastors.**

And of course, you can intercede for yourself, family, friends, that is what it meant when it said, to pray for all men.

**Does God honor and answer intercession?**

#### **Matthew 18:19 (KJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

**And there is even mention of God moving at the corporate prayer:**

**Matthew 18:20 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

**INTIMATE**

This is when we are praying for direction and for God to move in us and have His way in our lives.

It is what Jesus spoke of in [Matthew 6](#):

**Matthew 6:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

This is where get before God and allow Him to speak and move in our lives. We understand this principle, but must put it into practice.

As for the levels of how we go about these prayers, we have the ask, seek, and knock, principle. Jesus gave us that in [Matthew 7](#):

**Matthew 7:7-8 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

<sup>8</sup> For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

- **Asking** - this is the simplest form of request before God. And many only operate at this level. They lay requests before God and if they happen they do and if they don't then they don't.
- **Seeking** - this is where a believer starts to understand how to pray about things in a deeper sense and enters into a time of study and inquiring of God in a way they haven't previously.
- **Knocking** - this is when a believer learns to engage in prayer, the word, and fasting, to see things happen. This is the forms that Jesus speaks of where no isn't accepted as an answer and petitioning becomes desperation. And as [James 5](#) says, "the effectual fervent praying of a righteous man availeth much."

**SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT**

Praying "IN" the Spirit is not the same as all of these others.

**The word "supplication" as used here means: entreating, continuing strong with incessant pleadings until there is an answer.**

But this isn't done on our own. It is done by the Holy Spirit. We yield to His flowing through us, but what is said is unknown but what happens in us is very well known.

Scripture tells us about praying in the Spirit:

**Romans 8:26 (KJV)**

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

This is some deep praying. It comes from our very spirit and is carried out by the Holy Spirit. He prays on our behalf. We hear this somewhere else in scripture, so let's connect the dots:

**1 Corinthians 14:2 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup> For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

**1 Corinthians 14:4 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup> He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

Speaking of the Spirit praying through us, Paul addresses speaking in other tongues. You must rightly interpret scripture in this chapter or you will get confused. Two tongues are spoken of in this chapter. One is the gift of tongues and the other is the prayer language.

**We see that the prayer language has a very specific purpose from God for us.** The Spirit speaks mysteries, speaks to God, and we are edified or encouraged as a result.

So praying in the Spirit is a vital component of all of the operations in spiritual warfare because what we don't know how to do or say gets accomplished by the Holy Ghost in us as we allow Him to flow through us.

**Are we to pray in the Spirit?**

**Jude 1:20 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup> But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

**1 Corinthians 14:15 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup> What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

**1 Thessalonians 5:19 (KJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Quench not the Spirit.

So friends, pray in the Spirit as God has provided something powerful and supernatural through this means of communicating with Him.