

STAND

Stand in Prayer and Perseverance

We realized that we're not defenseless in the fight.

God has given us everything we need. Paul doesn't end the passage with a weapon in hand or a triumphant charge forward.

He ends it on his knees — with prayer.

Why? Because all the armor in the world is powerless without connection to the One who gives it strength. You can be dressed for battle and still be spiritually weak if you're not dependent on God.

The strongest warrior is the one who never stops praying.

"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. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."

Ephesians 6:18-20

1) Prayer Keeps You Connected to the _____

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

The heart is prayer. Because armor without power is just decoration. Prayer is what keeps the armor active, empowered, and effective.

Prayer isn't reserved for crisis moments. Paul says to pray "on all occasions":

Prayer is how we stay connected to the Source of all strength, wisdom, peace, and guidance.

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John

15:4-5

Prayer is what keeps us aligned with God’s heart and attentive to His voice. It shifts our focus from self-reliance to Spirit-dependence. That’s what Paul means when he says to pray *“in the Spirit.”* He’s describing a posture of surrender, sensitivity, and spiritual attentiveness.

To pray in the Spirit is to lean into the presence of God with openness and trust. You let the Spirit guide your prayers, your perspective, and your priorities. And it’s not optional.

“Pray continually.” — **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

When we stop praying, we start drifting. When we stop seeking, we start striving. When we disconnect from the Source, we lose clarity, power, and peace.

2) Prayer Keeps You Spiritually _____

“With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying...”

He says to be alert and pray. That’s a military term, a watchman’s command.

We don’t just need prayer when things go wrong. We need prayer to see what’s really happening, to discern the movement of both God and the enemy in our lives.

Jesus gave this same charge to His disciples in the garden:

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
Matthew 26:41

The moment they stopped praying, they started sleeping.
When the pressure came, they scattered.

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."
1 Peter 5:8

You won't recognize the battle if you're spiritually drowsy.
That's why prayer is essential. It's your spiritual caffeine.

Leonard Ravenhill once said, *"No man is greater than his prayer life."*

Prayer doesn't just keep you grounded. It keeps you awake.
Without it, even the strongest believer becomes vulnerable.

3) Prayer Is a Weapon for Others, Not Just Yourself

"...keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Prayer is not a private discipline only for personal strength. It's a shared weapon in a collective battle. The fight of faith is not a solo mission.
He says, "keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

- You fight battles they may not even know they're in.
- You stand in the gap when they feel too weak to pray.
- You carry one another's burdens into the presence of God.

This is the ministry of intercession. To intercede is to enter the fray for someone else:

- To lift them up
- To cover them

- To plead for them.

Sometimes, the most loving thing you can do for someone is to pray for them behind their back.

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”
James 5:16

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” **Galatians 6:2**

It’s easy to talk about people, especially when they’re struggling. We are naturally drawn to judge and gossip. Spiritual maturity calls us to talk to God on their behalf, not just to others about their problems.

As Corrie ten Boom once said: *“We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer.”*

Prayer is not a passive act. It’s spiritual warfare. When you intercede for someone else, you’re stepping into their battle with your armor on.

Who in your life needs you to fight for them in prayer right now?

- A friend
- A spouse
- A child
- A neighbor
- A Staff member

Don’t just think about them. Don’t just feel for them. Stand in the gap for them.

4) Prayer Fuels _____ in the Mission

Paul ends the armor passage with a very personal request. *“Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...”*

Paul was no stranger to persecution or pressure. He had faced beatings, imprisonment, slander, and opposition. His request isn't for safety, but for boldness.

He knew this truth: the mission of God moves forward on the prayers of His people. When we pray, we're not just fueling personal devotion. We're fueling divine momentum.

Prayer keeps the gospel flame burning when the winds of fear or discouragement try to blow it out.

“The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.” —

Andrew Murray

It unlocks boldness when silence feels safer. It empowers ordinary people to speak an extraordinary message.

“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” **James 5:16**

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” **Colossians 4:2**

You're praying for courage:

- Courage to keep proclaiming truth in a culture that prefers lies.
- Courage to love boldly when it's easier to withdraw.
- Courage to step out in obedience when you feel overwhelmed.

Whose boldness are you praying for this week?

- The Elders

- The Evangelist
- A missionary
- A young believer stepping into leadership

Here's the final challenge: Keep standing. Remember: The armor gets you dressed, but prayer keeps you engaged.

Victory doesn't come by effort alone, but by dependence on the One who equips you and fights for you.

- You were never meant to stand alone.
- You were never meant to fight unarmed.
- You were never meant to pray only for yourself.

So take your stand – and don't stop standing.

This week's challenge:

- Build a rhythm of prayer and pray with perseverance – not just for yourself, but for others.

Practical Steps:

- Set three prayer alarms – morning, mid-day, and evening. When they go off, pause and intentionally reconnect with God.
- Make a list of three people to pray for daily: someone close to you, someone hurting, and someone leading.
- End each day with this simple prayer:
"God, keep me standing. Keep me alert. Keep me close."