

POWERED BY PRAYER

Ephesians 6:18-24

- The Importance of Prayer
- Our Approach to Prayer
- The Emphasis of our prayers
- The End of Ephesians

READ EPHESIANS 18-24

Introduction:

If scripture is like food, nourishment for our spirit (Live by bread alone)
Prayer is like breathing – content and consistent. Drawing in life, exhaling death.
Praying should be synonymous with breathing.

18a – The IMPORTANCE of prayer

- **Praying or prayed** (87x in the New Testament)
- **Praying or prayed** (43x in the Gospels)

Mark 1:35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Matthew 14:23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

- **Disciples – did not ask for teaching, preaching, healing, or miracles but PRAYER!**

The Importance of Prayer

vs. 18 PRAYING ALWAYS

How much is always? Put simply, it is an immeasurable amount.

The Importance of Prayer

Prayer is what brings the armor to life

The book ends of this passage are important to note.

(10) Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might... (18) PRAY!

So... praying ALWAYS or Consistent in prayer:

18b Our APPROACH TO PRAYER

There are 4 ideas presented and lifted straight from our passage in Ephesians that are worthy of consideration.

Prayers – Supplications – Watchfulness – The Spirit

Prayers vs. Supplications

Prayer: that which is addressed to GOD (not people).

Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Prayer: A place set apart for the offering of prayer

(Usually upon the bank of a stream or the shore of a sea, where there was a supply of water for washing hands before prayer.)

Matthew 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Open air or behind closed doors, be intentional in prayer.

Supplications

1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

Supplication: To pray out of a place of need, want, privation (hardship/neediness), seeking, asking, entreating – be real with the Lord.

(Requests not Orders).

Be reverentially free in prayer. – get loud, be desperate, intentional.

Matthew 6:7-8 “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Watchful with perseverance

Watchful: sleepless, keep awake, watching with anticipation, to scan the horizon

Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

(Fighting stance) ***The fighting stance of God’ people is on their knees in prayer.***

Perseverance: persistence (only place in the Bible it is used)

Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

A REAL PRAYER LIFE TAKES REAL PERSEVERANCE

Andrew Jackson didn’t stay thrown by Jim Brown

William Cowper 1700’s – What Various Hinderances We Meet

1 What various hindrances we meet
in coming to the mercy seat!

Yet who that knows the worth of pray'r
but wishes to be often there!

2 Pray'r makes the darkened clouds withdraw;
pray'r climbs the ladder Jacob saw;
gives exercise to faith and love;
brings ev'ry blessing from above.

3 Restraining pray'r, we cease to fight;
pray'r makes the Christian's armor bright;
and Satan trembles when he sees
the weakest saint upon his knees.

One day **George Muller** began praying for five of his friends. After many **months**, one of them came to the Lord. **Ten** years later, two others were converted. It took **25 years** before the fourth man was saved. Muller persevered in prayer until his death for the fifth friend, and throughout those **52 years** he never gave up hoping that he would accept Christ! His faith was rewarded, for soon after Muller's funeral the last one was saved.

When we pray, we are to pray in The Spirit and for God's people.

In The Spirit – What Paul is instructing the church in can veer off in **MANY** different directions. But staying centered on Scripture, we shall learn what it **says** rather than try to interpret what it **could** mean.

In the Spirit

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Spirit intercedes for us... the Spirit is not a power or mystical force.

Golden altar before the veil in the tabernacle. Incense and fire

In the Spirit – *we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16b)*

Prayer adjusts our perspective.

Prayer prepares our hearts.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened. (to comprehend)

Prayer is NOT a one way conversation.

The Holy Spirit will guide you in all things – bring to remembrance,

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Get good at obeying the little convictions and you will be well on your way to have a strong relationship with the Lord through prayer.

(Inseparable from the Word but separate from the Word)

- I don't want to get to heaven and find out what today **could** have been like.
- I want to hear from my heavenly FATHER about what He wills for today.
Robert Law: "Prayer is not getting man's will done in heaven; it is getting God's will done on earth."

The Importance of Prayer
Our Approach toward Prayer
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(18c) 19-22 Pray for people

FOR ALL THE SAINTS – Don't just pray for yourself!

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

James 5 – the affective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
Prayed for Peter when in prison – Rhoda **Acts 12** (They were astonished)
JESUS TOLD PETER - I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU – **Luke 22**

Rollercoaster

Do you want to hear how the engineer designed it or do you want to get in a ride it?

What if God's people were more committed to praying than complaining.
More consistent and persistent in supplications (praying from a place of deep need) supplications than prone to stressing and becoming anxious.

AND FOR ME!
AND FOR ME!!!

Paul's request can seem simple and strange but to him it was urgent and important.
As I ought to... he knew his calling as well as his limitations

No matter how complete the armour; no matter how skilled we may be in the science of war; no matter how courageous we may be, we may be certain that without prayer we shall be defeated.

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23-24 Peace – Love – Faith – Grace

If you don't go to battle together you will fight each other.

Tychicus – description (beloved brother – takes time, faithful minister takes intentionality)

Tychicus: Ephesus, Colossians, 2 Timothy, & Titus.

There are people who are in the church, then there are those who are in your lives.

The book as a whole... closing notes on the book of Ephesians, GRACE

GRACE: Undeserved favor and blessings from the Lord

Grace is the key word of the Epistle (12x Grace is referred to or taught on)

It opened the epistle, it is the subject of the Epistle, and so fittingly it is what concludes the Epistle.

It is the grace of God that saves us and the grace of God that sustains us.