

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY
THE POWER TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY

Matthew 6:9-13

Tonight, we continue in our teaching entitled, “Lord, Teach us to Pray” by studying the fifth prayer point in the Lord’s Prayer. In this prayer focus, we learn how to release the power of God into our lives that will bring victory over the enemy every time.

Do you really believe that God has supplied you with weaponry that is superior to anything that the devil can use against you? It is true. The only way we can be defeated is if we fail to trust in what God has provided for us. We can say this with all confidence because what God has supplied for us is the same weaponry that Jesus used in His victory over the devil.

Isaiah 59:15-17: “The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that here was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.”

Romans 13:12,14 says we are to “put on the armor of light” and to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”. What we have been given to fight in is not purchased at the Army/Navy Surplus; it is the same stuff Jesus won the victory in! What is the armor of the Lord Jesus Christ? It’s found in Ephesians 6:10-18 Let’s go through it quickly, line by line; piece by piece.

“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.” The victory is accomplished in the Lord. You don’t get to use his authority or power unless you are under his authority.

“Put on the whole armor of God.” How do you know at which point the enemy will attack? Undervalue nothing, omit nothing. Every piece is important and they work together.

“That you may be able to stand.” This is a military term that means, “the firm and prepared attitude of a good soldier confronting his enemy.”

“Against the wiles of the devil.” The strategy of the enemy.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” We are defeated when we see our battle as against people. Our fight is against organized forces of evil in the spirit realm.

“Wherefore put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore...”

“Having your loins girt about with truth.” You must know who you are in God and who God is in you. You gird your loins by reaffirming the truth about yourself and about God and by acting on that truth rather than your emotions. (*Psalms 51:6: “You desire truth in the inward parts.”*)

“And having on the breastplate of righteousness.” Out of the heart flow the issues of life. Our justification by faith refuses to entertain evil suggestions.

“And having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” We fight hand to hand against the enemy. Having a good foothold is essential to victory. You begin to slip and you’re in trouble. Roman soldiers had spikes on the bottom of their sandals. We stand in the revealed word of God, all else is sinking sand.

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, in which we are able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” “Above all” means the shield covered all parts of the warring soldier. Faith is our shield. A Roman soldier’s shield would be made of wood, so as to not be too heavy and was covered with leather soaked in water. This defended against close range attacks and the feared long range attack of fiery arrows.

“And take the helmet of salvation.” The war can be won or lost in the mind. “Take” means “receive”. We have the mind of Christ to protect against ungodly and doubting thoughts.

“And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” The sword is a symbol of authority and power to impose sentence. “The word of God” used

here is not logos but rhema—the individual scripture, statement, command or instruction the Spirit speaks to our spirit in time of need.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching with all perseverance and prayer for all saints.” This means praying in tongues, praying inspired by the Holy Spirit. This is the only way we can pray always. “Watching” refers to the care we take not to neglect prayer that is essential for victory. Finally, no soldier fights alone, so we pray for all soldiers for many form one. The success of one is the success of all. Don’t be a spiritual “streaker”! To win, you need to be equipped for the fight.

One final note: Job was protected from the power of the enemy by a hedge built by God.

“Have you not put a hedge about him and his house and all that he has on every side?” /// Job 1:10

Satan could not fight through this hedge. Psalm 91 tells of a hedge placed around those who belong to God.

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty (whose power no foe can withstand). I will say of the Lord, he is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. For then he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler.”
Psalm 91:1-3a (AMP)

This hedge is supplied at God’s command to those who fulfill his three “because” found in Psalm 91.

1. Because the Lord is my habitation.

God enthrones where His praises are found. Singing praise to God brings His presence which brings His involvement.

2. Because I have set my love upon Him.

In the time of trouble, He hides those who put Him first in His pavilion of safety.

3. Because I have known His name.

Taking the name of the Lord in vain is not found in speaking a verbal curse but in saying we are His yet refusing Him as Lord of our life.

Clothe yourself in the armor of light—the Lord Jesus Christ and pray God’s hedge of protection around you and yours. And having done all, stand in the victory Christ has won for you.

Today’s Scriptures:

- Matthew 6:9-13
- Isaiah 59:15-17
- Ephesians 6:10-18
- Psalm 51:6
- Job 1:10
- Psalm 91:1-3a (AMP)