

EPHESIANS 6:18; PRAYER

REVIEW: The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- **THE WORD OF GOD:** Rhema/Logos... God Breathed... The Scriptures.
- **LIKENED UNTO A SWORD:** The small sword...being skillful..
- **IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE SPIRIT:** The Spirit gives it, breaths it in our hearts and mouths, empowers it, Isa. 55:11 will not return to Me void...

INTRO:

- Ephesians begins by lifting us to the heavens and then points us there several times, but it ends by bringing us to our knees.
- At the close of this glorious epistle, Paul's final appeal to this church is to prayer and praying.
- We must not think with all the spiritual blessings that have been shown to be available to us in this book we are not in need of prayer and praying.
- That we would think to be above this duty and need is a grave error.
- As the Christian has no resources of strength or success in himself, and can succeed only as aided from above, so the apostle urges the duty and the great need of prayer.
- To seek to have the gift, the blessings, and the grace without the giver would be empty, and a mistake. Get God with His gift!
- It is not the armor or the weapons alone that make the warrior. He must have courage, resolve, strength and steadfastness.
- I don't believe prayer is part of the armor but holds all the armor together, making it work efficiently.
- Prayer is not mentioned as a part of the armor, it is much more than that.
- Prayer is the spiritual air that the warrior of Christ breaths,
- It is the divine covering and effectiveness of the whole armor. On this, real prayer, all else hangs.
- Remember, this is the armor that God gives, it is His armor that we are to wear, and to keep it functioning, to keep it working, to use it effectively, we must, pray to the God of the armor.
- If we do not bath the armor of God in the oil of prayer it will certainly rust.
- This exhortation looks back to vs. 10, to be strong in the Lord.....
- It is said and I believe it is true, a Christian is no greater than his or her prayer life.

- **Spurgeon: Spurgeon had a humble and biblical attitude about his ministry. He never took credit for the fruit. As a matter of fact, when people came to his church to learn the "secret" of his success, he took them to the basement where there were hundreds of people on their knees in fervent prayer. Yes. There was prayer before, and even during the service! Spurgeon called these prayer gatherings the church's "boiler room." The room of power!**
- **Did Jesus pray? At least 29x mentioned in the N.T.**
- **If He needed to pray how about me?**
- **If He had time, how about me?**
- **The bible is full of references to prayer. 375X**
- **William Gurnall, the Christian in complete armor, 1200 pages, 300 on prayer.**
- **Prayer is communion, fellowship with God.**
 - **1 Cor. 1:9;**
 - **James 4:8;**
 - **2 Cor. 13:14;**
 - ***Our Father....* Mt. 6:9...**
- **Prayer is sanctifying. 2 Cor. 3:18.**
- **The Chief end of man is to glorify God and to *Enjoy Him forever. How?***
- **Because praying is communion: PS 16:11; You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.**
- **Praying we set our minds on things above. Col. 3:2; Set your affections on things above and not on the earth.**
- **Now the context of this verse is in spiritual warfare. So this prayer is set in this context.**
- **Our greatest needs are spiritual, to which we are dependent on God for the answers.**
- **So then, much of our praying should be about the need for strengthening and victory, about this warfare and success in the battle against the enemy of our souls. Being victors, through Christ, in this life...**

6 HEADINGS:

1) THE TIME OF PRAYER:

2) THE KINDS OF PRAYER:

3) THE SOURCE OF PRAYER:

4) THE ATTITUDE OF PRAYER:

5) THE ENDURANCE OF PRAYER:

6) THE INCLUSIVENESS OF PRAYER.

1) THE TIME OF PRAYER: ALWAYS.

- Always, at all times, on every occasion.
- To live continually in God consciousness, where we habitually lift our hearts to god in prayer, praise, thought and communion.
 - **Rom. 12:12**, Phil. 4:6, Col. 4:2,, 1 Thess. 5:17, pray without ceasing. 2 Tim. 1:3, Acts 2:42, 4:31, 10:2
- Where we live with an awareness of our God..... He is here.
- We address Him throughout the day, when temptations come, we commune with Him about it, when we are pleased and blessed we thank Him. When we meet the unsaved we pray for them.
- Did Jesus pray? At least 29x mentioned in the N.T. **Mt. 14:23, Mk 1:35, Lk. 5:16**
- If He needed to pray how about me?
- If He had time, how about me?
- We are commanded to pray in Mt. 6:6; 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.
- The bible is full of references to prayer. 375X

2) THE KINDS OF PRAYER: ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION.

- All types of prayer.
- Prayer speaks of general prayers or requests.
- Supplications; are petitions of specific prayers or requests.
- We are to pray with all prayer, all that is available to us.
- Public, private, with loud cries, in soft whispers, silent prayers, planned prayers, or spontaneous prayers, formal prayers. In any place, prison, in bed, in pain, in joy, in tribulation, in victory, on a roof, in a whales belly,
- With any posture. Eyes open, eyes closed, hands raised, heads bowed, sitting, lying, standing, kneeling.
- but always with the heart engaged.

3) THE SOURCE OF PRAYER: THE SPIRIT.

- **The Greek word translated "pray in" can have several different meanings. It can mean "by means of," "with the help of," "in the sphere of," and "in connection to."**
- **Praying in the Spirit does not refer to the words we are saying. Rather, it refers to how we are praying.**
- **Praying in the Spirit is praying according to the Spirit's leading. It is praying for things the Spirit leads us to pray for.**
- **praying in the power of the Spirit, by the leading of the Spirit, and according to His will By the assistance of the Spirit.**
 - **Rom. 8:26**
 - **Eph. 2:18; For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. (see the Trinity)**
- **One example of the type of prayer the Spirit inspires is found in Gal. 4:6; & Rom. 8:15;**
 - **And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**
 - **Rom. 8:15; For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba,^[a] Father."**
- **To pray in the Spirit is to pray within the mind and heart of the Holy Spirit.**
- **To pray according to His will, to pray with His leading and mind.**
- **In prayer, the style, the occasion, the body posture, the elegance of words are not the vital things. But praying with and in the Spirit is.**
 - **Jn. 14:13, 14; ³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.**
- **Praying in the Spirit is prayer directed by the Spirit, created by the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit and offered by the Spirit.**

4) THE ATTITUDE OF PRAYER: WATCHING.

- **To be without sleep., keeping awake. To be attentive, vigilant. It is the opposite of listlessness and expresses alertness.**

5) THE ENDURANCE OF PRAYER: ALL PERSEVERANCE.

- **To give constant attention to a thing, to give unremitting care to a thing.**
 - **Rom. 12:12; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;**
 - **Lk. 18:1**

6) THE INCLUSIVENESS OF PRAYER. FOR ALL THE SAINTS.

- **All saints need prayer, prayer support, prayer covering, especially leaders.**
-