

EPHESIANS 6:18; PRAYER

INTRO:

E. M. BOUNDS - What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men—men of prayer.

- **At the close of this glorious epistle, Paul's final appeal to this church is to prayer and praying.**
- **Ephesians begins by lifting us to the heavens and then points us there several times, but it ends by bringing us to our knees.**
- **Everyone can pray, from the youngest to the oldest. All are on the same level playing, praying field.**
- **All may not be able to sing solos, preach, prophecy, do miracles, but all equally can pray! There are not favorites...**
- **That we would think to be above this duty and need is a grave mistake.**
- **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.**
- **Life is graciously ordained, decreed by God that none of His creatures should ever be independent of Him, regardless of class, age or gifting.**
- **Now the context of this verse is in spiritual warfare. So this prayer is set in this context.**
- **It is not the armor or the weapons alone that make the warrior. He must have courage, resolve, strength and steadfastness.**
- **The soldier needs courage, vigilance, and skill, and therefore he ought, with continued prayer and supplication, to look up to the Lord of hosts, "who teaches his hands to war and his fingers to fight," Ps. 144:1, and who will make him "more than a conqueror; Rom. 8:37, " so that in due time, the combat being over and his foes defeated, the hand that wielded the sword will carry the palm, and the brow that wore the helmet will be crowned with immortal garlands before the throne.**
- **The theology of the apostle is, that while the Son pleads for His people in heaven, the Spirit within them makes intercession for them and by them, by giving them an enlarged and appropriating view of the Divine promises, that they may plead them in faith and fervor, and by so deepening their own poignant consciousness of want as to induce them to cry for grace with an agony of earnestness that cannot be fitted into words.**
- **I don't believe prayer is part of the armor, it is more than that and holds all the armor together, making it work efficiently.**
- **Prayer is the spiritual air that the warrior of Christ breathes,**
- **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 and commune with the God of the armor.
- If we do not bath the armor of God in the oil of prayer it will certainly rust.
- It is said and I believe it is true; a Christian is no greater than his or her prayer life.
- If Jesus needed to pray how about me?
- If He had time to pray, how about me?
- Prayer is communion, fellowship with God.
 - 1 Cor. 1:9; called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus.....
 - James 4:8; Draw near unto God and He will draw near unto you.
 - *Our Father....* Mt. 6:9...
 - **2 Cor. 13:14**; Fellowship and Sanctifying.
- 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!
- Prayer 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.
- Our greatest needs are spiritual, to which we are dependent on God for the answers.
- It was the prayers of Moses more than the sword of Joshua that brought the victory. Ex. 17
- The enemy cannot withstand the man who fights upon his knees, he is sure to defeat him, to repel his every attack.
- The weakest Christian in the universe, if he has put a heart to prayer, may say with David, "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, so shall I be saved from my enemies." (2 Sam. 22:4)
- Those who do not call upon God are called Gods enemies. (PS.14:4)
- And Gods saints are known as a people who are near Him. (PS. 148:14)
- To be prayer less is to commit the trinity of sin, for if we are prayer less 1) we sin against our God, 2) we sin against our friends, and 3) we sin against our own souls.
- Notice what God says about Paul, "behold he prays." Acts 9:11
- Prayer is like a hook anchor being thrown unto the shore, now does the sailor pull the shore to the boat? Or the boat to the shore? Prayer aligns up to the purposes of God. Not God to our purposes. We must line up with His will.

- **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints**

6 HEADINGS: 6 Aspects of prayer.

- 1) THE TIME OF PRAYER: ALWAYS.**
- 2) THE KINDS OF PRAYER: ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION.**
- 3) THE SOURCE OF PRAYER: THE SPIRIT.**
- 4) THE ATTITUDE OF PRAYER: WATCHING.**
- 5) THE LENGTH OF PRAYER: ALL PERSEVERANCE**
- 6) THE INCLUSIVENESS OF PRAYER. ALL THE SAINTS.**

1) THE TIME OF PRAYER: ALWAYS. AT ALL TIMES

- **Always, at all times, on every occasion.**
- **Pray in times of prosperity, in times of affliction, in times of victory, in times of failures, of joy, in sorrows, in the morning, in the evening**
- **To live continually in God consciousness, where we habitually lift our hearts to God in prayer, praise, thought and communion.**
 - **Rom. 12:12, continuing steadfastly in prayer. 1 Thess. 5:17, pray without ceasing. Phil. 4:6, Col. 4:2,, 2 Tim. 1:3, Acts 1:14, 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.**
- **Lk. 5:16.... John 7:53 -8:1, Mt. 14:23, Mk 1:35,**
- **If He needed to pray how about me?**
- **If He had time, how about me?**
- **The bible is full of references to prayer. 375X**
- **Here's one, 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.**

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. Crying out!
- Prayers of praise, prayers of repentance, prayers rapturous, prayers of intercession.
- 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.
- On a house top, in a whale belly, in a prison, on a throne.
- Hands raised, hands lowered, hands laid on someone, hands folded, hands open.
- 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."
- But it literally means "inside of," or within... within the Spirit. In Him.
- 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**
- An 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, Father."
- To pray in the Spirit is to pray within the mind and heart of the Holy Spirit.
- Praying in the Spirit is prayer directed by the Spirit, created by the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit and offered by the Spirit.
- 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.

- To pray with the mind or tongue only and not the heart and Spirit, is to pray in vain, for God has said.....
- 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me. ⁹ And in vain they worship Me, (Mt. 15: 8-9).
- The Spirit quickens our hearts after God, He gives us the boldness, the confidence in Himself and then gives us the faith to believe He has heard our petitions.
- As there is but one Mediator between God and man, so there is but one Spirit whereby we may approach God. The Holy Spirit.
 - Eph. 2:18; For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. (see the Trinity)

4) THE ATTITUDE OF PRAYER: WATCHING.

- Watchful= to be full of watching..
- Guard against wondering thoughts, evil or good. Duties or joys.
- To be without sleep., keeping awake. To be attentive, vigilant. It is the opposite of listlessness and expresses alertness.
- Watchful means to exercise constant vigilance over something or to be vigilant in awareness of threatening peril (an image drawn from shepherds), be alert, be on the alert, keep watch over something, be on guard. To be vigilant means to alertly watchful especially to avoid danger. The English word vigilant suggest intense, unremitting, wary watchfulness.
- Take heed , keep on the alert, to arouse oneself.. **Mk. 13:35-37**
- Watching to This End... This phrase embraces all 3 of these directives; always praying with all prayer, in the Spirit. Be watchful to keep praying like this..

5) THE DURATION OF PRAYER: ALL PERSEVERANCE.

- To give constant attention to a thing, to give unremitting care to a thing. means to continue to do something with intense effort with the possible implication of doing so despite difficulties.
 - Rom. 12:12; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; **Lk. 18:1**
- We are to pray being instant in prayer. Rom. 12:12.
- And stir ourselves up to lay hold of God. Isa. 64:7, And *there is* no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You;
- Wrestling Jacob. Gen. 32:24-28.
- Moses in Ex. 17, having help to hold his hands up but winning the battle.
- We need the persistence of the Syrophenician mother. Mt. 15:22-27.
- The two blind men in Mt. 20:30-33.
- The persistent widow of Lk 18:1-8
- **The breadless friend. Lk. 11:5-13..**
 - "teach us to pray." VS. 1.
 - Give us this day our daily bread, VS. 3.
 - Because of his persistence, NIV, shameless audacity, ESV, impudence, KJV, importunity, NASB, shamelessness.
 - Literal meaning of persistence is Shamelessness, or ashamedness. A lack of sensitivity to what is proper...
- If an earthly friend is persuaded to give, how much more our Heavenly Father! 11:13
- What does this say about Gods encouragement, His desire, His invitation to come and seek Him.
- He invites us forward, see His great heart here.
- Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:16
- Heb. 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

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

- The present tense calls for this to be the believer's lifestyle. Be continually on standby alert as you pray! Keep your spiritual eyes open, for the enemy may assault you at any time! All saints need prayer, prayer support, prayer covering, especially leaders.
- Pray for brothers and sisters, missionaries, children and leaders, pastors.
- It is sinful not to pray for one another.
 - 1 Sam. 12:23; Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

CONCLUSION: A WARNING IF I NEGLECT PRAYER: Proverbs 1:24-31...