

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.

- **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 is to prayer.**
- **All may not be able to sing solos, preach, prophecy, do miracles, but all equally can pray! There are not favorites...**
- **Everyone can pray, from the youngest to the oldest. All are on the same level playing, praying field.**
- **God has wondrously ordained that in life none of His creatures should ever be independent of Him, regardless of class, age or gifting.**
- **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.**
- **If we do not bath the armor of God in the oil of prayer it will certainly rust.**
- **It is said 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.**
- **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)**
- **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.**
- **"Satan cannot deny but that great wonders have been wrought by prayer. As the spirit of prayer goes up, so his kingdom goes down." – William Gurnall**
- **Prayer aligns us with the will and mind of God, it is like a hook anchor**

- ✓ 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.

REVIEW:

1) THE TIME OF PRAYER: ALWAYS.

- 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
- "A godly man is a praying man. As soon as grace is poured in, prayer is poured out. Prayer is the soul's traffic with Heaven; God comes down to us by His Spirit, and we go up to Him by prayer." – Thomas Watson

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

- Prayer = general prayer and requests. Supplication = specific..
- 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 "in the Spirit" can have several different meanings. It can mean "by means of," "with the help of," and "in connection to," "in the sphere of."
- But here, 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 Rom. 8:15 and repeated in Gal. 4:6. 8:15;
 - Rom. 8:15; For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption through whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." WORSHIP, ADORATION.
 - And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying 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 lip 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.. Full of alertness.
- To be without sleep. keeping awake. To be attentive, vigilant. It is the opposite of listlessness and expresses alertness. to exercise constant vigilance over something
- To be vigilant means to be alertly watchful, especially to avoid danger. The English word vigilant suggest intense, unremitting, wary watchfulness.
- Guard against wondering thoughts, evil or good. (To do lists)
 - **Mk. 13:33-37, Lk. 21:36**
- 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.
- Look for opportunities, reminders, repletion builds habit.

5) THE DURATION OF PRAYER: ALL PERSEVERANCE.

- **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**
- **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. She would not be put off....**
 - **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.**
 - **NKJV says 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.**
- **We should not be welcome here, we should feel terribly unworthy to come into His presence, but we are....**
 - **He desires and invites us to come. "come unto me all you who." Mt. 11:28**
 - **Commands us to come. Isa. 55:6; Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.**
 - **Rewards us in coming. Jn. 14:13, 14, Jn. 15:17, Lk. 11: 9-13.**
- **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.**
- **"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness." – Martin Luther**

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

- **The present tense calls for this to be the believer's lifestyle. Be continually for the saints, be 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...

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” – Martin Luther

“Prayer is the first thing, the second thing, the third thing necessary to a minister. Pray, then my dear brother; pray, pray, pray.” – Edward Payson

“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.” – Samuel Chadwick

“What wings are to a bird and sails to a ship, so is prayer to the soul.” “Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?” Corrie Ten Boom