

Title: Spirit-Filled Praying

Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20 (focus: verse 18)

Introduction:

Spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-20)

- It is real and important
- Fundamental aspect: prayer

Caution: Do not be afraid of Satan

- we give him more credit than he deserves. God has the victory; Satan is defeated

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Passage: Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and requests. With this in mind, keep alert with all perseverance, making petition for all the saints.

- “all” = mentioned repeatedly (4 times)
- Lifting us to the heavenlies and pulling us down to our knees
- Faulty view: Think having received past God’s blessings can live the victorious life without calling upon God constantly in prayer

Pray in the Spirit

- praying before God in accordance with His will through His power
- praying in accordance with what Christ desires (that He be made known and He be exalted)
- Common saying when praying: “In Jesus’ name” Three meanings:
 - 1) We recognize it is Jesus’ righteousness that allows us to have a hearing before God
 - 2) We want God’s will, not mine; we want what You want.
 - 3) Whatever You give in answer, I pray it will give glory to Christ

Matthew 6:10

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- Quote: “What a man is on his knees is what he is - nothing more, nothing less.”
- The measure of a man is meaningfully defined by what is done in secret.
- Quote: “It is a good thing to talk to your friend about Christ but don’t forget to talk to Christ about your friend.”
- The most powerful thing you can do for another person is to pray for them.
- The only omnipotence that God has granted to man is prayer

Question: How is your prayer life?

1 Thessalonians 5:17

pray without ceasing,

When you pray (before God humbly, according to His will), God hears, and moves and acts in response to those prayers (in ways we may or may not see)

Exodus 17

- Israel's first battle after 400 years of captivity in Egypt.

Exodus 17:8-13 (Israel Defeats Amalek)

Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Romans 15:4 (value of Old Testament passages)

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Lessons/Applications

Our life's battles are won or lost in the place of prayer.

Exodus 17:11

Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed.

- the battle is swayed by prayer
- it is not by one's own strength or wisdom that battles are won

Psalms 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house,

those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

- it is God who determines the outcomes of the battles in our lives by our obedience to His Word and what we do privately in prayer before God.

Zechariah 4:6

Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.

- There is a clear connection between spiritual battles and our prayers

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but *have divine power to destroy strongholds.*

- "Divine power" = reference to prayer to God.
- God's power is released in everyday's lives by the power of their people.
- changed hearts

- wisdom
- courage
- compassion
- love
- Pray through God's Word as continue to meditate and depend upon it as means of survival.

In the midst of life's battles/struggles, we will grow weary at times.

Exodus 17:12

But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

- "hands" = likely Moses began holding up staff with one hand/arm but as continued to persist, he needed both hands
- likewise, we may get weary but be encouraged to be persistent and persevere through prayer.
- God's answer to your prayer may come in different ways and different time than can see or ever know.
- Trust and know that God hears your prayers

Luke 18 (Parable of the Persistent Widow)

Luke 18:1-7

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart...And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?

In facing life's battles, we need a Partner in prayer.

Ecclesiastes 4:10-12

For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

1 John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

In praying through life's battles, be sure to use the Bible as your prayer book.

- caution: we can pray with sincerity but not pray rightly in accordance with God's Word
- Praying rightly is done by a right understanding of God.
- Recommendation: Use prayers in God's Word as a way to pray for others (insert people's names)

Colossians 1:9-11

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for _____, asking that _____ may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

Ephesians 1:16-19

I do not cease to give thanks for _____, remembering _____ in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give _____ the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that _____ may know what is the hope to which he has called _____, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant _____ to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that _____, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that _____ may be filled with all the fullness of God.