

**Title:** Praying at All Times

**Passage:** Ephesians 6:18-20

### **Introduction:**

Spiritual warfare

- Victory has been won by Christ but we still live and wrestle in this world/the flesh/the devil.
- Throughout the Bible, spiritual warfare is clear in its existence.
- God is referenced as a Warrior and we (His people) are soldiers. We are in battle but it belongs to the Lord.

Exodus 15:3

The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.

Psalms 18:34, 39

He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze...For you equipped me with strength for the battle; you made those who rise against me sink under me.

Isaiah 42:13

The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

2 Chronicles 20:15

And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, *for the battle is not yours but God's.*

1 Samuel 17:45

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

Song: "The Battle Belongs to the Lord"

[https://youtu.be/rE\\_9OsMsdfY](https://youtu.be/rE_9OsMsdfY)

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praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

### **Observations**

*Context*

Chapters 1-2: focus our perspective to the heavens

Chapter 6: pulls us to our knees (continual dependence upon God's mercy, strength, and help)

"Prayer is the very spiritual air that the soldier of Christ breathes. It is the all-pervasive strategy" (Charles Spurgeon)

Ephesians 6:10, 18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

- Prayer is the foundation of our life in Christ.

“Praying at all times in the spirit, with all kinds of prayer and requests. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making petition for all the saints.”

### **Overview:**

I. Place of prayer

II. Petitions of prayer

III. Perseverance of prayer

IV. People we pray for

### **I. PLACE OF PRAYER**

- When and where of prayer

*“Praying at all times”*

Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

pray without ceasing

- Does this mean to actually pray all the time (no working, eating, etc.)?
- Meaning: live with a constant conscientiousness that everything that marks our minds is in a deep awareness of the presence and surrender of our Heavenly Father.
  - every moment and decision of our lives are under the lordship of Christ
  - see every moment of our lives as an opportunity to honor God.
  - ex: if tempted, recognize at those moments the awareness God is present and the need to surrender ourselves to God.
  - ex: if in need, pray for wisdom or strength to proceed in God’s strength and wisdom.
- Our lives become a continual ascending prayerful relationship to God.

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

- “know” = personal, intimate relationship

*“At all times”*

- “time” = opportunity

- meaning: in every opportunity, have an awareness and desire in your life to have a relationship with God where continually talking with Him.

Matthew 7:11

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

- there are no insignificant prayers to God.

## II. PETITIONS OF PRAYER

*“Praying...in the Spirit”*

- meaning: pray in the way that conforms in accordance with the purpose and will of the spirit of God.
- “All true prayer is by the Spirit.” (Quote)
- “God the Holy Ghost writes our prayers, God the Son presents our prayers, and God The Father accepts our prayers. And with the whole Trinity to help us in it, what cannot prayer perform? (Charles Spurgeon)
- *Application:* study God’s Word
  - the more you know God’s Word, the more your prayers will be consistent to the will of God.
- *Application:* teach children God’s Word.
  - Review and memorize Proverbs

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 27:2

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

Proverbs 26:11

Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

*“With all kinds of prayer and requests.”*

- Meaning: all kinds of ways we may pray to God
- Many forms and postures of prayer are welcome as to come to God in humility of our continual intimate relationship with Him.
  - Praise, thanksgiving, confessions,
  - Public, private, planned, spontaneous, etc.
  - Sitting, standing, lying, kneeling
  - At home, at work, traveling
  - Eyes closed, eyes open
- Jesus: prayed publicly, privately, rejoiced, cried/wept
- *Application:* Everyday, reach out and touch somebody and pray
  - build the body of Christ

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

### III. PERSEVERANCE OF PRAYER

*“To that end, keep alert with all perseverance.”*

- “No matter how feeble our prayers may seem to be, we pray on.”
  - Though the answer may seem long coming, God’s answer will surely come.
- “A praying breath is never spent in vain.”

Luke 18:1 (The Parable of the Persistent Widow)

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart...

Luke 11:5-13 (Parable of Persistent Friend)

And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

- As persevere in prayer, we need fellow partners in prayer.

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.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 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.

### IV. PEOPLE WE PRAY FOR

*“...making petition for all the saints.”*

- when you become a Christian, you have a new family.
- Accordingly, you have the responsibility to pray for one another.
- Paul's example: continuous prayer for the saints.

- Are we not to pray for non-believers?
  - No. The Bible calls us to pray for leaders, the unsaved, etc.
  - But the emphasis is the body of Christ, fellow Christians.
- Application: Pray in categories
  - Persecuted Christians
  - Missionaries
  - Church leadership
  - Etc.

*"And pray also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel" (v. 19)*

- What to pray for?
- Application: Pray for others to be a faithful witness
- Resource: "How Can I Pray for Others?" <https://www.allaboutprayer.org/pray-for-others-faq.htm>
  - Wisdom and power
  - Strength and knowledge of God's love
  - Discernment
  - Spiritual understanding and knowing God's will
  - Steadfastness
  - Boldness in sharing the Gospel