

Put on the Armor of God

Pray in the Spirit **Ephesians 6:10-20**

The Armor of God is of no use unless we stay in contact with God and we do that through prayer. There should be no break between verse 17 and 18

“.. and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God with all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit ...”

Prayer is vital to our relationship with God Almighty

Jesus understood this while He was on earth

The Early Church understood how vital it was - look at the book of Acts

Read **Acts 1:14, 2:42, 3:1, 4:31, 6:4, 10:9**

What does it mean to pray in the Spirit?

Passages - **1 Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 6:18** and **Jude 20-21** *But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love.*

“in” could mean “with the help of” or “in connection with” or “in the power of”. *It is to pray so that the Spirit is the moving and guiding power.* We are to pray but it is the work of the Spirit in us.

“You do it so that it is the Holy Spirit who is doing it in and through you.”

What are the Characteristics of Praying in the Spirit?

A. It is Consistent Prayer (Pray at all times)

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *pray without ceasing;*

Like a hacking cough - not constantly but always there

In the age of cell phones this is not hard to understand - always available

B. It is Varied kinds of prayer (all kinds) (every occasion)

1. Types

Worship prayers - for who God is.

Thanksgiving prayers - for what God does

Confession prayers - for sins, failures and needs

Intercession prayers - for the needs of others

Daily prayers - for the “daily bread” of life

Special prayers (petitions) - for special needs

2. Times

Regular times - morning, noon, night

Special times - special needs

3. Together

Alone - regular prayer

2 or 3 (family) - **Matthew 18:19-20**

Corporate together - church, apart - day of prayer

C. It is Intense prayer (**be alert, watchful**)

1. We are in a war! It is not a sport -

I play golf when I feel good, good weather, others join me, the course is pleasant and it does not cost too much

2. It takes perseverance (**with all perseverance**)

Luke 11:9-13 *“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. “You fathers—if your children ask⁹ for a fish, do you give them a snake instead?¹² Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not!¹³ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”*

D. It is Universal and Personal Prayer

(**For all the saints - for me**)

1. Not easy, comfort, health or wealth

John 17:15 *I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.*

2. But for effective witness (to proclaim the gospel)

Colossians 4:3-4 *Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.*

3. For courage to speak up (Boldness mentioned twice)

Acts 4:31 *After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.*

What if our prayers are not answered?

If the request is wrong, God says NO

If the timing is wrong, God says SLOW

If you are wrong, God says GROW

But if the request is right, the timing is right, and you are right, God says GO!

How to begin

Plan Place, Time

Persevere

Partners - Triangles of Prayer

Proceed - start today!