

Praying Always (Ephesians 6:18-20)

I. Introduction

- A. Spiritual warfare when the armor appears to fail
 - 1. John Bunyan and Pilgrim's Progress "All-prayer"
- B. Prayer is the atmosphere in which we put on the armor
- C. Reading the verses and outline of the sermon

II. The manner in which we pray

- A. *Always with all prayer and supplication*
 - 1. The early church as a "house of prayer" (Acts 1:14, 21:42, 4:31, 6:4, 12:5, 12, 13:3, 14:23, 16:25)
 - 2. *prayer and supplication* means all kinds of prayer
 - 3. continual prayer as a pattern of life
 - 4. H. Bonar indictment of the church for lack of prayer
 - 5. unceasing prayer commended in Scripture (Ro 12:12, Col 4:2, Eph 1:16, Col 1:9, 1Th 3:10, Ro 1:9, 1Th 1:2, 2:3, 5:17, 2Ti 1:3)
- B. *in the Spirit* (cf Jude 20)
 - 1. relying on the power and wisdom of the Spirit
 - 2. the synergy between our prayers and the Holy Spirit in revealing God's will to us as we pray (Phil 1:19)
 - a. If God is sovereign why pray?
 - b. prayer involves intra-Trinitarian communication (1 Co 2:11)
 - c. The Holy Spirit's help in our weakness (Ro 8:26)
- C. *being watchful ... with all perseverance*
 - 1. *watchful* – a military command
 - a. Christ's call to *watch and pray* (Mk 13:33, 14:38)
 - b. looking for Christ's return (Rev 22:20)
 - 2. *perseverance* – not giving up
 - 3. prayer is warfare so it will be a struggle to pray

Prayer is the expression of the life of a disciplined soldier for Christ who is in constant communion with God.

III. The objects for whom we pray

- A. *For all the saints* (Eph 6:18)
 - 1. in our church
 - a. at public prayer meetings,
 - b. informally through phone, email, congregational prayer list
 - c. There's plenty to pray for in your church
 - 2. For those outside our church
 - a. those persecuted for their faith
- B. *For me* (Paul, Eph 6:19)
 - 1. Pray for those in leadership of the church
 - 2. Pray specifically for the boldness of Gospel preaching
 - a. for your pastor's private and public ministry
 - b. for all of the outreaches and the brethren preaching the gospel
 - c. pray for revival of God's church