

“Advancing On Our Knees”

Ephesians 6:18-20; Matthew 18:18-20

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Alarming statistics which suggest we are not winning the spiritual battle
- Brief summary of our study on spiritual warfare

Advancing on our Knees!!-- Ephesians 6:18-20

- Ephesians 6:18-20-- *“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to know the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

A. Prayer has been the KEY to all Spiritual Revivals in History.

- *“We are constantly on a stretch, if not a strain to devise new methods, new plans, new organizations to advance the church and secure enlargement and efficiency of the gospel. This trend of the day has a tendency to lose sight of the man or sink the man in the plan or organization. God’s plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than anything else. Men are God’s method. The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men... What the church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or more or novel methods, but men (and women) whom the Holy Spirit can use-- men of prayer, mighty in prayer!”* E. M. Bounds, “Power of Prayer”

B. Four Characteristics of Effective Prayer for Spiritual Revival

1. **CONTINUAL**—Ephesians 6:18 *“Praying Always”*
 - Luke 18:1-- *“men always ought to pray and not lose heart.”*
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 -- *“pray without ceasing.”*
2. **CONCERTED**—Ephesians 6:18 *“In the Spirit”*
 - a. **NOT “Praying in tongues”**
 - 1 Corinthians 14:14-- *“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my understanding is unfruitful.”*
 - 1 Corinthians 14:15-- *“What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with understanding.”*
 - 1 Corinthians 14:16-- *“Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say ‘Amen’ at the giving of thanks, since he does not understand why you say?”*
 - b. **But praying in concert with or consistent with the Spirit**
 - Romans 8:26-27 -- *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*
3. **CONCENTRATION**-- Ephesians 6:18 *“being watchful to this end”*
 - a. **Jesus understood the need to “watch and pray”**
 - Matthew 26:41 -- *“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*
 - b. **Warfare praying is hard work.**

4. **CORPORATE-- "Praying together"**
 - a. The Case for Corporate prayer in spiritual warfare
 - Matthew 18:18-20-- *"Assuredly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I say to you that if two or three of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven, For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*
 - b. The Problem with "lone ranger" Christians

C. Three Groups or Objects of Prayer for Spiritual Revival

1. For all the **SAINTS**
 - Ephesians 6:18 -- *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints".*
2. For the **UNSAVED** and **SOCIETY** as a **WHOLE**.
 - Romans 10:1 -- *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved."*
 - 1 Timothy 2:1-4 -- *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*
3. For **PASTORS, MISSIONARIES, CHRISTIAN WORKERS**
 - Ephesians 6:19-20 -- *"and (pray) for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am ambassador in chains; that I may speak boldly as I ought to speak."*