

August 15, 2010  
“PRAYING ALWAYS!”  
*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-- (Ephesians 6:18 NKJ)**

The pathway was exceeding narrow, so much so, that when CHRISTIAN sought to avoid the ditch on the one hand, he was ready to tip over into the mire on the other; and when he sought to escape the mire, he would be ready to fall into the ditch. Thus he went on, crying bitterly; for besides the danger of falling, the pathway was so dark, he could not see his feet. He never knew where, or upon what, he might step.

As he approached the middle of this place, I perceived the mouth of Hell, it stood hard by the wayside. Now, CHRISTIAN thought, what shall I do? The flame and smoke came out in such abundance, with sparks and hideous noises (things that cared not for CHRISTIAN's sword, as APOLLYON did before), that he was forced to put up his sword, and betake himself to another weapon, called "**All Prayer**".

Paraphrase of John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress  
I like it that Bunyan refers to "all prayer" as "another weapon."

*I. Praying Always!*

*Notice prayer is not compared to any weapon in the Roman soldier's arsenal. Why?*

*Why? Because the world has no weapon like PRAYER! Prayer is our secret weapon. Prayer connects us with God and keeps us undefeated and undefeatable!*

**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31 NKJ)**

*1. Now we are to PRAY ALWAYS because EVERY SITUATION in this world requires prayer!*

*Spurgeon used to say, when you feel like praying, PRAY, you do not want to waste such a wonderful spiritual mindset! When you do NOT feel like praying, PRAY, why remain in spiritual doldrums?*

*King Hezekiah was a great man of prayer –*

- *His prayers resulted in God's routing the Assyria army*
- *His prayers saved him from certain death*

*Yet when he was comfortable his pride took over (he left off prayer) and he showed the Babylonians the treasures of the House of God!*

*David is similar, he defeats Goliath through faith, he prays before battles, when he is close to God he ALWAYS WINS! Yet as soon as he gets comfortable he falls to the beauty of a woman, he falls to the lure of his own sinful lust!*

**Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (1 Corinthians 10:12 NKJ)**

*Prayer needs to be always / constant or we lose every spiritual battle –*

**Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.<sup>9</sup> And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand."<sup>10</sup> So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.<sup>11</sup> And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. (Exodus 17:8-11 NKJ)**

*II. We are to pray with all prayer and supplication –*

*1. What is meant by the phrase "all prayer"*

*Every kind of prayer: We set aside time to prayer / we fast and pray / we pray quick prayers at times of special need / we pray as a body corporately when we are together / we PRAY when we are alone!*

*When the devil is hard upon us we not use bullets and bombs of prayer against him but we also throw the kitchen sink of PRAYER at him! Consider Hezekiah's prayer when he was dying, it was nothing wonderful, nothing eloquent –*

<sup>13</sup> I have considered until morning-- Like a lion, So He breaks all my bones; From day until night You make an end of me.

<sup>14</sup> Like a crane or a swallow, so I chattered; I mourned like a dove; My eyes fail *from looking* upward. O LORD, I am oppressed; Undertake for me! (Isa 38:13-14 NKJ)

*When Hezekiah prayed he used bird sounds!*

2. What is meant by SUPPLICATION? Expression of NEED, Indigence, want, lack! It's me it's me it's me Oh Lord, standing in the NEED of Prayer!

### III. We are to pray in the Spirit –

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.<sup>27</sup> 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*. (Romans 8:26-27 NKJ)

1. He comes along side us, lifts the other end of the log
2. He helps us when we are clueless and hopeless
3. This is especially needed in spiritual battles
4. Praying in the Spirit means first praying for the Spirit –

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> "If you then, being evil, 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!" (Luk 11:9-13 NKJ)

### IV. The idea of asking, knocking, seeking brings us to the next point we are to be watchful and persevere in prayer –

1. Being watchful means we are to be alert, awake and alive when we pray, yet this is NOT our natural tendency

Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one

hour? <sup>41</sup> "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak." (Matthew 26:40-41 NKJ)

2. Consider Jesus' great example of vigorous, fervent SPIRITUAL BATTLE prayer -

And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. (Matthew 26:37 NKJ)

<sup>33</sup> And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; <sup>34</sup> And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. (Mar 14:33-34 KJV)

And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22:44 NKJ)

3. We are to persevere in prayer

*Sometimes it seems God is not answering prayer*

<sup>7</sup> So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat. (1Sa 1:7 NKJ)

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD. (1Sa 2:21 NKJ)

### V. We are to pray for the NEEDS of all the Saints –

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13 NKJ)

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, (Ephesians 3:14-15 NKJ)

God is our Royal Father  
God is our Right Father  
God is our Rich Father  
God is our Ruling Father

God is able to ROUT all our enemies!

To all those serving Satan, our Daddy can and will beat up your daddy and our Big Brother Jesus can and will crush his head!