

... And Pray!

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

- Ephesians 6:10-18

One More Review!

- This battle has been raging since the creation and there is no “neutral” territory. *“He who is not with me is against me...”* - Luke 11:23
- The battleground is your mind. (2 Corinthians 10:1-5)
- The armor is six distinct pieces (seven, if you include prayer).
- And you wear three pieces of this armor constantly.
- Our job is to stand! *“Stand firm then...”* – Ephesians 6:14

The Armour in A Word

- The Belt is your character.
- The Breastplate is your commitment.
- The Shoes are your confidence.
- The Shield is your courage.
- The Helmet is your certainty.
- The Sword is your communication. (The spoken Word of God)
- ... And Prayer is your communion (with God)

There are Two Clear Dangers ...

- To dress for battle and not pray! That makes you a fool!
- To not dress for battle and instead, pray. That indicates laziness.

What Do We Know About Prayer?

- It is commanded repeatedly!
“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2

- It is taught clearly, with a working pattern.
- It is modeled in Scriptures and throughout history.

“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” - Luke 11:1

- It is hard to understand!

The Problem for Many

- We don’t understand prayer, so we don’t make prayer a priority.
- It is often a last resort or an attempt to get something from God.
- We sometimes think we are too smart or too clever to pray.

The Four Alls

1. The frequency of prayer — Always!

“...pray continually...”

– 1 Thessalonians 5:17

How is this done?

Two Cautions: Repetition and praying to be seen! (Matthew 6)

2. The variety of prayer — all kinds.

- This could include the position of prayer.
- This could include the parts of prayer.
- This could include the purpose of prayer.

3. The vigilance of prayer. — Always be alert.

- Know what is happening around you! Be wise.

“Why are you sleeping?” He asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” - Luke 22:46

4. The focus of prayer — All the saints.

- Note: It doesn’t say to pray for yourself!
- The priority of our prayer is others.

The Unity of Prayer

“And pray in the Spirit . . .” — There is one Spirit!

What does this mean?

Remember: A believer who has put on the armour of God but does not pray, is just a person who is all dressed up with no place to go.

Consider:

- *What commitment will you make concerning prayer?*
- *Who will hold you accountable to this commitment?*

... And Pray!

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