

The Armor of the Christian: Our Secret Weapon (Part 3)

Ephesians 6: 18

We have spent a couple weeks examining the spiritual armor available for believers as we engage in battle. It is imperative that all are familiar with each piece of armor and ensure that it is properly worn and maintained.

The final weapon we have is a direct link to the Captain of the Host. In the midst of the battle, every Christian has the assurance of direction from the Lord. The other armor is worn on the outside. This weapon is carried within.

Being well dressed for battle is essential, but we need direct contact with the Commander. Prayer has the ability to strengthen the soldier and provide courage when it seems there is no way. As we stand, fully dressed in God's armor, we must also be familiar with and willing to engage in prayer. As we conclude our study on the Armor of the Christian, let's consider the [elements](#) of this powerful, secret weapon of prayer.

I. The Attitude of Prayer (18) – [Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints](#); The soldier must ensure the lines of communication remain open. We need constant communication to defeat the enemy. An attack can happen at any moment, from any direction, so we must be on guard.

- Satan likes to attack when we least expect it. These attacks come suddenly without warning. He often comes during our times of weakness, even when we are alone, without the aid of other believers. Thank God, we have a direct link to the throne room. We are not being told to spend every waking moment reciting a prayer. [Matthew 6:7](#) reveals that we aren't heard for our much speaking. [1 Thes.5:17 – Pray without ceasing](#). Never lose that connection with Jesus; don't lay the receiver down; keep the line open.
- We must also keep ourselves holy before Him so that when a need arises we can immediately call on Jesus. Don't find yourself in a condition where you have sin in your life and are out of fellowship with the Lord, unable to pray for another. Pray always!

II. The Abundance of Prayer – [Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints](#); Prayer is a diverse weapon. We should use it to its fullest extent. We are pretty good at praying for ourselves, but we need to broaden the scope of our prayers. It is much more than "God is great" or "Now I lay me down to sleep". [1 Tim.2:1](#) covers the aspects of prayer: [I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men](#);

- *Supplications* - Special prayers (asking for needs);
- *Prayers* - General prayers (worship and adoration);
- *Intercessions* - Personal prayers (plead the cause of another);
- *Giving of Thanks* - Thankful prayers (appreciation).

- A good soldier will use every aspect of prayer to defeat the enemy. We are not using prayer effectively if we only pray for ourselves. It must also include worship, pleading for others, and thankfulness for God's blessings. Prayer is powerful if we use it the way God intends. [Phil.4:6 – Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.](#)

III. The Ally in Prayer – [Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;](#) Prayer is the purest and most spiritual activity in which we engage. We are never closer to our Lord than when we come before Him in humble, earnest prayer! We are not alone when we pray; the Holy Spirit is there to help us. [Rom.8:26-27 – Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ^{\[27\]} And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.](#) We pray to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit.

- You have heard of self-guided weapons; I praise God that my prayers aren't self-guided, but Spirit guided. I may not know how to pray, what to pray, or who to pray for; but the Spirit makes intercession for us. Without the guidance of the Spirit, our prayers would never reach the throne. Our prayers won't be selfish and out of God's will when guided by the Spirit. God will hear the faintest whisper when prayed in the Spirit.

IV. The Alertness in Prayer – [Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;](#) This means “*to be alert, not asleep; attentive and ready.*” A good soldier is always alert, aware of his surroundings. We must be constantly looking for anything that might hinder and disrupt or stand in need of prayer.

- Jesus told the disciples, “**Watch and pray.**” They were weary and neglected the watch. They failed to recognize the battle Jesus was fighting. Had they been aware they could've prayed. Often we hear of needs about us, but we fail to watch in prayer.

- We should set a watch as Nehemiah did in order to defeat the enemy. [Neh.4:7-9 – But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they](#)

were very wroth, ^[8] And conspired all of them together to come *and* to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. ^[9] Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them. Mat.26:41 – **Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.** Watch and pray!

V. The Anticipation of Prayer – Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto **with all perseverance** and supplication for all saints; We are to continue in prayer until we receive an answer. The Lord has promised to hear our prayers, but we must be persistent when we pray.

- We live a fast paced life: drive through banks, restaurants, wedding chapels, and church services. We demand instant gratification. God's time is not our time. We must be willing to pray until we hear from God.
- Robert Law said, "Prayer is not getting man's will done in heaven; it is getting God's will done on earth". We must persevere in prayer. As you pray, expect a result. Many pray, but don't anticipate an answer. We often doubt even as we ask. The early church prayed fervently for Peter, Acts 12:5 – Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. They trusted the sovereignty of God, but didn't anticipate Peter's release. Acts 12:13-15 – And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. ^[14] And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. ^[15] And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. Let us believe as we pray. When we are persistent in prayer, believing as we pray, we can see great things.

VI. The Aim of Prayer – Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and **supplication for all saints**; We are not in the battle alone. There are many who are engaged with the enemy. It is important that we lift up each other. It is no secret that we stand stronger together. As we pray for each other; we help each other. Gal.6:2 – **Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**

- The Spirit doesn't burden your heart to pray for others in vain. They may be in the midst of a battle and need a touch from heaven. They may be weary in the fight and are just before throwing in the towel. They may be so injured and weak that they are literally unable to pray for themselves. We help each other as we pray! Let us bear one another's burdens, standing united in prayer.

Conclusion: Prayer is essential to overcoming the enemy. I trust we will better develop our prayer life as we grow in grace. May we remember each other as we pray daily! Prayer is powerful.

The disciples understood the urgency in prayer. They didn't ask the Lord to teach them to preach, perform miracles, or many other endeavors. They did, however, ask Him to teach them to pray. Is your prayer life what it should be? Are you committed to daily prayer? I am sure the majority of us would benefit from an improved prayer life.

Prayer is of little value to the unbeliever. The Lord will hear a prayer of repentance and faith, but the unbeliever doesn't have access to the throne of grace as we do. If you are unsaved, I urge you to respond to the leading of the Spirit. Come to Christ if you have never trusted Him as your personal Savior.