

EPHESIANS
POINTS ON PRAYER

Saturday, October 3

Reading: Ephesians 6:18-24

Ephesians 6:18 *And 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 Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

Prayer is one of the most vital “weapons” the Christian possesses. It is our lifeline with our “Commanding Officer” so we can have victory over Satan. We learn several important facts about prayer in these closing verses.

PRAY IN THE SPIRIT means our prayers should be directed by the Spirit who dwells within every believer. It is He who guides us into God’s will and helps us pray even when we do not know how or what to pray for (see Romans 8:26-27). ON ALL OCCASIONS means we must be constantly ready to pray for God’s strength since Satan can attack anytime, anyplace. Satan will attack when we least expect it, so believers must always BE ALERT. We must KEEP ON PRAYING – we must be persistent and never give up.

Paul asks for them to pray specifically for him. Paul was no stranger to fear. He is in chains waiting trial because of his bold witness for Christ and he urges them to pray that he would have courage to continue to share the gospel even in his present situation. To dispel their fears about him, Paul sends Tychicus to deliver this letter and give them a personal word of encouragement.

The letter closes with four of the most important words: peace, love, faith, and grace. These all come from God to those with faith and love for Him.

LESSON ONE: “Pray in the Spirit.” Sometimes our prayer life seems to be one-sided – us making our requests to God. It can become stale and uninteresting. That is because we are not praying in the Spirit. We are doing it from our own head instead of allowing the Spirit to guide our hearts. Romans 8:26-27 tells us that it is only in the Spirit’s power that we can pray in the will of God. The Spirit even expresses our prayers to God when we don’t know how or what to pray. How has your prayer life been recently? Are you listening to the Spirit or merely praying from your own mind and will?

LESSON TWO: “Keep on Praying for All the Lord’s People.” We are not fighting this spiritual battle alone. We have brothers and sisters in Christ who are standing with us. The Lord’s Prayer begins “Our Father” - not “My Father.” We are part of a great family and must pray for each other. Notice Paul did not ask them to pray for his comfort or safety, but for boldness to witness and minister. Paul sent Tychicus to let them know what God was doing and how their prayers were being answered. We all need to share with and pray for one another. How can you pray for the spiritual growth and witness of other believers? (Reread Ephesians 1:15-20 & 3:14-21). Who can you share prayer requests and life struggles with? How persistent are you in praying for others?