

**Spiritual warfare**  
**“The lance of prayer & supplication”**

**Eph. 6:18-** ‘praying always, with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.’

While ‘the lance of prayer & supplication’ is not specifically mentioned in this passage of Eph 6:18; we do understand that the roman soldiers armor was not complete without the lance.

History tells us the roman soldier had seven pieces of armor, if Paul said to put on the whole armor of god, and then we are missing a piece of armor, unless we take the lance of the roman soldier-prayer & supplication.

This weapon is powerfully thrust forward into the spirit realm against the malevolent works of the adversary.

By forcibly hurling this divine instrument into the face of the enemy, we have power to stop major obstacles from developing.

**Various kinds of lances-**

As the other weapons, through the course of time & use, they were modified to best meet the needs of warfare.

Small lances were used for in close fighting – gouging and thrusting; the longer lances were used for hurling at an enemy from a distance.

Most soldiers carried both; the average soldier carried five short lances & one long lance.

**The pilum’** – about 6ft. Long, with an iron head-3ft & the shaft being 3ft.

The lance thrown from a distance.

Used when an opposing force came to attack the roman’s fortified position or encampment.

Instead of waiting for the enemy to come upon them in close range, the lance was thrown at the enemy.

In doing this they were able to strike down the enemy before they came close; thus eliminating them even before they came near the encampment.

**Various kinds of prayer-**

What does this have to do with spiritual armor?

**Why all the detail over kinds/sizes of lances?**

**Paul sees a whole range of lances & spears in his mind when he comes to the issue of prayer.**

**He compares the various kinds of lances to the various kinds of prayer made available to us.**

**‘Praying always, with all prayer & supplication.’**

***‘All prayer’- (dia pases proseuches; di-a-pa-ses- pros-eu-ches) = better translated ‘with all kinds of prayer.’***

- 1. The prayer of faith**
- 2. The prayer of agreement**
- 3. The prayer of intercession**
- 4. The prayer of supplication**
- 5. The prayer of petition**
- 6. The prayer of thanksgiving**
- 7. United prayer**

**There are many forms of prayer, and we are instructed by Paul to use each form of prayer made available to us.**

**Just as the soldier had the short lance for thrusting an enemy at close range, there is nothing to compare to a prayer of faith that is filled with authority.**

**This type of prayer is able to deal a mortal wound to an unseen foe who has come into close range.**

**Like the long lance hurled at an enemy from afar; preventative intercession, with its loaded deadly weight, deal a wound fatal to the domain of darkness that will hinder the devil’s devices from becoming a reality in our lives, families, businesses, churches & ministries.**

**Unseen spirits bombard our flesh & hassle our minds.**

**Prayer is indispensable, because these wicked spirits hate the presence of Christ and his church on the earth.**

**No matter how spiritual, bold, courageous we think ourselves to be; we cannot maintain a victorious position without prayer.**

***Six kinds of prayer for the believer-***

## 1. Prayer of consecration-

**'Prayer' in the N.T. is taken from Grk. Word (*proseuche*; *pros-eu-che*)  
Used 127 times in New Testament.**

**Compound words *pros* & *euche*;**

**'Pros'=face-to-face' the intimate relationship that exists between the members of the Godhead.**

**John 1:1 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God...'  
'With' is taken from 'pros' & is used to describe the relationship between the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is telling us that theirs is an intimate relationship.**

**Everywhere mentioned in the Bible, 'pros' carries the meaning of a close, up-front, intimate contact with someone else.**

**'Euche'= 'a wish, desire, prayer, or vow.'**

**Used to describe a person who made some kind of a vow to God because of some need or desire in his/her life.**

**A vow to give something of great value to God in exchange for a favorable answer to prayer.**

**III: Story of Hannah, the mother of Samuel; vowing to God to give her son to His service if He would allow her to bear a son.**

**In faith of this prayer being answered, the prayer would offer to God a gift of thanksgiving in advance- which expressed their faith and thanksgiving to God.**

**An altar was set up, and the offering was called a votive offering (vow); like a pledge, promise that once the prayer is answered, the person would be back to give additional thanksgiving to God.**

### Point:

1. **Prayer should be 'face to face & eyeball to eyeball' with God in intimate relationship.  
Prayer is the vehicle bringing us to a place we may enjoy a close, intimate relationship with God.**
2. **The idea of sacrifice is associated with this 'prayer' word.  
Portrays a person who desired to see his/her prayer answered so desperately, that they were willing to surrender everything he owned in exchange for answered prayer.**

Describes the ‘altar of sacrifice & consecration, where our lives are yielded entirely to God.

\*The Holy Spirit may convict our hearts of these areas that need to be surrendered to His sanctifying power; He will never forcibly take these things from us.

- Thus, this particular word for prayer tells of a place of decision; a place of consecration; an altar where we freely vow to give our lives to God in exchange for His life.

*Proseuche* has to do with this type of surrender & sacrifice; this tells us that God desires to do more than merely bless us; He wants to change us. Deals with surrender & consecration.

3. Thanksgiving was also a vital part of this common word for ‘prayer’, tells us that we will thank God in advance for hearing and answering.
4. This word for prayer demands surrender, consecration, and thanksgiving from our lives.

The sum of the idea of *proseuche* is: ‘come face to face with God and surrender your life in exchange for His, making consecration an ongoing part of your life and be sure to give Him thanks in advance for moving in your life.’

2. Prayer of petition- second most used word for prayer in N.T. 40 times.

Taken from *deesis* = supplication. ‘A need or a want.’

The kind of prayer that expresses one’s basic needs and wants to God.

Emphasis is on ‘basic needs’ not so much the wants, such as a larger home, more expensive cars.

But, the basic needs which must be met in order for a person to continue in his or her existence.

*Deesis*= ‘A cry or petition for God’s help, that expresses your own insufficiency to meet your own needs..’

Hebrews 5:7- Jesus prayed this way,

‘Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared’

Jesus was very aware of the weakness of His humanity. He recognized the Father's ability to provide strength for Him, He prayed deeply from His heart and soul, asking His Father to provide divine assistance to help Him in His times of humanity.

**James 5:17-** 'Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly...'

**'Prayed earnestly'** = recognized his inability to do anything significant for God. He prayed earnestly asking God to intervene on his behalf.

This type of praying has to do with appealing to God in humility to provide such things as spiritual power to minister, or power to resist temptation.

**Eph. 6:18-** 'Praying always, with all prayer and supplication = with all prayer and earnest, sincere, heart-felt petition.'

**2cor. 8:4; 1Thess. 3:10.**

### 3. **Prayer of authority-**

Taken from *aiteo*, (*ai-teo*) = used 80 times in N.T. = 'I ask or I demand'

Does not refer to one who humbly requests something from God, but rather, describes someone who prays authoritatively, almost demanding something from God!

This person knows what he needs and is not afraid to boldly ask that he receive it.

**How can this be true?????**

**John 15:7-** 'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done for you.'

'Ask' is taken from *aiteo*, could be translated= 'you shall demand when you will...'

We have to keep this in context with the entire verse & section of scripture—

Jesus said, 'If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you...'

Abide is used twice, abide is taken from *meno* – 'to stay, to dwell, to lodge, to remain, to indwell, to continue, to remain in constant union with, or to take up permanent residency'

Translated= ‘If you permanently and habitually lodge, dwell, abide, and remain continually in Me, and if My words permanently and habitually lodge, dwell, abide, and remain continually in you, strongly ask for whatever you wish for, and it will happen to you.’

- The Lord Jesus knew that if His words took up permanent residency in our hearts and mind, then we would never ask for something that was out of line with His will for our lives. So, when a believer allows the Word of God to permanently and habitually lodge in his/her heart, that word so transforms their mind to the Word of God, that when they pray, they pray in accordance with the Word of God.

When you know you are praying in the will of God, you do not have to sheepishly utter your requests – you can boldly assert your faith and expect God to move on your behalf.

**Heb. 4:16-** ‘Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.’

**1John 5:14,15-** ‘And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us; and if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.’

**Confidence**” (parresia) someone who is exceedingly ‘bold or courageous’.

‘If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us; and if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.’

**‘If we strongly request anything that is according to His desire for our lives...’**

God is not offended by this type of outspoken prayer.

If His word has taken up permanent residency in your heart & mind, then you will not pray prayers that are out of line with His will & plans.

You will be giving God’s Word the authoritative role in your heart & mind; and the Word will transform your thinking.

Eph. 3:20, James 1:5-6, 1John 3:22.

#### 4. **Prayer of thanksgiving-**

**‘Eucharistic’** (eu-cha-ris-tia), used 15 times in the N.T.

**Compound of eu & charistia**

**Eu= ‘good or swell’ denoting a general good disposition of feeling about something.**

**Charis= the word ‘grace’.**

**Together, *Eucharistic refers to ‘wonderful feelings and good sentiments that freely flow up out of the heart in response to something.’***

**Paul primarily uses it when he joyfully thanks God for someone or for some group of individuals.**

**Eph. 1:15, 16**

**‘I cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.’**

**‘I can’t help but thank God for you. My feelings concerning you cannot be contained. I thank God for you.’**

**Col. 1:3, 1Thess. 1:2, 2Thess. 1:3.**

**2Thess. 5:18- ‘In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.’**

**According to this verse, ‘it is God’s will that we use the prayer of thanksgiving in every respect of our lives.’**

**He is saying, ‘in everything... in every occasion and in every way possible...’**

**The spirit of thanksgiving should be playing a dominant role in our lives.**

**2cor. 4:15, 9:11-12; Phil. 4:6; Col, 2:7, 4:2; 1Tim. 4:3, 4; rev. 7:12.**

## **5. Prayer of supplication-**

**Taken from *enteuxis* = compound of *en* & *tugchano* (tug-cha-no)**

**Used five times in N.T.**

**‘En’ = ‘in or into’**

**‘Tugchano’ = ‘to happen upon’**

**Together = ‘to fall into a situation’, or ‘to happen into a circumstance with Someone else.**

Carries the idea of someone who comes to God in simple childlike faith, to freely enjoy and fellowship in the presence of the lord.

Literally means=

‘To fall into or to happen upon.’

‘To fall into the presence of the lord.’ or

‘Come into wonderful relationship in prayer.’

‘To supplicate’ with the lord.

Used in some writings to describe a love relationship between two lovers- two persons who happened upon each other, who had found or discovered each other, and now were sharing their lives together.

Describes the wonderful intimacy we can have with the Lord through prayer, where we freely express ourselves, our desires, and enjoy his wonderful presence.

A special time when God showers us with His love & life – changing, life-transforming acceptance.

## 6. Prayer of intercession-

Taken from ‘*huperentugchano*’ (*hu-per-en-tug-cha-no*)

Used only one time in n.t.

Romans 8:26- used not about us, but in connection with the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 8:26- ‘Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit [Himself] makes intercession for us with groaning’s which cannot be uttered.’

Who was doing this work of intercession? The Holy Spirit!

‘The Spirit, Himself’ makes intercession.’

This prayer is not an intercessory work, which we do, but a work, which the Holy Spirit does on our behalf.

‘Intercession’ means ‘to fall in on behalf of someone else.’

It is a word of ‘rescue’

If someone fell into a cavern, you would have to descend down into that cavern along with them in order to get them out & rescue them.

**The Holy Spirit, supernaturally joins us in our circumstances, shares our emotions and frustrations, and then begins working a plan to get us out of that mess!**

**The true work of the Holy Spirit occurs when we are at a loss for words and do not know how to pray.**

**Suddenly & supernaturally, the Holy Spirit falls into that place of helplessness and joins with us.**

**Helps us in our infirmities- '*infirmities*' = 'weaknesses of the flesh'**

**When we recognize our own human weakness, we should open our hearts and souls up to this intercessory ministry of the Holy Spirit.**

**Conc:**

**Keep in mind that real spiritual warfare has to do with taking authority over your mind and your flesh – walking in righteousness; then taking authority over the works of darkness.**