

PRAY STRONG



Eph 6:18-20, ESV – ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of June 2, 2019

Eph 6:18-20

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This weekend we were reminded that prayer is our greatest weapon for dealing with spiritual warfare. So, why do believers not pray at all times, in the Spirit, with perseverance, for all the saints, and for clarity and courage in the mission?

2 "The great people of the earth today are the people who pray. I do not mean people who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take time and pray. They have not time. It must be taken from something else. This something else is important. Very important, and pressing, but still less important and less pressing than prayer."¹ Does Gordon's statement still hold true today? If so, what is the lesson that all believers should heed?

3 Paul's exhortation on prayer calls for consistent, intense and strategic prayer. Practically speaking, what does this type of praying look like?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *Rom 8:26-27, ESV* – ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Phil 4:6, ESV – ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

1 Tim 2:1-4, ESV – First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

¹ S. D. Gordon, *Quiet Talks on Prayer* (New York: Grosset & Dunlop, 1941), 12-13.

4 Looking at the passages above, what does it mean to pray in the Spirit?

5 Why is it important to pray for all the saints? Likewise, why is it important to pray for leaders?

6 How does intercessory prayer aid our testimony and our sharing of the gospel with others?

B **Acts 4:29-31, ESV** – ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

2 Cor 5:20, ESV – ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Col 4:2-4, ESV – ² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

7 Looking at the passages above, what was Paul’s prayer request? Was this a physical need?

8 What kind of requests do you usually bring to God? Do they fall more in the category of personal desires or kingdom purposes?

9 What does Paul mean when he refers to us as “ambassadors for Christ?”

10 What practical things can you do to help your church be a New Testament church when it comes to prayer?

TAKING IT HOME

What specific steps do you need to take to lay hold of this secret power of intercessory prayers available to every Christian? What would it look like for you to develop a more consistent, intense, and strategic prayer life? Who do you know that could help you learn to pray in this manner? Share your request with the group and pray together for one another.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Acts 20:27
Romans 12:12
1 Peter 5:9
Jude 20