

Praying in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18-20

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...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, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

James 4:1

You have not because you ask not.

The finest equipped army still needs...

- **Courage**
- **Leadership**
- **Teamwork**
- **Supplies**

Courage



Leadership



Teamwork



Supplies



Nine times of ten an army has been
destroyed because its supply lines
have been severed

— *Douglas MacArthur* —

AZ QUOTES

E.M. Bounds on Prayer

“The work of praying is prerequisite to all other work in the kingdom of God, for the simple reason that it is by prayer that we couple the power of heaven to our helplessness, the power which can ... remove mountains in our own life and in the lives of others, the power which can awaken those who sleep in sin and raise up the dead, the powers which can capture strongholds and make the impossible possible.”

Through prayer...

- **Courage:** Through prayer our hearts are made ready to face the conflict.
- **Leadership:** Through prayer we show our need of the guidance that God provides.
- **Teamwork:** Through prayer we support one another in the Christian family.
- **Supplies:** Through prayer we find the continual supply of God's spiritual life and leadership that we need.

1. Prayer changes our hearts

- **“And pray in the Spirit”**
- **Romans 8:26-27: “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. 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.”**

Prayer is...

- **“Lifting up the soul” (Psalm 25:1)**
- **“Pouring out the heart” (Psalm 62:8)**
- **“Morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation” (Psalm 5:3b)**
- **“Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always” (1 Chron. 16:11)**

New Testament Words for Prayer

- *Proseuchomai* – put forth a request of God (Eph. 6:18; Rom. 8:26)
- *Deesis* – to pray for a felt need, supplication, heart-felt urgent prayer (Eph. 6:18)
- *Aiteo* – ask a favor (Matt 7:7; 1 John 5:14)
- *Homologeō* – to agree with, confess (1 John 1:9)
- *Eucharisteō* – To give thanks to God (Eph. 5:20)

2. Prayer involves God in our lives

- **“To that end, keep alert” or as the KJV states “watching thereunto.”**
- **1 John 5:14-15: “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”**

In prayer...

- **As we walk with hearts submitted to Him, we find He will provide the direction we need.**
- **To Asher God said, “as your days, so shall your strength be” (Deut 33:25), and said, “The eternal God is your dwelling place and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deut 33:27).**
- **God equips us to fight the battles He plans for us to fight. Don’t try to fight someone else’s battle.**

3. Prayer empowers teamwork

- “with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” – that refers to our fellow believers.
- *Deesis* – “supplication” – an urgent felt need, a deep concern for one another.
- Brotherly love and praying for each other goes hand in hand.
- Who do you pray for? Who prays for you?

Battle of Shiroyama, 1877

- Samurai fought individually, valued *bushido*, or the way of the warrior.
- Sept. 24, 1877, 400 Samurai faced 30,000 armed troops fighting together.
- The End of the Shogun and Samurai Era.



Are we...

- **Christian knights or samurai who fight all alone?**
- **Valuing character but neglecting humility?**
- **An army that shoots its wounded?**
- **Aware of our need of one another?**
- **1 Cor. 12:21: “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you.’”**
- **Praying for one another?**

4. Prayer keeps us freshly supplied

- “with all perseverance” – as long as we have the faith to call upon God we can be assured that God will make available His resources to strengthen us to do His will.



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2 Corinthians 1:8-11

“For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.”