

Spiritual Warfare Pt. 4
The Four “All”s of Praying
Ephesians 6:18-19

INTRO: The Christian must put on prayer just as he does every other piece of armor used in spiritual warfare. Our desire should be that our prayer life would be effectual, and that God would deliver us from the evil one. Matthew 6:13 says: “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” The Greek word for evil is *ponero* and refers here to “the evil one, the wicked one, Satan.” We must pray effectually and fervently. James 5:16 says, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

1. “Effectual” - Greek *energeo*- “to be operative, to bear fruit, to bring one into the will of God as the effect of being a praying man.

2. “Fervent”- Greek *zelos* derived from the verb *zeo*- meaning “to boil with heat, to be hot, zeal, fervent in spirit.”

3. “Righteous”- Greek *dikaios*- “upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God.”

Our prayer life is to be operating at all times. It is to be fervent in spirit. To be effective in prayer, the prayer warrior needs to be holy, keeping the commandments of God.

“The first requirement of prayer is to believe. Believe what God is and that ‘he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.’ Believe that God is alive and therefore has power— not only for Peter’s deliverance, but for ours. Believe that God is love and that He cares for His own. Believe that God is power and therefore no power can stand against Him. Believe that God is truth and therefore cannot lie. Believe that God is king and that He will never abdicate His throne or fail in His promise” (Ravenhill).

In Ephesians 6:18, we find the four all’s of prayer; and in 6:19, we have Paul’s request for prayer. It is a specific request - that He might “make known the mystery of the Gospel.”

I. VS. 18a, THE WHEN OF PRAYER

A. “Praying always.” We are to pray at all seasons and on every occasion. A.T. Robertson said: “Prayer is needed for the fight.” (Vol 4 552).

1. “Praying always.” There must be constancy in prayer.

- a. "At no time dare we break contact with God. The enemy watches for praylessness in our lives and then takes advantage of us" (Strauss 241).
 - b. We are constantly in danger of attack, so we must constantly be in prayer. "Pray without ceasing" (I Thes 5:17).
 - c. Do not stop praying when things are going good, when you have health and prosperity; keep praying!!!
 - d. Failure to pray exposes the saint of God to Satan's fiery darts.
 - e. We must be vigilant in prayer whether the day is a normal one or a day of crisis. The God of the mountain is God of the valley also.
2. Our prayer life should be as natural as our breathing. To survive physically, we must breathe. To survive spiritually, we must pray.
- a. We are to be constantly in touch with God. This does not mean that we are to be always on our knees, but we are to be in fellowship with God.
 - b. In 1 Thes. 5:17, Paul exhorts us, "to pray without ceasing."
 - c. "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." This is our Lord's command.

II. VS. 18b, THE ASSORTMENT OF PRAYERS

"All prayer and supplication."

A. The soldier's communication and communion with his commander-in-chief should not be in just one form. Not just give me!

- 1. We must avail ourselves to every method and approach of prayer. There is:
 - a. Private prayer,
 - b. Public prayer,
 - c. Intercessory prayer,
 - d. Family prayer,
 - e. Mealtime prayer,
 - f. P r a y e r o f thanksgiving- This is not just in November.

2. The more that we are in contact with our God, the greater the assortment of our prayers.
- B. The Apostle Paul distinguishes between prayer and supplication.
 1. Prayer is a general term including:

a. Cries for help,	d. Thanksgiving,
b. Confession of sin,	e. Intercession.
c. Adoration,	
 2. Supplication is specific.
 - a. A request for the fulfillment of definite needs: a job, healing, etc.
 - b. The spiritual man is more likely to have definite requests.
- C. We are to pray “in the Spirit.” The opposite of praying in the Spirit is praying in the flesh.
 1. Praying in the flesh is prayer without power.
 2. Our prayers must be guided by the Spirit of God, “for we know not what we should pray for as we ought” (Rom 8:26).
 - a. “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God”-- this must include our prayer life. We need prayer as a weapon.
 - b. To pray in the Spirit, you must be born of the Spirit and led by the Spirit.
 - c. Praying in the Spirit glorifies God and assures victory. (John 14:13; 15:7)

III. VS. 18c, THE MODE OF PRAYER

“Watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication.”

- A. “Watching” means “to be alert, watchful.”
 1. The disciples, Peter, James, and John, were asleep in the garden when they should have been alert and praying. Jesus said, “What could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matt. 26:40-41).
 2. Spiritual drowsiness leaves the gates of our spiritual compound open to the enemy. We must give no ground to Satan.

- B. Prayer must be persevering if it is to attain its objective (Gal. 6:9). Prayer is well-doing. We are not to fain in prayer.
- IV. VS. 18d, PRAYING FOR “ALL SAINTS”
- A. All believers are in the family of God, and we need to pray for the saints.
 - 1. All saints living today are under Satan’s attack - so we need to pray for each other.
 - 2. Christ has soldiers all over the earth, and we need to remember our fellow soldiers.
 - 3. Every day is “All Saints Day” for the prayer warrior. We are praying for the living saints who are right now in the battle.
 - B. Our missionaries need our prayers. Other church bodies need prayer.
- V. VS. 19, PAUL’S SPECIAL REQUEST
- A. Paul was a prisoner in Rome when he dictated the book of Ephesians (vs 20).
 - B. Although in bonds, Paul was in the thick of the battle, and he felt the need of prayer.
 - 1. He was in a prison cell, yet he was a Christian soldier.
 - 2. Paul did not request that the Ephesians pray for his release. He prayed for boldness to speak, to preach the Gospel (Rom 1:16).
 - a. Every preacher needs prayer.
 - b. The desire of every God called preacher is to preach the Gospel with boldness. Brethren pray for me!

CONCLUSION: Prayer is needful in the fight! Pray!

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