

19th/20th February 2014

Home Group Study Notes

The Armour of God - 1

Ephesians 6:10-20



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Read: Ephesians 6:18 – 20

In these verses Paul talks about the final piece of God's armour – prayer. Prayer is the energy that enables the Christian soldier to wear the armour and wield the sword. We cannot fight the battle in our own power no matter how strong, talented, or knowledgeable we are, so tonight we want to encourage our praying '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.'

1. **HOW:**

Read: Eph 2:18, 5:18, 6:18 I Thess 5:1-11, 1 Peter 5:8

What does praying in the Spirit mean to you? Consider:

- prayer inspired by and guided by the Holy Spirit
- we are in a battle with attacks and casualties coming our way
- prayer looking towards the Lord's return
- We are to be persistent. (See Luke 11:5-8.) Is this easy? What practical steps can we take to help us persevere?

2. **WHEN:** 'On all occasions' In a constant attitude of prayer.

Can you relate to that? Can you share a specific time that illustrates the benefits of this?

Does that preclude having set times when you talk with the Lord? Daniel prayed three times a day regularly. Do we have regular times set aside to pray? Do you think it necessary?

How often and how regularly do you meet with other Christians specifically to pray? Is praying with others important? If it is important to pray together, what opportunities do you take to do so? Consider:

- the Wednesday 7:00am or 8:00pm prayer meeting
- a prayer triplet
- prayer groups for a specific purpose such as missions
- The Sunday pre-service prayer time
- your home group

What does neglect of prayer say about our state of readiness for the struggle against God's enemy?

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3. **WHERE:**

Read: Matthew 6:6

You may have a special place where you love to go to pray privately and habitually. You may not even always sit in a chair to pray. Perhaps you stand, kneel or prostrate yourself? Share your prayer space with the group.

4. **WHAT:** 'With all kinds of prayers and petitions' There is nothing beyond the scope of prayer.

Some people use an 'aide memoire' to help them focus on prayer items. What do you do to help you focus?

Is your prayer life in a rut? How many kinds of prayer can you think of?

Paul says to pray 'with all kinds of prayers and requests'. Are prayers different from petitions?

5. **WHO:** Paul says to pray for *all* the saints.

For folk in our church? In other churches? In persecuted countries? In hospital? In countries around the world? In prison? In mission? But are you really interested enough to be persistent in prayer?

What could you do to strengthen your relationships with fellow Christians, both locally and abroad in a way that means we can intercede for each other?

- For example - Instead of spending too much time talking to friends about what we should pray about, how about setting a time when we start praying and stick to it?
- Instead of promising to pray about something and then forgetting about it, why not pray there and then – even on the phone!
- Paul says to pray for 'all the saints', but in the context of putting on the armour of God. Does he mean us not to pray for others? Who else should we pray for? Do we consistently, privately or in fellowship, meaningfully, pray as we ought?

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6. **WHY:** In verse 20, Paul is completely open about his need for other Christians to pray for him and his needs specifically.

Read: Galatians. 5:15, 1 Thess 5:11, Colossians 3:12.

- Why do we need support in prayer?
- How can we help support and encourage others to pray?
- Why not actively plan to pray – without a plan, we may not pray effectively.

7. **PRAY:** Thank God for the spiritual armour He has given. Consider: Exodus 15:1-3 Jeremiah 20:11 Psalm 144:1-2 Revelation 19:11-16. Pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit others may come to know him as Saviour and that we and our fellow Christian brothers and sisters will continue in Christ to the glory of God the Father. Pray silently for the person on your right!

At the name of Jesus, Satan's host doth flee;
On then Christian soldiers, On to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver At the shout of praise:
Brothers, lift your voices, Loud your anthems raise.

*Onward Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
Looking unto Jesus,
Who has gone before.*

Our next Home Group is on 5th/6th March.