

# *SPIRITUAL WARFARE*

## The Christian's Holy War

### PRAYER

**Ephesians 6:10-18** <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray 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 saints.

Strictly speaking, Prayer is not considered one of the weapons in the Armor of God. However, even while wearing God's Armor, the Spirit-filled Christian is in need of clear and constant communication with God by praying to the Father, Son or the Holy Spirit. Close contact with the Commander-in-Chief will enable victory in life's Spiritual battles. In this study, the Biblical characteristics and purposes for Prayer will be presented.

**Prayer provides Sustained Contact with the Supreme Commander.** Psalms 5, 17, 54, 55

***Psalms 31:3*** Since you [LORD] are my rock & my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

**Biblical Traits of Powerful Prayer for the Christian Warrior.**

Prayer Should Always have a Sense of Watchfulness. Matthew 25:13, Mark 13:32-33, Luke 12:40, Colossians 4:2

***Mark 14:37b-38a*** "Simon," [Jesus] said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

***Matthew 24:42, 44*** "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ... So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

God Desires and Commands Prayers of Supplication. 1 Kings 3:5, John 16:23b-24, James 4:1-3

***Matthew 7:7-8*** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Luke 11:9-10

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**1 John 5:14-15** This is the confidence we have in approaching God: 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 what we asked of him.

A Vital Purpose for Prayer is to Pray for Others. [Matthew 5:43-45a](#), [Luke 23:34](#), [Acts 7:60](#)

**Job 42:10** After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.

A Godly Prayer Life is One of Faithfulness. [Philippians 1:3-6](#), [2 Timothy 1:3-4](#)

**Romans 12:11-12** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Prayer Must be Offered up with Persistence [Luke 18:1-8](#), [Acts 1:14](#), [Ephesians 6:18](#), [Colossians 1:9](#)

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Daily Prayer Prepares the Believer for the Times of Trial [Luke 5:16](#), [Acts 7:59](#)

**Matthew 14:29-30** Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

The Praying of a Spirit-Filled Christian has Great Power [Psalm 106:23](#), [John 9:31](#)

**James 5:16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Dependence on the Holy Spirit is Crucial to Effective Prayer [Jude 1:20](#)

**Romans 8:26-27** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

**God Promised to Provide for Praying Christians.** [Jeremiah 33:3](#)

**Philippians 4:6-7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**A model for prayer can be remembered using the acronym ACTS:**

**Adoration:** Take time to worship God, because He alone is worthy of our praise.

**Confession:** Confess personal & national sin, and ask Him for the strength to change.

**Thanksgiving:** The sins of the Christian are forgiven, so thank Him for all blessings.

**Supplication:** Present to Him concerns for self and others; He cares about them all.

Please forward questions/concerns about these notes to ron price, [pricegang@integrity.com](mailto:pricegang@integrity.com), 505-294-4743.

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Prayer and obedience <sup>John 14:12,15, 15:14</sup> are the primary ways for the Christian to activate God's power <sup>Romans 15:13</sup> and provision in their life, as well as discern God's will <sup>Micah 6:8b</sup> for their life. The prayer of the genuine believer is empowered by the guaranteed inheritance <sup>Ephesians 1:13-14</sup> of the Holy Spirit <sup>John 14:16-17, 16:13, Romans 5:5, Galatians 4:4-7</sup>, and so the Prayerful Warrior will be armed with the very best protection: the *Armor of God*.

**1 Kings 3:5** At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

**Psalms 54:1-3** Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might. Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth. Strangers are attacking me; ruthless men seek my life – men without regard for God.

**Jeremiah 33:3** Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

**Micah 6:8b** And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

**Matthew 5:43-45a** "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

**Luke 5:16** Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

**Luke 18:1** Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

**John 9:31** We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will.

**John 14:15** "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

**John 14:16-17** "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

**Acts 7:59** While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

**Acts 7:60** Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Romans 5:5** And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

**Colossians 1:9** For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

**Colossians 4:2** Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

**2 Timothy 1:3-4** I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so I may be filled with joy.

**James 4:1-3** What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

**Jude 1:20** But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

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