

# Warfare and Prayer

## **Ephesians 6:10-20**

<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. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

### **I. Review**

#### **(1) Ephesians 6:1-12**

- Not an afterthought but the main point!
- We're at war, not with flesh and blood, but "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"

#### **(2) Ephesians 6:13-18**

- It's God's armor... **Isaiah 59:17** "*He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.*"
- But we still have to "put it on"!
- Note well, that one of the great battlegrounds of our spiritual warfare is our minds!

### **II. How Is Prayer Related to God's Armor?**

Verse 18 marks a transition in Paul's thought, as he moves from the armor of God to his emphasis upon prayer. In verses 18-20, Paul mentions prayer 5 times!

**What is the relationship between prayer and the armor of God? Is prayer another part of the armor, or something else?"**

In the original language, verses 14 to 20 are one long sentence. What Paul writes in verses 17 and 18 should read this way, "*Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **praying** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*"

**When we read it this way, how does it change the meaning?**

### **III. How Does Paul Want Us To Pray?**

- (1) Pray... on *all* occasions.
- (2) Pray... with *all* kinds of prayers and requests.
- (3) Pray... for *all* the saints.

What does “praying in the Spirit” mean?

### **IV. The Divine Human Partnership**

#### **Genesis 1:26-28**

Then God said, “Let us make man *in our image, in our likeness*, and let them *rule* over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man *in his own image, in the image of God* he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. *Rule* over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

#### **Psalm 8:3-8.**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? *You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings* and crowned him with glory and honor. *You made him ruler over the works of your hands*; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

#### **Psalm 115:16**

“The highest heavens belong to the LORD, *but the earth he has given [or assigned] to man.*”

### **IV. God Works Through the Prayers of his People**

**John Wesley** – “God does nothing on earth save in answer to believing prayer.”

**Blaise Pascal** – “God instituted prayer in order to lend to His creatures the dignity of causality.”

**Andrew Murray** – “God’s giving is inseparably connected to our asking... Only by intercession can that power be brought down from heaven which will enable the Church to conquer the world.”

**S.D. Gordon** – “You can do more than pray *after* you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed... Prayer is striking the winning blow... service is gathering up the results.”

**Chuck Kraft** – “Through a study of Scripture informed by years of life experience in ministry, I have become convinced that God has made a rule that neither He nor any other spirit being [i.e. Satan] can operate in the human sphere without a human partner.”