

The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Warfare

Ephesians 6:18-20

Introduction

Prayer and Spiritual Warfare

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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 Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Exposition

I. **Pray for your own strength.**

Notice the first phrase: Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

Our prayers should consist of thanksgiving, praise, and petition. And we are to make these prayers "in the Spirit," which means we are to be guided and led by the Spirit in our prayer to ensure that we are praying according to God's will. When we pray, we express our need for strength from God through prayer. In fact, prayer is one of the greatest expressions of our need before God. When we pray, we say, "God, I am not sufficient, but you are. You are bigger than my pain and my problems. You alone can bear my burdens. O' Lord, please help me."

T.S. - In addition to our own strength...

II. **Pray for others.**

Consider Paul's next statement: With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

We are to persevere in prayer for others. For other believers, we ought to pray for their strength in the spiritual battle. For those who are straying, we ought to pray that they would be restored. For those who have not yet placed their trust in Christ, we ought to pray that God would give them eyes to see and ears to hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We ought to be committed to bearing the burdens of others in prayer. For this to be true, this means that we must be in fellowship with others so that we might know their needs and their struggles and intercede for them. Prayer for others is an expression of love for others.

T.S. - As a final concern in our prayer...

III. Pray for the advancement of the Gospel.

Notice what Paul says in verse 19, which states: “Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.”

When we pray for the advancement of the Gospel, we are praying that people will hear and receive the goodness of Jesus through the faithful ministry of God’s people and that the Holy Spirit would accompany such ministry. Furthermore, we ought to be praying for ministers all around our community as they “make known the mystery of the gospel.” We ought to pray that God would thwart the efforts of false teachers and protect the church from false doctrines that undermine the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

We ought to be praying for our missionaries who are serving Christ all over the world. We ought to be praying for our own pastors and ministers at Copperfield Church. We ought to be praying for our own efforts to advance the gospel among our friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers.

God has ordained that the great commission to make disciples of all nations would be carried forth by a people filled by the Holy Spirit and faithful in prayer.

Conclusion

Spend time closing in these prayers...