

EPHESIANS

God's Provisions for His Church

Section III

The Believer's Warfare

Chapter 6:10 – 24

EPHESIANS

**“The Power Behind the
Armor”**

Ephesians 6:17-20

“The Power behind the Armor”

Intro:

Prayer **assists** us in utilizing the Armor of God effectively. It has not been given to us to **increase** our comfort level, but to assist us in **warfare** and to help accomplish our **mission**.

Using Habakkuk we see how prayer **adjusts** our attitude so we see the issues we face through God's **perspective**. Through prayer God changes our heart so He can work on the issue to bring Him **glory** and victory to us. While prayer may not change our **circumstances**, it will change our **perspective**.

The reason for ineffective prayer may be we're not **engaged** in the battle and prayer becomes a **means** to get stuff.

James 4:2-3.

“The Power behind the Armor”

Intro:

The power of **prayer** was not given to the church to win **comforts**, but to wield a weapon.

Prayer is an **adjustment** of the attitude of our heart to **reality**. Facing life that way;

1. We are able to **live** more effective, joyful, productive lives,
2. We will **understand** what's going on in the world and why,
3. We are able to **arm** ourselves for the battle that rages around us and **within**.

“The Power behind the Armor”

I. Our Armor is empowered with all prayer.

Prayer and petition are often **linked** together by Paul. **Supplication** and petition come from same Greek word. **Phil. 4:6** and **1 Tim. 2:1**.

While hard to see a distinction, **Prayer** seems to be a **general** term while **petition** may refer to a **specific** prayer for a specific outcome.

The point is, our armor is **empowered** by all types of prayer depending on the **battle**.

“The Power behind the Armor”

II. We're to Pray at All Times

For us to be **geared** up we need to be **prayed** up. The term, “at **all times**” or, “without ceasing” is actually “at **every opportunity**”.

Prayer should be a **perpetual** communing with our Heavenly **Father**.

Prayer is not our **last** resort. John Bunyan: “You **can** do more than pray, **after** you have prayed. But you **can't** do more than pray **until** you have prayed.”

“The Power behind the Armor”

III. We are to Pray in the Spirit

This is a **common** NT principal. **Jude 20**. It does not mean praying in **tongues**. That's not a biblical definition. What it means is praying in **harmony** with the Spirit, praying **consistently** with the mind of the Spirit and the **will** of God. **Rom. 8:26-27**. It is praying,

1. In **accordance** with God's word
2. In **dependence** on the Spirit,
3. In the **direction** and **power** of the Spirit.

“The Power behind the Armor”

IV. We are to Pray Alertly with all Perseverance

Alertly means **awake** and vigilant, like a sentry on duty in wartime. **Jesus** in the garden tells His disciples to remain **watchful** lest they fall into temptation. **Matt. 26:41.**

Persevering in prayer means to **pray** and not lose **heart** when we don't get **immediate** results.

Perseverance is **often** connected with prayer;
Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4; Rom. 12:12 and Col. 4:2.

It is to **devote** yourself constantly to **prayer** and trust God. **Ps. 27:14.**

“The Power behind the Armor”

V. We need to Pray for All the Saints

We are **connected** as a family. We do not live in **isolation** to one another. What affects **one** member affects **all** the rest. We need to be **watching** each other's back through prayer.

We need to **especially** keep our **leaders** in prayer. Spurgeon attributes his evangelistic **success** to his peoples' **prayers** for him. As Paul asked for prayer to **boldly** and clearly proclaim the gospel, we should **ask** the same prayer for **ourselves** and for our **brothers** and **sisters**. To be **victorious** against **evil** in our battle, we must be people of **prayer**.