

THE FOUR "ALL'S" OF PRAYER

Text: Ephesians 6:18

Introduction:

1. The armor of God enables the Christian to stand against the "wiles of the devil."
2. Yet, one part of that armor that is often overlooked or neglected is prayer.
 - a. Like the sword of the Spirit, prayer is both an offensive and defensive tool.
 - b. There is a connection between the battle and prayer (Mark 9:28-29).
 - c. On the battlefield, prayer is our connection to our Commander!
3. Prayer is vital to the life of a Christian and necessary to be pleasing unto God.
4. At a time of thanksgiving, it is good to reflect upon the privilege of prayer.

I. Praying At All Times

- A. The phrase "praying always" literally means, "Praying through all times."
 1. ASV – "Praying at all seasons"
 2. ESV – "Praying at all times"
 3. It means to pray at every occasion – in preparation for, during, and after battle with the enemy.
- B. We must be a people who constantly and consistently pray.
- C. Let us remember the basics of prayer:
 1. Directed to the Father by the authority of the Son (John 16:23)
 2. Preceded and followed by obedience (1 Peter 3:12)
 3. Offered in faith (James 1:5-6; Matthew 21:22)
 4. Grounded in reverence (Psalm 89:7; 111:9; Matthew 6:9)
 5. Composed of four parts:
 - a. **A** - Adoration
 - b. **C** - Confession
 - c. **T** - Thanksgiving
 - d. **S** - Supplication (including Intercession)
- D. Prayer is a work that requires diligent effort.

II. Praying With All Prayer

- A. "All prayer and supplication" refers to the different kinds of prayer found in the Word of God (cf. 1 Tim. 2:1).
- B. Prayers of Praise (Acts 4:24-28; 16:25; 2 Kings 19:15-19; Neh. 9:6)
- C. Prayers of Thanksgiving (Dan. 6:10; Matt. 15:36; Lk. 17:16; 2 Cor. 9:11, 15; Eph. 5:20; Col. 2:7; 3:17; 4:2; 1 Thes. 5:18)
- D. Prayers of Confession (1 John 1:9; Neh. 1:6; Psa. 32:5; 51:1-5; Dan. 9:4-6)
- E. Prayers of Supplication
 1. We must make personal supplications – prayers for our own needs (Phil. 4:6; Psa. 55:22; 62:8; Matt. 7:7-8).
 2. Yet, we must also make supplications (intercessions) on behalf of others.
- F. The Christian must practice all types of prayer.

III. Praying With All Perseverance

- A. Our prayers must involve “watching” – “To keep awake, be attentive and ready.”
 - 1. The Christian must be vigilant in remaining on guard against the enemy (Matt. 26:41; Luke 22:46; Col. 4:2; 1 Pet. 4:7).
 - 2. When he attacks, we must pray – for ourselves or for others.
- B. Our prayers must involve persistence.
 - 1. Not “vain repetitions”
 - 2. But perseverance (Luke 18:1-8)
- C. We must never give up in our fight against the wiles of the devil.

IV. Praying For All Saints

- A. Christians are to pray for all men (1 Tim. 2:1).
- B. However, we must pray especially for our brethren.
 - 1. Evangelists (Eph. 6:19)
 - 2. Preachers
 - 3. Elders
 - 4. Deacons
 - 5. Teachers
 - 6. The church (Eph. 1:16; Matt. 6:10)
 - 7. The persecuted
 - 8. The suffering
 - 9. The tempted
 - 10. The victorious
- C. The prayers of the saints make a powerful weapon against the enemy.