



## **“The Christian’s Energy”**

*The Church’s Conduct*

Ephesians 6:18-20

*Prayer was intended to be:*

### **I. Characteristic** - “praying always with all prayer” (v. 18)

*Effective prayer involves :*

- A. Practice** – “Praying always”
- B. Purpose** – “with all prayer”
- C. Perception** – “watching ...with all perseverance”
- D. People** – “for all saints”

### **II. Charitable**—“watching thereunto” (v. 19)

*Effective prayer gives :*

- A. Words** - “utterance may be given”
- B. Wisdom** - “may open my mouth boldly ”
- C. Witness** - “to make known the mystery ”

### **III. Churchy** -“Above all ” (v. 20)

*Effective prayer is needed to :*

- A. Enlighten** – “ambassador in bonds”
- B. Engage** – “may speak boldly”
- C. Enlist** – “as I ought to speak ”

## Sentence Sermon:

**“To seize the victory, the Christian’s armour must be energized through prayer.”**

## Additional Verses

- **Exodus 17:8-16**
- **Psalms 66:17; 95:2**
- **Matthew 6:7, 9-13**
- **I Thessalonians 5:17**
- **I Corinthians 14:15**
- **Philippians 1:3-4; 4:6**
- **I Timothy 2:1**
- **Job 42:10**
- **Romans 8:26-27; 12:12; 15:30**
- **Nehemiah 4:9**
- **Mark 13:33; 14:29, 67-72**
- **Acts 1:14; 2:42; 4:29; 6:4; 12:1-19; 20:4**

## Questions to Ponder:

- 1. What does the four usages of the word “all” in verse 18 tell us about prayer? Is this common practice?
- 2. How does Hebrews 4:15 inform who we should pray to? How about Romans 8:26?
- 3. What should we be “watching” for when we pray?
- 4. Why is perseverance an important aspect of prayer?
- 5. Does prayer really work in providing boldness? Why? Are there any Biblical examples?

Hint: Acts 4:23-33

## **Ephesians is written to the Church We have talked about Spiritual Warfare, The Christian Warrior, and the Christian Armour.**

### **What was one of the toughest issues with armor in ancient days?**

> Story of the Disciples could not cast out the demons...why...prayer was needed to win the spiritual victory.

V. 18

- Praying = connected to the putting on of armour...what you are doing to assure victory and usefulness of the armour.
- Always = should be “at all times or in all situations” joining the other 3 times all is used in this verse
- With all prayer = through all kinds of prayer...like:
  - A – adoration = worship/devotion
  - C – confession = agreement with God
  - T – thanksgiving = praise
  - S – supplication = requests for others and ourselves

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- In the Spirit = in the Spirit’s power and leading... We don’t even know what to pray...look at Romans 8:26...The Spirit gets it straight for us
  - We pray to the Father – Matthew 6:9
  - In the name of the Son – John 14:14
  - By the power and influence of the Spirit – Romans 8:26-27
- And watching = to stay awake, to be watchful, vigilant, to pass a sleepless night...to be alert before, during, and after prayer
- With all perseverance = “to hold out or wait”...anxiously awaiting a conclusion...the outcome of a court case...the arrival or delivery of a baby
  - We do not persevere in prayer as though we are twisting God’s arm but rather we are persevering in prayer until God can twist our arm leaving us to rest in His wisdom and ways.
    - Robert Law puts it this way, “ Prayer is not for getting man’s will done in heaven; it is getting God’s will done on Earth.”
- Supplication = asking or entreating
- For all saints = for the holy ones or separated ones

V. 19

- And for me = not only for all saints generally, but also for Paul specifically...those who have ministry in their sights.
- That utterance = “logos” he asks for prayer that God would grant him the right words
- May be given unto me = the idea of receiving from another...He wants God’s chosen words for his conversations.
- That I may open my mouth = to speak up and be heard
- Boldly = speak with confidence and completeness.
- To make known = The purpose of his speech
- The mystery of the gospel = “the church” – He needs to be able to explain to the Roman world that Christianity is not a sect of Judaism or a heretical group of Jews but a whole new entity...the body of Christ...the Church!!

V. 20

- For which = for the Church
- I am an ambassador = may speak of being older, more up on the subject at hand, experienced, spokesperson
- In bonds = “coupling chain” – the picture is of Paul being handcuffed to a Roman soldier or guard.
- That therein = that even in this predicament...Paul believed he it was ordained of God for him to witness.
- I may speak boldly = frankly, openly, completely, everything with boldness
- As I ought to speak = all that is necessary
- To speak = to use the tongue

***Effective Evangelism begins and ends with a prayer.***