

Prayer – The Most Neglected Weapon of Warfare

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Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

You know I started thinking about this for the new year – as we enter into this, you know, this year, what the Lord has done for us this past year. We've talked a lot over the past couple years about spiritual warfare and some of you have experienced this warfare recently; where you've seen it first hand. And these are really fore-shadowings of what's to come. That's all this is, ok? This is a very... this is God preparing you, that's what this is. This is God preparing you. God really meant it when He said come out from among them and be ye separate, thus saith the Lord God. I'm going to tell you something right now, when you decide to come out from among them, and be ye separate, that's when you're going to see everybody around you, those that are plugged into all of this world; they're plugged into this world. Those people, they're going to hate you when you do that. You're going to be despised. You know, I wonder how these churches around this country can be so big, they're so big, and they're so... everybody is so complacent. And nobody's mad at anybody, for

anything important anyway. Besides the color of the carpet in the building or something. But other than that nobody's really upset with anybody, nobody really has any doctrinal issues. And most of these churches, they don't even talk about the Bible. It doesn't even come up! So why do you think when you tell somebody, well, I don't celebrate christmas anymore. It's like you just said that you don't believe in Jesus or something! That's how they treat you. Like you don't even believe in Jesus anymore, do you?! What are you talking about? I follow Him. And do you know what He did? He showed me in His Word that I'm not supposed to be worshiping ba'al! I don't need a tree. Some joker preached a sermon the other day and said that the tree... A brother called me on the phone and he was disturbed. He asked, Pastor, what am I supposed to do? We teach our children this is wrong. I go to church and find that pastor, or this evangelist that was here, fine if he celebrates that in his own home, I mean, I know it's wrong, but he does it, but does he have to come into the church? And does he have to tell people that that christmas tree is a picture of the Cross of Christ? And talk about how the light is Jesus on the tree? And I was like, you're making all that up! And his kid's looking at him, his kid's 9 years old, right? And his kid can discern, and you know what he says? His kid's like... Dad... umm... And the guy even got the kid involved and asked what else is on a tree, making the kid basically respond to him in his idolatry. And he's got to agree with it. So the kid's like... I mean... I guess there's lights on a tree... And he's already taught his kids this. So what most pastors want me to say is you should just return to your local church and submit yourself to that and go through all that... I'm not going to do it, ok? I can't. I can't do that. I've got to answer to God one day. And I can't do those things. I refuse to do it anymore. I'm just not doing it. I'm not going to make excuses for these Baptist that don't want to live for God. I'm not going to make excuses for these people that don't want to enter into spiritual warfare. I'm not going to make excuses for them. If someone calls me and asks me about doctrinal questions, I'm going to tell them the truth, and I'm going to be like I can't tell you what to do, but all I know is I wouldn't do it. I mean, what am I supposed to tell you? A lie? Am I supposed to lie to them and say, yeah, just go keep giving your offering and keep going there. No. You know what these people

need to do? They need to move and go to good churches; that's what they need to do. And support those churches so they can send out more people that are willing to sacrifice and get in the war. That they're willing to do right. You know what? We got a man in Richmond, WI right now. You know what? Move there! Just pick up and move there and serve the Lord! If your convictions are real, move. If you can't and you're land-locked for some reason or whatever the case may be, I understand that, then pray and try to do the best you can to do right. But I'll tell you something: this war is serious. Because we're coming down to you're either going to be anti-Christ or Christ. Either you're going to follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth or you're going to follow the anti-Christ spirit. Because there is so much deceit and deception out there today it is rampant! I can't believe how much deception is out there! When you have somebody that satanically turns on you and treats you like a devil because you say, well, we don't celebrate christmas anymore. After all the love and care and kindness you've shown them and they turn. And then you ask these people one question, well, where in the Bible do you see any of this? Crickets. Crickets. No answers. Well, there's nothing against it! Oh yeah, there's a whole lot against it. Let me show you. Which, of course, they say no, I can't show you, and we're just celebrating Christ's birth.

Anyway, that wasn't really part of the sermon but it is part of the warfare. It is part of understanding it, and putting it in perspective. We've been talking about warfare and your experience. When you stand up and you're going to do what's right your family's not going to like it; your friends are not going to like it; some of your closest friends that you have in this world that name the name of Christ will separate themselves from you. The Bible says they will put you out of the synagog, is what Jesus said to His disciples at that time. They will think that they do God a service by killing you and separating themselves from you. Amen. This is the beginning of Matthew 24. you're seeing the foreshadowings of it right now. Amen. It's time to make the hard decisions. It's time. Because these things aren't hard. We're in liberty and freedom and we just say hey. And grandma just gives us a bad look. If that's persecution, bring on more grandmas then, ok? Amen.

I'm not trying to lessen your load or anything or make you feel

bad, but let's just face it, ok? If the worst persecution I have to take is making grandma mad... so be it. Grandma, you'll just have to get mad. I love Jesus. Come on. Let's think about this and put it in perspective. If that's the worst that it gets right now, we'd better use that to prepare for the next battle, because it's going to get a whole lot worse. Because the more you cut this Bible straight down; the more you follow it; the more razor-edge you follow it; the more the battle is going to ramp up. It's going to heat up, it's going to work up and it's going to make people upset. Amen. It just is.

Ephesians 6

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,

See these battles you're facing? I want you to start looking at the devil behind it. Stop looking at the faces. The faces are irrelevant. It's the spirit behind it. Do you understand that? Once you understand that in your mind it doesn't matter if it's your mom, if it's your dad, if it's your cousin, whatever spirit is motivating that and pushing it behind it – that's what you've got to pray against. Do you understand that? That's what I'm going to talk about tonight. Because it's a spirit of deception and confusion, and it's everywhere! It's a spirit of deception and confusion and it's there. It's real.

Ephesians 6

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Look at that, he says, exhaust everything. Having done all, having put all that armor on, having made sure that it was on, stand therefore having your loins gird about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. God help us. That's got to be it, the

Breastplate of Righteousness. Amen. It's got to be there. And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Ok. Listen. We're in a war. We're on enemy territory, but we've got our feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Listen. We don't mean these people any harm. We want them to hear the truth. We want them to hear the love of the truth that they might be saved. Because most people are deceived. The deceivableness of unrighteousness, the Bible says, that's what's coming. That spirit of deception is growing stronger and stronger. And we're seeing it more and more! Every single day. It's unbelievable the reports and the things that we see in the news and just in churches in general around. The deception is just growing and we've got to cut it clear. We've got to make it clear to people. It says here, above all, taking the Shield of Faith. I like that. I've preached on that before, that above all the Shield of Faith and what that means, but taking the Shield of Faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

You know you all have experienced some of those fiery darts. You've had some thrown at you. But you know why you can withstand those? Because of the Shield of Faith. Because you know in whom you have believed and you are persuaded that He's able to keep that which you've committed unto Him, even against that day! That's why. I want people to wake up! Amen.

And take the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God! Look at that, it says here and take the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. You know when we went and we battle these things and we try to talk to people, what do we take? We take the Word of God! What won't they hear? The Word of God. All they hear is you hate Santa Claus. All they hear is you hate Jesus' birthday, what's the matter with you? You don't want to celebrate Jesus' birthday and I don't know who you are anymore! And you're just... What's wrong with you? You must be in a cult! No, cults worship trees. They bow under every green tree, they cut trees out of the forest, they deck them with gold and silver, they fasten them (Jeremiah 10:4) I mean that would be what God warned against, so, that wouldn't be us, because we're warning against that. We're trying to tell you not to do that. So please don't sling accusations like that because then we would have to tell you the truth

that no, you're the one that's resembling a cult. Because we're not doing that. It's mean to say things like that but it is the truth. Not that they're in a cult, but they're learning the way of the heathen.

Amen.

But notice this, take the Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, this is what we're going to focus on tonight; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. We're going to concentrate on this here tonight. One of the most neglected aspects of spiritual warfare is prayer. I'm telling you, it's one off the most neglected aspects of this spiritual warfare but is the only other offensive weapon that we have. Do you realize that? We have the Sword of the Spirit and we have prayer. We don't have any other weapons. We have defensive weapons to protect us from the fiery darts of the wicket but you know what? I want to talk to you tonight about that other offensive weapon that you've neglected. The weapon that is so neglected and put down. It's the reason why the soldier today has little power to stand against the wiles of the devil. It's the reason why he can't stand in the day of adversity. Because he has not prayed with all supplication. He has not prayed always with all supplication. I like what E.M. Bounds said, Prayer honors God, acknowledges His being, exalts His power, adores His providence and secures His aid. Prayer. He (Paul) says, praying always. Look at that. Praying always. We most certainly must have the Sword of the Spirit to battle the devil, we have to have that, and to battle his kingdom. I don't know if you realize it or not, but your life is about more than just showing up to church a couple of times a week and the rest of it not being a Christian. You are in a war! And you are a soldier! In a WAR! And you are fighting a kingdom! You are on the side of the King of kings and Lord of lords! You are a soldier chosen by Christ. And you are warring against the devil's kingdom. It kind of goes beyond singing three songs, getting three points in a poem and going home. Your life is about more than that! We are soldiers in a battle. We're in a war! The Word of God is our sword and we wage war with it and we get victory with it. And we see the devils run! When we preach and quote Scriptures on the streets, we watch and see the devils flee! They don't want to stick around. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Jesus, what did He do? He used the Sword of the Spirit against satan. He could have done a lot of things against him. I mean, he could have just kicked him and sent him flying, like, five miles away or something. He could have just blocked him or made Himself invisible, not to see Him. Do you know He could have done anything He wanted to do?! He could have just thrown him in Hell because He felt like it. Because He's God! But He didn't. Why? Because He made Himself a man, and He was/is our perfect example. He was/is our High Priest forever after the Order of Melchizedek, right? He is that High Priest. And what did He show us? What did He show us? He showed us you use the Word of God, but what did Jesus say? Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation. Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation! Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation; over and over and over again (Matthew 26:41). And he warned that. Use the Word of God and pray. But prayer is specifically mentioned as part of the warfare and I believe it's one of the most neglected aspects of the war that we are waging against anti-Christ. I believe it's the easiest one to neglect. It is the easiest one to put down and not do. It's the easiest one that you and I can overlook and make excuses for of why we can't pray. Amen. It's true, isn't it? Man, we're tired, and you know what? So was Peter, and Peter went to sleep, and know what happened to Peter when he went to sleep? The very next thing he denied Christ three times! Now how many times in your life have you denied the Lord and not stood bold when you should have? Because you were not praying but you were sleeping! And you weren't ready for the war. And what I want you to do this year is I want, yes we're fighting a war, and yes we understand this, but we need to be prepared for the war. We need to be praying always. We have to pray! Brother, it's not time to put down the Sword and to quit praying. It's time to pick up the sword and keep praying, and pray always like Paul said here. Pray always. You know, well, you might say I haven't waged war against the devil. Well, let me tell you, that doesn't matter, he's already waging war against you, whether you realize it or not you're either fighting or you're giving in. But make no mistake about it, he's waging war against you. He hates you with a great hatred. And his only desire is to destroy you. He has no desire but to destroy you and see you as a casualty on that battlefield.

Without the Sword and the indwelling Spirit of God, we would be no match for him. But you know what? I believe there's a chink so-to-speak or there's something left out of the armor, not because it's depleted because of the Lord's side, the armor is sure, it works! But you have to put it on! You have to put on the whole Armor of God. And praying always, the Bible says.

Paul tells us elsewhere in the Scriptures to pray without ceasing. It's the same thing as to pray always. He says in another place (1Thess 5:17) pray without ceasing, same thing.

Spiritual work is taxing work. And men are loathe to do it. Praying, true praying costs an outlay of serious attention at a time which flesh and blood do not relish. There's something about our flesh that hates praying. There's something about us that really does not like to pray. Does it really do any good? I mean, do I really need to spend this much time? And is it really profitable? Do I really see it that way? Is it really having an effect? Yeah. Especially on you when you neglect it. It has a great effect on you. You know, brother, you can go out and you can preach everyday of the week out there on the streets, you can preach out there; you can scream; you can holler; you can put together sermons. But if you're not in a prayer closet; if you're not praying always; if you have no time to pray; then you're working twice as hard with little results. Always in the mindset of prayer, always able to pray to the Father in Heaven as we have access to Him through the Blood of Christ. It's so vitally important that we be praying always as we enter this new year; as we battle and wage war for the Lord. Without Christ we can do nothing. Without praying always we are fighting without one of our weapons. Do you realize that? When you go about your day thinking I don't need to pray. Say, I've already read my Bible today, but I don't need to pray. Yes. You do. You know half the things you wouldn't get into if you prayed? Do you know half the struggles that you have during the day you wouldn't have if you prayed. If you prayed for those people that upset you; if you prayed for your brethren; you probably wouldn't be upset with him. Amen. If you prayed for your wife you wouldn't be upset at her. If you prayed for your husband, you probably wouldn't be upset with him.

The last weapon that is mentioned is prayer and it takes it all sorts of prayer. Notice this he says praying always, there is mental,

and vocal and public and private prayer. I want to say that again to you because some of you are so one dimensional in your prayer. You think it's got to be some sacred spot or you don't pray until you're in that sacred spot. Don't get mad at me. Mental. Why do you think he said praying always? You can be praying in this room right now. You and I sometimes believe our lips must be moving. You know I had a guy tell me one time he used to come to this church, and he told me one time, he said, I told him that I usually pray for about 45 minutes on my ride home from work. I used that time. I wouldn't play a radio or anything else, I just prayed. It was a great time to pray. Nobody's in the car with me, I'm by myself, I can commune with the Lord and it's 45 minutes! Why waste it doing something else when I could be praying!? Because I needed to pray. Well, that doesn't count he told me. That's what he told me. That doesn't count that's not "real" prayer because you're not doing such and such. Well, that guy was found out to be a fraud and a fake and a fornicating deviant. That's the nicest way to put it. I like the way that I was praying wrong better than the way he wasn't praying at all. I would just as soon pray wrong in his words than not pray at all. Because there is no wrong way friend. You just pray.

Now, of course, you can pray in the wrong spirit and everything else, but God will correct you. God will deal with you, believe me, He's a pretty big God; He can handle you. But there's mental prayer, there's vocal prayer; there's public and there's private prayer. Do you see those four things? Mental. Vocal. Public. Private. Think about it. You and I sometimes believe that we've got to be in a certain place. Yes, it's good to have that, but, you know what? Sometimes you have to pray for people when you're right there. There will be people that ask you to pray, why don't you stop and pray for them right there? Because you're going to forget otherwise. I know that. I have a lot of people that email me and ask me to pray for them. Don't be so structured and formal to think that where a little prayer cannot be said under your breath that God won't hear it. Because He hears it. Amen.

I can't help but to think that the Lord has used those prayers that I used to say going up and down the road, I know He did – for 45 minutes at a time driving – to protect me and to keep me from evil and to keep me back from the temptations of this world.

Pray always, the Bible says. Pray always. Pray always.

I like this. This one commentator said and every branch of it as it appropriation of evils petitions for good things and thanksgiving for mercies which should be used always. This stands opposed to such who pray not at all, or who have prayed and have left it off, or pray only in distress and it suggests that a man should pray as often as he has the opportunity and particularly that he should make use of it in times of darkness, desertion and temptation.

I like this. I like the way John Trapp says things. We don't agree with him on 100%, I'll tell you that, but, I mean, we don't. But I'm telling some things that guy said back then was just so blatant. He said this, he said: Prayer is but a whip of the devil to torment him and put him into another Hell. It fetcheth Christ into the battle and so is sure of victory. It obtaineth fresh supplies of the spirit and so maketh us more than conquerors and even triumphers. It driveth the devil out of the field and maketh him flee from us. Especially if we go not to the battle with our breakfast as Nestor said, but fasting and praying for some kind of devils are not cast out but by fasting and prayer (Matthew 17:21). You know we got some devils hanging around some places and you know what needs to happen? Some gold old fashion fasting and prayer! The Bible says those devils will leave! Because these cometh out by prayer and fasting! Amen.

Some people you know got some devils? Got some problems? It's time to do some fasting and some praying and begging God to rid them, to get them away from us. Amen.

Prayer is part of the warriors life! He needs to pray always, with all prayer and supplication and intercessions. Did not our Savior say that men are always to pray and not to faint? And did He not imply that that form of expression that if they did not pray they would be sure to faint? Charles Spurgeon; good quote, huh? He's right about that, isn't he? The Lord said pray that you faint not.

Part of your warfare is to pray for your brethren. I'm telling you part of that spiritual warfare is to pray for your brethren that are next to you; that are warring; that are part of the battle. So pray for other soldiers that are around you. They need your prayers. A church is only as strong as its great prayer warriors that pray for one another. We are commanded to pray for each other, to intercede for our

brethren. We are to intercede for each other for our brethren that are warring against sin, and the devil and temptations. This is the strength of the local church – to intercede for our brethren. Do you understand that? This is the power, as men come together in this church, it doesn't take a thousand men to do it. But as men, two or three gather together and pray for one another they will call down the power of God from Heaven and God will keep them back from temptation and evil. And He will pour out His power upon His people and He will protect them in the day of adversity. He will protect them in the day when the tempter comes. He will keep them and secure them but you are always to pray and not to cease.

And I'm going to tell you something right now ladies. You'd better be praying. You'd better be praying, because your prayers are heard by God! And they are needed! You will never be the preacher that goes out and preaches, but you must stand behind him and pray! Some say that revival came to England, you know that they traced it to some little old lady up in her apartment somewhere. And what was she doing? She was praying that God would bring revival. That He would pour out His power upon England and that somebody would come and preach to them and that men would be saved! And she prayed – that little old lady prayed up in that little old apartment, up there – and God answered her prayers.

You know we need a whole lot less o ladies complaining and murmuring in churches and a whole lot more of them praying for the men that they see all the flaws in. Because I'd feel a whole lot better if I knew you were praying for me instead of trying to point out every fault that I have. Amen. I would feel much better if you were praying for your husband instead of reminding him of all of his faults. Or do you think that that constant dripping is going to help? More so than the prayers to God Almighty? Because who is the one that fixes things? And who is the one that changes things? And who is the one that changes the hearts of men and makes them more like Christ Jesus? Who is the one that conforms us into the image of Christ? Who is the one that has the power to fix things? It's not you. And it won't be your continuous dropping of complaints. It'll be the power of God called down from Heaven! Do you believe it? Do you believe it? I sure hope you do! Because things are not going to get easier. Do you

understand me? Please listen to me as I tell you things are not going to be easier. This battle is going to get harder. There are going to be more casualties. There are going to be more issues. There are going to be more trials. There are going to be more temptations. There are going to be more concerns; more problems; and we need more prayer. When you are in a war, you must be unified, and you must pray for everyone. We are soldiers that must wage good warfare. Pray that our soldiers be not entangled with the affairs of this life. For no man that wareth entangles himself with the affairs of this life. You have to pray that they're not entangled. That it may please Him who has chosen to be a soldier.

Why don't we ever hear that anymore? Comb sermon audio; comb a lot of church websites; find out if they believe they're in a war. They're not. They're in a cake walk. They're having a christmas fair; they're having a pageant. They're singing christmas carols. While many go out to war, they're singing christmas carols! They're playing with christmas trees!

We, as a church, must pray together with the armor on and go warring with that lion. But, we alone must have private prayer. We must if we take our enemy seriously, then we must war against him. It's not a matter of time, so much as it is a matter of heart. If you have the heart to pray you will find the time to pray. Don't make that excuse because you make time for everything that your flesh wants but how much time have you made for what the spirit demands and commands? Prayer is an open door which none can shut. Devils may surround you on all sides but the way upward is always open and as long as that road is unobstructed, you will not fall into the enemy's hands. What about that?

Here's another one: You never heard that a man began to backslide or that a sober man became a drunkard through praying too much. Did you ever hear of a person becoming unkind to his wife, ungenerous to the poor, negligent of public worship or guilty of grievous sin through being too much in prayer? No. The case is the reverse.

We're always to pray in the spirit the Bible says (Ephesians 6:18). Praying in the spirit earnestly and fervently praying in the holy Ghost, praying by the leading of the Spirit of God. You know if you just start

praying God will bring things to your mind and heart through the Holy Spirit that you need to pray for. It's not a matter of, well, I don't know what I need to pray for. Oh, yes you do. And do you know what? What you don't know God will show you because the Bible says in Romans 8:26

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God

He uses our prayers and He guides us. If we will start to pray He will show us and bring to our hearts the needs of our brethren. You can go out and war, you can spend time in fellowship; you can do all those things, but if you've not spent time with God; if you have not prayed; if you have not begged God for His strength; His mercy; His power; and if you've not interceded for others then you and I, we fail our brethren when we don't pray for them.

Is it any wonder that we are seeing people fall to apostasy, or fall to wickedness, or fall to false doctrine everyday? When we're not praying for our brethren, when we're not lifting their names up and begging God to keep them. You want a strong church? Then you pray for it. You want a strong church, then you pray for each member. You want your pastor to be a better pastor? Then you pray for him. You don't try to be the Holy Spirit and think you're going to straighten Him out and fix every flaw he has, Amen!

I'm not saying you can't sit down and reason. Because you should do that. We should all do that. But I sure hope you're praying more than you're trying to reason with men. Because you know what I find? I find people complain more than they pray. And you know what it shows? A bitter heart. You know how many times people murmured and complained against Moses? How many times did the Israelites murmur and complain against Moses? How many times was it? The Bible never records them praying for Moses, does it? But it always records them complaining and murmuring about leadership; complaining

and murmuring about them? Murmuring underneath their breath of how they could do it better than Moses was doing it. That Moses was doing it wrong. Alright? Amen. Moses was doing it wrong. Moses, you're not the only one that God's blessed and God's called! We can do a better job than you Moses! We can do just as good as you Moses! Yeah? But you know the problem is Moses is the one that God called and as flawed as Moses was, he was still the one that God wanted to use. Amen. How is it that mortal man can't handle that? Amen. How can God use a flawed man? Well, He uses you so He can use anyone! Amen. So what do we need to do? We needed to war with good warfare. And how do we do it? We've got to get back to praying. And we've got to ramp it up in prayer. That's why you've been noticing in the third hour of our church services we've been praying more together as a church. But that's not even enough! You've got to be praying at home. You've got to be praying in your prayer closet. You've got to be praying without ceasing. Remember that mentally, vocally, audibly, whatever the case may be you need to be praying! When you're driving down the road, you need to be praying. When you're making your kids breakfast or dinner or lunch you need to be praying: Lord please help us this day and strengthen our churches; strengthen our families and help my husband to be the man that he's supposed to be. Might be better than you getting into an argument with him, might be better if you prayed for him. But do you know what that takes? That takes patience. That takes faith. Why does it take faith? Because when I go start and argument with somebody that means that I think I'm going to be able to fix it. And I'm going to do it independently without God.

But when I go to God it takes faith then I've got to trust God. That, Lord, you're going to help with this situation and you're going to move hearts and God I know you'll move hearts because that's what you do, but I don't have the strength to do it. One is humble, the other is full of a lot of strife and pride and vain glory. Sometimes we're right, but we still need to be quiet. Do you understand that? Man, you know what? I'm going to tell you something, when I hear stuff, I could jump on something sometimes. I could jump like a tiger or a lion on somebody. Even in this church if someone does something that I know is not the right think to do, but I don't do it. Why? Because I just have

to pray and ask God to show them; because He does a way better job than I do. You know why? Because He does it with me. God will show me things sometimes that no man has showed me and bring me down to my knees.

We need to get back to praying. We need to be a praying church. It's the next part of that armor that needs to be added. It's that offensive weapon that needs to be added. And I'm going to tell you something if you think God is done some work in this church now, if you will pray and pray always and pray without ceasing and plan to pray and practice your prayer and continue to pray and to always lift the names of these people up and the lost that are out there, God will move. God will move. But we've got to come to Him. We have to because it's not by might; nor by power but by My spirit saith the Lord. That's what's so great about it! Do you understand this? When I understood one day, finally, God drilled it through my head and I humbled myself, saying, you know what? This isn't going to happen with anything I'm trying! I need to follow the Scriptures. I just need to follow God in everything and if everybody leaves – everybody leaves. But I'm just going to follow God in all of it. I'm going to honor Him in it. And if everybody leaves, then you know what? I trust Him by faith that this is His plan and that's the way it's going to be. Maybe I'll never preach to over 5 people. Maybe that's the way it's going to be. But I'm going to pray! And I'm going to seek His face and I'm going to serve Him; and I'm going to follow Him.

We're entering a unique time because we have God gathering men. And God has magnified the message that is here. And it's going out to thousands of people that are being influenced by that. That has nothing to do with me, and everything to do with Christ. Everything to do with His choosing, and His will, and His way! But God has chosen to do that! And now we must pray for more power from God; and more strength from God; and protection from God. Because the evil day is coming. And we need to be able to stand! And I want to see God do more great things this year. And He says pray. We have to pray for protection. There is nothing that the enemy would like more than to bring this pastor down, then to bring this church down. Then to send a whore through the door to try to distract; to try to get the pastor to sin or anything like that, ok? If that's too real for you, I'm sorry. But

that's how the devil works, ok? He wants to get somebody hooked on pornography. He wants to get them hooked on the things of this world and the flesh! So he can bring it down and if you don't pray for your husband and pray for your wives and pray for your children and pray for your pastor. You're going to be sitting on the end of sorrow maybe some day. Because you didn't want to strengthen the things that were made and you didn't want to pray. Because you had other things to do. The devil will use anything; money; the government; anything to shut down the work of God.

We have a message to get out to these pulpits to do. We are soldiers and we are in a war. And we have a sword and we have armor, but we need prayer. And ladies are not exempted from that call to pray, on the contrary, they should do it the more. They should do it the more. Because it's needed. You have no excuse. I have no excuse. All of us to some degree have failed God in prayer. All of us! If we would be honest then we could say that we have failed God in prayer. I don't believe in new year's resolutions. I believe in obeying God. I believe in being a Christian everyday, not just on 12/31. At midnight I'm going to make a resolution, no, I don't do that. I'm going to follow the Lord Jesus Christ everyday of the year by God's Grace. But you and I need to determine this year, we need to see the severity of this war that we're in. And we need to pray! Praying always the Bible says with all prayer and supplication. You know what that means? It is an intercession, it is interceding with supplications for those who need it. Do you understand that? It means that you are standing in that gap and you know they have need, and you're racing in there to save them and to pray to God for them. And to lift their name up! Before they fall! Before the devil tricks them! Before they fall through deceit. You know you'll never change anybody's mind on your own. It doesn't work. But you know what? There's been many a mama that prayed for a boy there's been many a father and mother that have prayed for a son. I had a whole church praying for me when I was lost and running in this world. I had a bunch of Christians that I thought were the weirdest, kookiest people in the whole world and I'm way weirder than they are now! And I'm just saying they were weird people. But you know what they were doing? They were praying for some young-druggie-forincating-punk that was out there running

around, living like the devil. And they called down the power of God from Heaven and I got saved by God's Grace! And it was because of those prayers! And you don't think enough to pray for your family and your loved ones and those that are stranded and dead in sin? You're too busy, huh? You got too much to do? Life too important to you? You need to sleep? It's a lack of faith, that's what it is. It's not believing in the power of God to intercede for man and shame on us! To stand and to preach the Bible, or to go to a Bible preaching church and then not pray!

It's a lack of faith it means we don't believe God! We really don't believe God's power in prayer. I pray the Lord breaks your heart tonight and mine, but I pray He breaks your heart, that you see a need to be in regular prayer with the Lord. And it's a shame, I'm going to tell you something, we've got a lot for answer for to God. But I'm going to tell you something, one of the things that ought to scare you to death is there are people going to Hell, your loved ones, all around you, and have you interceded for them? Have you prayed for the fallen to be delivered? Have you prayed? Do you think it's too late for them? Have you become an agnostic when it comes to prayer? Have you lost your faith to believe that God can pull them up? All the talking that you do, you could try to convince all you want too, your parents; your loved ones; and everybody else. But if you're not interceding for them, my have you failed them. What we need are some Christians that are willing to shake the Throne of Heaven with prayer. That's what we need, willing to beg God for His power; beg God for His strength and His mercy; beg God to change the hearts of men and make them want Him; to make them seek Him by faith; to soften their hard hearts. God already knows they have hard hearts. He knows everything. You know, I'm not so much worried about the lost hard-hearted as I am the saved. I'm more concerned with us being hard-hearted that we can pillow our head at night without even lifting names up to the Lord. That we can rise in the morning, that we can go to sleep at night and never speak to God – never beg God. Who are we kidding? We're not ready for war. We're not. Of course it's all by God's Grace, but we're not calling down for that Grace when we're not begging for it. We are going out without that important part of war. It is the most neglected part of the warfare. Why? Because nobody sees you do it, that's why.

That's why. Because nobody sees you do it. Nobody sees you do it! There's no grandness in it. There's only humility and there is only time on your face with God saying things to Him that you couldn't even say to your husband or wife. Yeah. You'd better believe it. There's things that you can't even tell your wife that you need to cry out to God about and you'd better get out of your dirty heart too and get it right with God! That's a warning friend! Just trying to help you, I'm not trying to hurt you, I'm just telling you, I know how wicked sinful-flesh is. If we don't walk in the spirit we harbor those things up in our hearts and we don't pour them out to God. No, you're right, you can't say it to a man, but you can cry out to God. And you can lay it at the foot of the Cross, you can lay it at the Prayer Throne, at the Throne of Heaven and it's forgiven under the Blood of Christ. But you know what? You can confess it and get it right with Him and get a clean heart and power from God all at the same time. And then you'll pray for others, you'll pray for your loved ones then. You'll pray for those that are stranded. Those that you don't believe will get saved – Oh, my brother's an atheist, or my brother is this, or my sister is this – is anything too hard for God? Such as were some of you! But you're washed! But you're sanctified! Such as were some of you! (1 Cor 6:11)

You know what I had a family member tell me once? Told my dad, would you tell him to stop praying for me, because my life is getting messed up every time he prays for me. Do you know why? Because I was praying God would drop him like a rock! Yep. And he knew that God was withstanding him and trying to warn him and stand in every way of his evil deeds to try to bring him to repentance. Why? Because God hears the prayers of His saints. Do you understand how sweet the prayers of His saints are to God? Do you understand how He treasures them in a bottle? Do you understand how He holds them? How he cares for them? How He loves them? And how much we neglect it? There's a war going on and you'd better be praying. Don't think you can stand in the day without it. You think your husband can stand without your prayers? You think your wife can stand without your prayers? You think your children can? You think you can keep them from the evil without prayers? Yeah, you do if you're not praying, that's exactly what you think. You think as long as your have the form

of everything you're fine without the substance, it doesn't work that way. You need all of it. And you need to pray, you need the prayers of the saints to God. And you need the power of God. Don't ever forget it.

This year, we need to be a praying people. You want a situation to change? You'd better pray for it. You want to see God fearing converts to New Richmond, WI? Do you want to see that work grow? Do you want to see God do a work there? You'd better start praying for it. Amen. You'd better start praying for strength for this family, as they serve the Lord and they battle for the Lord. You'd better lift their names up in prayer. Do you want to see God do something with that radio show? You'd better be praying for it then. You want to see God raise up more young men to serve the Lord and to preach the Gospel for Jesus Christ? You'd better be praying for their families. You'd better be praying for them. You'd better pray without ceasing. You'd better be praying always.

Father! Thank you! Thank you for a timely word, Lord, that we needed. Lord we're guilty of not praying. We're guilty of not praying always. Christ, please break our hearts so we see we need to pray. Dear God, it's not some flippant 5 minute thing. It can be sometimes, Lord, but there should be some urgent, fervent prayer of a righteous man that availeth much. Dear God, there are men here in this room that serve you, and ladies that serve you and love you; but Lord we need to pray. Help us to pray. That we enter not into temptation. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.