

Praying in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18-24

Without prayer all we are and do for Christ and His church has the smell of death about it. Prayerlessness is practical atheism.

Hamilton, Ian. 2017. [Ephesians](#). Edited by Joel R. Beeke and Jon D. Payne. The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Stand in his strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor,

Each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger,
Be never wanting there.

you and I can be clothed in God's armor—having the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, our feet shod with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit—and yet fail to triumph because we do not call upon God.

Boice, James Montgomery. 1988. [Ephesians: An Expositional Commentary](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Ministry Resources Library.

Personal prayer

Ephesians 6:18 **praying** at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

What is prayer?

Praying (proseuchomenoi): to pray, to speak to God, to ask God for

Verb, present, participle with imperative force

It is a command to always be praying

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1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing,

How are we to pray?

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Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and **praying in the Holy Spirit**,

Praying in the Spirit is prayer that conforms to the will and purpose of the Spirit.

Chapell, Bryan. 2009. [Ephesians](#). Edited by Richard D. Phillips, Philip Graham Ryken, and Daniel M. Doriani. Reformed Expository Commentary. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

Romans 8:26–27 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God**.

Mark 7:6 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, “ ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;

Supplication (deēsis): plea; beg; that which is asked with urgency based on presumed need

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Keep alert (agrypneō): keep awake; keep alert; Spiritually, to be watchful and attentive to spiritual things

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Perseverance (proskarterēsis): to devote ones self too; to keep on; to persist in despite difficulty.

Luke 18:1 And he told them a parable to the effect that **they ought always to pray and not lose heart**.

Praying for the Saints

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Ephesians 3:14–19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend **with all the saints** what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 6:19–20 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Acts 4:29–31 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word **with all boldness**, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.**

Prayer builds community

Ephesians 6:21–22 So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. ²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

Ephesians 6:23–24 Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible.