

# The Real Victory Comes Through Prayer

*For the Win, Week Six*

**Because the war is a spiritual one,  
and our weapons are spiritual in nature,  
the real victory in our lives always comes through prayer.**

A couple of weeks ago, we talked about the six pieces of the “armor of God” in Ephesians 6:10-18, but we stopped short of a vital verse because I wanted to spend a whole message talking about it.

## **Ephesians 6:18 NLT**

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Paul even gets personal, sort of explaining that the freedom to speak the gospel boldly is found in response to prayer...

## **Ephesians 6:19-20 NLT**

<sup>19</sup> And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. <sup>20</sup> I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

We’ve talked a lot about how the war we’re involved in isn’t a war of the flesh. Our weapons aren’t physical. They’re spiritual. And the real victory is always found in prayer.

So yes, put on all of those pieces of armor, **but be sure to pray at ALL times and on EVERY occasion, and to KEEP ON praying for ALL believers EVERYWHERE.**

So first, let’s talk about WHY prayer matters.

God has chosen prayer as the means of communication between us and heaven. He wants us to be in continual and persistent communication with him, at all times, over all things.

God has ordained that certain things happen as a result of prayer. Heaven responds to our prayers in certain ways.

“Nothing heavenly happens on earth without prayer.” - Grady Higgs

I believe, at least in part, it's because prayer seems a lot like doing nothing. It seems weak. Why can't we take up some real weapons and fight? Because prayer is the weapon of God's choice.

### **1 Corinthians 1:27 NLT**

God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

It's comprehensive and total. Prayer is our "war-time walkie-talkie", as John Piper called it.

## **Prayer is God's chosen pathway to breakthrough in our lives!**

This is strongly demonstrated in Daniel's experience of prayer...

### **Daniel 10:7,12-14 NLT**

<sup>12</sup> Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. <sup>13</sup> But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. <sup>14</sup> Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come."

And with the disciples as they sought to serve Jesus...

### **Mark 9:17-18,28-29 NLT**

<sup>17</sup> One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. <sup>18</sup> And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it." <sup>28</sup> Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

And when Peter was in jail and the situation looked hopeless...

### **Acts 12:4-5 NLT**

<sup>4</sup> Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover. <sup>5</sup> But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

So when you're stuck, when you're in bondage, when you're oppressed, when you're at a spiritual standstill, when you're not seeing answers...

## **Keep On Praying!**

We want to pray with you today - over various needs in this congregation...

*God, we pray for those who need salvation...*

*For those who need physical healing...*

*For those who are in a struggling relationship...*

*For those burdened by guilt and shame...*

*For those trapped in addictions...*

*For those who don't know what to do next...*

*For those who are in a very stressful place financially...*

*For parents who are struggling with their kids...*

*For husbands and wives struggling with their spouse...*

*We pray for bondage to be broken...*

*For provision, for healing, for a softening of the heart...*

*For direction, for forgiveness...*