

Armor Up: Prayer *(Ephesians 6:18 & Various Texts)*

Prayer as Warfare

- Prayer is given greater prominence within the context of the battle with the powers of darkness than any of the weapons listed in v. 14-17.
 - The call to prayer ties back to the original exhortation to stand firm
- Prayer is our line of communication with our Commander
 - Without this constant communication, we don't know our orders (Col. 4:2)

Prayer as Primary

- We are urged to pray:
 - At all times, because our struggle with the powers of darkness is never ending (1 Thess. 5:17)
 - Inspired & guided by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:26)
 - With all types of prayer
 - This includes praise, laments, thanksgiving, & supplication (Phil. 4:6)
 - Like the Psalms
 - With all perseverance, being alert and aware
 - So that we may overcome fatigue and discouragement, and not to fall into spiritual sleep or complacency (Mark 14:38)
 - For all the saints
 - Joining others in the spiritual battles they face (Jas 5:16)

Prayer as Submission

- In the imagery of battle, prayer is our lifeline
- Obedience in prayer is ultimately submitting ourselves to God's will
 - Just like Jesus (Luke 22:42)
- The most powerful prayer is not simply asking for God's will to be done
 - It begins with the honest recognition that we may not want it
 - But that we want to want His will
- "I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me." -C.S. Lewis

So What?

- Are we staying connect with our Lord and Commander through prayer?
- Are making prayer primary in our lives?
- Are we submitting to God?

Meditation Verse: *James 4:7-8a*