

Armor of God Ephesians 6:18-20





Spiritual Forces

EVERYTHING IS SPIRITUAL AND WE ARE SPIRITUAL BEINGS!

EVERY CONFLICT WE WILL FACE IN LIFE IS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE!

Will you grow spiritually or die?



HE IMAGE OF ONE CLAD IN WHOLE ARMC\



The Armor of God

The armor is **Knowledge** and **Heart** Based!

 In battle, there is No Neutral Ground! Either we are defeated by the Devil or we are Resisting Him (1 Peter 5:9)

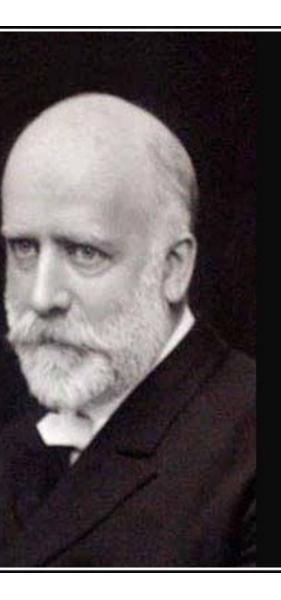
 The Armor is closely tied to our relationship with God



Armor of God Ephesians 6:18-20







The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came. Anticipate your battles; fight them on your knees before temptation comes, and you will always have victory.

— R. A. Torrey —

AZ QUOTES



Opening Questions

Who are the top **3 most influential** people in your life?

How do those people affect you and how often do you talk to them?

These people are important to us because we have developed a <u>strong relationship</u> with them.

They know us and we know them well. We trust and rely on them



Opening Questions

Do we have this same intimate relationship and security with God?



Ephesians 6:18-20

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

¹⁹ **Pray also for me**, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.



Our primary means of fighting: Prayer

Paul desires us to fight the enemy THROUGH THE POWER OF PRAYER!

Prayer is an important but a difficult discipline.

Martin Lloyd Jones → "prayers should be <u>the</u> <u>delight</u> of the believer"



Roadmap

"Praying in All Occasions"

- 1. Pray in the Spirit
- 2. Pray with All Types of Prayer
- 3. Pray at All Times
- 4. Pray Alertly with all Perseverance
- 5. Pray for all the Saints
- 6. Pray for Ourselves



"Pray in the Spirit"

Spirit Led Prayer does not mean:

to pray only out of emotion



Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-

edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Joshua 1:8

⁸ Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth, meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.



Spirit Led Prayer means to:

- Pray in line with Scripture
- Pray according to **spiritual convictions** when you are struggling to pray (spiritual nudge)
- Pray in God's direction and power!



Spirit Led Prayers are Gospel Centered Prayers.

Gospel Centered Prayers leave a real impact on our transformed lives.



"All kinds of prayers and request"

Praying for:

- Worship and Praise
- 2. Obedience: Discipleship and Missions
- 3. Daily Needs
- 4. Forgiveness of Sins
- 5. Holiness and Purity
- 6. Ourselves, and for Others



Prayers for Peace - Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



Prayers for Joy - Luke 1:46-48 ⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me holy is his name.



Prayers of Mourning - Psalm 13:

How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?
 How long will you hide your face from me?
 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
 How long will my enemy triumph over me?

³ Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, ⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

> But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.
> I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me.



III. Pray at All Times

"On All Occasions"

How can I pray all times?
THE PHRASE LITERALLY MEANS... AT EVERY
OPPORTUNITY

1 Thessalonians 5:17 → ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Greek term "adialeipotos" emphasizes as a hacking cough or to persevere in a military assault. To cough often and consistently.



III. Pray at All Times

"To obey this exhortation means when we are tempted, we hold the temptation before God and ask for his help. When we experience something good and beautiful, we immediately thank God for it. When we see evil around us, we pray that God will make it right and be willing to be used by him to that end. When we meet someone who does not know Christ, we pray for God to draw that person to himself and to use us to be a faithful witness. When we encounter trouble, we turn to God as our deliverer. In other words, our life becomes a continually ascending prayer. A perpetual communing with our heavenly father"

- John Macarthur



III. Pray at All Times

Prayer SHAPES US.

John Calvin → "It is therefore by the benefit of prayer, that we reach those riches which are laid up for us with our heavenly father"



IV. Pray Alertly with all Perseverance

"With this in mind, be alert"

The term "Be Alert" is to **BE AWAKE AND VIGILANT!**

Matthew 26 → ⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. ⁴¹ "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."



IV. Pray Alertly with all Perseverance

The Persistent Widow's Perseverance

Luke 18:1-6 → "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up...."

IV. Pray Alertly with all Perseverance

Paul's word for perseverance -> epimonê

 Persistent Tenacity. To devote yourself constantly to the Lord and not give up knowing he will shape your heart!

John 15:7 \rightarrow 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Romans 8:28 \rightarrow And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.



V. Pray for all the Saints

"always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

We are an Army. We are not meant to be Christians in isolation

1 Corinthians 12:26-27

²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.



V. Pray for all the Saints

3 Challenges for you:

- 1. PRAY FOR EACH PERSON in your wechat and phone contacts.
- 2. Pray for your pastors and church members. Praying for your fellow soldiers constantly will motivate you to love them and to work out any relational conflicts
- 3. Pray for our newcomers and seekers... even if you don't know them, there will be an INSTANT CONNECTION because you have been praying for them already.



VI. Pray for Ourselves

Ephesians 6:19-20

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."



VI. Pray for Ourselves

Lastly, Paul asks for Prayers for himself

Charles Spurgeon → "MY PEOPLE PRAY FOR ME."

Pray for yourselves... that you will be bold and clear for your witness for Christ.



VI. Pray for Ourselves

"that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel"

While it is okay to pray for our personal needs, OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IN PRAYER SHOULD BE FURTHERING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.



Conclusion

WE ARE IN A BATTLE against unseen forces of wickedness.

Prayer SHAPES YOU!!

WE HAVE TO BE PEOPLE OF PRAYER

MAKE PAUL'S PASSION YOUR PASSION