



July 17, 2016
Celebration · 9:00 am
Elevation · 11:00 am
Pastor Matt Davis

The Weapon of Prayer Ephesians 6:18-20

“To those who would engage in spiritual warfare, regardless of how well they wear truth and righteousness and faith and salvation, regardless of how well they are grounded in peace, regardless of how well they wield the Word, must make prayer the first thing. The Christian soldier fights on his knees!” – Kent Hughes

We are called to prayer for the battle in front of us Ephesians 6:18

“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints...” (v.18)

- **A powerful picture of what prayer should look like**
 - **Spirit-Directed Prayer (“praying at all times in the Spirit”): Romans 8:26-27; Jude 20**
“In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-27)
 - **Continual Prayer (“at all times”): Acts 1:14, 2:42; 1 Thessalonians 5:17**
“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)
 - **Varied Prayer (“with all prayer and supplication”): 1 Timothy 2:1**
“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men.” (1 Timothy 2:1)
 - **Persistent Prayer (“to that end keep alert with all perseverance”): Luke 18:2-5**
“Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.” (Luke 18:4-5)
 - **Intercessory Prayer (“for all the saints”): 2 Corinthians 11:29; Disciples praying Gethsemane**
“Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?” (2 Corinthians 11:29)

We are called to prayer for the battle ahead of us Ephesians 6:19-20

“...and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (v. 19-20)

- **The battle to bear witness**
“to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel...” (v.19)
- **The battle to be brave**
“for which I am an ambassador in chains...” (v.20)
- **The battle to be bold**
“that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (v.20)

What is your battle that needs prayer?

Digging Deeper: Learning From the Prayer Life of Jesus

Adapted from Robert Velarde

Luke 11:1 reads, "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'" There's much to learn from this passage beyond the significant Lord's Prayer that follows it. For one, we learn that what sparked the unnamed disciples' curiosity to learn about prayer was the fact that he saw Jesus in prayer.

Why did Jesus pray? One way we can learn to pray is by looking at the prayer life of Jesus. Although the Gospels don't provide a detailed biography of Christ, they do offer captivating glimpses into His prayer life. First, however, it will be helpful to answer the question, "Why did Jesus pray?" This is sometimes puzzling for Christians. After all, if Jesus is God, why did Christ need to pray?

Jesus and Prayer. Here are some examples and passages to read through to see Jesus' prayer life as our model for living out prayer.

- **Jesus prayed for others.** "Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them." Matthew 19:13
- **Jesus prayed with others.** "[Jesus] took Peter, John and James with Him and went up onto a mountain to pray." Luke 9:28
- **Jesus prayed alone.** "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:16
- **Jesus prayed in nature.** "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1
- **Jesus could pray as a sprinter or a marathon runner.** The Lord's Prayer is full of wisdom, but it is short enough to be easily memorized and serve as an example of a sprint rather than a marathon prayer. But Jesus also knew how to dedicate long periods of time to prayer. As we read in Luke 6:12, Jesus "spent the night praying to God." We, too, need to be able to offer short prayers, as well dedicate long periods of our lives to prayer.
- **Jesus prayed regularly.** "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:16
- **The prayers of Jesus were heartfelt.** This is demonstrated clearly in John 17, where Jesus prays for Himself, His immediate disciples, as well as for all believers.
- **Jesus prayed based on His knowledge of God and His truths.** In John 4:24 Jesus said, "God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." He also said, "the truth will set you free" (John 8:32), underscoring the importance of truth in the life of Jesus and, in turn, our lives
- **Jesus taught persistence in prayer.** "Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" Luke 18:1
- **Jesus knew that not all his prayers would be answered as expected.** Even Jesus knew this hard lesson as he cried out to God the Father from Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-44). Three times Jesus prayed for God to allow an easier path, but Jesus knew, "Yet not as I will, but as You will" (26:39).

LifeGroup Discussion:

- What have been the battles you have fought?
- What's your default in the battle? White knuckles or red knees?
- What does it look like to pray at all time in the Spirit?
- What are the battles before you?
- How have you seen God work in your life through prayer?
- What can you learn from Jesus' prayer life from some of the examples listed above?

Next Steps:

1. **Read a book on prayer.** Our bookstore has an entire section of books on the subject of prayer. A couple of great resources that will allow you to journey with other saints on this topic include: "**Practicing the Presence of God**" (Brother Lawrence); "**Answers to Prayer**" (George Muller); "**Prayer**" (Richard Foster); "**Prayer**" (Phillip Yancey); "**Prayer**" (Timothy Keller)
2. **Did you know that Calvary has an amazing prayer ministry?** If you would like someone to pray with you for healing from past wounds or to overcome obstacles or patterns that are keeping you from growing in your faith, set up an appointment to pray with someone at prayer@calvarylife.org or find out more about this and other opportunities at calvarylife.org/prayer
3. **Stop by the prayer tags in the lobby from our short-term missions trips that just returned.** Our teams wrote on a luggage tag ways that they have seen God answer prayer throughout their trip. Praise God for His movement on these trips!