
The Power of Prayer (Praying In The Spirit)

Keys To Our Spiritual Armory

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Sermon: Keys To Our Spiritual Armory: The Power of Prayer (Praying In The Spirit)

Lesson Text

Ephesians 6:13–18 (KJV)¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Romans 8:26–28 (KJV)²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Introduction

Last week we first looked at the spiritual weapon of the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God; a Quick Word (Living), a Powerful Word (Active), and a Sharp Word (Cutting).

Let's now look at the spiritual weapon of prayer. Ephesians 6:¹⁸ **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**,

Prayer as a weapon is based on praying in the spirit. But what does praying in the spirit mean?

Some theologians believe it means to pray in tongues; and some denominations even go as far as to teach people how to pray in tongues.

But I actually believe that praying in the spirit is just like walking in the spirit; which simply means to be influenced, inspired, and led by the spirit.

Most people tend to pray half hazard, that is their prayer is regulated as an isolated act, sporadic, or only when motivated by a need – motivated by our flesh and not the Holy Spirit.

If we are to truly use prayer as a spiritual weapon we must learn how to always pray by the influence of the spirit, pray with supplication inspired by the spirit.

Series and Sermon: Keys To Our Spiritual Armory: The Power of Prayer (Praying In The Spirit)

(Continuous Prayer, Supplication Prayer, Spirit-Led Prayer)

I. The Power of Continuous Prayer (Influenced by the Spirit)

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Ephesians 6: ¹⁸ **Praying always with all prayer** and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The first key to the power of prayer is to pray continuously; never stop praying.

- Luke 18: ¹ And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
- 1 Thessalonians 5: ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

Years ago, I was counseling a young lady who had given up on her marriage and without knowing all the details, the Holy Spirit had me ask her when did you stop praying? Why did you stop praying? Her response was “It wasn’t working!”

The reason why people stop praying is because their motivation is answered prayers. So, when the prayers go unanswered, they stop praying.

And herein lies the problem, once you stop praying, it’s like unplugging a power tool from its power source and then complaining that it’s not working.

Prayer should not be an isolated act, sporadic, or only done when you’re motivated by a need. Why? Because this prayer is motivated by the flesh, and we will eventually unplug.

But when our prayers are **Influenced by the Spirit of God**, we will pray continuously because we have many reasons to pray:

- Relationship with God: James 4: ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.
- Alignment with God’s will: Luke 22: ⁴² Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**
- Access to God’s power: Luke 10: ¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**
- Peace for our hearts: Philippians 4: ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- Transformation for our character: Romans 12: ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- Intercession for others: James 5: ¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

“Don’t unplug your power, always pray!”

II. The Power of Supplication Prayer (Inspired by the Spirit)

Ephesians 6: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer **and supplication** in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The next key to the power of prayer is supplication; to humbly and earnestly petition in specific. Although we should pray continuously in general, we should also pray prayers of supplication for things and people in specific.

Matthew 7: ⁷ **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:**

These are prayers of petition, devotion, and intercession. However, the challenge we have with prayers of supplication, is knowing what to pray for.

James 4: ¹ From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? ² Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. ³ Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts.

Prayers of supplication must be **Inspired by the Spirit of God** so that we pray the right prayers for the right things.

1 John 5: ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Philippians 4: ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3: ¹ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

III. The Power of Spirit-Led Prayer (Led by the Spirit)

Ephesians 6: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

The final key to the power of prayer is being Spirit-Led

- The Power of Continuous Prayer must be influenced by the Spirit of God.
- The Power of Supplication Prayer must be inspired by the Spirit of God.
- The Power of Spirit-Led Prayer must be led by the Spirit of God

Spirit-led prayer requires us to get out of the way and let the Holy Spirit take over.

Romans 8: ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

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Sometimes we are too weak to pray – Romans 15: ¹ We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Sometimes we don't know what to pray – Romans 8: ²⁶ for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Sometimes we don't know the will of God to pray – Luke 22: ⁴² Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Power of Prayer (Praying In The Spirit))

Lesson Text

- Ephesians 6:13–18, Romans 8:26–28

Sermon Outline

- I. *The Power of Continuous Prayer (Influenced by the Spirit)*
- II. *The Power of Supplication Prayer (Inspired by the Spirit)*
- III. *The Power of Spirit-Led Prayer (Led by the Spirit)*

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What does it mean to you to “pray in the Spirit?”
2. What’s one prayer habit that you think everyone should try?

II. Into The Bible

1. How are “praying at all times” and “keeping alert” in verse 18 connected to “take the sword of the Spirit” in verse 17? Is prayer the manner in which the sword is used or is it a separate instruction? Provide support.
2. The word translated “word” in verse 17 is rhema, meaning spoken word. Where else is rhema used in the New Testament (e.g., Romans 10:17), and how does that usage help explain why Paul chooses rhema here rather than logos? Share your verse.

III. Life Application

1. Describe how you plan to engage in continuous prayer this week.
2. What gives us confidence that God hears our prayers of petition and will answer them?