

Summary

This sermon concludes Paul's letter to the Ephesians by emphasizing the critical importance of prayer in the Christian life and spiritual warfare. The pastor explains that Ephesians is a letter of vision, showing what the church should be and do as followers of Jesus. Paul teaches that our worship must become missional - not just for ourselves, but as a witness to the world of God's redemptive power. The sermon focuses on Ephesians 6:18-24, where Paul instructs believers to 'pray in the Spirit at all times.' The pastor emphasizes that prayer is not passive but the most active and powerful weapon against spiritual enemies. He challenges the congregation to make prayer a priority rather than treating it as filler time, confessing his own failures in this area. The sermon concludes with a call to become a people of prayer who surrender their time and desires to God's will, using Martin Luther's quote about spending three hours in prayer when having much to do.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and minds, ready to receive what You want to teach us through Your Word. We ask that You would help us to be still in Your presence and to truly listen to what You are saying to us. Remove any distractions or preconceived notions we may have, and help us to be receptive to the work of Your Holy Spirit in our lives today. Guide our discussion and help us to grow closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you always make time for in your busy schedule, no matter how packed your day gets?

Key Verses

- Ephesians 6:18
- Ephesians 1:7
- Ephesians 1:9
- Ephesians 1:11
- Ephesians 6:11

Questions

- How does Paul's vision of the church as described in Ephesians challenge or encourage you in your own faith journey?
- What does it mean for our worship to become 'missional' rather than just something we do for ourselves?
- The pastor mentioned that we often want to identify physical enemies we can fight rather than spiritual forces. Why do you think this is, and how can we better recognize spiritual battles?
- Paul instructs us to 'pray in the Spirit at all times.' What do you think this looks like practically in our daily lives?
- The sermon suggests that prayer is not passive but the most active thing we can do against spiritual enemies. How does this change your perspective on prayer?
- What are some of the barriers that keep you from making prayer a priority in your life?
- How can we as a church better encourage one another in prayer and create a culture of prayer?
- The pastor shared Martin Luther's quote about spending three hours in prayer when having much to do. What is your reaction to this idea, and how might it apply to your life?

Life Application

This week, instead of using prayer as 'filler time' while driving or during brief moments, schedule a specific time each day to sit quietly and pray intentionally. Start with just 10-15 minutes of focused prayer time, putting away distractions and truly listening for God's voice. Also, reach out to at least one person this week to let them know you are praying for them, and ask someone else to share a prayer request with you.

Key Takeaways

- The church exists not just to worship for our own sake, but to be a missional witness to the world of God's redemptive power
- Our real battle is not against physical enemies but against spiritual forces and principalities that seek to divide and corrupt
- Prayer is not a passive activity but the most active and powerful weapon we have in spiritual warfare

- We must make prayer a priority in our schedules rather than treating it as filler time during busy moments
- As believers, we are called to be God's treasured possession and instrument, which requires surrendering our will to His through prayer

Ending Prayer

Father God, thank You for this time of discussion and fellowship. We pray that You would help us to become a people of prayer, not just in word but in deed. Give us the courage to surrender our busy schedules and our fears of wasting time, and help us to trust that prayer is the most important work we can do. Make us Your instruments of peace and redemption in this world. Help us to encourage one another in prayer and to be faithful in interceding for our leaders and our community. May we truly become a church that reflects Your kingdom through our daily lives. We ask all of this in the powerful name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.