

## PRAYER IS WHAT BRINGS IT ALL TOGETHER.

### Truths

- When should I pray? – 6:18 *praying at all times in the Spirit*
- Praying at all times is more of a posture than a pause.

Q: Why would we be in a constant posture of prayerfulness?

A: Because life is a spiritual warzone.

### Satan's battle equipment

1. The Helmet Called Vain-Hope
2. The Breastplate Called Hard-Heart
3. The Sword of an Evil Tongue
4. The Shield of Unbelief
5. A Prayerless Spirit<sup>1</sup>

- How should I pray?
  - 1) Operate in a mindset of prayer – 6:18a *praying at all times in the Spirit,*
  - 2) Use everything in the prayer arsenal – 6:18b *with all prayer and supplication*
  - 3) Stay alert and persevere – 6:18c *To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,*

Q: How do I pray for others?

A: "Supplication" – urgent request to meet a need, exclusively addressed to God.<sup>2</sup>

▶ Conviction of sin: Pray for God to open their eyes.

▶ Perseverance in suffering

“The bond of fellowship which united the people of God is never more effective than when they are praying for one another.” – F. F. Bruce<sup>3</sup>

▶ Victory over temptation

“Without prayer we are much too feeble...to stand against the might of the forces of evil.” – John R. W. Stott<sup>4</sup>

▶ Boldness and wisdom to stay on mission – 6:19-20 *and also for me, that **words** may be given to me in opening my mouth **boldly to proclaim** the mystery of the gospel,<sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may **declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.***

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<sup>1</sup> John Bunyan, *The Holy War Made by Shaddai upon Diabolus for the Regaining of the Metropolis of the World or the Losing and Taking Again of the Town of Mansoul*, <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/395/395-h/395-h.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> W. Arndt, F. W. Danker, & W. Bauer, *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature*, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 213.

<sup>3</sup> F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Ephesians: A Verse-by-Verse Exposition* (Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1961), 133.

<sup>4</sup> John R. W. Stott, *Commentary on Ephesians*, 283, 284. John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, p. 77.