



Sunday, December 6, 2020

MAKE A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The Wealth of the Believer (Ephesians 1:1-3:21)

II. The Walk of the Believer (4:1-6:9)

III. The Warfare of the Believer (Ephesians 6:10-20)

A. Introduction

B. Instructions: how to stand fast in the battle (Ephesians 6:10-12)

With the believer’s INSTRUCTIONS, Paul teaches us that we can STAND FAST in the battle when we INTENTIONALLY RELY upon the POWER OF GOD.

C. Instruments: how to face the battle (Ephesians 6:13-17)

Paul teaches us that we can FACE the battle when we INTENTIONALLY STAND READY with the ARMOR OF GOD.

D. Implementation: how to fight in battle (Ephesians 6:18-20)

Now, SUFFICIENT PREPARATION is followed by SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE.

Psalm 37:23-24 The steps [*course of life*] of a *good* man are ordered [*established*] by the LORD: and He delighteth in his way. **24** Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him* with His hand.

The praying soldier realizes that success in battle comes only as he walks in step with the Spirit, having a constant living communion with his Commander.

Our faith is not in the armor! Our use of the armor must be by faith in full dependency upon the Lord.

Prayerlessness is an attitude of self-sufficiency. It is acting as if you don't need God.

1. The **Model** of Prayer—*“He continued all night in prayer”* (Luke 6:12)

Luke 6:12 And it came to pass in those days, that **He** went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to **God**.

We note that as He was growing famous, He maintained communion with His Father (Luke 5:15-16).

He faithfully prayed with and taught His disciples how to pray (Luke 11:1).

He faithfully prayed for His disciples (Luke 22:31-32).

He communed with the Father under the weight of the looming cross (Luke 22:40-44).

Jesus' mission was to do the will of the Father (John 6:38).

2. The **Marks** of Prayer (Ephesians 6:18)

This word for *“prayer”* is very general yet it is rooted in worship and submission. This word is always used in the New Testament to speak to God.

a. The **Frequency** of Prayer—*“Praying always”*

b. The **Variety** of Prayer—*“with all prayer and supplication”*

The Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 gives us a concise model of the variety of prayer.

- i. **Renewing** the mind through **Worship**—
Acknowledge God's **SUPREMACY**
- ii. **Ruling** the heart through Surrender & **Submission**—
Acknowledge God's **SOVEREIGNTY**
- iii. **Resting** in God's sufficiency through our **supplication**—Acknowledge God's **SUFFICIENCY**

- iv. **Repenting** from our sin through **confession**—
Acknowledge God as my **SAVIOR** from sin
- v. **Reliance** upon God strength for temptation & trial—
Acknowledge God as my **STRENGTH**
- c. The **Submission** of Prayer—“*in the Spirit*”

“*in the Spirit*” speaks of being directed or empowered by the Spirit of God. This is a Spirit-filled prayer. Prayer is submission.

James 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent [*energized / Spirit filled*] prayer of a righteous man [*one who God declares righteous*] availeth much [*powerful / effective*].

- d. The **Watchfulness** of Prayer—“*and watching thereunto*”

Matthew 26:41 Watch [*be vigilant*] and pray [*supplicate / worship*], that ye enter not [*fall*] into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

- e. The **Persistence** of Prayer—“*with all perseverance*”

Luke 18:1 And **He** spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint [*lose one's courage / give up*];

- f. The **Subjects** of Prayer—“*supplication for all saints*”

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort [*urge*] therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

The praying soldier realizes that success in battle comes only as he walks in step with the Spirit, having a constant living communion with his Commander.



Our WARFARE is fought with the INSTRUMENTS of God while in prayer to God. God’s PROTECTION OF ARMOR for our security in the fight combined with His PROVISION OF PRAYER for our success as we fight is the divine preparation for us to step forward with confidence knowing that VICTORY IS ASSURED.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!