



Sunday, December 13, 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)

Now, as we consider the believer’s INSTRUMENTS, 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)

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. SUFFICIENT PREPARATION is followed by SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE.

1. The **Model** of Prayer—**Jesus Christ**—“*He continued all night in prayer*” (Luke 6:12)
 2. The **Marks** of Prayer—**Submission** (Ephesians 6:18)
 3. The **Mission** of Prayer—**Evangelistic** (Ephesians 6:19)
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Paul asks for prayer for his freedom—not his release from prison but freedom to speak the message of Christ.

a. Pray for **Clarity**—“*that utterance may be given me*”

Colossians 4:3 Withal [*meanwhile*] praying also for us, that **God** would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of **Christ**, for which I am also in bonds:

b. Pray for **Courage**—“*that I may open my mouth boldly*”

i. Our **Confidence** promotes **courage**

2 Corinthians 3:12 Seeing then that we have such hope [*confident expectation*], we use great plainness of speech [*boldness*]:

ii. Our **Courage** points to **Christ**

Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest [*eager*] expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also **Christ** shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

Cf. Acts 4:13; Acts 4:29

Acts 28:30-31 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house [*in Rome*], and received all that came in unto him, **31** Preaching the kingdom of **God**, and teaching those things which concern the **Lord Jesus Christ**, with all confidence, no man forbidding him [*he was unhindered*].

c. Pray for **Continuance**—“*to make known the mystery of the Gospel*”

The purpose or goal of prayer is evangelistic. It is to fulfill the Great Commission as we do the “*work of the ministry*” (Ephesians 4:12).

Romans 16:25-26 Now to **Him** that is of power to stablish you according to my Gospel, and the preaching of **Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, **26** But now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting **God**, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

This “*mystery*” carries the idea of a secret thing that is previously unrevealed—something that was not understood until being revealed.

Paul explains the mystery in Ephesians 3:3-6 which is that believing Gentiles enjoy equal position and privilege with believing Jews.

Paul further explains this “*mystery of the Gospel*” in Ephesians 2:11-16.


4. The **Man** of Prayer—**Ambassador** (Ephesians 6:20)

Note: his prayer is to “*persevere*” in the faithful proclamation of the “*mystery of the Gospel*.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for **Christ**, as though **God** did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in **Christ’s** stead, be ye reconciled to **God**.

Philippians 1:13-14 So that my bonds in **Christ** are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*; **14** And many of the brethren in the **Lord**, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the Word without fear.

The Lord was being honored and glorified as others were encouraged to be bold in their witness for Christ—as they are “*confident in [Paul’s] bonds*.”

 Our WARFARE is fought through the IMPLEMENTATION of prayer to God. Our MODEL of prayer is CHRIST. The MARKS of prayer are rooted in SUBMISSION. The MISSION of prayer is the ADVANCE OF THE GOSPEL as AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST.

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!