

Fervent Prayer in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18-20

16. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17. Take the **helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

KJV

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for **all saints;**
19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- Ephesians 6:18-20

NKJV

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
- Ephesians 6:18-20

NIV

18. And pray in the Spirit on **all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.**
19. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20. for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. – Ephesians 6:18-20

ASV

18 with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for **all the saints,**
19 And on my behalf, that utterance may be given unto me in opening my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. – Ephesians 6:18-20

Introduction:

I. There Are Many Wimpy Prayers

(ie) the '70's ad for trash bags, "Wimpy, wimpy, wimpy! Hefty, hefty, hefty!"

Baby Prayers – childish, self-centered prayers, immature prayers,

- "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. And if I die before I wake I pray the Lord my soul to take. God bless Mommy and Daddy..."
- "God is great God is good, let us thank him for our food. By thy hand we all are fed. Give us Lord our daily bread."
- Thank God for the earth and sky Thank God for the birds that fly Thank God for the food we grow Thank God for the streams that flow Thank you, thank you this we say Thanks for all we have today. Amen (to the tune Twinkle, twinkle)
- We fold our hands And softly say, Thank you for our snack today. Amen

1. **Childish Prayers** – "God is great God is good."
2. **Rote Prayers** – "Now I lay me down to sleep."
3. **Ritual Prayers** – "Hail Mary full of grace."
4. **Memorized** – "Our Father, who art in heaven."
5. **Routine Prayers** – "same old, same old."

Lord's Prayer:

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." – Matthew 6:10-13

Hebrews 5:11-14 --- Hebrews 6:1-3 Immature Prayers, Baby Prayers

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And God permitting, we will do so.

William Cowper, songwriter

*"The devil trembles when he sees the **weakest Christian** on his knees"*

Instant generation turns into the nano-second generation. I want it NOW!

Prayer-weak, prayer anemic, prayer-starved, prayerless

Christians are weak Christians, victims instead of victors. Victory-starved Christians.

We ought to be growing in prayer year by year.

Adding to knowledge and experience. You cannot become a mighty warrior overnight. It takes a lifetime of learning. The sooner you get started, the sooner you will get moving into the realm of real prayer.

Learning to pray is a life-long journey. There are not easy fix its to developing a power-filled prayer life. There are disciplines, and discipline always takes time and persistence, exercise and resistance builds strong spiritual muscles.

UNDERSTANDING PRAYER

Prayer does not change the heart of God or the mind of God, nor does it move the hand of God. Prayer, in the Spirit, hears the heartbeat of God, gets into the mind of God, and prays according to the will of God. Spirit led prayer leads us to discover what is the mind of the Christ, thus we can pray in faith believing and nothing doubting. We do not use or manipulate God. God uses us.

*God, the Sovereign Creator, Sustainer, Upholder of all things has purposed to do his will through praying people, and not to accomplish his will without praying people. He looked for intercessor through whom he can move. **It has something to do with this spiritual warfare.** He looks for vessels of clay through whom he can work and be glorified. He does not seek the mighty, but the weak and willing – “That the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.”*

WHY GOD NEEDS US TO PRAY?

Isaiah 59:16

And he saw that *there was* no man, and wondered that *there was* no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Ezekiel 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Matthew 9:27-29 – According To Your Faith

27. As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" 28. When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. 29. Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith be it unto you.

Not all prayer is Supplication

There Are Many Kinds of Prayer

1. Always Praying – do you? What does that mean?

“Pray without ceasing.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:17

All seasons. Daily. Through the day. About everything and everyone.

The vine and branches are always connected, not occasionally. Abiding

(ie) Brother Lawrence, The *Practice of the Presence of God*. Prayer is loving God, and experiencing God all day long.

2. All Prayer – and supplications. Not all prayer is supplication.

Some prayer is preparation. A prayer closet. A shut door. A prayer in secret.

Some prayer is meditation on the word, or praying the Scriptures.

Some prayer is stillness listening to God’s whisper.

Some prayer is thanksgiving.

Some prayer is worship or singing.

Some prayer is for your casting your care.

Some prayer is for interceding for others. **(ie) A prayer closet, a panic room**

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

3. Always Pray in the Spirit – what does that mean?

All prayer is not in the Spirit. You can pray in the flesh. It is fleshly, carnal, selfish, worldly, not-thought-through, not according to the will of God. Prayer in the Spirit is according to the will of God. Every religion seeks to manipulate, impress, or appease God to do what they want. (ie) YWAM’s intercessory prayer strategy

4. All Perseverance – “be instant in prayer, not quick” Romans 12:12

Be watchful.

“*Could you not watch with me **one hour**?*” – Matthew 26:40

What is that? Staying power. Keep at it. Continue in it. Prevail, persevere, press on, never give up, don’t quit. Impatience **(ie) --- ONE HOUR, 60-Minutes, 4x each day.**

Luke 18:1 He spoke a parable to them, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Answers often will delay. Immediacy cannot be our goal. Instant answer every time,

every thing, for every one, will not suffice. We are not naming it and claiming it, but

asking God for it. Wait on the Lord. “*Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done.*” Luke 22:42

5. All Saints – “It’s not about you!”

Everybody needs somebody praying for them. You cannot pray for everyone, but you can pray for someone(s). Your circle of influence. Where there is no fellowship there will be no real prayer for all saints. If you don’t know the saints you probably will not pray for the saints. It is not just about health issues. (ie) Souls, sick, saints,

6. All Ministers (vs 19-20)

A prayer shield. A prayer covering.

How to pray for your minister, pastor, leader.

Minister, missionaries, magistrates.

II. There Are Mighty Spirit-filled Prayers

Some prayer are puny and some prayers are mighty to God to pulling down strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 –The Stronghold busting Prayer

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

James 5:16 -The Effectual Fervent Prayer

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The (energetic) prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (strong [muscular] & big). Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”

Mark 11: 22-26 - Prayer of Faith

*“And Jesus answering saith unto them, **‘Have faith in God.** For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.”*

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Examples of Mighty Prayers

Acts 19:18 – Known at the Throne

Elijah – I Kings 17:1, I Kings 18:42

Moses – Exodus 17

Job, Habakkuk, Jeremiah

Prayer is a mighty weapon against the enemy

Learn to use it.

PRAYING ALWAYS IN THE SPIRIT

1. Praying fervently (energetically) James 5:14-16
2. Praying desperately (importunity) Luke 11:5-13 (ask, seek, knock)
3. Praying On (prevailing prayer) Luke 18:1-8
4. Praying Through (fasting & prayer) Mark 9:17-29
5. Praying the will of God (God’s purposes) I John 5:14, Luke 22:42
6. Praying together (two agree touching) Matthew 18:18-20
7. Praying Scripture (God’s promises) 2 Peter 1:4
8. Praying believing prayers (faith) Mark 11:22-24, John 14:14
9. Praying forgiving prayers (forgive) Mark 11:25, Mt 6:14-15,

Praying Always in the Spirit

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. – Hebrews 11:6

1. Praying fervently (energetically) James 5:14-16 (it is related to faith)

14. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. 17. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

2. Praying desperately (boldness) Luke 11:5-13 (it is related to faith)

Follows the Lord's Prayer in Luke 11: 5. Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6. because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' 7. "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8. I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. 9. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. 11. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12. Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13. If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

3. Praying On (prevailing prayer) Luke 18:1-8 (it is related to faith)

1. Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 4. "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5. yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'" 6. And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8. I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

4. Praying Through (fasting and prayer) Mark 9:17-29 (it is related to faith)

17. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. 18. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." 19. "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." 20. So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. 21. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. 22. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." 23. "If you can't?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." 24. Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" 25. When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." 26. The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." 27. But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. 28. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" 29. He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer (and fasting)"

5. Praying the will of God (harmony) I John 5:14 (it is related to faith)

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

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 hears us:

6. Praying together (two agree touching) Matthew 18:18-20 (it is related to faith)

18. "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19. "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

7. Praying Scripture (God's promises) 2 Peter 1:3-4 (it is related to faith)

3. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

8. Praying believing prayers (faith) Mark 11:22-24, John 14:12-14 (it is related to faith)

22. "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

John 14:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. 15. "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

9. Praying forgiving (forgive) Mark 11:25 (it is related to faith)

25. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. "

Matthew 6:14 (follows the Lord's Prayer)

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 18:21-35 (follows prayer of faith)

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22. Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26. "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27. The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 30. "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34. In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Learning to Lean

Words and Music by John Stallings
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Proverbs 3:5

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Chorus

I'm learning to lean, learning to lean,

Learning to lean on Jesus.

Finding more power than I'd ever dreamed,

I'm learning to lean on Jesus.