

“PRAYING WITH PERSERVERANCE”

Text: Ephesians 6:10-18

Subject: “The Power of Pentecostal Praying”

(V. 18) *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”*

Question: How does prayer tie all the armor together?

Question: How can I pray like God wants me to pray?

Question: What will prayer do that nothing else will do?

Question: What does it mean to “pray always with all prayer and supplication”?

Question: What does it mean to “pray in the spirit”?

Question: What does it mean to “watch with all perseverance”?

Question: And, what’s the power and results of praying “for all saints”?

Introduction

◆ In the 17th century, Johann Freystein wrote this hymn:

Rise my soul to watch and pray,
From thy sleep awaken,
Be not by the evil day,
Unawares or taken.
For the foe well we know.

Oft his harvest reapeth.
While the Christian sleepeth,
Watch against the devil’s snares,
Lest asleep he finds thee,
For indeed no pains he spares,
To deceive and blind thee.

◆ Over 100 years ago Charlotte Elliot wrote another hymn:

Christian, seek not yet repose,
Cast thy dreams of ease away,
Thou art in the midst of foes,
Watch - and- pray.

Principalities and power,
Mustering their unseen array,
Wait for thy unguarded hours,
Watch-and-pray.

Watch as if on that alone,
Hung the issue of the day,
Pray that help may be sent down,
Watch-and-pray.

(What are the hymn writers saying?)

1. There is a vicious enemy with power to destroy.
2. There is a victorious Christ with power to overcome.
3. There is you and me standing in between the two with the weapon of unceasing prayer.

(It is no secret)

- Prayer is the spiritual air that soldiers breathe.
- Prayer is the atmosphere and incubator of a winning army.
- Prayer is the glue that holds all the other armor together.

An Illustration of Importance

Fact: In Pilgrim's Progress, John Bunyan spoke of prayer as working when all else failed.

Fact: He refers to the Christian in the Valley of the Shadow.

Fact: In the middle of that valley, the Christian finds a place he perceives to be the mouth of hell.

Fact: Bunyan writes:

- "The flame and smoke come out in abundance with sparks and hideous noises." (Things unafraid of Christian's Sword)
- Christian was forced to put his sword and betake himself to another weapon called "All Prayer".
- Thus, when Christians wielded this mighty weapon, the fiends of hell gave back and came no farther.
- God drove them back through the power of believing prayer.

Question: Pastor, how can I experience victorious prayer?

Question: And what kind of prayer reaches heaven, and sees answers on earth?

(Paul gives us three aspects of prayer that wins the battle.)

I. The Pattern Of Prayer (v. 18)

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication."

Question: What does it mean "pray always"?

Answer: It means to be ready to pray at all times.

1. It means to live in a spirit of prayer.
2. It means to remain in an attitude of prayer.
3. It means to have a mindset stayed upon God.

(It is a caution here):

- To never be anywhere, with anyone, doing anything that would hinder your praying on that occasion. **(Repeat)**

Question: Why so important to always be ready to pray?

Answer: So you will never be caught off-guard.

1. You'll always be prepared in battle.
 2. You'll not be thrown for a loop.
 3. You'll remain steady in a crisis.
 4. You'll take advantage of golden opportunities.
 5. You'll not panic when others are shaken.
 6. You'll be keen to temptation and fiery darts.
 7. You'll have God's grace upon you to stand. **(Why?)**
- Because you live in a continual awareness of God's presence.
 - Because you live in deep surrender to the Father.
 - Because you live in perpetual communion with Jesus.
 - Because you live with a mindset stayed upon God.

Question: But how do I pray pastor?

Answer: Paul gives us two simple ways to remember:

- #1. **"With All Prayer"** (The word **"prayer"** means:)
 - A general attitude of communion in prayer.
 - A life of prayer going up to God.
- #2. **"With All Supplication"** (the word **"supplication"** means:)
 - Prayer for specific occasions.
 - Prayer for special times of need.
 - Prayer for those requests at hand.

II. **The Power Of Prayer** (v. 18)

"...In the Spirit"

Question: How is prayer to be offered?

Answer: "In the Spirit."

Question: What does it mean to "pray in the Spirit"?

Answer: It means to pray:

1. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
2. With the assistance of the Holy Spirit.
3. Energized by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(All read Romans 8:26, 27) *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."* (v. 26)

"And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (v. 27)

(What does it mean?) It means that...

1. The Holy Spirit is our helper in prayer.
2. He knows what the mind of God is.

3. He enables us to pray apart from our natural ability.
4. He allows us to communicate directly with God.

Fact: This is the glorious result of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1. We receive a new prayer language to communicate directly with God.
2. We can then pray effectively (with power) even when our natural mind doesn't know what to pray for.
3. We edify and build up ourselves inside spiritually.

(I Cor. 14:2) *“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God.”*

(I Cor. 14:4) *“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.”*

(Jude 20) *“But ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.”*

Is this for everyone pastor? (I Cor. 14:5)
“I would that ye all spake with tongues.”

III. The Perseverance Of Prayer (v. 18)

“...And watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

Question: What does it mean to “watch” in prayer?

Answer: The word “watching” means: #1 “To keep awake” (and) #2. “To stay alert”

(It means)

- Don't get caught “off guard”.
- Be on your toes in the battle.
- Keep alert to enemy detours and distractions.

Question: What does it mean to pray “with all perseverance”?

Answer: It means to pray:

1. With persistency
2. Without becoming discouraged
3. Without giving up
4. Until the answer comes
5. Until your petitions are granted

(Galatians 6:9) *“And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, **if we faint not.**”*

Conclusion

Question: Pastor, what is Paul's one great prayer request?

Answer: A request not normal for most who pray:

(v. 18) “For all the saints.”

(v. 19) “And for me.” (Not a selfish prayer)

1. He doesn't pray for release from prison.
2. He doesn't pray for release from suffering.
3. He doesn't pray for release from pain.

Instead he prays (v. 19)

"That utterance may be given unto me, to boldly make known the mystery of the gospel."

(His concern was only one)

- "That the gospel gets out and sets the people free."

Fact: The devil had Paul put in a prison.

Fact: But the devil couldn't stop Paul from damaging his kingdom.

Fact: In prison, Paul was praying and souls were being saved.

Which lets me know:

- Your greatest ministry on earth is the ministry of prayer.
- Your greatest affect on earth is through your prayers.
- You may be limited in your location, but your location cannot (I repeat) cannot limit your effectiveness in prayer.

**(Top ten reasons)
"Why I love to pray"**

1. God has chosen to limit His activity to those who chose to pray.
2. Prayer is the communion of my soul with God.
3. If we prostrate ourselves before God, we will never be prostrated before the enemy.
4. To fail to pray is to forfeit what prayer was meant to do.
5. Our influence on earth will be gauged by our praying towards heaven.
6. To be little with God in prayer is to be little for God in service.
7. All success in spiritual work is dependent upon prayer.
8. The only thing that lies outside the power of prayer is that which lies outside the will of God.
9. If we are praying for revival, it means God is about to send it (otherwise He would not have put it in our hearts to pray).
10. Prayer is the breath of the soul; when I breathe, I live, when I cease to breathe, I die."

AMEN!
Bill Kirk