

In Ephesians 6:10-24 Paul closes his letter by equipping God's people to enter into spiritual warfare by addressing 6 key elements of the believer's spiritual battle.

- I. The resource of the battle is God's might.
 - A. Be strong from a position of strength (v. 10a).
 - B. Be strong in the source of strength (v. 10b).
 - C. Be strong with the armor of strength (v. 11a).
- II. The purpose of the battle is to stand against Satan's schemes (v. 11b).
- III. The opponents in the battle are Satan and His agents (v. 12).
- IV. The result of the battle is victory.
 - A. Resisting (v. 13a, b).
 - B. Standing firm (v. 13c, d).
- V. The apparel for the battle is God's armor.
 - A. Belt of truth (v. 14a).
 - B. Breastplate of righteousness (v. 14b).
 - C. Shoes of readiness given by the gospel of peace (v. 15).
 - D. Shield of faith (v. 16).
 - E. Helmet of salvation (v. 17a).
 - F. Sword of the Spirit (v. 17b).

VI. The front-line offensive in the battle is prayer.

- A. Prayer which is to be all-encompassing.
 - 1. In all times (v. 18a).
 - 2. Of all types (v. 18b).
 - 3. With all perseverance (v. 18c).
 - 4. For all believers (v. 18d).
- B. Prayer which is to be specific (vs. 19-20).
- C. Prayer which may be answered through you (vs. 21-22).

- D. Prayer as benediction (vs. 23-24).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 17, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 6:18-22

Memory Passage: Ephesians 6:18-22 (Review 1:1-6:17)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:18-22:** What is the connection between the main verbs “stand” (v. 14) and “praying” (v. 18), or, to ask it another way, what does praying have to do with standing?
- (b) Notice Paul uses “all” 4 times in v. 18. What does it mean to pray “at all times?” Be specific by giving a practical description of how this is done (cf. Acts. 2:42; Rom. 12:12; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:17).
- (c) What does it mean to pray “in the Spirit” (cf. Rom. 8:26-27)? How is this aided by wielding “the sword of the Spirit?”
- (d) How do you know if you are praying in (i.e. by means of) the Spirit? What does it look like to pray by different means?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:18-22.** “Prayer and supplication” most likely conveys the idea of being involved in all types of prayer. What different types of prayer are there? How might you become regularly (at all times) engaged in these different types of prayer?
- (b) What does keeping alert with all perseverance have to do with prayer (cf. e.g., Luke 21:35-36; Mark 13:32-37; 14:34-41).
- (c) How do we pray for “all the saints?” Be specific, listing specific ways to pray for all believers, even those we don’t know.
- (d) What obstacles stand in the way of you praying the “alls” found in v. 18, and what ways can you overcome them?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:18-22.** Why does Paul ask for prayers concerning his “words” when he already knows his content (“the mystery of the gospel,” cf. Matt. 10:16-20 & Luke 21:12-19)?
- (b) What does it mean to “boldly proclaim/declare” the gospel? How might one proclaim the gospel without boldness?
- (c) What does Paul know about himself when he asks for prayers that he would preach with boldness and as he “ought?”
- (d) What is the connection between preaching and prayers in these verses? How will you pray for the preaching ministry of BCC (both in our pulpit and in through all of our members) with these connections in mind?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:18-22.** Why does Paul send Tychicus to Ephesus?
- (b) How will knowing how Paul is and what he is doing encourage the Ephesians’ hearts?
- (c) How would Tychicus both *be* an answer to prayer and *bring* answers to prayers made by the Ephesians?
- (d) In what ways are you neglecting to recognize and report answers to the prayers of the saints? Can our thinking about prayer be complete if we are not watching for, recognizing, and giving God glory for answered prayer? Write down some ways you will be more focused in this area of your prayer life (e.g. making sure you update people who you’ve asked to pray).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:18-22, 1:15-23, & 3:14-21.** Spend time reviewing the prayers Paul prays for the Ephesians. Summarize the content of each request and develop a prayer list you will use as a guide to pray “for all the saints.”
- (b) Find your copy of our BCC Directory and spend today praying for individual members using some of the requests Paul prays for the Ephesians at the end of chapters 1 & 3.

DATE: September 17, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 6:18-22

Spiritual Warfare: Pray Well