

“Armored Saint: In the Middle Voice”

Ephesians 6:18

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All Scripture quoted from ESV unless otherwise noted

Ephesians 6:10-18 stresses the importance of being equipped for spiritual warfare, and prayer is a common thread that runs throughout any/every spiritual conflict. Prayer is a connection to the almighty God; one that no one can sever, but one that is, sadly, often neglected. There may be many reasons for that, but the bottom line is this: if you find it difficult to pray, maybe you have more to learn about who God is. He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother; a friend who longs to hear from you, longs to help you, longs to love you. Let's see what Ephesians 6:18 has to tell us.

Suggestions on keeping the 'prayer lines' open

Pray without delay

- **“At all times”** means at every suitable or fitting time or occasion
 - How to “stock your prayer pantry”
 - *Keep in practice*
 - *Make prayer a conversation between you and God*
 - *Memorize and pray Scripture*
 - *Look for the answers*

Pray with a spiritual perspective

- The statement in Eph. 6 is not a condemnation of anyone who does not pray in tongues. There is nothing wrong with praying in tongues – that's just not what this verse is about
- *Asking for God's will to be done can be done either with reverence or with resignation*
- God is very capable of accomplishing His will without you, but He invites you to cooperate with Him in doing so

Pray in every way you can

- *Prayer is your direct line to “mission central”*
 - Prayer is all forms of communication between you and God
 - There are many forms of prayer – silently or aloud; through expressions of worship and praise; alone or with a crowd.

3 B's of prayer (Eph. 6:18)

Be watchful

- “Keep alert”
 - Pray with a high level of expectation

Be persistent

- “Keep alert with all perseverance”
 - When you're pushing a rock uphill, you don't quit until the job is done!

Be ready

- “Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication”
 - “Praying” is written in what we would call the *middle* voice
 - Pray with the expectation that God will answer, and with the understanding that He may use you as part of that answer.

DIG IN!

Here are some farm-fresh questions that will help you to personalize and apply this morning's message.

1. *What was most surprising, unexpected, or helpful from today's passage/message? Why?*
2. *What does it look like in your life to pray at all times? How are you doing in this regard?*
3. *Think of the different forms of prayer that were described. Which ways are most natural and unnatural for you? How might you grow in the diversity of your prayer life?*
4. *Would a giraffe wear a tie at the top or the base of its neck? Why?*
5. *What do you need to do in order to grow in alertness, perseverance, and expectation in prayer? Explain what each of these looks like in your life.*
6. *Why is it important in spiritual warfare to 'pray for all the saints?' How are you doing this?*
7. *What does Philemon 4-7 say about this?*
8. *What have you learned through your personal time of Bible reading this week?*