

Praying in a War Zone
Ephesians 6:10-20
Pastor Dave Bennett

Daily Bible Readings
April 20-26

Introduction

the perseverance of a marathoner
the alertness of a Minuteman

We believe that through Jesus Christ we can enjoy personal, intimate access to God through prayer and that persistent, believing prayer is critical to our effectiveness in carrying out Christ's mission. We believe the promise of Jesus that all things are possible through prayer. We accept his invitation to keep on asking, seeking and knocking, as children approaching with confidence a loving father. We also recognize that we are in a spiritual war zone. We desire to cultivate a lifestyle of constant prayer, both individually and together, at home, in the church and in the world.

The Context for Prayer

- A. An invisible war
Job 1 and 2; Daniel 10:1 – 11:1; Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 16:18
- B. A formidable opponent
 - 1. Strong (vv.10,12)
Ephesians 1:19,20; 3:16
 - 2. Scheming (vv.11,16)
 - 3. Well organized (v.12)
 - 4. Experienced
 - 5. Deadly (vv.13-17)

II. Components of Prevailing Prayer

- A. Empowered and led by the Holy Spirit (v.18)
Romans 8:26,27
- B. Pervasive (v.18)
- C. Alert (v.18)
- D. Persevering (v.18)
- E. Specific (vv.19,20)
 - 1. Specific people
 - 2. Specific requests
 - 3. Other examples from Paul

IV. Opportunities for Prayer

- A. Praying alone
- B. Praying together

Follow-Throughs

In his other letters, Paul makes similar requests for specific prayer, acknowledging that believers are in a spiritual war zone, and that prevailing prayer is critical for victory, and that alertness in prayer and perseverance in prayer are paramount. In each of these passages, what does Paul ask for? How do these passages inform your own prayer?

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| Monday | Romans 15:23-33 |
| Tuesday | Colossians 4:2-6,12-13 |
| Wednesday | II Thessalonians 3:1-3 |
| Thursday | II Corinthians 1:1-11 |
| Friday | I Timothy 2:1-8 |

Warm-Ups

What did Jesus teach his disciples about prayer? With what attitude were they to pray? What were they to ask for in prayer? How can you apply these insights to your own prayers today?

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| Saturday | Luke 11:1-4 |
| Sunday | Luke 11:5-13 |