

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

April 2020

*Ephesians 6:18-19 Praying passionately, always in the Spirit as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times. Pray the blessings of God upon all His believers.*

Prayer is the battleground for the believer.

A powerless, gutless, ineffective church is a prayerless church.

When the church doesn't pray we are not even on the battleground. We take nothing back from the enemy, we have no effect for the kingdom of God, and most likely we are being trampled by sin and the oppression of wicked spirits. When the church doesn't pray, we are giving the enemy an open door to steal, kill and destroy us. On the other hand, if we pray, we become Jesus' warrior bride.

What do you think Joshua and the children of Israel were doing when they marched seven times around the great wall of Jericho? They weren't talking politics. They weren't reminiscing about the past. They weren't discussing the latest movie or song. They weren't even conferring about church doctrine and the certainly weren't worried about the latest football trades. No! I believe they were praying, silently communing with the God of their fathers.

The Great Wall of Jericho fell down flat by the power of God that was released through the prayer and obedience of Joshua and the children of Israel.

The Lord commands us to pray and then obey so that He can do great exploits! Obedience is absolutely necessary to waging a successful war. Now Paul reveals the other side of the coin. We have nothing to obey if we do not pray!

God commands us to pray, authorizes us to pray, and He says that He cannot act in many situations unless we pray. Yet believers will do anything to avoid praying. We would rather jump up and down in wild praises to the Lord than stay in our closet and pray. In fact, I believe the church must accomplish in prayer what we have accomplished in praise and worship. We have praise singers and praise dancers and praise banners and flag waivers and praise artistry. We have all kinds of praise, everything from country to classical in style. We know all of the Hebrew words for praise. There has been tremendous teaching on praise and worship. But how many of us are prayer warriors?

How many of us spend time on our faces and petition Him daily?

How many of us consider the highlight of our existence to be those times spent in powerful prayer, basking in the warmth of God's presence and receiving revelation?

How many of us travail before the Lord in the Spirit until deliverance breaks forth and people are set free from the grip of the enemy?

How many of us refused to take the devils bondage and persist in prayer until the devil flees?

It was because Joshua tarried in the tabernacle that he took the promised land!

The Greek word for “praying” indicates that this is not just bringing our requests and petitions, but it also means worship. We are not just to speak, but we are also to listen. And the word “always” tells us not only to have an attitude of prayer at all times, but to take every opportunity to pray – for ourselves, for our loved ones, and for anyone else who crosses our path.

Paul repeats the command to pray in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 as; *“Pray without ceasing”*. Prayer is something the Lord expects us to engage in constantly which means prayer must be something we can do at all times and in all situations. This is possible because there are different types of prayer, even silent prayer, which is communing in our hearts with God. If we are in a place where we cannot speak, we can still commune in our hearts with God. When we stay in an attitude of prayer, nothing can separate us from Him, and we can remain in communication with Him always.

Prayer is vital to spiritual warfare because we must commune with God to put on His armor. We must communicate with Him to receive His battle plan, and sometimes He tells us of battles to come. Then we can allow Him to prepare us. As a result of maintaining an attitude of prayer, whenever and however the enemy strikes, we are suited up for warfare and ready to fight and win. Although we do not live in a constant state of warfare, we do live in a constant attitude of prayer because the enemy is roaming the earth. *“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks around, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8).*

I cannot emphasize this enough: Prayer connects us to God, and God knows the strategies and battle plans that will defeat the enemy. David said to the Lord, *“He teaches my hands to war” (Psalms 18:34)*. In other words, the Lord has taught me how to fight the battles I face. He gives me the victory. We must fully rely on the Lord as David relied on Him. *You have wrapped me in power, and now you’ve shared with me your perfection. v33 Through you I ascend to the highest peaks of your glory to stand in the heavenly places, strong and secure in you. v34 You’ve trained me with the weapons of warfare-worship; now I’ll descend into battle with power to chase and conquer my foes. v35 You empower me for victory with your wrap-around presence. Your power within makes me strong to subdue, and by stooping down in gentleness you strengthened me and made me great! v36 You’ve set me free from captivity and now I’m standing complete, ready to fight some more! v37 I caught up with my enemies and conquered them, and didn’t turn back until the war was won! v38 I pinned them to the ground and broke them to pieces. I finished them once and for all; they’re as good as dead. v39 You’ve placed your armor upon me and defeated my enemies, making them bow low at my feet. v40 You’ve made them all turn tail and run, for through you I’ve destroyed them all! (Psalms 18:32-40 TPT).*

David was a man after God’s own heart and one of the most unusual believers of the Old Testament. He was a man of war who recognize that the only way to defeat the enemy in the natural was to defeat the enemy in the spirit realm first. He knew that prayer was the real battleground for all the issues of life. Throughout his lifetime, whether he was a shepherd, a hero, a fugitive, or a King, David trusted the Lord for his safety and his provision from day to day, week to week, month to month and year to year – communing continually with the Lord in prayer. *Embrace the power of salvation’s full deliverance, like a helmet to protect your thoughts from lies. And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword of the spoken Word of God. Pray passionately in the Spirit, as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times. Pray the blessings of God upon all his believers. v19 And pray also that God’s revelation would be released through me every time I preach the wonderful mystery of the hope-filled gospel. v20 Yes, pray that I may preach the wonderful news of God’s kingdom with bold freedom at every opportunity. Even though I am chained as a prisoner, I am his ambassador (Ephesians 6:18-20 TPT).*

Paul initially calls upon the Ephesians to pray for him that he will be even more bold in making known the mystery of the Gospel. Paul, perhaps the boldest preacher in the history of the church, asks for prayer that he can be even more bold! This always puts me to shame! Am I praying such a prayer today? Am I asking that believers everywhere, especially myself, might be even more bold in declaring the Gospel to an unbelieving world?

It's time to pray until we tear down the strongholds of the enemy that are being built against our personal lives, our families, our churches and the body of Christ in this generation – so we can preach the Gospel boldly. It's time we pray until those who are being persecuted for the Gospel's sake around the world are set free to continue preaching boldly. It's time we pray for missionaries who are getting souls saved in these remote easy to forget areas of the world, so that they may be even more bold.

Paul also exhorts us to pray “*with all prayer and supplication for all saints*”. He says, “Be specific and be thorough. Cover all the bases. Don't leave any stone unturned. Pray about every area of your life and everything that concerns you. Pray about your level of commitment and purity of heart toward the Lord. Pray about your family, your job, and your ministry. Pray about everything the Holy Spirit brings to mind. Oh, and pray for “*all the saints*” in this way too.

When Paul addresses the Ephesians, he illustrates how thorough we are to be in prayer with his own situation. He doesn't ask the Ephesians to pray for him in only one area. He also makes provision for them to know all his needs so that they might pray more effectively and specifically for his entire life. He writes: *I am sending you a dear friend, Tychicus. He is a beloved brother and trustworthy minister in our Lord Jesus. He will share with you all the concerns that I have for your welfare and will inform you of how I am getting along. And he will also prophesy over you to encourage your hearts. (Ephesians 6:21-22 TPT).*

When we pray for each other, we are to pray with the most accurate information we can obtain. When was the last time you prayed about something until you knew in your heart and mind that you had prayed about every facet of that problem or situation? So often we pray, “Oh, Lord, you know the need. Please meet the need.” But the Bible says we are to pray with wisdom and understanding. We are to pray about everything we know to pray, we are to pray about a problem inside and out, upside and down, through and through.

Pray thoroughly. Pray all the way through a problem. Pray every aspect and every detail in every consequence of a situation. And pray for the entire body of Christ to prosper in all areas of life. This sounds like a lot to do! However, Paul also gives us the key to doing it.

We are to pray with perseverance, watching. This means to be sleepless, always be awake and alert and “perseverance” means to give constant care and attention. Not only are we to pray for ourselves, the saints, the ministers of the Gospel, but we are to stay alert at all times, day or night and be ready to pray for anyone who needs it.

The message Paul is trying to impart here is one of compassion and care among the saints. We are to love and care for one another at all times and in all situations. What concerns you concerns me. My problem is your problem. And our neighbor's crisis is our crisis.

This is an impossible standard to achieve until we add the phrase “*in the Spirit*”. Watching, persevering prayer is praying in the Spirit. There is no way we can come into oneness and unity apart from the Holy Spirit. And apart from the Holy Spirit, our prayers are lifeless and powerless – and so are we! To continue to pray fervently and passionately until we get the victory must allow the Holy Spirits to be our inspiration, strength and guide.

Paul wrote to the Romans that there will be times when we have no idea what to pray, but the Holy Spirit will take care of the matter. *And in a similar way, the Holy Spirit takes hold of us in our human frailty to empower us in our weakness. For example, at times we don't even know how to pray, or know the best things to ask for. But the Holy Spirit rises up within us to super-intercede on our behalf, pleading to God with emotional sighs too deep for words.* <sup>v27</sup> *God, the searcher of the heart, knows fully our longings, yet he also understands the desires of the Spirit, because the Holy Spirit passionately pleads before God for us, his holy ones, in perfect harmony with God's plan and our destiny. (Romans 8:26-27 TPT).*

At times we may feel vulnerable, confused and inept as we face certain situations in our lives. We may even look vulnerable to others. But if we will pray in the Holy Ghost and be filled with the Holy Ghost, we will not stay vulnerable! The more we pray in the Spirit, the stronger we experience the anointing, or the tangible presence and life-changing power of the Spirit. It is the anointing that breaks every yoke of bondage and sets us and others free. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers our prayers and brings them to the effective, devil-crushing level of fervency and we know from James (Jacob) 5:16 that the “*effectual, fervent prayer*” is the prayer that availeth much.

Notice that Paul does not say, “Now all you intercessors, pray,” nor did Jesus tell Joshua, “Now, just take the ones who can pray to march around the wall.” No! The whole nation of Israel marched around Jericho – men, women and children. God commands all believers to pray! I believe the call of God to the church today is a call to prayer, both to the individual believer and to the corporate body.

It's a known fact that war is one of life's great equalizers. We often see the dismissal of prejudice and bigotry in the middle of war. No soldier in a foxhole cares what color a fellow soldier skin is – he only cares whether that soldier is on his side. Blacks who have never cared for whites and whites who have never cared for Blacks have left foxholes as friends, and us code-breaking Native Americans helped save everyone's rear end. A prejudiced person might say after the war is over, “Oh, I can't stand people of that color or race,” but then usually add, “except for Fred, Fred is all right, Fred isn't like the rest of them. Fred is a good brother.” And the reason Fred isn't like “the rest of them” is solely because Fred was on their side in the foxhole of battle.

In chapter 2 of Ephesians, we saw how God brought Jew and Gentile together in Christ Jesus. In Christ, believers of all shapes, sizes, and colors, ethnic groups and cultures have a common enemy and its God's desire that we come together. Moreover, it is a necessity that we come together in order to win the war against Satan and his demonic forces of evil.

When Paul wrote to the Ephesians, the large shields the Roman soldiers at the time would be locked together in such a way that an entire row of soldiers could move forward as an entire single unit, fully protected. It probably looked like a moving wall. The protection over each soldier multiplied because of this union, but so did their power and ability to move forward and conquer.

What an awesome picture of corporate prayer in the church! We do not stand alone. We do not fight alone. We are to fight as a united front taking on the enemy and standing strong against him both for each one of us individually and for the body as a whole. As we join our faith with one another in prayer, the power of God to save, heal, deliver and set free is multiplied hundreds of thousands – even millions – of times over.

We need to be unified and organized as a fighting force because the enemy is unified and organized. When Jesus encountered a demon-possessed man in the country of the Gadarenes. He asked him, “what is your name?” And the man replied, “Legion” (see Luke 8:26-36). “Legion” not only refers to the fact that there were many demons in this man, but it is a military term that also means those demons were an

organized stronghold in him. Those demons were fulfilling their assignment and working with the other demons to hold this man in bondage.

The Bible tells us that one believer may send a few demons to flight, but two in prayerful agreement send many demons to flight. And we read in Leviticus 26:8, “*Five of you shall chase a hundred, and one hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight*”. Being locked together in prayer, praying in faith in a body, releases the multiplied power of God against the enemy.

There are times when we are alone in the lions’ den and God delivers us. Then there are times when we are with our buddies in the fiery furnace and our collective faith brings us through. In most situations, however, we need each other because God planned it that way. We need Him and we need each other to survive and succeed. We are not a loose group of lone rangers each one doing their own thing. We are the family of God!

The family who prays together, stays together. And the family who stays together, conquers the land!

Perhaps the greatest understatement of this letter would be that the Presence of God is discovered in prayer. And while that is an obvious truth, many people learn to pray without the Presence, thinking their discipline is what God is looking for. Discipline has an important part in walking with Christ, for sure. But Christianity was never to be known for its disciplines; it was to be known by its passions. Prayer is the ultimate expression of partnership with God. It is the adventure of discovering and praying His heart. So many spend their life praying to God, when they could be praying with God. This partnership with its answers and breakthroughs is supposed to be the source of our fullness of joy.

*But you, my delightfully loved friends, constantly and progressively build yourselves up on the foundation of your most holy faith by praying every moment in the Spirit. (Jude 20 TPT). The one who speaks in tongues advances his own spiritual progress, while the one who prophesies builds up the church. (1 Corinthians 14:4 TPT). Embrace the power of salvation’s full deliverance, like a helmet to protect your thoughts from lies. And take the mighty razor-sharp Spirit-sword<sup>1</sup> of the spoken Word of God. Pray passionately in the Spirit, as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times. Pray the blessings of God upon all his believers. (Ephesians 6:18 TPT).*

When we pray anointed prayers, we are praying the heart of God. His heart is being expressed through words, emotions and decree. Finding the heart of God is a sure way of locking into His presence. This privilege of co-laboring is a part of the assignment given for those who would give themselves to carry His presence well.

PRAY..... WITH HIM, WITH ME, WITH THOSE WHO WANT TO SEE REVIVAL COME TO THE PRISONS!

I’m praying, for you!

**Chief**

*If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part of this, please go to [www.chiefministries.com](http://www.chiefministries.com) and [www.chiefshouse.org](http://www.chiefshouse.org)*

**Christ’s**

**Heart**

**In**

**Every**

**Felon**