

Eph. 6:10-20 - ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

I. Calling upon God in Prayer is the Highest Activity to which the Human Spirit may Aspire (Gen. 4:26b).

Gen. 4:26b – At that time men began calling upon the name of the LORD.

“Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to the Word of God, for the good of the Church, with submission in faith to the will of God.” ~ John Bunyan

When you pray, rather let your heart be without words than your words without heart. ~ John Bunyan

II. Effective Prayer must be Inspired and Directed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 6:18).

- A. The Spirit knows our needs and guides our utterance of them through the Scripture.
- B. When we don't feel like praying, wait quietly before God with expectation and seek His assistance.
- C. The Holy Spirit makes intercession through us on behalf of ourselves and others (Rom. 8:26; 1 Cor. 14:14-15).

Rom. 8:26-27 - ²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

1 Cor. 14:10-15 - ¹⁰Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. ¹¹If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me. ¹²So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. ¹³For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

III. Praying on All Occasions for the Advancement of the KOG is the Ultimate Weapon and Most Critical Activity of the Soldier of Christ (Eph. 6:18-20).

2 Chron. 20:12 - Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.

IV. Believers Advance the KOG as they Pray Continually in every Situation, ‘Thy Kingdom Come.’

Questions for further study and review:

1. What things did you aspire to when you were a young child? How are you doing on those aspirations? What are some of the noblest aspirations you have heard? Do you agree with point I? Why or why not? Why is Gen. 4:26b so stunning?
2. Read Eph. 6:10-20. Focusing on vs, 18, what exactly is prayer? Why are the elements that Bunyan brings out in his definition necessary?
3. Review point II and its subpoints above. Do you agree with each? Why or why not?
4. Reread Eph. 6:18-20. Do you agree with point III above? Why or why not? Restate these verses in your own words.
5. Use examples from Scripture and personal examples of how different types of circumstances that could require different types of prayers by the spiritual soldier.
6. Reflect and answer the question: How well am I yielding the mighty weapon of prayer in my life? What one thing can I do this week to increase my effectiveness in calling upon the Lord?