

PREVAILING IN PRAYER

(Part 1: Ephesians 6:18-20)

Fighting our archenemy without prayer is an absolute recipe for spiritual disaster. Since our real struggle is against supernatural foes, we need supernatural means to be strong in the Lord. And God has ordained prayer as the divine means by which He strengthens us in our spiritual warfare. **In order to stand firm against Satan and live in the victory of Christ, we must prevail in prayer.** Ephesians 6:18-20 presents Paul's instructions on how we prevail against Satan through prayer.

1. *Pray constantly in reliance upon the* _____.

Prayer is an intimate, sincere, unrestricted and reverent conversation with God. Since our battle with Satan is continuous all throughout our Christian life, we must therefore be in constant communication with the Lord who is our Commander in Chief. In the words of Paul, we must *pray at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication* (Ephesians 6:18). To pray at all times means that we must set aside specific moments of focused communion with the Lord (Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12). It also implies that we must pray at every opportunity and on all occasions, no matter what our life's circumstances are (James 5:13-14). Furthermore, Paul exhorts us to pray in total reliance upon the mighty power and divine work of the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit plays a vital role in our spiritual warfare. He provides us assurance and confidence that we eternally belong to God (Romans 8:15-16; John 10:28-29). And He empowers us and intercedes for us in perfect harmony with God's will (Romans 8:26-27).

2. *Pray vigilantly with all perseverance for the* _____.

In order to prevail against Satan, we must also stay alert and be vigilant in prayer (Ephesians 6:18; Luke 21:36; Mark 14:28; 1 Peter 5:8; Colossians 4:2). We must be steadily on guard against the attacks of the evil one. Vigilant prayer must also be persevering prayer. We must be fervently devoted to intensive, earnest and persistent prayer so as to not fall into spiritual idleness and complacency. The objects of our vigilant and persevering prayer are our fellow believers set apart for Christ (Ephesians 6:18; 2 Timothy 1:3-4; Acts 20:31). What must be the primary focus and foremost concern in our prayers for God's people is their wholehearted love for God and sincere devotion to our Lord Jesus, their submission and obedience to God's Word, their perpetual dependence on the Holy Spirit through prayer, their daily victory over Satan, their spiritual protection from the temptations of the evil one, their settled commitment to renounce sin in their lives and their renewed zeal and passion to proclaim the saving gospel of Christ (Matthew 6:9-13; John 17:11,15,17; Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-19; 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3-4). We must pray that our brothers and sisters in Christ will be strong in the Lord, that they will stand firm against the devil and live in the triumph of Christ (Matthew 6:13; Ephesians 6:10-11).
