



Pastor's Update

Sunday, April 7, 2024

“Praying Always”

“...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak (Ephesians 6:18-20 NKJV)

Prayer and watchfulness are essential for victory in the battle against the devil. Tremper Longman III reminds us that, “The formidable nature of the battle against evil powers underscores the need for prayer. Prayer is a key weapon in the battle.” Without prayer, the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God (Eph. 6:17), remains dull and ineffective. As a soldier whose sword is dull, so is the Christian whose life is lacking in prayer. He/she is destined to fall in the battle. The sword must be sharpened through constant prayer and watchfulness.

If we are to stand against the devil, we must blend the word of God and prayer.

Prayer without Bible study is mere emotionalism. Bible study without prayer is dull intellectualism.

Prayer is so vital that Paul calls on the Ephesians to pray for other Christians and for himself that he may proclaim the gospel with boldness. Before he asks for himself, however, Paul instructs them regarding the manner in which they ought to engage in prayer: “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (v. 18). Notice that Paul does not state any particular requests. He simply tells them *how* to pray, not *what* to pray. He is dealing with the *manner* not the *matter* of prayer. This is important because the practice of prayer itself is a victory for the Believer. It is *praying* that matters. When we fail to pray we are already at the brink of defeat. We recall Jesus’ warning to His disciple in the Garden of Gethsemane: “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).

In Ephesians 6:18, Paul mentions at least five elements of the manner in which we ought to pray:

- A. We should pray all kinds of prayers.
- B. We should pray in all circumstances.
- C. We should pray in the Spirit.
- D. We should pray for all Believers.
- E. We should be watchful for the purpose of prayer.

By God’s Grace and for His glory, Pr. Francis