



Week 7: Sunday, July 19, 2020

A Roman soldier could face a death sentence if he were not alert while on duty—we are called to be alert at all times to pray as we move into enemy territory.

Take up the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)

This refers to the short sword used in close combat. The sharp, short sword was one of Rome's great military innovations. The Roman army was called the "short swords" because of its use of the short swords in winning battles. The sword's double edges made it ideal for the "cut and thrust" strategy. ¹

- Jesus engaged the enemy by using scripture. (Matthew 4)
- The Holy Spirit helps us to remember God's Word. Use God's word when temptation is high.

¹² For the word of God is **alive** and **powerful**. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and Spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

⁹ How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. Psalm 119:9

¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11

- Maintain Strong Spiritual Disciplines
- Remind yourself who you are in Christ. Look at the, "I am" Statements
- Ask God to reveal to you evil things. (schemes, stories, situations)
- Speak God's Promises Out loud

⁴ For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. ⁵ And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:4-5

Pray in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18-20)

Prayer is the energy that enables the Christian soldier to wear the armor and to wield the sword – Warren Wiersbe

- Praying in the Spirit means that the Spirit helps us when we pray (Romans 8:26); the Spirit prays on our behalf (Romans 8:27)

²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers^[a] in harmony with God's own will. Romans 8:26-27

The Bible formula is that we pray to the Father, through the Son, and in the Spirit. - Warren Wiersbe

- **There is Purpose in Prayer**

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, **pray about everything**. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ, Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

- **There is Power in Prayer**

²⁸ Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "**This kind can be cast out only by prayer**." Mark 9:28-29

- **There is Deliverance Through Prayer.**
 - **Persistent Prayer** (Eph. 6:18, Pray in the Spirit and Pray at all times)
 - **Passionate Prayer** (Eph. 6:18, Be alert and do not give up) We labor through prayer.

¹ Barton, B. B., & Comfort, P. W. (1996). [Ephesians](#) (p. 134). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

- **Purposed Prayer** (Eph. 6:19-20) Prayer for boldness, wisdom, and call for corporate prayer

Scripture calls for all three of these aspects in prayer.

Lord, teach us to pray. Put the thoughts into our minds, the desires into our hearts, and the very words into our lips, if it be your will, that so all through it may be praying in the Spirit and not in the flesh. – CH Spurgeon

One Last Thought: If you are satisfied with going through the motions and having a mediocre prayer life, you will reap what you sow. However, if you want to see breakthroughs, pray with persistence, pray with passion, and pray with purpose.

¹² **Fight the good fight** for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. I Timothy 6:12