

# The Spiritual Warfare of Prayer

(Ephesians 6:18-20)

1. *The Christian life is a battleground.*
2. *Satan is our opponent. Not “flesh and blood.”*
3. *God is our Commander-in-Chief. He has armed us adequately to do battle.*

## How can our church be united in resisting the Devil?

1. *By Depending on God’s Strength (Ephesians 6:10-11a)*
2. *By Knowing our Enemy (Ephesians 6:11b-13)*
3. *By Putting on God’s Spiritual Armor (Ephesians 6:14-20)*

Paul now commands the local army of God to do battle on our knees.

### 1. *By Always Being Able to Pray “Praying always”*

- A. In the OT, there were prescribed times of daily prayer (Psalm 55:17, 19).
- B. Now, we can pray any time (1 Thess 3:10; Rom 12:12).

### 2. *By Praying all Kinds of Prayer “Prayer and supplication for all saints”*

- A. “Prayer” is a general word for prayer as in worship.
- B. “Supplication” is a more specific kind of prayer that asks God to supply someone’s needs.
- C. Intercession or “supplication for all saints.”
  - 1) The extreme of asking but seldom thanking God.
  - 2) The extreme of praying for physical needs by seldom praying for spiritual needs.
  - 3) The extreme of praying for ourselves and seldom for others.

### 3. *By Praying “In the Spirit”*

- A. Praying in the Spirit is the opposite of praying in the flesh (James 4:3).
- B. Paul has given us a pattern for prayer in 1:17 and 3:14 that involves the Trinity.
- C. Praying in the Spirit also means praying with the Spirit’s help (Romans 8:26, 27).

### 4. *By “Watching and Praying”*

- A. Peter fell asleep in the act of prayer in Matthew 26:41.
- B. Don’t fall asleep at the task of praying (Colossians 4:2).

### 5. *By Praying with “All Perseverance”*

- A. The church in Acts 12 prayed with perseverance.
- B. Sometimes we stop praying too soon.