

“Praying In The Spirit On All Occasions”

Ephesians 6:18-24

Message by Michael J. Barnard

November 22, 2020

Teaching Aim: To recognize the enemy’s tactic is to attack believers following a spiritual high. To understand the importance of prayer in the life of every Christian. To realize, Christians need to encourage and lift one another up in prayer. To understand ministry as a team is always better than one person trying to do everything by his or herself.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: We need to help one another through the battles of life. (Exod. 17:8-13)

1. In **Exod. 16**, God miraculously provided Manna from heaven to feed two million Israelites in the desert. In **chapter 17**, God brought water out of the rock at Rephidim when the Israelites had no water to drink in the desert. In both occasions God provided for the needs of His people; many of the Hebrew people would be on a spiritual high at this miraculous provision of God. What immediately happened following this spiritual high at Rephidim (See **Exod. 17:8**)? Have you found it true in your own life that the enemy attacks after spiritual highs?

2. **Verse 9** is the first time in the Bible that we meet Joshua. What command did Moses give to young Joshua in **verse 9**? Who were the Amalekites and where did they come from? (See Bible Dictionary) What is the meaning of the name “Joshua?” (Hint: Google it) What is the Greek translation for the Hebrew “Yeshua” and English name “Joshua?”

3. The rod of Moses had just been used to strike the rock at the command of God bringing water out of it. What did Moses say he would do with this same rod the next day (**vs. 9**)? As Joshua and the army of Israel fought the army of Amalek, three individuals went to the top of the hill in obedience to God in order to pray. Who were they?

4. What happened in the battle as long as Moses held the rod up in his hand (**vs. 11**)? What happened when Moses got tired and lowered his arm? The lifting up of hands is one way for us to worship God and pray today. Have you ever held your hands up to God in worship and prayer? Why do you think so many people today resist?

5. The battle was long, and Moses was getting tired; his circulation was getting cut off and his arms felt heavy (**vs. 12**). What did Aaron and Hur do at this moment of crisis? Have you ever become exhausted in the battles of life and needed the help of other believers to get you through? Who can you call upon to pray with you in times of need?

6. What was the end result of the teamwork found in **verse 12** (**vs. 13**)? Why is teamwork always better when it comes to ministry? How does this concept of teamwork relate to the metaphor of a human body as used to describe the church? How did the teamwork help Moses in **verse 12**? In what ways do you help the church? What do you see as your spiritual gifts? (See **Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet. 4:10-11**) How are you using these spiritual gifts in ministry?

Part II: Praying always in the Spirit and being an ambassador of Jesus Christ (Eph. 6:18-20)

1. How can a Christian possibly pray without ceasing (**vs. 18**)? What did Paul mean when he said we are to pray in the Spirit? Why is praying in the Spirit so important for the Christian? (See **Rom. 8:26-27; Jude 20,21**) Have you ever used the Bible as your prayer guide? What is the meaning of the word "*supplication*?" (See Dictionary) Why is it important for every Christian to remain watchful? (See **1 Pet. 5:8**)

2. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your prayer life? What do you see as some of your greatest challenges when it comes to prayer? It is important to note prayer is not a spiritual gift. E.M Bounds said, "*Prayer is a trade to be learned.*" What did he mean? What are some steps that you can take to improve your prayer life?

3. Paul wrote **verse 19** while under house arrest in Rome as he waited to take his appeal to Caesar. Did Paul ask the Ephesian believers to pray for his release? Did he ask them to pray that his life would be spared? What did Paul request? Should this be the prayer request of every Christian today? According to **Acts 28:30-31**, did God answer the prayers of the Ephesian believers?

4. What does the word “*ambassador*” mean (**vs. 20**)? (See Dictionary) How do we see this word being used internationally today? What do we mean when we say a person is an ambassador of Jesus Christ? (See **2 Cor. 5:18-21**) According to these verses, what is the mission of every Christian?

Part III: Paul’s final greeting and benediction (Eph. 6:21-24)

1. Tychicus was obviously a close and trusted associate of the Apostle Paul, he is mentioned five times in the New Testament (**vv. 21-22**). (See **Acts 20:4-6; Col. 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:12; Tit. 3:12**) According to **verse 21**, what information was Tychicus asked to share with the church at Ephesus? Why is it important for us to be an open book and to keep the communication channels open when serving the Lord in ministry?
2. The original meaning of the word “*comfort*” not only meant compassion, but also “*to strengthen*” (**vs. 22**). How does worshiping together strengthen and encourage believers today? (See **Heb. 10:25-26**) What happens when Christians are no longer allowed to worship and fellowship with one another? What are some of the negative results of the recent government lockdowns as they relate to the Christian community? Is there ever a time when Christians should not follow government mandates? If so, when? (See **Rom. 13:1-7; Acts 5:28-29**)
3. What four communicable attributes of God did Paul note in the benediction at the end of this book (**vv. 23-24**) According to **verse 24**, which group of people would receive the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ? What was required in order to receive this grace? What is the meaning of the word, “*Amen*?” (See Dictionary)
4. How has our study through the Book of Ephesians affected your belief in God? Were you surprised by anything that you learned in this book? Is there any particular way that this book has touched your life and encouraged you to a stronger walk with Christ?
5. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not repent of your sin and do so in prayer right now?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- It is important for Christians to be watchful and pray always in the Holy Spirit.
- Sometimes we need the help of other believers when we are exhausted from the battle.
- A team effort is always better than one person trying to carry the load by him or herself.
- Every Christian is called to be an ambassador (or representative) of Jesus Christ.
- Ambassadors are generally granted diplomatic immunity from arrest and imprisonment, but that is not always the case with Christians.
- As Ambassadors of Jesus Christ, we are to call upon unbelievers to be reconciled to God and pray earnestly for them to do so.
- We can't all be Paul's, but we can all be like Tychicus as we help others behind the scenes.