The Battle is On

Ephesians 3:10-12

God's intent - His wisdom known to the principalities and powers His means - the church His eternal purpose - accomplished in Christ

His provision - bold access with confidence through faith

Ephesians 6:10-20

Encouragement -

be strong in the Lord and His mighty power Put on the whole armor - without it you can't stand! V11, 13 Contrasted to Sauls armor not tested by David against Goliath

Enemies-

Principalities, Powers, Rulers of darkness of this age Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places

Equipment -

Waist girded with truth Breastplate of righteousness Feet shod with prepared gospel of peace Shield of faith - held With this you WILL be able to quench ALL the fiery darts Helmet of salvation Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God

Effective execution- PRAY always praying and supplicating Always watchful with perseverance and supplication All the saints And for ambassadors.....boldness, opportunity, utterance given through the word and the Spirit

A CALL TO PRAY

- 1. What are the indicators that tell us we need to pray?
- 2. Is your prayer life what you want it to be?

ENCOURAGEMENT

3. Read Ephesians 6:10-13

What is the encouragement given?

Define "be strong" and "power" from v10.

- 4. From v11 and 13, what are we encouraged to do and why?
- 5. Are we to be on the defensive, offensive or both?
- 6. Who or what are our enemies according to v12 of this portion?
- 7. Read the verses below and summarize what they say concerning our enemies.

Colossians 1:16

Colossians 2:10

Colossians 2:15

Ephesians 3:10-12

8. What kinds of things does or enemy do according to these verses?

Zechariah 3:1,2 Rev 12:10 Mark 4:15 Mark 8:33 Luke 22:31 John 8:44 2 Cor 2:11 2 Cor 11:14

9. Considering Eph 6:18 follows the "putting on" of the believers armor, (which we will cover next time) what is implied?

Are you standing your ground against the enemy?

Are you aware of the enemies devices in your life?

Are you prepared to advance against him?

Will you commit to regular and faithful prayer?

Equipment of a Soldier Eph 6:10-20

1. How many times do you see "stand" in this portion? And why would Paul repeat this? These portions of the Word may give us some insight.

Acts 26:16, 1 Corinthians 16:13

- 2. Looking at each piece of armor lets *determine its importance* as a soldier. What do we learn from these verses?
- A. Belt of Truth (v14)

2Tim 2:15

Luke 12:35

B. Breastplate of Righteousness

Rom 3:21,22

2 Corinthians 5:21

C. Feet / Preparation of the Gospel of Peace

Romans 10:15

Romans 14:19

D. Shield of Faith

Rom 4:20,21

1 John 5:4

E. Helmet of Salvation

2 Tim 3:15

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

F. Sword of the Spirit

Hebrews 4:12

Revelation 1:16

Effective execution

- 3. How many times is "all" mentioned in v18 and what is the significance of this?
- 4. According to Romans 8:26,27 what does it mean to "pray in the Spirit"?
- 5. Summarize these verses and ponder what they mean for us.

Luke 18:1-8,

Matthew 26:41,

Phil 1:4,5,

Acts 1:14,

Acts 4:29,

Faith that Prays

The purpose of this chapter is to see the important role that faith has in our approach to God and we will see how we can strengthen our faith. We will also see the importance of aligning ourselves with the Word and will of God.

1. Faith is an absolute when approaching God. What do these verses tell us?

Hebrews 11:6

Hebrews10:19-22

- 2. Define faith according to Heb 11:1.
- 3. What one word describes their "little faith" in each of these passages?

Matthew 6:30 Matthew 8:26 Matthew 14:31 Matthew 16:8

- 4. James 1:5-8 is a strong statement of God's requirement for faith. What is it and why does God make this point?
- 5. Doubt attacks the person and character of God as Satan did in the garden. Matthew 14:25-33 speaks to the lessons we learn in fully trusting God.

Why did Peter ask to walk on the water?

Why did he sink?

What did the disciples recognize and say in v33?

The Word of God and the Will of God

Doing God's will, and having his Word abiding in us, is an imperative of effectual praying. But, it may be asked, how are we to know what God's will is? The answer is, by studying His Word, by hiding it in our hearts, and by letting the Word dwell in us richly. E.M. Bounds

- 6. What is the ultimate purpose of the cleansing Word of God? Eph 5:26,27
- 7. Study and record your observations regarding the will of God and renewing your mind.

Romans 12:1,2

Ephesians 4:17-24

8. What 2 important "things" are necessary in having our prayers answered from John 15:7? How does this line up with knowing the will of God?

Faith; it deals with God's Word, and lays hold of the truth Faith rests its whole weight on His Word. Faith is not an aimless act of the soul, but a looking to God and a resting upon His promises -

Are you seeking to approach God with "little faith"?

Am I spending quality time with the Lord in His Word so that I am constantly being transformed, renewing my mind to be aligned with Truth?

Do I approach God in the knowledge of His Word and will as I pray?

Am I resting upon God and His promises?

Our Approach to God

We have seen our need to pray with purpose as well as the importance of knowing God's Word and will as we pray. A strong faith is imperative, believing God completely, trusting in His ability and power. Now lets look at the manner in which we approach God.

- 1. The disciples asked the Lord to teach them to pray in Luke 11:1,2. What is the Lord's first admonition and why is this important?
- 2. The picture of approaching God as Father is one that holds the father in high regard. He is the provider, protector and powerful one. He is the honored, revered and loving father that meets the need of his child. Is it important to call upon the Father or does scripture give us the instruction of calling upon Jesus the Son? What do these verses tell us?

1Chronicles 29:10 Isa 64:8 John 8:53-55 Romans 15:6 Ephesians 1:17, 3:14, 1 Peter 1:17 James 1:17

3. What specific heart attitudes are important in approaching God? Ps 24:3,4, 2 Tim 2:22,

Ps 10:17, 1 Peter 5:5-6

4. What do these verses point out that hinder our prayers?

Ps 66:18 -

Proverbs 28:9

Mark 11:25

James 4:1-3 -

1 Peter 3:7

James 1:5-7

5. Proverbs 1:28-30 gives us an important lesson in seeking the Lord. What four things are stated as strong reasons to be denied an answer?

a. b. c. d.

6. Read Mathew 6:5-7. What 3 things are mentioned about "when you pray"?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

7. Take time to memorize Philippians 4:6,7 so that you can rid yourself of this monster attitude that causes doubt and unbelief.

Is there something in this lesson that has spoken to you about your own heart and attitude? What do you need to do to rid yourself of these things?