

## The Armor of God PART 7

### Ephesians 6:18

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#### MAIN TAKEAWAY

The Roman soldiers would use two different types of spears. One of them was a tall, light one that they would throw out and stop the enemy from afar. The other spear was as shorter, heavier one and it was especially crafted to destroy shields (the impenetrable). They were also used to steady the soldiers as they walked and as a wall of protection. In that same way, prayer goes first and defeats the enemy from a distance, it breaks through the impossible and it steadies us, our emotions and is a wall of protection around us.

**Big idea:** Prayer is the weapon that allows us to stop the enemy's plans before they start and advance the Kingdom of God here on earth.

#### KEY SCRIPTURES & TAKEAWAYS

**Ephesians 6:10-18 NIV** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

- a. Prayer is vital in our lives. If we're not praying, we're not awake, not alert and when we're not awake the devil comes in to make a mess.

**Hebrews 5:7 NIV** During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

- a. Jesus prioritized prayer- He prayed alone, early, all night, before making decisions, on the cross and He is praying now in heaven.
- b. Jesus spent 30 years in preparation for ministry, 3 years of earthly ministry, and two thousand plus in intercession for us. Jesus has taught us and modeled the importance of prayer.

### **Characteristics of Effective Prayer:**

1. Fervent prayer (persistent, on fire and with conviction)
  - a. **James 5:16 NIV** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
2. Free-flowing prayer (clear, unobstructed communication with God. It's prayer that's free from sin)
  - a. **Psalm 66:18 KJV** If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:
3. For-the-Kingdom prayer (aligned with God's will, and His purposes)
  - a. **Matthew 6:10 KJV** Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
4. Faith-filled prayer (bold, expectant, anchored in His Word)
  - a. **Mark 11:24 NKJV** Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.
5. Fellowship prayer (intimate, relational, abiding in Him and enjoying His presence)
  - a. **John 15:4-5 NKJV** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

### **REFLECT & REVISIT**

This week go back and read **Ephesians 6:18** and reflect on how Paul tells us to "pray in the Spirit on **all occasions** with all kinds of prayers and requests". Prayer is not reserved for special moments but is meant to be a constant part of our walk with God. **The power is in the daily closeness to the Lord.** As you spend time in His presence each day, you'll become more spiritually alert, strengthen your relationship with Him, and be equipped to stand firm against the enemy's schemes.