

## PRAYER WARS

Ephesians 6:18-22

### Introduction:

- A. Einstein's theory of relativity assumes that nothing is faster than the speed of light.
1. A 2011 experiment timed a \_\_\_\_\_ -mile race and subatomic particles beat light by 60 billionths of a second (later found the experiment to be faulty).
  2. Current technology can send information \_\_\_\_\_% the speed of light at the most.
  3. Scientists have found nothing faster than the speed of light.
- B. How fast does prayer travel?
1. It would take \_\_\_\_\_ minutes for light to travel one billion miles but it takes \_\_\_\_\_ time for prayer to travel this far.
  2. Prayer is not b\_\_\_\_\_ by the laws of physics.
- C. Eph 6:18 mentions prayer in the context of the armor of God.
1. Comparing translations of verse 18:
    - a. Most make a new s\_\_\_\_\_ because the sentence in the Greek is too lengthy and awkward to read.
    - b. The ESV and KJV connect it with the previous verse (*take the helmet of salvation and the sword which is the word of God, praying always...*)
  2. The Greek text clearly reflects prayer as part of the subject of spiritual warfare.
    - a. It is the means of j\_\_\_\_\_ others in their spiritual battles.
    - b. It is not an option but the r\_\_\_\_\_ of every believer to pray for others in their spiritual battles.

### Be inclusive in your prayers – all the saints (v. 18)

- A. What is meant by "saint" – one set apart from the world to s\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (God calls all believers in Christ, saints)
- B. What is meant by "all"
1. This is NOT to say that we have to pray for e\_\_\_\_\_ single believer (an impossible task unless we are very general)
  2. This DOES mean that we are not to l\_\_\_\_\_ our prayers to certain believers.
- C. We are to be on the a\_\_\_\_\_, always ready to join other Christians in their spiritual battles.
1. If they a\_\_\_\_\_ you to pray for them, then do so.
  2. The prayer bulletin is a list of people asking us to pray (don't skip over people that you don't know or have no attachment to)

## **Be responsive in your prayers (v. 18)**

### A. Comparing translations

1. NAS – *pray at all times*
2. KJV – *praying always*
3. NIV – *pray...on all occasions*

### B. The Greek text

1. Literally, *in all time*
2. The word, time, does not refer to minutes or hours but refers to a s\_\_\_\_\_ or event (e.g. harvest time)
3. The point is NOT that we pray around the clock but in every occasion.

### C. Examples

1. A person goes off topic during a Bible Study and shares a spiritual struggle - what is the duty of those in the Bible Study?
2. Someone calls you while you are sleeping because they are going through a crisis – what is your duty to them?
3. No occasion should keep us from responding in prayer.

## **Communicate to God through your spirit (v. 18)**

### A. Almost every Bible translation translates that we are to pray *in the Spirit*.

1. The word is c\_\_\_\_\_ because the translators believe this to refer to the Holy Spirit.
2. Jude 1:20 commands us to pray in the Holy Spirit, which means that we are to pray in c\_\_\_\_\_ with Him
  - a. He in\_\_\_\_\_ us (1Cor 6:19)
  - b. He h\_\_\_\_\_ us know how or what to pray (Rom 8:26)
  - c. He always intercedes according to the w\_\_\_\_\_ of God (Rom 8:27)
3. To pray in the Holy Spirit means never to pray in the realm of selfishness or revenge but always in the realm of the Holy Spirit which is always according to God's will.

### B. But the Greek text in verse 19 does not have the word, the, before the word spirit. It literally reads, *in spirit* - this exact phrase is used \_\_\_\_\_ times in the Greek N.T.)

1. 20 times the context communicates what is meant by the word spirit (e.g. 1Cor 12:3)
2. 3 times it refers to a spiritual state as opposed to a p\_\_\_\_\_ one (e.g. Rev 4:2)
3. Twice it refers to the r\_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit in inspiring prophecy (Rev 1:10; Matt 22:43)
4. The other 16 times are hard to understand (e.g. Jn 4:23,24)

C. Verse 18 means the same as Jesus meant in Jn 4:23,24

1. To worship in spirit means that we must start with our spirit (as opposed to a place)
  - a. Prior to salvation our spirit was d\_\_\_\_\_ because of sin (Eph 2:5) and we were disconnected from God.
  - b. When we trusted Christ, our spirit was made a\_\_\_\_\_ being joined to Christ's Spirit (Rom 8:10; 1Cor 6:17)
2. To pray in spirit means we must start with our spirit as opposed to our words, or feelings, or body.
  - a. Matt 6:7 – the mistake of starting with words (vain r\_\_\_\_\_) – words do not connect us to God
  - b. Praying through a prayer list like a checklist – this is looking for a disconnect (*I'm done with my duty*)
  - c. Praying with a certain posture (e.g. eyes closed) – may help us concentrate but does not connect us to God.
  - d. Praying in spirit means that you are communing with God through your spirit (as opposed through your words, posture, thoughts, feelings)
    - 1) Your spirit connection may drive you to your k\_\_\_\_\_, may produce words, may produce thoughts (a result of your connection)
    - 2) Let your connection with God f\_\_\_\_\_ to the rest of your being as opposed to making those things your connection to God.

### Share your struggles (vv 19-22)

A. The apostle Paul shared his spiritual battle

1. He was Christ's ambassador in c\_\_\_\_\_ (v 20)
  - a. Satan was trying to s\_\_\_\_\_ Paul
  - b. He asked for prayer from his readers that he speak the gospel message with b\_\_\_\_\_ (vv 19,20)
2. He wanted his readers to stay informed about his situation so they could join him in fighting his spiritual battle.

B. Some think

1. That they shouldn't b\_\_\_\_\_ others with their struggles (but see Gal 6:2)
2. That men are wired not to s\_\_\_\_\_ (this is faulty wiring)

C. An attack on any believer is an attack on the b\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

1. S\_\_\_\_\_ your struggles
2. F\_\_\_\_\_ together the spiritual forces of wickedness