

ALL PRAYER
Ephesians 6:18

Introduction

2 Chronicles 32:8, Ephesians 6:18

- I. The Persistence of the Warrior's Prayer – 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- II. The Possibilities of the Warrior's Prayer
 - A. We are to pray on All Occasions
 - B. We are to pray in All Places
 - C. We are to pray at All Times
 - D. We are to pray for All Things
- III. The Petition of the Warrior's Prayer – James 4:2, Luke 11:8-10
- IV. The Power of the Warrior's Prayer – Romans 8:26-27
- V. The Precision of the Warrior's Prayer – 1 Corinthians 16:22, Revelation 22:20, Mark 13:33, Matthew 26:41, Luke 21:36, Nehemiah 4:9, Colossians 4:2
- VI. The Perseverance of the Warrior's Prayer – Acts 1:14, Acts 2:42, Acts 6:4, Romans 12:12
- VII. The Purpose of the Warrior's Prayer – John 17:9, Job 42:10
- VIII. The Practice of the Warrior's Prayer

Conclusion

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. When do you pray? What prompts you toward prayer? If we are honest, the answer is most often “need.” Something pops up that is bigger than you’re capable of, or is more than you’re ready for, and you turn to the One who is bigger than you. The main passage of the week (and the questions below) will help us see how narrow this view is. For now, all we want to do is gain some perspective on how we currently operate without correction or feedback.
2. Describe a person you know, or know of, who is a “prayer warrior.” How do they show up in life? What is their attitude? Pastor talked about how S. D. Gordon and Philip Yancy described the prayer life of Jesus. These two descriptions give us a good example of what it is to pray continually. Is there someone you know (personally or by reputation) who looks something like these portraits of Jesus in prayer? What about their lives is markedly different from the rest of us?

Going Deeper

1. What is the world’s attitude about prayer as you have observed it? How would you describe prayer outside of fellowship with Jesus? If you’re not sure about this one, think of someone you know who is not a believer who you’ve heard say they are “sending prayers” to you in a trial or time of difficulty. What do you think they mean by that type of statement? Where are they sending those prayers? Come up with 3-5 descriptive words (e.g., selfish, occasional, ungrounded, etc.). The prayer of the believer should stand in stark contrast to these words. And if it doesn’t, that’s a really big deal.

2. Read the verses below, and for each, note what makes the prayer of the Christian contradictory to the way the world views prayer.

Matthew 26:41 - Prayer tethers our spirit to His, overcoming our own weakness.

Luke 11:8-10 - Persistent prayer comes with a promise.

Romans 8:26 - The answers to our prayers do not rely on how good at it we are.

Romans 12:12 - Prayer is continuous and not occasional.

James 4:2 - Prayer should come before effort. Without faith, our effort will be driven by our flesh.

I Thessalonians 5:17 - Same as Romans 12:12, "without ceasing."

3. Read Ephesians 6:18 and circle each time the word "all" is used. Why is this significant? Bonus, there's also an "always." This goes back to the "when do you pray" element of the first question in Getting Started. We tend to think we are bugging God with our small prayers, but "all" and "always" are as absolute as "continually" and "without ceasing." There's literally nothing He doesn't want to hear about from you, and the point is the constant connection of our spirit to His. It keeps the attention of our spirits off of our flesh.

4. Read Romans 8:26-27 a few times. Write down what is significant to you in this passage. How does this shift your view of prayer? **Personally, I find comfort in the fact that my prayers don't need any polish or rehearsal... or really even restraint.**

5. Pastor Jeremiah declared the persistence, possibilities, petition, power, and precision of prayer. Which of these are you most comfortable/confident in? Which needs work?

Applying the Message

1. What - or whom - are you hesitant to pray about? Why? How does Ephesians 6:18 challenge you to think and pray differently?

2. How can you “pray always” in your life today?