

## **The Privilege To Pray - Ephesians 6:16-18**

To spiritually prosper as a church we need to emphasize "The Privilege To Pray" in our everyday lives. A praying church is a powerful weapon in the hand of God. Without prayer we are disconnected from the vitality and power made available to us through Christ our Lord and Savior.

In these verses the apostle Paul shows with clarity the importance of prayer as that which will sustain us. The language used indicates the importance of prayer as an overwhelming, overcoming force (John 15:4).

16: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

The shield...faith - The Greek word refers to a large shield approximately 2.5 x 4.5'. This would protect the entire body. Each person overlapped their shield to protect each other (I Corinthians 12:2).

Faith - Our basic trust in God, not the body of Christian doctrine.

Fiery darts - Temptations are the flaming arrows launched by demonic forces to distract, wound, or kill.

17: And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

The neglect of prayer and Bible study renders us susceptible and vulnerable to the enemy's attacks. The most vital part of the body is the head. If our head is right our heart is right (Matthew 15:11). The Word of God is our offensive weapon, comfort, and joy (Philippians 3:13).

18: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Our prayer life: [a] focuses on a variety of issues; [b] always, as natural as breathing; [c] watchfully submitting to God's will; [d] never giving up; [e] asking you the best for ALL believers.

Conclusion: For us to have fellowship with Jesus Christ in this world we will desire to spend much time with Him in prayer. As we draw closer to our Savior we see prayer as a PRIVILEGE.

Let us pray together: Lord I'm asking that whatever else befalls us in this life, whatever work or ministry we've been called to do make us intercessors that know how to pray and to love to pray. Let us not ask how long we must pray, but rather how long may we pray. You've granted us everlasting life, and the ministry of reconciliation. Let us never be so preoccupied or so busy to neglect prayer. As we pray for the lost in this community, our need for godly leaders, for godly teachers, for godly churches, answer us Lord to the praise and the glory of Thy name. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

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