

VICTORIOUS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"Tapping Into Our Authority"

Ephesians 6:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. When we speak of Authority we are talking about our control or command.

a) Our authority was bought at the Cross.

1) *Colossians 2:15*

2. *Corinthians 9:26-27*

3. **LISTEN UP:** Far too many Christians never allow the truth of God's Word into their lives.

a) Therefore they are no threat to Satan.

4. the *Armor of God*

a) The "**Belt of Truth**" - the whole body of truth found in God's Word. It's where we get our Biblical World View.

b) The "**Breastplate of Righteousness**" - We are Righteous

c) "**Shoes**" - with readiness of the Gospel...

d) The "**Shield of Faith**" - When Satan hurls all the fiery Darts of the wicked

e) The "**Helmet of Salvation**" - Protect your mind

f) The "**Sword of the Spirit**" - which is the Word of God - utterance

5. *Ephesians 6:10-17, 18*

WE ACTIVATE THE ARMOR OF GOD THROUGH PRAYER

I. THE FORCE OF PRAYER

1. *Ephesians 6:10-12, 13*

a) The key to our success is to understand that Jesus has already won the Spiritual War and has established **AIR SUPERIORITY** for all eternity.

b) "*stand firm*" don't give up one inch of territory Jesus has already taken.

A. THE FOCUS OF PRAYER

1, Vs 18

a) "*with all prayer*"

2. *Prayer is the arena* in which we are to fight.

3. Through prayer we **ACTIVATE** our armor.

4. *Ephesians 1:3* WOW!!!

B. THE FENCE OF PRAYER

1. Prayer is important because it provides us with a hedge of protection when the battle is fiercest.

C. THE FABRIC OF PRAYER

1. God is the source of our Spiritual Authority.

D. WE MUST PRAY

1. Because there are things God will not do apart from prayer.

II. THE FULLNESS OF PRAYER

1. Prayer gives us access to our Authority and Spiritual Weapons.

2. Vs 18

- a) **"Praying"** - means to be cognizant of God's power and sufficiency
- b) **"At all times"** - means to be in a constant attitude and state of readiness to pray
- c) **"With all prayer"** - means all kinds of prayer
 - 1) Adoration - When we pray we should start with adoring God.
 - 2) Confession - Is there any weight that breaks our fellowship with God.
 - 3) Petition - humble earnest prayer
 - 4) Intercession - to plead with God on behalf of another
 - 5) Thanksgiving - The problem with people today
 - 6) Praise -
- d) **"and supplication"** - is simply humble prayer and petition for a specific personal need.
- e) **"making supplication for all the saints"** - humbly praying

A. THE ENTIRE PLAN

1. Vs 18

- a) **"all"** - is the key Word

2. God wants us to bombard the heavenlies with our prayers.

3. As believers we are to pound the enemy with all kinds of prayer.
 - a) In all kinds of postures:

- 1) Standing
- 2) Kneeling
- 3) Lying prostrate on the ground.
- 4) And even walking
- 5) We can pray Driving too
- b) Using all kinds of prayer

- c) Pray without hanging up too soon.
- 1) **Thessalonians 5:17**

4. Vs 18

- a) "*all the saints*"

5. **LISTEN UP:** When the weak, frail and inadequate child of God appeals to the Almighty, it causes Satan to recoil in his tracks.

6. **WOW:** Satan fears the **SIMPLE FACT** that a needy child of God is able to approach the **Mighty Throne of God**.

7. **Now watch this:** The **WORD** of God, clears the way to the **THRONE** of God, for the **CHILD** of God.

B. THE REALM OF PRAYER

- 1. When we pray we enter a whole other realm.
 - a) The heavenlies.
- 2. It's like viewing the earth from the inside of an airplane.
 - a) From up in the sky everything looks orderly and perfect.
- 3. That's what prayer does for us.

III. THE ENVIRONMENT OF PRAYER

1. Vs 18

- a) Paul instructs us to pray "**in the Spirit**" (Capital S = Holy Spirit)

2. **What does that mean?**

- a) It means we are to pray in His **POWER!!!** In His strength and the Spiritual insight He provides.

3. **Big Question:** So how do we know when we are praying in the Holy Spirit?

A. THE STRUGGLE

1. **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** NLT

2. So here it is...if we are going to pray in the Spirit, ***we must be immersed in the environment of the Spirit.***

3. **1 Corinthians 2:9-13** WOW!!!

4. **The point here is that God can help believers understand things they cannot learn through natural means.**

a) Though God has revealed to us His inspired written Word, believers need the Spirit's Illumination to help us spiritually learn, grasp and apply the things of God.

5. **Illumination** does not involve new revelation, but rather, it involves God giving us understanding of the meaning and application of Scripture in the midst of our own experience.

a) **John 14:26**

6. The Holy Spirit gives His people discernment between spiritual truth and error.

a) **1 John 4:1-6**

7. **Romans 8:26**

8. **WOW!!!** To pray in the Spirit is to have "***spiritual thoughts.***"

9. **NOW WATCH THIS:** If you and **I THINK LIKE THE WORLD**....we will pray like the world.

B. KNOW YOUR BIBLE

1. **1 Corinthians 2:13** WOW!!!

2. **James 4:17**

a) Reading and studying your Bible is the right thing to do.

3. **VERY IMPORTANT:** I'm afraid a good portion of our prayers never get passed the ceiling because they **have nothing to do with God's revealed Word.**

4. **WOW!!!** God is only going to answer prayers that are consistent with His Word.

C. WARFARE PRAYER

1. **Acts 4:23-31**

- a) So Peter and John had been arrested for Preaching Jesus.
- b) And the Jewish authorities threatened them not to preach in that name anymore and let them go.

2. **Vs 23-26**

3. **Vs 27-30, 31**

4. **HUGE:** When God's people pray in the Spirit, **something is going to SHAKE.**

5. **READY???** Because we don't talk to God the way believers did back in Acts 4.

6. **Confidence** in God's Word leads to **BOLDNESS**, which leads to **POWER**

CONCLUSION:

1. **Ephesians 6:10-20**