

STAND FIRM

A STUDY OF THE ARMOR OF GOD



MISSION

8

MISSION 8: PRAY (EPHESIANS 6:18-20)

The Uniform: Prayer

Now that you have been issued all your armor (Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Sandals of the Good News of Peace, Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation and Sword of the Spirit) you may think that you know all there is to know about Spiritual Warfare. There is one more thing, though. Right after Paul tells us to take the Sword of the Spirit he says, "In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long." (Ephesians 6:18 MSG) What is prayer? Prayer is communication with God. Prayer is talking and listening, not just repeating words over and over hoping God will hear. In spiritual warfare, prayer is both an offensive weapon, to attack with, and a defensive weapon, to defend yourself. But a weapon against what?

Combat Intelligence: The Enemy

You remember who our enemy is, don't you? The devil! He has been sinning from the beginning (1 John 3:8), he is a liar, actually the father of lies and a murderer (John 8:44), and he is a deceiver and our accuser (Revelation 12:9-10). What you need to remember, though, is that Satan can't do anything without God's permission. God is the one in control and Satan's power is limited by Him, but how do we even begin to stand against all of that?

The Battle Plan: Be Prepared to Stand Firm

"In the old days, before a squire was knighted, he had to keep vigil in the chapel of the castle, and through the hours of darkness to watch his armor and lift his soul to God."¹ You will only be fit to put on your spiritual armor and go into battle with it when you have spent time with God in prayer.

What kinds of things should we pray for? What will there be a battle against? When the Bible mentions prayer, it mentions the following things you should be praying for. If you are married, or

OBJECTIVES:

- To be reminded who the enemy is
- To be prepared to stand firm
- To continue issuing equipment
- To be sure of enlistment

FROM THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL:

(Memory Verse)

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16 (NIV)

want to be married, you should pray for your spouse and your children. You should pray for the weather, for rain and/or famine. You should also pray for your country to know and follow God or to turn back to God. You should pray for other believers and for wisdom and spiritual growth. You can pray when you are in trouble and need protection, for fairness and forgiveness and you can praise God and thank Him! You can pray in the morning and in the evening and be constant in prayer through the day (Psalm 3 and 4, 1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Many of those things might not sound terribly important, but small decisions lead to big decisions. If you will begin to seek God in the small things and listen to His direction for your life, many of the battle will already be taken care of. There will be times though, where prayer will be your weapon in hand-to-hand combat, right along with the Sword of the Spirit.

Do you remember what Paul said at the end of his letter to the Ephesians? "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **Put on the full armor of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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. 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." (6:10-13 NIV) Days of battle will come. Don't be afraid. Don't run and hide. Be prepared and stand firm!

The Swearing-In: Have you enlisted?

The first step to being prepared is to make sure you are on the right side, the winning side, in spiritual battle. Paul addressed his letter to the church in Ephesus this way, "God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus." (1:1 NIV) Does that describe you? Do you believe in Jesus Christ? Are you faithful to him? If you're not sure, let's talk.

ACTIVITIES



- Make prayer booklets. Be sure to include the memory verse.
- Finalize your memorization of Ephesians 6:10-20. Give prizes for those who can remember the entire passage.
- Run Relay Races to enforce the idea of Basic Training.
- Learn and sing "The Battle Belongs to the Lord" and "I'm In the Lord's Army," "Be Bold," and "Trust and Obey."
- Review the Plan of Salvation. Make bookmarks, bracelets, crosses, wordless books or whatever will make the plan of salvation clear to your students. (Try teaching the Roman Road, since we are talking about Roman Armor.)
- **Extra Training:** Look up the following verses. What do you find out about prayer? Genesis 24:25 and 25:21; Exodus 9:29 and 1 Kings 8:36; 2 Samuel 24:25 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4; 1 Kings 3:5-12 and James 1:5; James 5:13; Philippians 1:9; Psalm 17, 59, 141.
- **Extra Training:** Last week we looked at a spiritual battle where Jesus used the Sword of the Spirit. This week we will look at a spiritual battle that involved prayer. Read and discuss Daniel 10:14. Pay special attention to time. What did prayer have to do with this spiritual battle?





The

PRAYER

of a righteous
person is
powerful
and effective.

James 5:16

WORD SEARCH



r r e g o d s c o n t r p l m
t u e r e e g a r f i t e a i
r g f d s t o p t a v h r l s
l u f r e w o p m p n d s s w
s o e k e r l i a r h e o i o
t u c m m n b v p a t n n n r
g r t t l a r e n y w m i n d
o t i e e l j a m e s m s o a
d h v f h l o h o r a y w m g
n o e r i i w o o e d n e o n
y t a c c f s u t n o n s r i
n l t s t e d g y c b o d e m
s e r e s u o e t h g i r u a
e b h e n o i t a v l a s t l
o r i g h t e s u s n e g s f

The _____ of a _____
is _____ and _____.
_____ 5:16

WORD SEARCH

Answers

r r e g o d s c o n t r p l m
t u e r e e g a r f i t e a i
r g f d s t o p t a v h r l s
l u f r e w o p m p n d s s w
s o e k e r l i a r h e o i o
t u c m m n b v p a t n n n r
g r t t l a r e n y w m i n d
o t i e e l j a m e s m s o a
d h v f h l o h o r a y w m g
n o e r i i w o o e d n e o n
y t a c c f s u t n o n s r i
n l t s t e d g y c b o d e m
s e r e s u o e t h g i r u a
e b h e n o i t a v l a s t l
o r i g h t e s u s n e g s f

The prayer of a righteous person
is powerful and effective.

James 5:16