

**THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:**  
MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL

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Always Dependent  
(Ephesians 6:18-20)

**I. The Blessing of Our Holy Warfare**

- A. The great theme of Ephesians is our spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ (Eph 1:3).
- B. Sacred struggle/holy warfare is one of these blessings.
  - 1. It's one of the good works that we were created in Christ to do (2:10).
  - 2. It's evidence that we are the children of God.
- C. God bestows honor upon us by calling us into battle with him.

**II. Pray to God Constantly for Every Saint (Eph 6:18-20)**

- A. Support your holy warfare by prayer (6:18a).
  - 1. 6:18 describes an action that accompanies the action required by v 17.
  - 2. In this case, prayer accompanies taking the helmet and the sword.
  - 3. We pray because we need to fervently depend on God to sustain us in the Christian life.
- B. We are to pray "at all times" (6:18a).
  - 1. We need to pray frequently.
  - 2. We need to live in constant awareness of God's presence in our lives.
  - 3. Here are three possible reasons why we struggle to pray at all times:
    - a. Because of unconfessed sin
    - b. Because we allow the world to be more real to us
    - c. Because we forget that Christ has made us God's beloved children (Rom 8:15-17; Gal 4:6-7)
- C. We are to pray "in the Spirit" (6:18b).
  - 1. To pray in the Spirit is to pray with the aid of the God's Spirit.
  - 2. But to pray in the Spirit is also to have God's Spirit pray for us (Rom 8:26-27).

- D. We are to pray "with all prayer and supplication" (6:18c).
  - 1. Prayers of praise
  - 2. Prayers of thanksgiving
  - 3. Prayers for forgiveness
  - 4. Prayers for earthly provision
  - 5. Prayers for kingdom expansion
    - Our prayers must reflect the **full scope** of God's desires for us.
- E. We are to pray "for all the saints"—especially gospel proclaimers (6:18d-20)
  - 1. God wants us to pray for our fellow "saints"/"holy ones."
    - a. In the PRPC, use the **church directory** and **weekly prayer** pointers to help yourself pray for others.
    - b. Don't forget to pray general prayers for the whole church as well.
      - The "Prayers for the Church of Jesus Christ" section in the weekly prayer bulletin is meant to help you in this.
  - 2. God wants us to pray for those who proclaim the gospel (6:19).
    - . These include...
      - i. Pastors
      - ii. Missionaries
      - iii. Seminary teachers
        - especially those who are also pastors and missionaries
    - b. Gospel proclaimers are especially vulnerable to satanic attack because of their visibility.
    - c. How do we pray for them (6:19-20)?
      - i. We pray for their safety (and for their family's as well).
      - ii. We pray for the **words** to speak (the message).
      - iii. We pray for the **boldness** to speak (the messenger).

**III. Always Dependent, Always Praying**

God calls his children to stand firm with him against the evil one by depending fully on him.

God the Father alone is  
the Preserver of the Christian faith,  
the Protector of the Christian life,  
and the Keeper of the Christian's heart.  
For that reason above all,  
**let us pray!**