

## Pray Always...

After instructing us to put on the full armor of God in Ephesians 6, the apostle Paul gave us one of the great secrets for powerful kingdom prayer. In verse 18 he wrote,

*“With **all prayer and petition pray at all times** in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with **all perseverance** and petition for **all the saints.**”*

He mentions prayer 3 times in that one verse.

Even though Paul had just completed explaining the weapons of spiritual warfare and how they work, he chose to wind up his talk on that subject by reminding us of the power of prayer. He ended his strategy session on spiritual battles with this one powerful method, repeating it 3 times...He said “all prayer...petition...pray at all times.”

So, if we know there is a key weapon to so much of what we are battling...why is praying a challenge for us? Why is something so strategic to the Christian life, our relationship with God, and victory in life such a challenge? The answer is that prayer links us to a realm we are unfamiliar navigating. Paul calls it “heavenly places”. Prayer is the God-given communication link between heaven and earth, time and eternity, the finite and the infinite.

For far too many people, even those who follow Jesus Christ, prayer is like the National Anthem before a sporting event. It gets the game going or the engines racing, but has little or no relevance on the outcome of the event. Prayer is merely an exercise of routine.

For example, when most of us pray before we eat, we don't really use our minds to do that because we repeat the same prayers each time, in a hurried way before the food gets cold. Or when we pray before we go to bed at night, we simply recite a call for blessing and protection with a little bit of gratitude thrown in for good measure.

Prayer becomes just a learned habit.

Yet **prayer is powerful!** Can you think of anything more **powerful** than touching heaven to change earth? But, likened to the power company generating electricity to your home that has already been wired to receive it...if you never flip the switch, the lights will not come on. That's not the fault of the power source, but a problem with the point of contact.

So, how can you flip the switch and live in God's prayer power?

It starts by first knowing Him...knowing God...His Character, His Will and His Word.

The class on Kingdom Prayer has started...an opportunity to grow your experience with God's communication method... If you want the full power of God's presence, you will want to get close and go deep in your relationship with Him.

We pray today that we all devote ourselves to knowing God personally... through worship, Bible study and prayer...to experience the full power of God's presence...immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.