

# HOW TO (REALLY) PRAY IN THE DARK

**EPHESIANS 6:18-20**

**CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – AUGUST 31, 2025**

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## SCRIPTURE READING

*Ephesians 6:17-20*

*17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

## ICE BREAKER QUESTION

In what situation have you had all the right equipment to succeed, but you were still vulnerable because you lacked skill or experience?

## SERMON RECAP

Prayer is what weaves the armor of God together and it guarantees spiritual victory.

Six Ways to Wield the Secret Weapon of Prayer (how to pray):

- Pray Dependently
  - There is nothing we should do without praying!
- Pray Watchfully
  - Keep Alert! Don't let your guard down!
- Pray Persistently
  - Don't give up! Keep praying! Keep trusting!
- Pray Collectively
  - We pray for others and with others!
- Pray Missionally
  - We pray that God would be glorified in our lives and through our words!
- Pray Confidently
  - We pray with confidence because the battle is already won!

While our adversary in this spiritual war is indescribably strong, our Ally in this spiritual war is infinitely stronger, and the outcome of this spiritual war is inevitable!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Observation: What does the passage say?**

1. Read Ephesians 6:18-20 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
  - How are we called to pray (verse 18)?
  - For what does Paul pray (verse 19)?
  - What does declaring the gospel boldly look like or sound like (verse 20)?
  - How would you summarize Ephesians 6:18-20?

**Interpretation: What does the passage mean?**

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17, John 15:5, Nehemiah 2:4-5, and Romans 8:26
  - What does it mean to pray without ceasing?

- Why can we do nothing apart from Jesus?
  - What does a long, deep prayer session look and feel like?
  - How can many short conversations with the Lord sustain you throughout the day?
  - How does knowing God's Word help you to pray?
  - How does the Holy Spirit fill-in and fill-up your prayer life?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:8 and Matthew 7:7-8
- How does God alert you to the spiritual battle raging around you?
  - How can a proactive prayer life ward off Satan?
  - How can prayer help you to be watchful for your own sin?
  - Think of a longer-term spiritual battle. How does persistent prayer help?
  - How is prayer like knocking on the door to righteousness and peace?
  - How does unified, collective prayer strengthen the church?
3. Read Romans 8:31-39
- What does Paul's prayer request in Ephesians 6:19-20 reveal about his heart?
  - How does an eternal perspective change a person's prayer life?
  - Why should God's people pray boldly?
  - Why can God's people proclaim the gospel boldly?
  - What does true confidence in God's Word look like in someone's life?
  - If nothing can separate us from Christ, how should that enliven our prayer life?

***Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?***

1. Satan is attacking you!
  - Where are the evil one's flaming arrows piercing your armor?
  - In what area do you need to pray more dependently?
  - Where do you need to watchfully raise your prayer guard?
  - How persistently do you really pray?
  - How can your Church Group pray for you and with you to guard against Satan's attacks on you?
2. Satan is attacking those who are close to you!
  - Where are the evil one's flaming arrows piercing the armor of those close to you?
  - Whom do you know that needs your prayer right now?
  - For whom can you pray collectively so God would be glorified?
  - For what can you pray collectively so God would be glorified?
  - How can your Church Group pray for those close to you who are under Satan's attack?
3. Pray that God gives you boldness to proclaim His good news!
  - What percentage of your prayer is for your needs versus what percentage is for God's glory?
  - How are you praying missionally for the spread of the gospel?
  - God is for you – How does that give you confidence?
  - How can prayer be your secret weapon to overcome personal vulnerability against Satan?
  - How is your Church Group living on mission to confidently display the gospel to others?