

July 10, 2005

Ephesians 6:18

#32. *Armoured With Prayer*

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,

1. Firstly, verse 18 is NOT a new sentence: so “*prayer*” is connected to what is previous.

WHAT IS PREVIOUS: THE FULL ARMOUR OF GOD

loins girded	sincerely committed to the truth
breastplate of righteousness	actually living in obedience to God
feet shod	clear on our peace with God
shield of faith	trusting and obeying God
helmet of salvation	hopeful regarding the future
the sword of the Spirit:	speaking the Word

2. We must “*be on the alert with all perseverance...*” because one of the “*schemes of the devil*” is to deceive us into removing “*the full armour of God.*”

3. We must pray “*with all prayer and petition*” and “*at all times*” because, while these other gifts: truth, righteousness, peace, faith, hope and the Word, are what we are armoured (and armed) with, prayer is how we are armoured (and armed) to “*stand firm in the evil day.*”

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

4. Prayer is essential because God’s help is essential, and prayer keeps us connected to Him.

Isaiah 40:13-14

Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him?
With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of
justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?

Psalms 135:5-6

For I know that the LORD is great And that our Lord is above all gods.
Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches...apart from Me you can do nothing."

5. At the same time, it is “*taking up the full armour of God*” that keeps us able to pray

Psalms 66:18

If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;

Proverbs 28:9

He who turns away his ear from listening to the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

6. We must “*pray at all times in the Spirit*” because even in prayer, God’s help is essential.

Romans 8:26

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should,
but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words

7. We must “*pray for all the saints*” because every follower of Christ needs God’s help to
“*stand firm.*”

1 John 3:16

We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us;
and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.