TOPIC: PRAY, PRAY, PRAY!

The positive effectiveness, usefulness and power of the 'whole armor of God' comes to us through persistent prayer.

KEY POINTS

In ancient times countries, kings and people looked to gods of war to help them through their battles: **Chemosh**, the Moabite god of war, **Molech,** the Ammonites' god of war (1 Kings 11:7); **Mars**, the Roman god of war and fertility, **Ashur**, the Assyrian god of war and an African god named **Gun**, from the Fon tribe in Benin.

When Israel faced various battles, they would pray, fast, sacrifice and seek a word from the Lord to let them know whether or not to go to war: **Saul** – (unlawfully) – 1 Samuel 13:9; **David** – 1 Samuel 30:7-8; **Jehoshaphat** – 2 Chronicles 20:1-4; and **Samson** (on a personal level) – Judges 16:28.

In more recent times, Franklin Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the United States of America, asked God for renewed faith in Him, that the people of the land would devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. He prayed for strength in this undertaking before launching one of the greatest invasions in history on the shores of France.

Other presidents who prayed for U.S. troops before they went into battle include Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton.

So it is with us today - before, during and after any spiritual warfare we engage in, WE MUST PRAY!

A soldier can be fully armed and totally dead! Or crippled. Or injured. Or be a traitor. **It is the Spirit of God that quickens and empowers the Christian soldier, and this empowerment comes through prayer.**

Jesus had all it took to be the Saviour of the world. A divine/human nature and a sinless life. Yet when the time came for Him to go into action, he prayed for three hours and had to be strengthened by an angel to be able to accomplish the task (Luke 22:39-46).

We need to pray in the Spirit and allow Him to intercede *through* us and *for* us (Romans 8:26-27; Jude 20).

We need to work, to watch and to pray, alert to what's happening in the world around us. We need to be aware of the activities of the enemy of our souls and counteract his attacks with prayer. We should not only pray defensive prayers.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy. 2:1; Philippians 4:6; Job 42:10; Colossians 4:2; Luke 22:39-46; Romans 8:26-27; Jude 20

- We also need to use the 'sword of the Spirit' – the Word of God, to pray 'attack prayers' against the kingdom of darkness (Nehemiah 4:9; Mark 14:38).
- We need to engage in secret prayer, public prayer, spontaneous prayer, prayers of thanksgiving, confession, intercession, supplication – prayers for the saints – prayers for our families – prayers to determine the perfect will of God for our lives, our Church and our nation.
- Is there a modern day Anna who will have a daily ministry of prayer and fasting in the house of God, to see His plans and purposes come to pass (Luke 2:37)?
- • Parents, keep praying for your children.
  • Christians, keep praying for your unbelieving family members.
  • Evangelists, keep praying for souls to be saved through your witness.
  • Saints, keep praying for your brothers and sisters in the Lord.
  • Christian soldier, keep praying for God to give You the power to fight the good fight of faith.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Share a personal testimony of an answered prayer.
2. From your own lives, what have been some of the 'attack prayers' and 'defensive prayers' you have prayed?
3. What has your response been when God's answer has not been a 'yes' for your desire to know His will about a situation? Did you (even if after a while) find that it was in your very best interest?
4. Take time as a group to pray specific prayers for specific needs/requests from group members.

Prayer Time

Lord you hear our every prayer. Lead us always to pray according to Your will so that Your purpose may be fulfilled in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

L.G. ice-Breaker: Recount one incident through the course of this week that brought thankfulness to your heart.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think abc

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must sha

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PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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