



Sunday, July 29, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Ephesians 6:10-20

I had a seminary professor who said there are two topics a pastor can preach on that will elicit instant conviction: evangelism and prayer. Those are two things that every Christian knows they should be disciplined about but almost every Christian knows they aren't. While it may have been said half-joking, there is some truth to it. We all need a little help being more disciplined in these areas, don't we? It seems that there are a lot of commands in the New Testament pertaining to prayer and, as Pastor Don noted, many of those commands pertain to *persevering* in prayer. So, clearly, the Lord understands our weakness.

Thankfully, He gives us these reminders graciously as yet another demonstration that He is patient with us and long-suffering. God wants to spend time with us—and He wants us to want to spend time with Him! So, through these reminders to pray and giving us fellow Christians to encourage us and to pray together with us, He leads us into deeper and deeper fellowship with Him. But, we must recognize that prayerlessness is something to be repented of, so we must respond in faith and seek Him—knowing that we will derive our greatest joy from it as well!

Context

As Pastor Don noted, prayer is the means by which all the other armor of God is “put on.” As He is the source of everything we need that is listed in the armor, we must petition Him for it. And as we petition Him, we cannot help but be reminded of His greatness and His goodness towards us and offer our adoration and thanksgiving accordingly. Not only that, but we can confess our sins openly to Him, knowing that He is eager to forgive those who repent and believe and earnestly desire to stand firm in allegiance to Him in the armor that only He can provide.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Putting on the Armor - Prayer”

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

All Prayer

1st Universal

- All kinds of prayers
- Various forms
 - Adoration
 - Confession
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication

2nd Universal

- Always praying
- Regular part of daily life
 - Bad times and good times
 - Jesus agreed (Luke 18.1)
 - Pray continually (1 Thess 5.17)
 - In the Spirit

3rd Universal

- Always continuing in prayer
- Never give up
 - Baby Church (Acts 2.42; 6.4)
 - Growing Church (Rom. 12.12)
 - Alert in petition

4th Universal

- All believers everywhere
- Church is local and global
 - Burden of the book is unity
 - Pray beyond your personal group
 - Get a map of the world
 - Join a Missionary Care Group

(Go to: southlife.org/ministries/missions to sign up for a Missionary Care Group!)

What should we pray for?

To know Him better (Eph. 1.17; 3.18-19; 6.19)

You cannot stand in the battle unless you are kneeling in prayer!

Discuss

- 1) What is the biggest challenge to your perseverance in prayer? How can we help one another overcome these challenges?
- 2) Using the A.C.T.S. acronym, what do you tend to focus on most when you pray? What do you focus on least? Why?
- 3) Do you enjoy spending time with God in prayer? If so, what is it that you enjoy in particular? If not, why not?
- 4) Many of the psalms recount God's faithfulness, to which the psalmist responds in adoration and thanksgiving. How has God been faithful to you?
- 5) What kind of practical steps do you plan to take to "pray more globally"?