

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: Spiritual Dependence

Passage: Ephesians 6:18-20

Illustration: Athletes looking to their coach, Soldiers looking to their leader.

Need: Spiritual armor will do us no good if we attempt to use it in our own strength. Prayer is our declaration of dependence!

I. Praying at ALL times

- To live in continual awareness of God, His will, and our response to Him. (1 Thes. 5:17)
- "in the Spirit" - in concert with the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit actively takes our weak and at times misguided prayers and converts them into those that are in accordance with the will of God. **Rom. 8:26-27**
- At the same time we are to actively yield ourselves to the leading and control of the Holy Spirit. (Gal. 5:25; Eph. 4:30; 5:18)

II. With ALL prayer & supplication

- "prayers" is a word for general petitions. (Ps. 55:17)
- "supplications" is a word for urgent requests to meet a specific need.
- Jesus, God the Son, modeled for us a life marked by prayer and dependence on the Father.

III. With ALL perseverance

- "Keep alert" is with your head on a swivel always aware of the enemy's presence.
- Perseverance is needed because prayer is HARD!!! For American Christians it is especially hard.
- We are NOT a people marked by perseverance in prayer.

IV. For ALL the saints

- Our prayer of dependence extends beyond ourselves to our brothers and sisters, known and unknown.
- John 17 is the beautiful prayer of intercession by Jesus for his brothers and sisters.
- Our prayer for others involves much more what they need to stand than what they want to experience.
- Paul asked that they pray for him:
 - Words - to communicate the gospel and teach the believer.
 - Boldness - to speak the words because he is only a man who also wrestles with fear.

V. Let's be honest...

- How's your personal prayer life?
- How's your family prayer life?
- How's our church prayer focus?
- Let's confess our sin of self-reliance.
- Let's express together our absolute dependence on Jesus.
- Let's get back on our knees.