

# Praying Always with All Kinds of Prayer

(or praying occasionally  
with a few kinds of prayer)

September 8, 2019

# Paul's Middle Letters

Jeff is in the midst of an extended series  
of Sunday morning teaching

(related to the development of  
Mastering the Scripture booklets)

## on Paul's Letters

(Early/Basic, Middle/Advanced,  
and Later/Perpetuating).

Middle Letters include Ephesians, Colossians,  
Philippians, and Philemon

SENSE AND  
NONSENSE  
ABOUT  
**PRAYER**

LEHMAN STRAUSS

THE BEST SINGLE VOLUME  
I HAVE READ ON PRAYER.  
—CHARLES C. PYRRE

GOING TO CHURCH IN THE FIRST CENTURY

# Ephesians 6:18

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” (NIV)

Which describes you better?

Answer A: Praying always with all kinds of prayer.

Answer B: Praying occasionally with a few kinds of prayer.

If Paul commanded us to “Pray,” but we didn’t, what would that be?

# Apostolic Command

If Paul commanded us to “Pray,” but we didn’t, what would that be?

If Paul commanded us to “Pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayer,” but we didn’t, what would that be?

# Ephesians 6:18

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” (NIV)

So, what does this verse mean?



# Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

# Ephesians 6:10-18

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

# Ephesians 6:18-24

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

# Ephesians 6:18-24

Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

# Ephesians 6:18

- Connected to God-sized stuff (Eph. 6:10-18)
- Connected to the ministry of leaders we know (Eph. 6:18-24)

# Discuss the Situation

1. How often do you pray? Daily, weekly, monthly, sporadically, frequently, often, constantly, etc.
2. When do you pray? Morning, bedtime, mealtime, Sunday evenings, during a crisis, etc.
3. Where do you pray? Kitchen table, bed, car, walking, church building, etc.
4. How do you pray? Asking God for things, thanking God, confession of sin or need, rote prayers learned from church or home, emoting with God, etc.
5. What do you ask for? Things of interest or need to you personally, to others, to church/ministry, God's eternal plan, etc.

Why do we tend to “pray occasionally with a few kinds of prayer?”

- We do what we were taught.
- We do what was modeled.
- We haven't really tried to do much else.

Why do we tend to “pray occasionally with a few kinds of prayer?”

- We do what we were taught.
- We do what was modeled.
- We haven't really tried to do much else. In other words, we haven't taken seriously the command in Ephesians 6:18!



# Two Great Models

- The Lord's Prayer
- A-C-T-S

# The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)

This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.”

# A-C-T-S

Acknowledgment of who God is.

Confession of sin and neediness.

Thanksgiving for God's provision.

Supplication (making requests) according to God's will.

# Activities to Experience/Learn Various Kinds of Prayer

- 13 new/fresh/different ideas to help us pray always with all kinds of prayer.

# Activities to Experience/Learn Various Kinds of Prayer

1. Pray Way Beyond Yourself.
2. Use Lists.
3. Pray for Events (with outcomes in mind).

# Activities to Experience/Learn Various Kinds of Prayer

1. Pray Way Beyond Yourself.
2. Use Lists.
3. Pray for Events (with outcomes in mind).

Pray for ongoing effectiveness of my most recent trip.

4. Pray Scripture.
5. Pray Galactically.

4. Pray Scripture.

5. Pray Galactically.

Use Ephesians prayers.



6. Use Written Prayers.

7. Use Cyber-prayer.

6. Use Written Prayers.

7. Use Cyber-prayer.

Write a prayer in an email or text to someone right now.

## 8. Pray in the name of Father, Son, and/or Holy Spirit.

- Father's will, building a kingdom
- Son's death, resurrection, advocacy, coming again as judge
- Spirit's comfort and coming alongside

## 9. Focus on the Names of God.

## 10. Pray in Faith (according to God's will, not presumption according to yours).

## 8. Pray in the name of Father, Son, and/or Holy Spirit.

- Father's will, building a kingdom
- Son's death, resurrection, advocacy, coming again as judge
- Spirit's comfort and coming alongside

Pray carefully and intentionally to all three members of the Trinity.

11. Pray After Meals.
12. Pray with Eyes Open.
13. Pray while Holding Hands.

11. Pray After Meals.

12. Pray with Eyes Open.

13. Pray while Holding Hands.

Include prayers of:

- thankfulness (for the snacks)
- blessing for each other (by name)
- what's next today
- those who aren't present (or don't have food)

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# Tonight in House Churches

1. Continue to discuss how you pray (and why).
2. Continue to discuss various other kinds of prayer.
3. Continue experiments with other kinds of prayer.