

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Eph 6:18-20

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Eph 6:10-20.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

[<sup>6:14</sup> **Stand firm therefore**]...

6:18        With all prayer  
              and petition  
              **pray[ing]**  
              at all times  
              in the Spirit,  
                  and with this in view,  
              **be[ing] on the alert**  
              with all perseverance  
              and petition  
19            for all the saints,  
              and *pray*  
                  on my behalf,  
                  that utterance may be given to me  
                  in the opening of my mouth,  
                  to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,  
20            for which I am an ambassador in chains;  
              that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly,  
              as I ought to speak.

1. Read Eph 6:10-18. Look at the diagram above and see how putting on the armor and prayer are the means through which the believer is to “stand firm”. The verbs “to pray” and “to be alert” are in participle form in Greek (usually translated as an -ing verb) supporting the main command of the paragraph—stand firm. In Eph 6:18-20, the text for the sermon, these key verbs have the force of commands, which justifies the NASB translating them as such, but the most accurate reading is to link these two commands as intermediate steps toward accomplishing the overarching imperative to stand firm.

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2. What are the two key verbs in Eph 6:18-20?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What are the four phrases describing “pray”, the first key verb?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Given the definitions below, what are some differences and similarities between prayer and petition?
  - a. Prayer- to speak to or to make requests of God—‘to pray, to speak to God, to ask God for, prayer.’<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Petition- (derivative of δέομαι ‘to plead, to beg,’) that which is asked with urgency based on presumed need—‘request, plea, prayer.’<sup>2</sup>
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Does praying at all times mean we should be actively praying every second of every day? Does it mean every time you pray? Something in-between? How does the context of Eph 6:10-17 inform your response?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What keeps you from praying more often? What are you going to do about it this week? Next week?

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<sup>1</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 408.

<sup>2</sup> Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 407.

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❖ Day 2

Read Eph 6:10-20 again.

7. What might praying 'in the Spirit' mean? What is contrary to praying 'in the Spirit'? (Cf. Rom 8:9, 26; Jude 20; 1 Pet 4:6; 1 Jn 5:14; Jas 4:3)
8. Which of these four phrases displays our effort in prayer? Which displays our dependence on God?
9. What is the "this" that is to be "kept in view" in v. 18f?
10. What are the two phrases describing "be on the alert", the second key verb?
11. If you know that the word translated "be on the alert" literally means "keep oneself awake", how does that relate to or describe prayer? Is (are) there a biblical account(s) supporting your answer?
12. If "be on the alert" is parallel to "praying" above, what does "with all perseverance" parallel to? Does this affect your answer to question 5?

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❖ Day 3

Read Eph 6:10-20 again.

13. For whom does Paul want the Ephesians to pray?

14. For what two things does Paul ask specifically for himself?

15. What are the Ephesians specifically told to pray for the other saints? What might be prayed for them given the whole context of 6:10-17?

16. Should we also pray for all the saints what we pray for Paul? How is his ministry different than theirs? How is it similar?

17. Review your response to question 6. How can we keep the reality of spiritual combat and the resulting casualties and victories more readily in mind? Would those practices help you 'stay alert' and 'pray at all times in the Spirit'?

In preparation for Sunday, pray this passage – that we would persist in the gospel fight for the bold proclamation of the mystery of the gospel both through constant prayer for those who speak it and for those who are in the fight to live it.