

The Battlefield of the Mind

Victory is a Prayer Away, Part 3

Introduction/Review

- Two weeks ago, before our congregation meeting, we were working on closing out our current series on the Battlefield of the Mind by continuing our look at the role prayer plays in our thinking.
- Ephesians 6:18—mentions prayer within in the context of discussing the armor of God. We observed the following regarding prayer in this verse.
- *Praying always*—in the midst of the battle we need to constantly praying. Prayer should be an active and ongoing activity in the life of every believer. (I Thess. 5:17, Rom. 12:12)
- *Supplication*—equals making requests (Phil. 4:1)
- *In the Spirit*—not only is this in keeping with the nature of our spiritual warfare but prayer is the point of contact in the life of the believer. Prayer is what activates the word of God in the believers life.
- *Watching Thereunto*— prayer serves as the watchman of our minds.

Introduction/Review

- *With all perseverance*—despite the enemy continuous attacks we are to persist in prayer and supplication.
- *And supplication for all saints*—this lifestyle of continues watchful prayer that Paul is expounding upon is not to be a selfish personal fleshly endeavor but one that makes supplication and requests for all saints.
- Ephesians 6:19-20—we looked at the example of Paul and how Paul asked for pray that he might continue to boldly make known the mystery of Christ.
- Philippians 4:6—whatever is causing you stress, anxiety, or worry should be taken before the throne of grace. Yes, this includes physical things as well as spiritual things. The real issue is not what you pray for but what you expect God to do for you when you pray.

Philippians 4:7

- At the beginning of verse six you were full of care, worry, and anxiety. So we were instructed to pray, and make our requests known unto God. Now in verse 7, Paul begins to address the results or what we should expect to happen when we pray.
- *And the peace of God*—note the difference between “peace with God” and “the peace of God.”
 - Romans 5:1—based upon the work of Christ, we have “peace with God” as one of the results of our justification.
- The result of prayer is that the believer is given “the peace of God.” The Greek word translated “peace” has multiple meanings which include: “the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.”

Philippians 4:7

- Through prayer God gives us practically “the peace of God” access into the “peace with God” we enjoy positionally. Once again this comes through that point of contact that God has established in your inner man where his Spirit communes with your spirit.
- *Which passeth all understanding*—the fact that you can be full of care and anxiety and then pray and be given “the peace of God” is beyond our ability to comprehend. When you try explaining what happens when you pray to an unbeliever they look at you like you are crazy. We cannot even fully explain it to each other as believers because it “passeth all understanding.” It is a spiritual reality.
 - Romans 8:16
 - Romans 8:26—“the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

Philippians 4:7

- When we pray, something happens in our inner man that is beyond our capacity to describe or understand given the limitations of human language. But it's real. It's the spiritual work and activity of God the Holy Spirit working in our inner man.
- *Shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*—the Greek word “shall keep” means, “to guard, protect by a military guard, either to prevent hostile invasion, or to keep the inhabitants of a besieged city from flight”
 - II Corinthians 11:32
- The word “keep” is a military term. The medieval castle was first and foremost a military weapon with rings of defense: outer wall, inner wall, and a keep. The keep was the most centralized and secure part of the castle. It was stocked with food and provision in the event that the castle was besieged.

Philippians 4:7

- II Corinthians 10:3-5 –Satan is constantly besieging our minds and trying to infiltrate our thinking in an attempt to clear a space and established strongholds in our thinking.
- Ephesians 6:11-13—we are looked in a spiritual struggle designed to move us off the line. Satan seeks to have believers retreat and not stand in who they are in Christ and what God is doing today during the dispensation of grace.
- When we pray “the peace of God” “keeps our hearts and minds.” It fortifies our inner man to allow us to hold the line and stand our ground in the midst of the battle.
- Ephesians 6:18—this is why we need to be watchful in prayer and remember how the word of God defines victory for us. To be victorious in the battlefield of the mind all we have to do is stand and withstand. Prayer will “keep” us right where we need to be.

Philippians 4:7

- Philippians 4:8—we are not promised that we will get everything we pray for. Rather, we are promised that “the peace of God” will “keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
- Prayer is the final piece of armor, which serves as the guardian of the believers mind. It is vehicle though which “the peace of God” is imparted to the believer in the midst of the struggle.
- Philippians 4:8—prayer always works. The problem is with us. We go back to thinking about the very things that caused us be full of care in the first place. In the battlefield of mind we need to remember this divine checklist. If our thinking is not in line with this list cast it down least it become a stronghold.
- Ephesians 6:18—as believers we are all locked in this struggle together. Which is all the more reason to make be watchful and prayer and supplication for all saints.