

August 23 Discussion Questions

“The Priority of Prayer”

Ephesians 6:18-20

Preview

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

MAIN POINT: We fight for God against the enemy through **prayer**.

1. Fight for God by praying at all **times**.
2. Fight for God by praying in the **Spirit**.
3. Fight for God by praying **alertly** with all **perseverance**.

Stand therefore...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:14a, 18

Connect

1. Do you enjoy playing video games? Have you ever enjoyed them? If not, what is another hobby that you enjoy?
2. What is a valuable resource you failed to leverage or could have leveraged more in your life?
3. What makes prayer such a valuable resource? Why do we often fail to leverage it?

Read Ephesians 6:18-20

Discuss

4. How do these verses connect to Paul’s theme of spiritual warfare?
5. Do you think well-educated Christians are more prone to less prayerfulness? What challenges must they overcome? Can you personally relate?
6. Share with the group a season when you had a more vibrant and active prayer life. Why do you think that was? How did that affect you and your relation to the world?
7. Paul says to pray “with all prayer and supplication.” What do you think are the different types of prayer he’s referring to? Which do you need to emphasize more in your life?
8. What does it mean to “pray at all times?” In what parts of your day does there seem to be a lot of silence between you and God?
9. Why is alert prayer so important? In what situations or emotions does the enemy find opportunity to attack you? How should alert prayer help?
10. What is a longstanding prayer request in your life? How does the parable in Luke 18:1-8 give you hope?

Apply

11. Do you feel convicted about the current state of your prayer life? Why?

12. Without feeling guilty into action, in what way do you sense the Holy Spirit prodding you to move the needle forward in your prayer life? Be specific.
13. What are the priority prayer requests in your life right now?

Pray

Personal Prayer Focus: Pray for each person's priority prayer requests mentioned above. Pray also that God will deepen each other's prayer life in the weeks to come.

Ministry Prayer Focus: Pray for our church family meeting on August 30 when the leadership team will present new elders, deacons, and budget for approval by church members.