



Mike Mozingo—Lead Pastor
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“STAY ALERT AND PRAY!”

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. **Ephesians 6:10-18 NLT**

WHY PRAYER?

- **Prayer connects us to God.**

¹ Once Jesus was in a certain place praying. As he finished, one of his disciples came to him and said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” ² Jesus said, “This is how you should pray: Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. ³ Give us each day the food we need, ⁴ and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation.” **Luke 11:1-4 NLT**

- **Prayer connects us to the power of God.**

¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ

from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. **Ephesians 1:19-20 NLT**

- **Prayer connects us to one another.** Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. **Ephesians 6:18 NLT**
- **Praying in the Spirit is praying according to the Spirit's leading.**
- **We need others to pray for us.**
- **We need others to watch out for us.**

WHAT IS PRAYER?

- **The most basic definition of prayer is talking with God.**
- **Communication in battle is critical.**

“We speak. He listens. He speaks. We listen. This is prayer in its purest form. God changes his people through such moments.” Max Lucado

- **Our deepest struggles and agonies can be shared with God.**
- **God's will not our plans must be the goal.**

WHAT PRAYER IS NOT.

- **Prayer is not a way to manipulate God.**
- **Prayer is not giving God instructions to follow.**
- **Prayer is not always answered as we might wish.**

Paul's Final Advice

¹² Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. ¹³ Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. ¹⁴ Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. ¹⁶ Always be joyful. ¹⁷ Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Do not scoff at prophecies, ²¹ but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. ²² Stay away from every kind of evil. **1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 NLT**

Next steps for me today...

- **To know the one true God by faith in Jesus Christ his son.**
- **To join a Life Group today because I need to be praying for others and I need them praying for me.**