

## **How do you view prayer?**

**Many in our modern world see prayer as a sign of weakness. They believe that only weak minded people would waste their time calling out to an imaginary being who is always listening and ready to act or intervene. Even if they do not dismiss belief in God as a weakness, they think that calling upon God signifies an inadequacy on our part. It's calling out for help which indicates helplessness.**

**Others view prayer as a last resort or "the least we can do." These are people who strive under their own power to accomplish certain endeavors and only when they fail will they turn to prayer as a contingency plan. They are the type of person who believes that prayer is somehow less effectual than physical assistance or aid.**

**Still others view prayer as some sort of telepathy. We see this in times of tragedy when people say things like, "Sending out my thoughts and prayers to those suffering from \_\_\_\_\_." To these people, prayer is little more than well wishing.**

**None of these views are biblical. First, prayer is not a sign of weakness but an awareness of our weakness and God's strength. Prayer is not supposed to be a last resort but a first response. It is also not the least we can do. It is asking God to act in a way that is greater than the greatest that we can do. Neither is it some form of long distance "get well" card. It is not directed towards other people. Instead it is directed to God for other people.**

**In short, prayer is not a weakness, a withering, or well wishing. It is a weapon. And it is our most powerful weapon at that.**

## **Scripture: Ephesians 6:18**

### **I. Prayer as a Weapon**

#### **A. All Types of Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1)**

- 1. Prayers of praise and adoration**
- 2. Prayers of confession and repentance**
- 3. Prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude**
- 4. Prayers of supplication and support/strength**

#### **B. All Times for Prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17)**

- 1. Prayer was forever changed by the work of Jesus**
- 2. Prayerful living**
  - a) When tempted**
  - b) When blessed**
  - c) When faced with evil**
  - d) When encountering the lost**
  - e) When troubled**

#### **C. All Things in Prayer (Philippians 4:6)**

- 1. Anything and Everything**
  - a) Our needs**
  - b) Our desires**
  - c) Our lives**
  - d) Our family**
  - e) Our friends**
  - f) Our church**
  - g) Our community**
  - h) Our nation**
  - i) Our world**

#### **D. Always for the Kingdom (Matt. 6:9-10, 33)**

- 1. Seek first the Kingdom**
  - a) Sanctification of the Saints**
  - b) Salvation of Sinners**

**If we're going to be successful warriors for the kingdom of God we must readjust our attitude towards prayer. If we want to experience more victories in our daily battles we have to recognize the primacy of prayer as a weapon.**

**Many of us have heard or even used the term "prayer warrior." But think for a moment what image that conjures up. For many it's some older lady who, in our mind, can't help in any other way. Therein lays the problem.**

**Every Christian should be a prayer warrior. We can wear the armor and wage the battles but we can't win without prayer. We have to rely upon the Lord. The battle is too big for us, even when properly armored.**

**Any battlefield soldier will tell you the importance of communication with command before, during, and after a fight. How can we expect to win when we cut off communication with God? We are arrogant and ignorant if we think we don't need to bathe ourselves in prayer before the battle, immerse ourselves in prayer in the midst of battle, and devote ourselves to debriefing through prayer when the battle's done.**

**Will you commit to becoming a prayer warrior this morning? Will you use all types of prayer at all times about all things, always for the advancement of the Kingdom?**