

**Stand Firm in Warfare:
The Call to Battle – Praying and Watching!
Eph 6:14-20 (Part 11)**

I. Introduction

A. Close our verse-by-verse study of Ephesians today

B. After 110 Sundays of Paul teaching us

C. Today we see the PERSONAL PAUL

D. The Greatest Theologian asks for Prayer – admits his dependence on God for even the simple sharing of the gospel!

E. We also see that this one man army of God IS NOT a ONE-MAN army

1. He depends on others just like we do
2. For simple things too!

F. And we also see that he cannot close his letter without a final reminder of some of the great themes of this book.

G. Finally, I'm sad to be done studying every verse in great detail, but excited to start something new!

1. Sad – Ephesians has taught me so much
 - a) About Jesus Christ and His pre-eminence in our lives
 - b) About the Church – the body of Christ
 - (1) This is truly a Person-Driven Church! Not Purpose-Driven
 - (2) This “church” is sooooo much more than we see in practice today
 - (3) The word has come to mean
 - (a) 4 walls / Denomination
 - (b) The group of Christians you fellowship and minister with
 - (4) Yet – it is SO MUCH MORE from God's perspective!

c) About our walk as Christians!

(1) Talk about a theme!

(2) Mostly about our walk as husbands, wives, children, workers

(3) If the Christian Church is withered today it is because the Christian family is withered

(4) And after studying our walk, the family is withered because individual Christians aren't walking as they should

2. What a book! I hope someday to return and study it in detail again!

II. Review**A. Remember our Outline: STAND FIRM in WARFARE**1. **The Mandate:** 14 Stand firm therefore,2. **The Method (How we stand firm)**

a) Put On the Armor of God (v.14-17)

b) Pray Battle Prayers as you fight! (v.18-20)

B. The Manner of Taking Up Your Helmet and Sword: Praying and Watching

1. Look at V.18 – TWO MAIN ACTIVITIES HERE: PRAYING and BEING ALERT / WATCHING

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,a) TWO KEYS to V.18 – “pray” and “be on the alert”

b) BOTH

(1) Continual activities –do always

(2) Continue to explain / expand Spiritual Warfare

(3)= Part of method of HOW we do Spiritual Warfare

2. TWO Questions arise

3. First – when are we to pray and watch/be on the alert?

- a) When we take up the helmet and the sword! (v.17)
- b) Think about this in battle terms – Praying and watching here is focused on BATTLE PRAYER!
- c) Illustration – Paul Himself in the next verses!

4. Second – what is the relationship between praying and watching (be on the alert)?

- a) You are going into battle or in battle and the manner in which you put on your helmet and use your sword is with prayer!
 - (1) Makes sense! Everything we do should be bathed in prayer!
 - (2) You pray at all times in the Spirit
 - (3) Then Paul added “[and with this in view](#)” = “for the PURPOSE of”
 - (4) For the purpose of what? [Be on the alert](#) = keeping ALERT!

b) POINT 1: PRAYING LEADS to ALERTNESS!

- (1) As you think of more things to pray for, you are MORE ALERT to the battle around you!
- (2) So again POINT 1 PRAYING LEADS to ALERTNESS!
- (3) BUT – how are we to be alert?
- (4) A: [with all perseverance and petition!](#)
- (5) What’s Paul putting petition in there for?

**c) A: POINT 2 – BEING ON THE ALERT
(Watching) LEADS to MORE PRAYER!**

(1) Now that you are ALERT from Prayer, YOU SEE MORE THINGS TO PRAY FOR! – THINGS FOR other saints in Spiritual Warfare!

d) It's a circular cycle that should just keep feeding you to PRAY and WATCH MORE and MORE and MORE! One feeds the other!

C. The Emphasis of Prayer

1. Repetition = EMPHASIS – must know / do
2. FOUR TIMES: Praying and Petition mention in V.18
3. FOUR TIMES: “all” / “always” used
4. Paul – As you go into battle / as you fight the battle
 - a) PRAYING IS CRITICAL, CONTINUAL
 - b) PRAYING ALL TIMES, ALL SAINTS, ALL KINDS
5. Praying MUST SATURATE YOUR LIFE
6. Between the repetition and “alls” – YOU ARE LEFT PRAYING EVERY OPPORTUNITY, EVERY WAY/SHAPE/FORM, for EVERY SAINT!
7. PAUL – TAKE EVERY FREE MOMENT of OUR THINKING – EVERY OPPORTUNITY and DEVOTE IT TO PRAYER

D. The Expectations of Praying–

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit,

1. “With all prayer and petition” = with EVERY PRAYER = INSTRUCT YOU about PRAYER
2. Then “Pray”
 - a) = Present, continual activity = keep on

praying

b) = As the enemy approaches – put on helmet with prayer

c) = As you take up sword of the Spirit – Do so with prayer

d) = As you USE the sword in battle – Use WITH PRAYER!

3. What does Paul want to teach us about prayer here? – the expectations of every prayer?

4. God expects you to pray IN ALL SITUATIONS (God expects you to pray EVERY KIND of PRAYER)

With all prayer and petition

a) Prayer = general term for prayer

b) Petition = specific requests

c) Paul – I'm including ALL KINDS of PRAYERS FOR ALL SITUATIONS but am FOCUSING on PETITION

5. God expects you to pray at EVERY OPPORTUNITY!

pray at all times

a) = PURPOSE of Time NOT PASSAGE of Time

b) "all times" = at every opportunity

c) This is a battle! Pray at EVERY OPPORTUNITY for yourself and for others!

6. God expects you to pray in the HOLY SPIRIT!

in the Spirit,

a) Hopefully, you are already living out Eph 5:18 at this point!

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

(1)= a life CONTROLLED by Holy Spirit

b) IOW – we don't just PRAY in the Spirit – WE START by LIVING A LIFE CONTROLLED BY the SPIRIT – THEN pray in the Spirit!

c) "in the Spirit" =

(1)CONSISTENT with WHO HE IS (His nature)

(2)CONSISTENT with HIS WILL

d) If we are fighting a supernatural battle against Satan

(1)THEN why pray ANYTHING ELSE BUT WHAT the SPIRIT WANTS US TO DO???

E. The Purpose of Prayer: Watching / Being on the alert

and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

1. God expects your prayer to lead to alertness / watching

and with this in view,

a) = PRAY for the purpose of / to the end that...

2. God expects you to be on the alert

be on the alert

a) Your prayer above IS FOR THE PURPOSE of INCREASING YOUR ALERTNESS in the BATTLE!

b) alert = to be watchful, vigilant, not drowsing

(1)Comes from "to remain without sleep"

c) PAUL: Continual PRAYER LEADS to CONTINUAL ALERTNESS

d) God EXPECTS YOU to BE ON THE ALERT – as a RESULT of CONTINUAL PRAYER!

e) What does "be on the alert" look like?

3. God expects you be alert with ALL perseverance

with all perseverance and petition

a) Perseverance =

(1)= PERSISTENCE / ENDURANCE

(2)= to hold out / never quit

4. God expects your alertness to lead to more prayer!

be on the alert with all ...petition

a) Petition = SPECIFIC PRAYERS – just saw before

b) Here's the key mentioned before

(1)Praying leads to watching / being alert

(2)Watching / being alert LEADS TO PRAYER

(3)Again – IF YOU'RE WATCHING – YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THINGS TO PRAY FOR!

5. God expects you to pray for all the saints!

for all the saints,

a) What's the challenge here? A: ALL!

III. The Example of Prayer – Pray for Me!

19 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.

A. “And pray on my behalf”

1. Notice: Pray is in italics – it's not in the text, but assumed from the previous verse

2. IOW – When you're Praying FOR ALL THE SAINTS (v.18end) Pray THIS FOR ME...

B. that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

1. Literally, “that to me may be given a word in the

opening of my mouth, in openness / freeness / boldness, to make known the mystery of the good news”

- a) What was Paul’s need in spiritual warfare?
- b) Paul: Pray for me to BE BOLD AND FAITHFUL in PROCLAIMING the GOSPEL!
- c) Don’t we all need this prayer???!?
- d) Why did he need this prayer?
- e) A: to not give in to Satan’s attempts to silence his evangelism!

(1) Somehow Satan’s schemes made it a struggle for him to witness! he tells us...

2. 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains;

- a) This is a QUICK interjection of WHY he is SOMETIMES TEMPTED NOT TO BE BOLD!
- b) Turn back to Eph 3:1

Eph3: 1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

- c) Paul wrote Ephesians FROM PRISON
 - (1) He was chained to a ROMAN SOLDIER
 - (2) Been there 5 YEARS!
 - (3) He was a prisoner BECAUSE he had been preaching that the Jew and Gentile were ONE IN CHRIST!
- d) = a PRISONER of the Mystery of the Gospel
 - (1) Until the NT, the truth of Eph 2:11-22 WAS NOT REVEALED!
 - (2) The whole doctrine of the Church was revealed THROUGH PAUL!
 - (3) Study Acts 21-22 to see how Paul got to Rome!
 - (4) OR go listen to all of the Ephesians sermons covering Eph 3:1-13

e) IOW – this “[the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains](#)” =
SUMMARIZES ALL OF EPH 3:1-13!!!

f) In a letter written shortly after Ephesians, Paul wrote

Php1: 12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, **13** so that my imprisonment in *the cause of Christ* has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, **14** and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

(1) Boldness DREW THE GUARDS to the GOSPEL

(2) BOLDNESS INSPIRED other Christians to be bold too!

g) As I said before – these verses AREN'T a MERE “good bye” – THEY SUMMARIZE the HEART of this LETTER!

3. that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

a) Paul returns to his prayer request!

b) What's the key here? “[as I ought to speak](#)”

c) “[ought](#)” = “dei” = MUST!

d) Paul KNEW the BOLDLY is THE ONLY WAY GOD EXPECTS US to WITNESS

e) This one phrase CONDEMNS the ENTIRE “Christian-lite” movement – the ENTIRE SEEKER-SENSITIVE MOVEMENT

f) Anyone who only gives HALF a gospel is IN SIN – because they are not speaking as GOD EXPECTS them to SPEAK!

C. Transition

1. What did we just see? Paul as an example of praying for others in spiritual warfare!
2. Pray for me when you pray for all the saints!

IV. The Epilogue of Ephesians (6:21-24)**A. TWO Parts to the Epilogue**

1. The Update on Paul
2. The Benediction

B. The Update on Paul

21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

1. 21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing,
 - a) Update about Prison
 - b) Background to help pray more specifically for him
2. Tychicus, =
 - a) Accompanied Paul taking the relief offering to Jerusalem (Acts 20:4–6),
 - b) With Paul during his first Roman imprisonment,
 - c) Frequently sent on missions by the apostle (2 Tim. 4:12; Titus 3:12).
 - d) Delivered Ephesian letter and Colossians
 - e) In both cases being instructed to give the recipients additional information about the apostle's situation (Col. 4:7–9).
 - f) BL: Paul's not a one-man show! Has a ministry team!
3. the beloved brother, = personally dear/close to Paul

4. and faithful minister in the Lord = Paul telling his worthiness to minister to them (credentials)
5. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.
 - a) Repeats the purpose from V.20
 - b) ADDS that he comes to comfort them!
 - c) AMAZING – He’s in prison and sends Tychicus TO THEM to COMFORT THEM!
 - d) Paul was always living for others!
6. What are the key points here?
 - a) Paul had a ministry Team! NOT A ONE-MAN SHOW
 - b) He DEPENDED on the HELP of OTHERS
 - c) And – He used his ministry team TO ALSO HELP / COMFORT OTHERS
 - d) Don’t have time to develop it here but never think of Paul as a loner doing this all by himself!
 - e) He was surrounded!

C. The Benediction

23 Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.

1. How often do we simply fly through the closing thoughts of the letters of the NT?
2. The Closing to Ephesians is special – it REFLECTS MANY OF THE THEMES of the this Letter!
3. Peace be to the brethren
 - a) = Experiential Peace – FEELING of PEACE – KNOWING THE PEACE CHRIST

EARNED on the CROSS

b) Paul is CALLING for the EXPERIENCE of PEACE that COMES from

(1) The POSITION of PEACE earned by Christ on the CROSS

(2) the PRACTICE of UNITY that!

c) The POSITION of PEACE earned by Christ on the Cross

Eph2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into one* and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, **15** by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances*, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus establishing peace*,

Eph2:17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;

(1) Remember the GREAT THEME of this BOOK! UNITY – between CHRISTIANS (Jews and Gentiles)

(2) 2:14 is the CENTER of the DOCTRINE TO BE APPLIED in this BOOK!

(3) Paul FIRST taught HOW CHRIST MADE PEACE!

(4) What did he do next?

d) CALLED us to PRACTICE UNITY / PEACE!

Eph4: 1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, **3** being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit

in the bond of peace.

(1) Bond is a literally the word for
“ligament”

(a)= holds it all together

(b) Greeks used the word to
mean “BELT” or “CHAIN”

(c)= The ENVIRONMENT in
which UNITY is PRESERVED!

(d)= Everything you do should
be ACCOMPANIED by the
Question: Is this going to keep
PEACE in the Body of Christ?

(e) If everything you do
PROMOTES an
ENVIRONMENT of PEACE,
YOU WILL BE PRESERVING
UNITY!

(2) And do you know what peace is?

(3) A: It is ANOTHER FRUIT of THE
SPIRIT! OBEY then get PEACE

e) NO SURPRISE THEN - the Letter opens
and ends with Paul asking for God’s peace to
be experienced by the Ephesians

Eph1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

6: 23 Peace be to the brethren,

(1) Paul’s not just saying goodbye! –
ONE MORE REPETITION of the
TEACHING

(2) of this BOOK!

(3) WORK ON PEACE and UNITY and
EXPERIENCE IT!

4. love with faith from God the Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ

a) Love with faith

(1) “with faith” qualifies Love

(a) Through Faith we see God's Love

(b) We Understand God's love

(c) We can love the way God loves, etc.

(2) Love as a major theme

Eph4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

Eph4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Eph5: 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Eph5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

Eph5:28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own

wife loves himself;
Eph5:33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see *to it* that she respects her husband.

b) from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

(1) Of course Paul NEVER forgets where Peace and Love must come from!

5. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love

a) Grace = divine favor,

b) = gift Paul desired for all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible.

c) “incorruptible” = that which is not subject to decay! = definition of a Christian!

V. CONCLUSION
