



THE ANCHOR

Prayer -The Wartime Walkie-Talkie

1. What are some metaphors used by the Bible to describe life on earth? Read 1 Timothy 6:12, 2 Timothy 4:7, 1 Corinthians 9:26-27, and 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. Why does Paul use war as a metaphor for life? What are we fighting?
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What tools are we given for offense and defense? How does prayer fit in?
3. **SPOILER ALERT!!!!** Who wins the war? Read Psalm 86:9, Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 16:18, and Matthew 24:14. How should this affect our prayer life?
4. How does prayer relate to the work of missions? Read Romans 10:13-17 and Acts 4:31. Also read 2 Thessalonians 3:1, Ephesians 6:18-20, Colossians 4:3, and 2 Corinthians 1:10-11. Is prayer the work of missions or is it the power behind the work of missions?
5. Why else does God say that prayer is important? Read Psalm 50:15, John 14:13, and John 16:24.

Life is a war. That's not all it is. But it is always that. Our weakness in prayer is owing largely to our neglect of this truth. Prayer is primarily a wartime walkie-talkie for the mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief. It is not surprising that prayer malfunctions when we try to make it a domestic intercom to call upstairs for more comforts in the den. God has given us prayer as a wartime walkie-talkie so that we can call headquarters for everything we need as the kingdom of God advances in the world. Prayer gives us the significance of frontline forces and gives God the glory of a limitless provider. The one who gives the power gets the glory. Thus, prayer safeguards the supremacy of God in missions while lining us with endless grace for every need. – John Piper

Not only has God made the accomplishment of His purposes hang on the preaching of His word, but He has also made the success of that preaching hang on prayer. God's goal to be glorified will not succeed without the powerful proclamation of the gospel. And that gospel will not be proclaimed in power to all the nations without the prevailing, earnest, faith-filled prayers of God's people. – John Piper

What did Jesus and the early church pray about?

They called on God to exalt His name in the world.

Matthew 6:9: Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name.

They called on God to extend His kingdom in the world.

Matthew 6:10: Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

They called on God that the gospel would speed ahead and be honored.

2 Thessalonians 3:1: Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored.

They called on God for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13: If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

They called on God to vindicate His people in their cause.

Luke 18:7: And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?

They called on God to save unbelievers.

Romans 10:1: Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

They called on God to direct the use of the sword.

Ephesians 6:17-18: Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

They called on God for boldness in proclamation.

Ephesians 6:18-19: To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel...

They called on God for signs and wonders.

Acts 4:29-30: And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

They called on God for the healing of wounded comrades.

James 5:14-15: Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.

They called on God for the healing of unbelievers.

It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him.

They called on God for the casting out of demons.

Mark 9:29: And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

They called on God for miraculous deliverances.

Acts 12:5: So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

They called on God for the raising of the dead.

Acts 9:40: But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

They called on God to supply his troops with necessities.

Matthew 6:11: Give us this day our daily bread.

They called on God for strategic wisdom.

James 1:5: If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

They called on God to establish leadership in the outposts.

Acts 14:23: And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

They called on God to send out reinforcements.

Matthew 9:38: Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

They called on God for the success of their missionaries.

Romans 15:30-31: I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints...

They called on God for unity and harmony in the ranks.

John 17:20-21: "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

They called on God for the encouragement of togetherness.

1 Thessalonians 3:10: ...as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith.

They called on God for a mind of discernment.

Philippians 1:9: And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment...

They called on God for knowledge of His will.

Colossians 1:9: And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...

They called on God to know Him better.

Ephesians 1:16-17: I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him...

They called on God for power to comprehend the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:14, 18-19: For this reason I bow my knees before the Father...may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

They called on God for a deeper sense of assured hope.

Ephesians 1:16, 18: I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers...that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...

They called on God for strength and endurance.

Ephesians 3:14, 16: For this reason I bow my knees before the Father...he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

They called on God for a deeper sense of His power within them.

Ephesians 1:16, 18-19: I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe...

They called on God that their faith not be destroyed.

Luke 22:32: but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.

They called on God for greater faith.

Mark 9:24: Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

They called on God that they might not fall into temptation.

Matthew 6:13: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

They called on God that He would complete their resolves.

2 Thessalonians 1:11: To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

They called on God that they would do good works.

Colossians 1:10: And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

They called on God for forgiveness of their sins.

Matthew 6:12: and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors...

They called on God for protection from the evil one.

Matthew 6:13: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.