

## Ephesians 6:18-20 The Preparation

There is really only one important idea that Paul is trying to make right here. Even if you are the strongest person in the fight, even if you have done all you can do to be prepared, and even if you have the best equipment, the latest weapons, the best intelligence, and everything has been done right, you still need to pray. Pray, pray, and more prayer. But while Paul is convinced that prayer is the key to success in all battles, he also says that we need to do what God commands us to do before, during and after the battle.

1. Know how to use our weapons – vs. 18 We are commanded here to go into battle and be victors, but there is a preparation that must take place. Just as a soldier would not go into battle without preparing first, so we need to prepare. Verse 18 says that we must first “pray at all times” and offer petitions to God in the Spirit. That means that we must have our lives right before God if we expect to win this battle against Satan.
  - a. Pray at all times – The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. Now I don’t know about you, but if I was in battle, you bet I’d be praying without ceasing. **1 Thes. 5:17**
  - b. Prepare – We are to offer petitions. That means we have thought about our battle and done our homework and we can tell God what we need. He already knows, but he wants us to prepare so we don’t get ambushed. **Eph. 6:13; Jas. 5:16**
  - c. Perceptive – We need to always be on the alert. We need to be smart and perceptive so we don’t fall for the lies and temptations that Satan throws at us. **1 Cor. 10:12; Matt 10:16; 1 Pet. 5:8**
  - d. Persevere – Above all else, don’t quit. Hang in there even when it seems hopeless and beyond your ability to win. Don’t give up or give in. God will prevail. He has promised to fight our battles for us and we can win this battle and the war. **Joshua 24:15; 2 Tim. 4:7**
2. Pray for each other – vs. 19-20 We are not in this battle alone. We have other believers with us. We are to pray for them as well.
  - a. Pray on others behalf
  - b. Pray for utterance
  - c. Pray for boldness
  - d. Pray for the mystery to be known
  - e. Pray for courage and strength and wisdom