CAPITOL ministries

OCTOBER 7, 2024

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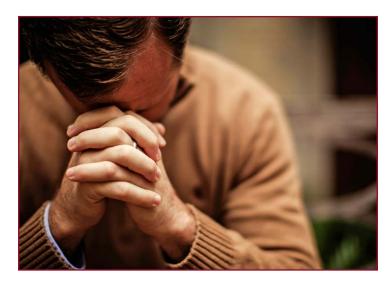
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FOCUSED ON THE WORD

The Political Leaders Weekly Bible Study

Are You Praying Most Effectively for the Elections?



O you realize that when you get on your knees to pray you are actually going into battle?

Ephesians 6:12 tells us:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Because of this constant struggle, praying effectively for the best success is vital. The need for efficacious prayer is especially true during this season of upcoming elections, which are critical to the future direction of our country. I don't believe I am overstating it when I say that these elections will, among other crucial issues, affect whether America will remain strong in sending missionaries across the globe in obedience to God's Great Commission. Given that biblical command, it is imperative that committed Christians be praying for an outcome that glorifies our Lord and specifically that more believers will win office.

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WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Governors: Fridays 9am (EST), Zoom Former Cabinet Members / White House Senior Staff: Fridays 9am (EST), Zoom Senate Members: Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served House Members: Thursdays 8am, AG Hearing Rm., Longworth 1302, hot breakfast served

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MINISTRY UPDATE

Global Directors Annual Meeting— Training, Problem Solving, and Fortifying Infrastructure as Drollinger Casts Vision for Strong Future



As Capitol Ministries continues strong expansion across the world, our global directors gathered in Mammoth, CA, recently with President Ralph Drollinger to develop plans, policies, and procedures to position the ministry for continued future growth. "We see God moving in every theater that we're involved in," said Brian Hanson, International Global Director. "We were able to recognize the fruits of the labor of our men and plan for a stellar future."

After years of networking and hard work, CapMin's discipleship Bible-study ministries in both Africa and Latin American nations have realized many ministry launches and seen

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Are You Praying Most Effectively for the Elections?

The importance of these elections cannot be overemphasized.

To be effective, we need to examine how we can be our best at prayer and in prayer, not only for the outcome of the elections but also for the outcomes of our lives. But what does it mean to pray effectively? The Bible provides the answer.

In this study, let's take a close look at how we can elevate our prayer life to a greater level!

Read on, my friend.

Ralph Drollinger

I. INTRODUCTION

Let us closely examine the closing section of Paul's address to the church at Ephesus to learn how to increase our effectiveness in prayer. The passage is found in Ephesians 6:18:

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.

In these final words of his letter to the believers in Ephesus, Paul reveals the purpose for believers to remain in the world after they have been saved. In that specific regard, 2 Timothy 2:4 adds and makes it extremely clear that all believers have been called by God to be His *soldiers* in the theater of spiritual battle, post-salvation in Christ but prior to going home to be with Him. Paul states to Timothy in this regard:

No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. After being saved by God and His grace, we are to *soldier* on in this world for Him. In the book of Philippians, Paul reserves the term *soldier* as the highest moniker of distinction to describe another believer. In the ascensive progression of Philippians 2:25, Paul states regarding his beloved friend Epaphroditus: *my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier*. The climactic title in Paul's way of thinking is to call him a *fellow soldier* for the sake of the gospel. There are many *brothers* and *fellow workers* in ministry, but he deems few as *fellow soldiers*.

In this study's home passage of Ephesians 6, Paul codifies the battle that all believers will face after being saved yet remaining in the world. The title of *fellow soldier* is therefore a befitting metaphor of personal distinctiveness relative to the faithfulness of the believer postsalvation.

With all of that explanation in mind, note how this section of Ephesians 6 begins:

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Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the beavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God (vv. 10-13).

Herein Paul identifies the main aspects of the believer's battle armament in the spiritual war in which he has been enlisted to fight as a *fellow soldier*. Distilled from the continuation of this familiar passage (verses 11 to 17 that I have not listed due to length) are the following specifics of the *fellow soldier's* spiritual armament for this battle:

- 1. **TRUTH**: The effective spiritual warrior will be grounded in, living out, and characterized by truth (without personal hypocrisy) stemming from—
- 2. **RIGHTEOUSNESS**: i.e., personal holiness, righteous living, and uncompromising biblical convictions; the spiritual warrior possesses an internal—
- 3. **PEACE**, which comes from having a reliance on Him Who enlisted him as a soldier in the first place, which means he lives his whole life by—
- 4. FAITH, not by his own sight or way of doing things. Scripture is his guide, not selfish ambition; he lives to achieve God's desires, not his own. Accordingly, he is empowered mightily by the Holy Spirit because of his—
- 5. **SALVATION**, which means he is in intimate contact with his General.

It follows that He has trained him and imputed certain specialty skills to each spiritual warrior via the—

6. **WORD OF GOD**, which is the only offensive weapon mentioned and his continual source of knowledge for his specific assignment in battle.

All are marks of an effective *fellow soldier*. Elsewhere such men and women of God are referred to with different metaphoric, picturesque, and communicative language. Note such an example in 2 Corinthians 5:20:

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us.

God determines that *fellow soldiers* remain in the world after saving them to make *an appeal through them* to the world as His *ambassadors*!

One more basic ingredient is found in the context of Ephesians 6 that every mature believer must possess for effective spiritual warfare: a profound, biblically informed understanding of and commitment to *prayer*! Your skills in this discipline are so important to your overall value as a *fellow soldier*!

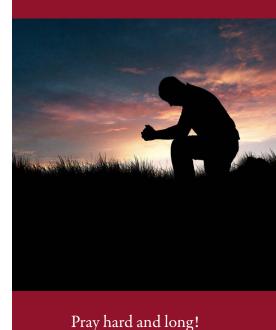
Don't misinterpret the elections: they are first and foremost a spiritual battle requiring mature, spiritual weaponry.

The believer should be wiser than those who do not know Christ or His Scriptures. Many are those who view the elections through a political lens only.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Ephesians 6:18

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.







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political leaders growing in their faith. Global Directors for those areas, Jon Cassel and Oscar Zamora, respectively, attended the meetings. Federal parliaments in many Southwest Asia nations have been receptive to ministries, due mostly to the work of one of our newest global directors, Kumar Sing Praja. In Kathmandu, Nepal, he leads a weekly Bible study to federal political leaders. He also serves as Asia global director and is responsible for expanding the ministry in Asia. Kumar was unable to attend the meetings. We are also seeing expansion in Europe. The directors also furthered the planning of upcoming conferences to be held around the world at which new ministry leader recruits will be trained in how to establish and sustain discipleship ministries to political leaders. The Africa conference was held in Cape Town on Sept. 2–6, and the Kathmandu, Nepal, conference was held Sept. 30-Oct. 4. Upcoming conferences are scheduled for Oct. 28-Nov. 1 in Bogota, Colombia, Nov. 7–11 in Brussels, Belgium, and Dec. 2-5 in Hebron, Kentucky.

The global directors also projected that an additional 113 new ministries for leaders at all levels of government would be launched through the end of this year. This will bring the total of ministries to 279, up 68 percent from the

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Are You Praying Most Effectively for the Elections?

When I say "many," I am including many believers who are naïve to what this study teaches. In contrast, the believer should concentrate on being the most effective prayer warrior in the upcoming elections! May I whisper the point I am making? Being a valuable *ambassador for Christ* is far more important than possessing political campaign skills (as important as those are). To say it bluntly, I know too many Christian spiritual hacks who know nothing, and seemingly don't care to know anything, about the spiritual dimension of an election! Don't be one of them!

If the elections are first and foremost definitively—a spiritual battle per Ephesians 6:10, then it follows that your best way to run your own campaign and help others in their campaigns is to be a victorious spiritual warrior in an election! Spiritual combat is most triumphant to the degree that one meets and is characterized by the aforementioned! Again, think of the criteria of Ephesians 6 as prerequisites for being the most effective person in regard to the elections. Do you really believe *our struggle is not against flesh and blood*?

Accordingly, consider the following biblical insights on how we can best spend our time and hone our skills as they specifically relate to our personal prayer life.

II. OUR PRAYERS MUST BE ENDORSED

With all prayer

The Greek word *proseuche* that means *prayer* is used 85 times in the New Testament (NT). Across the board, *proseuche* is the most comprehensive word to communicate the concept of *prayer*. Importantly, gleaned from all its usages, efficacious human *prayer*—prayers that are heard and acted upon by God—are

only achieved through His Son Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Because of man's fallen nature, he is not in a position to expect God to hear his *prayers*. Accordingly, how then can God hear the sinner's *prayers*? A sinner's prayers are certainly not based on his personal merit. Save the *prayer* of repentance from sin, the *prayers* of unregenerate people are ineffective. Note specifically Isaiah 59:2, one of many biblical passages that serve to make this point:

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

It follows that we need the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ for our *prayers* to be heard by God. James 5:16 states this truth in the positive:

The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

James is talking about *imputed*, not *per*sonal righteousness; no one is righteous based on his or her personal merit. Therefore, the *prayers* we are aiming at God, the *prayers* we are hoping He will answer, will not be heard by God apart from Christ's endorsement or enablement. We must have an Advocate with the Father (cf. 1 John 2:1) for our prayers to be heard. In keeping with the outline, Christ must advocate, i.e., endorse any effective *prayers* to God! This foundation must first be laid in regard to any biblically sound study on *prayer*. Otherwise, we are praying ineffectively for the elections.

III. OUR PRAYERS MUST BE DETAILED

and petition

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Elias Boudinot

The Greek word for *petition* (*enteuxis*) means "to fall in with someone." The idea behind *petition* is that believers are to get involved in terms of understanding the sinner's plight. We do not pray for the lost with a cold, detached, mechanical attitude, but with love and concern regarding their future destiny. More specific than the first word examined for prayer (proseuche), petition (en*teuxis*) denotes specific requests made to God by the believer. Requesting is therefore appropriate in prayer! Biblical prayer is more than adoration and worship (as important as that is)! Paul expects believers to include supplication, i.e., *petitioning* in their prayer life! Jesus underscores this in John 14:13-14:

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."

By asking for specific requests (in line with scriptural priorities, which is the idea behind praying *in My name*), the answers ultimately glorify Him! Why? His power is evidenced in the world via answered prayer. To illustrate this idea, Paul petitioned for Timothy night and day (2 Timothy 1:3), and as a result, he was successful in changing the direction of the Ephesian Church from its heretical takeover (cf. 1 Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 1:1-2). Indeed, that turnaround in response to Pauline petition*ing* brought glory to God in the world. The fact that Paul petitioned with specific, detailed prayers night and day informs us of one element as to how we ought to be praying.

The explicit command to *petition* in your prayers communicates the idea of being detailed in your prayers.

By way of personal illustration, for years I have kept a running "yellow sheet" on my computer wherein I record requests and answers. May I suggest that you list your *detailed petitions* (that are biblically based with biblical values) on your smartphone. I have my old way of doing things, but I feel sure some good *petition* apps are available. The point is, God delights in answering *detailed*, quantifiable *petitions* versus nebulous, immeasurable, flighty thoughts. This explanation leads to the third point Paul makes in the passage.

IV. OUR PRAYERS MUST BE DELIBERATE

pray at all times in the Spirit

The Greek word used for *time* (*kairos*) denotes "a season of *time*" when it is found in Scripture coupled with this particular use of the Greek word *all* (*panti*). Better understood, in this portion of Ephesians 6:18 under study, there exists the literal idea of "every critical season." An upcoming election certainly denotes a *critical time* both in the life of a public servant and in the course of a nation! The applied general idea for elected officials, or any citizen for that matter, is this:

We should be praying more when the pressure is the greatest!

Isn't that how it usually goes with us anyway? But take solace. Here, in fact, Paul is commanding it. In light of the larger context of the passage, when the believer wields the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and Satan reacts through his minions, *critical times* or seasons for necessary *petitioning* will come—that is, if we are *soldiers* for Christ! Our prayers must be deliberate and specified, especially during these times! This is the best way to under-



"Let us enter on this important business under the idea that we are Christians on whom the eyes of the world are now turned. ... [L]et us earnestly call and beseech Him, for Christ's sake, to preside in our councils. ... We can only depend on the all powerful influence of the Spirit of God, Whose Divine aid and assistance it becomes us as a Christian people most devoutly to implore. Therefore, I move that some minister of the Gospel be requested to attend this Congress every morning ... in order to open the meeting with prayer."

 Elias Boudinot, president of Congress, signed the Peace Treaty to End the American Revolution, first attorney admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar, framer of the Bill of Rights, director of the U.S. Mint.

Elias Boudinot, *The Life, Public Services, Addresses, and Letters of Elias Boudinot,* J. J. Boudinot, editor (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1896), Vol. I, 19, 21, speech in the First Provincial Congress of New Jersey.

Are You Praying Most Effectively for the Elections?



Continued from page 4

166 existing ministries in 2023. The largest increase will be in Local Government Ministries to city and county leaders which will rise 171 percent from last year's 56 to 152 by December. Torrey Lewis, LGM regional director for U.S. West Coast, led trainings on Bigin, a software application that centralizes data and offers access from anywhere in the world. Pastor Valeriu Ghiletchi offered exceptional input as the directors created a ministry leader agreement that clarified the role, expectations, and CapMin policies. Pastor Ghiletchi is a seminary-trained Baptist pastor and former Moldovan Parliamentarian who ran for the office of president of Moldova. He serves as ministry leader to members of the Parliament of the European Union in Brussels. The meetings also provided opportunities for the men to share ministry experiences, mentor and support each other, and problem solve. Also attending the meeting were global directors Frank Cuozzo (Pacific), Matt Goodsell (North America), Alberty Reyes (Caribbean), Dr. Dan DeShong (Local Government Ministries), Brian Solomon (Training), and Emmanuel Makolo (LGM Director, Africa) and Paul Jang (CapMin South Korea Ambassador).

stand what *all times* means in this passage, versus thinking that if we are not praying every second of the day—all the time—we are disobedient and living in sin.

The closely following phrase *in the Spir-it* needs to next be understood. Herein is the power source of the believer's *prayers*. It could be an additional point in the outline, "Our Prayers Must Be Driven." Indeed, that is the case! We glean additional insight in this regard from Romans 8:26–27, which declares that the *Holy Spirit* is the One Who *intercedes for the saints*.

When it comes to prayer, think of the Third Member of the Trinity as likened to the powersteering pump in our car.

We initiate (based on His prompting), and He takes over and empowers the task! He energizes our sometimes-mumbling gibberish and *intercedes*, presenting our requests in a form acceptable to God the Father! Wow! Accordingly, we cannot feel like our efforts in *prayer* are somehow lacking in prose and/or adequacy-the Spirit will edit and empower them on our behalf! We might say that one of the ministries of the Holy *Spirit* is to spruce us up! He indeed delights in doing exactly that! What great news for someone like me! Note the following from Romans 8:26-27 that amplifies this thought:

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Combined with the aforementioned points, it is the believer's standing with courage on God's Word and its principles that riles satanic forces. His use of *prayer in the Spirit* during those *critical seasons* of *time* mightily aids in the victory; the believer is to cry out to God on the various occasions of the assaults of darkness. An election is such a critical *time*.

In an illustration of contrast, when persecution arose because of his earlier identification with Christ, the Apostle Peter fled from associating with Him (cf. Matthew 26:69–70) versus going away to *pray*! What is our response when persecution arises—especially when our opponent conjures up falsehoods against us in an election? Is our first response to *pray*? Do we believe that God can turn the tide if we react with this kind of spiritual maturity? Our *prayers* must be *deliberate* in these *crucial times*.

V. OUR PRAYERS MUST BE DETERMINED

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

The conjunction *and* (*kai*) connects what follows to that which has just been stated, *and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance*. The words for *alert* (*agrupnountes*) and *perseverance* (*proskarternesis*) have similar meanings. One lexical translator states that this means "to continue to do something with intense effort ... to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in."¹ This coupling of the ideas of timely *prayer* with *alertness* and *perseverance* is replete throughout Scripture:

> Prayer manifests itself in perseverance just as perseverance manifests itself in prayer.

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They fuel each other; that is to say, our *prayers* must be *determined*! Note this spirit of determination in *prayer* as modeled in the following passages.

In the Gospels, Jesus told His disciples to *"keep watching and praying"* (Matthew 26:41).

In Colossians, Paul told believers to *devote yourselves* [themselves] *to prayer* (4:2).

In the parables, the widow wore out the judge (Luke 18:2–8) because of her relentless *perseverance* in *petitioning*.

Years later Peter would say, reflecting on his earlier failure, *Be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer* (1 Peter 4:7).

All of them—Jesus, Paul, the widow, and Peter were tenacious prayer warriors. We should be too!

When a believer is faced with spiritual challenges like an election, his first response should be to *pray* with determined *perseverance*; such is the time to put on our game face and *pray* with earnestness! God will strengthen and empower our *petition* as we step out in obedient faith to *pray*!

Notice that for the fourth time, the word *all* is used in the passage. The believer is to use *all prayer* forms in *all critical times*, with *all perseverance* (intense effort) for *all the saints*. (*More about that in the final point*).

The NT uses other words in the context of *prayer* that provide us with an even deeper understanding of the subject. More specifically, in verse 1 of 1 Timothy 2, Paul uses four words to elaborate on specific kinds of *prayers*. Two of them have already been examined from our home passage in Ephesians 6. But let us expand our study to include the two we have not previously mentioned:

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority (vv. 1-2).

Notice that the direct object of *prayer* mentioned in this passage is not merely *all men*, but specifically public servants, i.e., *kings and all who are in authority*! If you are a special, singled-out focus of *prayer*, it follows that you should be an expert on the subject, i.e., what other people are supposed to be doing for you! Each of the following words are in answer to that:

A. ENTREATIES

The Greek root for the English word entreaties (deesis) means "to lack, to be deprived, to be without something." Its use in the context of *prayer* here and elsewhere throughout the Scriptures carries the idea of the prayer warrior's inner realization of the needs of the lost. The believer is to pray, motivated in part by the hope that God would supply the sinner the remedy for his sin via the cross of Christ. The object of our prayers-men and women who have enormous spiritual needs—should compel us to pray that God would touch each public servant with His grace and forgiveness and lead them to the way of salvation (if they are not already saved)! Accordingly, we must *entreat* God to save lost politicians, versus hating them because of their lack of character (which is equally present in less visible people as well).

B. THANKSGIVING

The other Greek word we have not yet studied is the English word *thanksgiv*-

ing (*eucharista*), which means that the believer should be motivated to *pray* for the lost because this great privilege has been granted to him by God. As an *ambassador for Christ*, every believer is given a role to play in the salvation of others. Exercising the privilege of leading another to Christ begins with *thankfulness* to God for the opportunity! Here then is an additional motivation for *prayer*: what a great and powerful opportunity the *fellow soldier* in Christ has to battle for the souls of public servants!

In summary of this point, believers are to *petition* God *on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority* motivated by the understanding of these four distinct facets of *prayer* found in part in Ephesians 6 and more fully in 1 Timothy 2:

We *entreat* Him because we are sensitive and in concert with the needs of lost political leaders.

We *pray* to Him and give Him glory because of His power to save.

We *petition* Him because we are concerned for their future without Christ.

We *thank* Him because we are grateful for the opportunity to witness on His behalf.

These four biblically revealed, specific aspects should motivate us to address God to receive His answers to our *prayers*. May these aspects of communion with God inspire us to *pray*, especially in *critical times*, and may they increase our determination to *pray*!

VI. OUR PRAYERS MUST BE DYNAMIC

for all the saints

Remember that Paul is addressing the



CAPITOL ministries

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ in the Political Arena Throughout the World



Capitol Ministries provides Bible studies, evangelism, and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, Capitol Ministries has started ongoing ministries in more than forty U.S. state Capitols and dozens of foreign federal Capitols.

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Ephesian believers as he is teaching about *prayer*. Accordingly, per the first point, *prayer* is a discipline for believers. In applying this concept to *praying* for a God-glorifying outcome to an election, it follows that believers should be *praying* that believers will win office!

The ideal candidates for public office are those who have a great résumé, understand and abide by God's stated purpose for government in Romans 13:1–8, have a proven track record, and are mature in Christ. We need to ask God to raise up candidates who are mature believers and possess all these characteristics. We need many more mature believers in office. Praying for *all the saints*, applied here, means our *prayers* must be for believers to gain office and for those in office to come to Christ!

VII. CONCLUSION

Believers are enlisted in a spiritual battle. Just as nuclear wars cannot be won with rifles, spiritual battles cannot be won by engaging the Enemy with the wrong weaponry. Voting believers (and every believer should vote) must be sober to the spiritual dimension of elections.

Furthermore, the qualified believer who is in office or is a candidate must be sober to the fact that the battle is **not** against flesh and blood. Ours is ultimately a spiritual battle, and herein is the armament: not the least of which is prayer—and specifically for His elevating believers in public service in the upcoming elections! Remember, our prayers aimed at achieving these goals will be most effective when they are enDorsed, Detailed, Deliberate, Determined, and Dynamic! Pray accordingly with each of these critical elementselements common to those who are the most powerful prayer warriors-and then watch with anticipation as these prayers are answered and make a difference in the direction of our nation!

1. Harold Hoehner. *Ephesians: An Exegetical Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003), 857–858.

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