

Series: **EQUIPPED TO PRAY**  
Title: **Call to Readiness – positioned**  
Text: **1 Thess. 5:17-18**

## **EQUIPPED TO PRAY**

We have taught on....

- The *relationship* we are called to with the Sovereign HOLY God.
- The *recognition* of His voice as opposed to other internal or outside sources.
- The *invitation* to be led by the Spirit into victory in the three unseen arenas of spiritual battles: The Heavens, The Mind, The Ministry Moment.

**Today I want to speak the *readiness* to be used through continual prayer.**

### **CALLED TO READINESS: (Position)**

#### **1 Thess. 5:17-18**

*<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit.*

Do we offer prayer at every step?

- Lord, should I awaken?
- Lord, do I brush my teeth this morning?
- Do I make coffee, if yes, when?
- Which socks, Lord?
- He is speaking of being positioned for prayer and in prayer.
  - Ready through prayer
  - Without ceasing - No stopping
- His will for you
- The Spirit is moving, and you can quench it.

#### **Ephesians 6:18-20**

*“...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. 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, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

- At all times / Every occasion

- With no faith, he could do nothing.
- Without faith you can do nothing, expect nothing.
- The Spirit is the Counselor.

## **Four Ways to Practically Pray without Ceasing**

### **1. Understand that God takes no time off, nor should we.**

No time off in our relationship.

No time off in the desire for mankind to come to Him.

No time off in working on the hearts of men.

#### **Philippians 4:5-6**

*...The Lord is at hand;<sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

#### **Psalm 116:2 New Living Translation**

*Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!*

#### **Psalm 86:3 NLT**

*Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am calling on you constantly.*

**NIV** - *Have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long.*

### **2. Choose to have the Lifestyle Priority of Prayer.**

- a. If we are not people of prayer, we are not people of God.
- b. Countless verses on seeking God in the morning and in the evening, day and night.

#### **1 Thess. 3:10 ESV**

*...as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?*

Start with a set plan.

- When I awake
- In a quiet time
- Over my meals
- Before travel
- At night before bed

## Set Reminders

- Some set alarms.
  - Phone alarm
- Post-it notes (handout)
  - Coffee pot
  - Bathroom mirror
  - Fridge
  - Car rear-view mirror

## 3. Develop The Ongoing Practice of Prayer

- I am asked a lot about what it feels like to be on constant awareness for divine encounters and divine opportunities, and **to be ready, willing and useful** in that moment. (Note that I said “useful” and not, as the adage goes, “able.”)
  - The Spirit is at work here and I desire to be used of God.
  - It is HIS ability in the moment, not mine.
- Over the years I have grown more and more: my awareness is heightened, my willingness is present, and I am used.
  - Caution is greater as you are used to think that it is your ability. It is not. You may get in the way or get ahead of the moment. Or overthink the moment.
  - The Spirit guides to low hanging fruit. The prep work is done; you just need to harvest the moment.

### Jeremiah 33:3

*Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.*

Practice being the blessing.

- I am here for you.
- I am an ambassador of Grace.
- I am usable by the Spirit in this moment for you.

Practice prayer in the mind.

- Be on the ready.
- Be available.
- Be Listening.

Practice prayer in the moment.

- When a need is mentioned, I pray.

- When a need comes to mind, I pray.

#### 4. Cultivate the Power of Persistent Prayer

- a. Have you ever given up too soon?
  - i. Maybe you were trying to learn to play the piano or guitar. You worked on it for a few months but gave up.
  - ii. Maybe you tried to learn a new skill, lose weight, or get in shape, but for whatever reason, you gave up before you saw the results.
  - iii. Bible reading – Leviticus

##### **There is a Law of persistence.**

- iv. Persistence is an important part of success. Stories abound of men and women who were persistent in pursuing their goals; they refused to give up. They followed their dream when all their friends and family said quit. They found success because they were persistent.
- v. There are also many others who failed because of their lack of persistence.
- b. Sometimes our prayer life lacks persistence.

#### **What is persistent prayer?**

It doesn't give up! It stands in faith.

##### **It Doesn't Give Up**

- i. Persistent prayer is prayer that *doesn't give up*. It's praying for something until God either answers our prayer, or He tells us to stop praying.

##### **Stand in Faith**

- ii. Persistent prayer is *standing in faith* that God will answer your prayer. It never stops until it receives God's answer. God honors persistent prayer, not until you get your desired outcome, but until God answers.
- iii. The persistent widow (Prayer)

#### **Luke 18:1-8 NIV**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup>He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

<sup>4</sup>"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

*<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

### **Challenge**

Partner with God at all times.

Set a routine of prayer for your life.

Build to practice of on the mind and moment prayers.

Be persistent in your prayer.