

“Dressing Prayer”
Ephesians 6: 18-24

C.I.T.—We put on the armor by praying for others.

C.I.S.—Put on the armor of God by praying for others.

Purpose—I want to show the role of intercessory prayer in protecting us from spiritual warfare.

Introduction—Getting dressed for war is a big deal—laying out uniform, Bridal rooms

- I. We put on the armor through prayer.
 - a. Praying—general word for prayer, speaking with a deity/God
 - b. This is a present participle—contemporaneous time with the main verb
 - c. Modifies stand/putting on the armor
 - d. This describes how we put this armor on...through prayer: dressing prayer.
- II. ***Dressing prayer is...***
 - a. ***Comprehensive***
 - i. Prayer—general word for prayer
 - ii. Petitions—a request of God to meet a need
 - iii. Through all—encompasses all types of prayers
 - iv. Illus.—Lord’s Prayer—**Matthew 6:9-13**
 - v. Application
 1. We should be engaged in all types of praying.
 2. This requires that we engage in prayer to begin with.
 - b. ***Constant***
 - i. At all times
 - ii. Constant engagement with the LORD
 - iii. Illus.—Jews would prayer three times a day, Jesus would pray a different times, in all contexts
 - iv. Application
 1. **Matthew 7:7**—keep on asking
 2. Constantly in the presence of the Lord.
 3. Something good happens, thanksgiving
 4. Something challenging, petition
 5. Someone has a need, pray
 6. Constantly in contact with the LORD
 - c. ***Controlled***
 - i. In the Spirit
 - ii. Under control and empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - iii. Illus.—**Matthew 18:19; John 14:13-14**
 - iv. Application
 1. We are to pray within the context of the LORD’s will and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
 2. When we are controlled by the Spirit in our prayer life, we will have power in prayer.
 - d. ***Concentrated***
 - i. Stay alert—keep awake, stay alert, alertness to the interest of others
 - ii. Perseverance—continuing resolutely in perseverance
 - iii. Illus.—**Matthew 26:36-46**—Jesus with the disciples in the garden
 - iv. Prayer
 1. Praying is hard work.
 2. Satan fights against praying.
 3. Sleepy, distracted, discouraged
 4. Too busy to pray

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5. Must be a scheduled and prioritized

e. Concerned

- i. Prayer for all the saints
- ii. Refers to other believers
- iii. Nature of this prayer—vs. 19-24
 1. Practical needs
 2. Empower for mission—pray for me
 3. Spiritual wellbeing—peace and love with faith
- iv. Illus.—**1 Peter 5:8-9**
- v. Application
 1. When we are practicing intercessory prayer for others, we refocus our lives on others.
 2. We partner with them in the fight.
 3. We are encouraged and are strengthened when we pray for others.
 4. If we are all praying for one another, we receive their prayers.

Conclusion

- We are not prepared for battle, because we have not been dressing ourselves with prayer.
- **James 4:2**—Have not because you ask not
- ACTS/Pray over someone
- We should make it a big deal when we get dressed each day for battle.

1 Peter 5:8-9⁸ Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.⁹ Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

James 4:2 You desire and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and wage war. You do not have because you do not ask. (Jas. 4:2 CSB17)

Matthew 6:9 "Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done¹¹ on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.¹³ And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you.

Matthew 18:19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

John 14:13 Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Matthew 26:36³⁷ Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.³⁸ He said to them, "I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with me."³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell facedown and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He asked Peter, "So, couldn't you stay awake with me one hour?⁴¹ Stay awake and pray, so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."⁴² Again, a second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."⁴³ And he came again and found them sleeping, because they could not keep their eyes open.⁴⁴

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After leaving them, he went away again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? See, the time is near. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.⁴⁶ Get up; let's go. See, my betrayer is near."