



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, February 26, 2021

Scripture: Ephesians 6:11-24

TITLE: Don't Stop Praying

Fill in the blank for me: “_____ all the time and everywhere”.

What should you do all the time and everywhere? Did you say “breathe”? That’s pretty important, right? If you’re like me, a foodie, you probably said, “eat!” I’ll spend my entire traveling budget on food. If you’re like my wife, you probably said, “sing!” She’s a singer, and a good one at that. But breathe, eat, and sing aren’t the right answers.

What should we do all the time and everywhere? Paul has the correct answer, as we wrap up our study of Ephesians, in Ephesians 6:11-24 (NLT):

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. ²⁰ I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God’s ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

²³ Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, ¹and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. ²⁴ May God’s grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

What should we do all the time and everywhere? **Pray in the Spirit.** Well, what does that mean? The Spirit stands by the side of believers, to prompt them to pray, to direct them who to pray for, and how to pray, as well as to energize them, in praying for themselves and others.

Philippians 4:6 (NLT) says, we are to “worry about nothing; but pray about everything.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 (ESV) says, we are to “rejoice always”, and “pray without ceasing”.

In our last episode, we recognized and accepted there is a real spiritual battle that rages on every day. We said that the Bible was the Sword of Truth that must never leave our sides. Now, Paul is reminding us that this battle we face must be bathed in constant prayer. We are to pray about the leaky faucet, the broken car, the dysfunctional relationships, the unexpected bill, the opportunity to share the Gospel, the souls of the lost, and the list just goes on.

God is here. He cares. He wants to move. He wants to help you. He wants to grow and change you. Prayer is an essential ingredient.

So here is my challenge for you: Pray. Whenever something comes up, pray. It doesn't have to be a long, thought-out prayer. Just offer up an honest, 10-second prayer. Whatever it is, give it to God.

I love my son's prayers. They're honest. They're raw. They're conversational. They're at times funny. He's just having a conversation with God - Anytime and anywhere.

So today, pray. Then tomorrow, pray. And the next day, pray - About anything or anyone.

When you do this, God's peace, love, and grace will be upon you and felt every step of the way.

Now, let us pray.