

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: “Ephesians 6:18-20 “...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

How often do you enter the battlefield as a Christian without praying for God to grant victory? Failure to pray presumes that, by having on the armor with a sword in your hand, you will defeat the enemy. “No matter how complete the armor; no matter how skilled we may be in war; no matter how courageous we may be, we can be certain that *without prayer we shall be defeated*. God alone can give the victory. When the Christian soldier goes forth armed completely for spiritual warfare, and looking to God in prayer, he may be sure of a triumph” over temptation and trial.¹ Paul’s passion was to represent his King in spite of the fact that he was in chains for his faith. He did not ask believers to pray for his comfort or his release. He was set for the defense of the gospel. He referred to himself as the “prisoner of the Lord.” The chains that bound him were love for Christ, and loyalty to Him. As a man on a mission, he realized that he needed prayer to be bold in his defense of the Gospel. Duty overshadowed a concern for survival. His attitude, ambitions and actions were those of a soldier who remained focused upon his Commander’s commendation.²

To many Christians, Paul seems larger than life. They may envision him as an imposing figure with a dominating personality, the thundering voice of an orator and a character that always did what was right. Paul was indeed a highly commendable servant of Christ who certainly qualifies as a tremendous example of the believer. Yet, his humble admission that his speech was “not esteemed,” that his bodily presence was weak due to physical infirmities, and that he saw himself as the chief of sinners paints a self-portrait of one who knew his constant need for grace and wisdom.³ Paul

was a praying man who desired the prayers of others that he might be bold in proclaiming the gospel!⁴ Like Paul, we must be a fully-equipped Christian soldier whose purpose is contending for the faith; whose power lies in the Spirit of God; whose preparation reflects knowledge of, loyalty to and love for God and His Word; whose presentation of the gospel is with meekness, fear and dependency; whose perseverance demonstrates commitment to Christ, and whose prayer life shows dependency upon God alone for victory!

Be encouraged weary warrior, and faint not though dark the hour, for the Lord grants daily vict'ry through *His* persevering pow'r. Take to you protective armor fashioned by the Lord of light. He will strengthen you in weakness lest you falter in the fight. Gird your loins for mortal combat. Bound by truth, enter the fray. With commitment to your Sov'reign, man the gap without delay. Guard your heart beneath the breastplate of a character made pure. Consecrate desires and feelings, God's great glory to secure. Confident in your redemption--ready and equipped, now stand!

From the Rock, your sure Foundation, heed your Captain's least command. With conviction's shield before you, quench the fiery darts that rage. Rest and act upon each promise that faith reads on Sacred Page. Claim the helmet of salvation; hope inspires beyond dismay. Make each doubt a van-

quished captive; faith unwaiv'ring wins the day. Spirit's Sword, both swift and pow'rful, puts to flight the foes of God. It emboldens noble conquest where faith's heroes each have trod. Seek your God with prayers unceasing. Through the Spirit, plead for grace. Hold aloft Christ's blood-bought banner, ne'er retreating in disgrace!



¹ Albert Barnes ² Acts 20:24; Phil. 3:12-14 ³ II Cor.10:10; 11:6; 12:5, 7, 9; I Timothy 1:15; Romans 7:24 ⁴ I Thess. 5:17, 18; Col. 4:2