

Values Worth Our Attention

November 26, 2023 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

Engage in prayer _____. *vs 18-20*

Speak the Gospel _____. *vs 19-20*

Care _____ **for your Christian brothers and sisters.** *vs 19-24*

Ephesians 6:18-24

¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

²¹ So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. ²² I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

²³ Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love incorruptible. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some important values that have stood out to you as we've gone through this series in Ephesians?

Read: Ephesians 6:18-24

Discuss:

1. In verse 18 Paul includes the word "all" four times when describing our responsibility to pray. How do each of these "all" descriptions encourage/challenge how we pray? What is a practical application of the intensity Paul is calling believers to?
2. Paul also tell us to pray "in the Spirit." Why might Paul have added the phrase "in the Spirit" (Consider Romans 8:26)? How do you typically decide what things you should be praying for, and how do you go about deciding how to pray? How might praying "in the Spirit" shape some of the way you pray?
3. In that same verse, Paul tells us to pray "with all prayer and supplication." How would you describe those two as being different in practice or emphasis? What are some different emphases that we might have as we pray? How has praying in different ways increased the quality and quantity of your conversations with God?
4. Paul adds that as we pray, we should do so by staying alert and persevering (v. 18). What does it look like to stay "alert" with regard to our prayers? What obstacles do you find keep you from preserving in prayer over time? What have you found helps overcome our tendency to neglect frequency in prayer?
5. Although Paul does pray for unbelievers (as in Romans 10:1), often he mentions praying for one another in sharing the Gospel, as he does in verses 19-20 (and in Colossians 4:3-4). Why is such an emphasis merited in your view? How have you experienced this type of praying for one another? How might we strengthen our practice of this as a community of believers?
6. Noting that Paul was in prison as he wrote this, what do Paul's comments in verses 21-24 tell us about his heart and areas of concern for others? What do you believe contributed to Paul developing such a heart? Who in your life cares about you in this way? What might help us cultivate a heart like this? What are some opportunities for outward expressions of this inward affection for fellow believers?

Apply: How are you challenged by Paul's closing words in this letter? What's one course of action you intend to take as result of studying the book of Ephesians?

Pray: Ask God to help our NCAC family and all God's people to live out His purpose for the Church as described in Ephesians. Pray for the transformational inward truths of the Gospel to become evident in the outward actions of God's people.