



Summer of Prayer

How to Improve Your Prayer Life Week 3

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.

PRAYER: THE BELIEVERS SECRET WEAPON



Read Ephesians 6:10-18

This week is the third in our Summer of Prayer series 'How to Improve Your Prayer Life.' Martin Luther wrote, 'Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly weapon.' Paul wrote to the Ephesian Christians about the realities of spiritual warfare. This is the battle between good and evil, between God and the Devil that is constantly being waged. As Christians we are recruited into God's army, with Jesus as our captain. We have no reason to fear the battle, because it is already won, the enemy is a defeated foe. Jesus has already won the victory on the cross over the enemies of God and everything that sets itself

up in opposition to God. We are on the victory side but the battle continues. We have the armour of God both as our protection and as our weapons. Prayer is the believers secret weapon.

Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. What is your understanding and experience of spiritual warfare? Does the reality of this war cause you to feel fearful and insecure? Read and be encouraged by the following Scriptures:- Luke 10:18; Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Colossians 1:13,19; 2:13-15; 1John 3:8, 4:4; Revelation 12:11.
2. A Welsh preacher had three points to his sermon. He was preaching in English but this was his second language and in Welsh the verb and pronoun are the reverse way round. His points were, 'Who the devil is he? What the devil is he doing? Where the devil is he going?' How do you picture the devil and how would you answer these questions?
3. Paul writes in verse 12 that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the forces of evil. Do you think people can be used by the devil for evil ends either willingly or without realising that they are a tool of the devil – even Christians?
4. Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). We are to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) and ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). Are Christians called to be pacifists?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4. What are these weapons?
6. The pieces of the armour of God are essentially the Christian virtues of truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation that we are to put on and live by. How does this protect us from the devil's schemes? See 2 Timothy 2:22-26; Ephesians 4:32.
7. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God – verse 17. Is this a defensive or an offensive weapon – see Luke 4:3-13? How does this protect us from the devil – see Hebrews 4:12?
8. Why is prayer included in this passage on spiritual warfare? How does prayer defeat the enemy?
9. Prayer is an effective weapon but the proviso in verse 18 is that it is prayer in the Spirit. What does this mean? How do we 'pray in the Spirit'? See Revelation 1:10, Jude 20, Romans 8:26, 27.
10. What is your approach to speaking in tongues? Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-25. Do you speak in tongues? How does it help you? If not, would you like to? Are you seeking God for the gift?

In what areas of your life do you feel under attack? Are there strongholds in your life or around you that are in opposition to God? How can you be praying into these things so that you see them defeated and for you to be victorious over them?