

“Watch and Pray” #4 - Dig a Little Deeper – Read, Reflect, Pray each day!

**Day 1** – Read Ephesians 6:10-20.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”*

Ephesians is the 10<sup>th</sup> book of the NT and is a letter that Paul wrote to the Church in Ephesus between 60-62 AD. Paul had developed deep relationships with the Ephesians while he ministered there. To Dig Even Deeper, read about Paul's ministry in Ephesus in chapters 18 and 19 in the book of ACTS. What does Paul remind the Ephesians to do? How many times is the word STAND in these 10 verses? How many times is a form of the word Pray mentioned? How many levels of evil does Paul mention the real battle is against? What is the one offensive weapon Paul tells the Ephesians to pick up? Are you sharpening your sword each day? Are you hiding God's word in your heart so you can fight the enemy?

**Day 2** – Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. “...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” In 2003, Mark Hall wrote the song “What If His People Prayed?” for Casting Crown's WOW Worship 1 album. What does God want His people to do? What sin do you need to confess? What sin do we need to confess as a nation? Are you willing to humble yourself and pray? What would happen if we prayed rather than just talked?

*What if His people prayed And those who bare His name Would humbly seek His face  
And turn from their own ways?*

*And what would happen if we prayed For those raised up to lead the way?  
Then maybe kids in school could pray. And unborn children see light of day.*

*What if the life that we pursue Came from a hunger for the truth?*

*What if the family turned to Jesus Stopped asking Oprah what to do?*

*What if His people prayed And those who bare His name Would humbly seek His face  
And turn from their own ways? He said that He would hear.*

*His promise has been made. He'd answer loud and clear, If My people called by My name, If they'll  
humble themselves and pray. What if His people prayed?*

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=what+if+his+people+prayed+casting+crown+song&qpv=what+if+his+people+prayed+casting+crown+song&FORM=VDRE>

**Day 3** - Read Mark 11:15-17. *“On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, ‘Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.”*

Animal sacrifices were needed for the people who had traveled to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices for their sins and people sold these sacrifices. These businessmen were not just providing a service but making profit. Jesus knew their real motive. What are Jesus words to the businessmen taking advantage of others? The Temple was meant for prayer. We the children of God are the church. What is our prayer walk to be like in light of this passage? What distracts us from praying? What can you learn from Jesus about your own prayer life?

**Day 4** – Read Ephesians 4:26-27. *“Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.” Ephesians 4:26-27*

Some people use the scripture describing Jesus overturning the tables in the Temple to justify their anger in rioting. Jesus did overturn the tables of the evil businessmen, but He did not throw tables at anyone. Anger is a real emotion. Do you have anger towards someone? Talk to God about what angers you. Will you pray for the person who has angered you? How does holding onto anger towards someone give the devil an opportunity? Will you pray for those who are hurting and so angry they are harming others?

**Day 5** - Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2. *“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people- <sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” Samuel Chadwick states, “The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil; he mocks our wisdom; but he trembles when we pray.”*

God is calling all of us to pray. Will you pray for one of these spheres of influence each day?

**Government** – Ask God to grant our leaders wisdom, discernment, and hearts open to His will.

**Church** – Pray for churches and ask God to preserve and protect them, as He inspires and empowers them to equip His ‘Saints.’

**Military** – Pray for God to grant our Military and its leaders courage, protection, and strength for them and their families.

**Family** – Pray for the Lord to protect and strengthen families, marriages, and bring healing to relationships.

**Education** – Pray for God’s presence in education and ask Him for teachers and administrators who honor His statutes, protect our children, and inspire them to discover their God-given calling.

**Business** – Pray for divine intervention in our national, state, and local economies.

**Media** – Pray for Christian influence in the media, from movies, television and radio to newspapers and magazine publishers to internet and online tools.

**Health care** – Pray God will protect those who are helping serve medical care in this pandemic. Pray for healing for those who are sick.