

We are at War

Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46

Promises collapse. Resolutions fail. Willpower falters when under great pressure. Only the will, strengthened through sincere, submissive prayer can stand strong through the warfare encountered by the spirit.

Why is prayer so difficult?

1. We don't understand what prayer is
2. We have been disappointed in prayer
3. We have not been taught to pray
4. We don't know how much we need to pray

Jesus: Alert and prepared

Matthew 26:39

And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

Matthew 26:42, 44

He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done." ...And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

What was His request?

Isaiah 51:17

...You who have drunk from the Lord's hand the cup of His anger; the chalice of reeling you have drained to the dregs.

Revelation 16:19

Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

Luke 22:44

And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

Hebrews 5:7

In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

Luke 22:43

Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

Why does God say, "No"?

- Unconfessed sin

Psalm 66:18

If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear....

1 Peter 3:7

You husbands...live with your wives in an understanding way...and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

- Better timing
- Increased intimacy
- Greater glory

Disciples: unaware and unprepared

- Disregarded Jesus' warning
 - *gregoreo* = keep alert, vigilant, watchful, stay on your guard
 - present tense imperative = watch and keep on watching
- Ignored the enemy's intentions
- Overestimated their own resolve

How do we stay alert?

- Know your enemy

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

- Know yourself
- Know your weapons
 - *Word of God*
 - *People of God*
 - *Spirit of God*
 - *Attention of God*

Acts 1:14

These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer....