

Armed and Ready

Part 7, Prayer

July 18, 2021

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. (Ephesians 6:18, New Living Translation)

PRAYER IS:

Open communication between God and people.

HOW DO I KEEP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN?

1. Stay connected to God!

Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4–5, NLT)

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God. (1 Corinthians 6:19, NLT)

We don't know what we should pray for. But the Spirit himself prays for us. He prays with groans too deep for words. God, who looks into our hearts, knows the mind of the Spirit. And the Spirit prays for God's people just as God wants him to pray. (Romans 8:26–27, New International Revised Version)

And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. (Ephesians 4:30, NLT)

2. Pray all the time!

Never stop praying. (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NLT)

3. Stay alert!

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8, NLT)

4. Don't give up!

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. (Luke 18:1, NLT)

Don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! (Luke 18:7–8, NLT)

5. Have each other's backs!

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:31–32, NLT)