

# GROWING IN GRACE

“...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10 (NIV)

## BUILDING YOUR LIFE ON PRAYER

*Series: Dressing for Success: Standing Strong in an Evil Day (Part 8)*

**R. Michael Oney, Ph.D.**

*Senior Pastor*

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**Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)** 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 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. 13 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. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 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 saints.

A. It’s helpful to go back to the basics of this passage:

1. The beginning emphasis is that we are strong in the Lord.
2. We must put on all the pieces of the armor of the Lord in order to stand against evil.
3. The ending of this passage culminates with the truth that we must be a people of prayer.

B. One of the most foundational truths that must grip our lives is that prayer connects the resources of heaven to our lives.

C. In Ephesians 6:8, Paul gives 2 foundational principles for building a life of prayer:

**Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)** 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 saints.

## I. WE MUST PRAY WITH ALL KINDS OF PRAYER

A. Many people fail to recognize that there are many types of prayer in the Scripture.

B. 3 major types of prayer in the Bible are:

1. The prayer of faith.

**Mark 11:24 (NIV)** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

2. The prayer of dedication—The Greek word for “requests” in Ephesians 6:18 is *deēsis* and carries the idea of strong and ongoing pleadings until evil is averted.

**Matthew 26:39 (NIV)** Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

3. The prayer of intercession.

**Romans 8:26 (NIV)** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

## II. WE MUST PRAY FOR OTHERS

A. Note that our prayers in this passage are to be for both ourselves and others.

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

B. Praying for others requires a radical commitment that allows us to make eternal investments into others.

### APPLICATION:

A. Every believer will have to decide what role prayer will have in his or her life.

1. Will our prayer life be consistent or governed more by crisis?
2. Will our prayer life include times of intercession for others?
3. Will our prayer life be central when we’re making hard decisions?
4. Will our prayer life include seasons of fasting and separation?
5. Will our prayer life be structured with Jesus’ model of prayer in Matt. 6?