

Colossians 3:16

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*



The Whole Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-20 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

CALL TO PRAYER: The Prayer Team of the CRC invites all members of our churches across North America to join in praying for the denomination, our churches, one another, our communities and our countries on Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

It is fitting that we come to this final piece in the whole armor of God on this day when our denomination is calling us to prayer.

Reflections from Scripture on Praying in the Spirit

Ephesians 6:18 Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer

II 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 will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Prayers of Adoration

Psalm 46:10 *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*

Prayer Point: Pray for stillness in your heart and mind. Acknowledge and exalt the name of Jesus.

Prayer:

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith, that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Prayers of Confession

Joel 2:13 *Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.*

Luke 6:37 *Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

Mark 11:25 *And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*

Prayer Point: As you pray, confess your sin. Acknowledge your blind spots. Ask for forgiveness for words spoken and unspoken, for anger, for misunderstandings. As the scripture says, rend your heart. Feel the brokenness that breaks the heart of Jesus while seeking forgiveness.

Prayer:

God of everlasting love, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with you and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, self-worth, power, greed, and convenience. We have served our own self-interest instead of serving only you and your people. We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded, Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with you and one another. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Father, we are sorry for the many times we have left you and chosen to satisfy our own selfish desires. We have sinned. Forgive us. For the times we were unkind and impatient with those who needed our time and concern. We have sinned. Forgive us. For the times we were too weak to stand up for what was right and allowed others to suffer because of our cowardice. We have sinned. Forgive us. And for the times we refused to forgive others. We have sinned. Father, Forgive us.

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Prayers for Reconciliation and Healing

Luke 10:23-37

"And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that

road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Prayer Point: Pray that God would help us to see that we are all created in His image and equipped by His Spirit to serve and make a difference through good works. Pray for our SERVE project.

Prayer:

God of Heaven and Earth, you created the one human family and endowed each person with great dignity. Fill our hearts with love for you and our neighbor so that we may work with you in bringing healing and hope and help to those in need around us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

We have prayed and now, with changed hearts, let us move our feet to action.