

Accountability Questions

- **Did you spend 5 minutes a day at least 5 days last week reading the Bible?**
- **Did you share a God story with a non-believer this week?**
- **Did you have spend time alone with God this week?**
- **Have you kept your New Years spiritual goal?**
- **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?**
- **Giving**



Christian Faith Fellowship

- We are not a perfect church**
- We are not a perfect people**
- We are here because we know we need God's help and He has provided this help through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

- **Last week we looked at the opposition to building the temple after the 70 years of exile!**
- **The enemies of Jerusalem (enemies of God) used legal battles, false volunteers, harassment, intimidation etc. to stop the work on the Temple.**
- **While it took 52 days for Nehemiah and his crew to build the wall... it took 20 years to build the Temple!**
- **We must understand – when we walk IN the promises of God there will be opposition – BUT God is bigger and we will be victorious in HIS time**

- **We finished with the awakening to the battle for ALL believers in Eph 6...**

Ephesians 6 10 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

- There is an epic battle raging for you & me!**
- The enemy wants us discouraged, hindered, doubting, defeated, at every turn of our lives!**
- Too many Christians are living lives in the shadow of our defeated enemy.**
- Let's look at the Great Co-mission verses again:**

Matthew 28 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- We talk much about the making of disciples, the teaching, the baptism AND WE SHOULD for it is our purpose as believers BUT**

- **Let's look at the intro and conclusion of this statement: 18 *“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth...20 ... And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”***
- **The power & authority of Christ is with us as we battle the spirits of darkness in this world!**
- **We are NOT in these fights alone... He is with us to give us victory in the battles in our own life and to give us strength in the discipleship process of others!!**

- **Let's now go back to our spiritual warfare verses in Ephesians 6**

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

- **There's a Battle raging – ongoing – strong – in opposition to the Good News – in opposition to your living as a believer – in opposition to all that is God and all that represents God – therefore pray! Pray! *“Pray at all times on every occasion”***

- **Barna research on the State of the Church in 2016 shows that 75% of American's have prayed to God in the last week!**
- **While almost the exact same amount of American's also claim to be Christian**
- **35% have been to church in the last week and 34% say they read the Bible...**
- **So, what about it?**
- **If prayer is the most practiced of the spiritual disciplines in our lives: what are we talking to God about?**

➤ Here are a few verses on what to pray about:

- **“Pray for those who persecute you” Matthew 5:44**
- **Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” Matthew 26:41**
- **“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12**
- **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”
Philippians 4:6**

- **"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2**
- **be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. Ephesians 6:18**
- **"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ..."** 1 Timothy 2:1
- **Pray for**: those who oppose you, to be strong in the face of temptation, to be consistent in prayer, not allowing anxieties in our life, a thankful heart, for fellow believers, for non-believers, intercession...

- **Reflecting over your prayers this past week - what have been the topics you communicated about with God?**
- **How many prayers have been for others?**
- **Believers?**
- **Non-Believers? (family – non family)**
- **Let's make a daily list each evening this week about what we prayed about in the day!**

Luke 5:16 “But Jesus often withdrew to the wilderness for prayer.” (the verses above this talk about the crowds pressing – busy, hectic life)

Action Steps

- **This week keep a daily list of prayer topics!**
- **In the spiritual battles you are in – are you allowing anxiety? Doubt? Fear? Oppression to defeat you? (Let's rise above “survival prayer”)**
- **When is the last time you stepped away from life for some alone time with God?**
- **Have you prayed for anyone outside of your circle of friends/family?**
- **What GOD THING are you talking to God about? (bigger than you can do)**