

Christians Fight Best on Their Knees

By Pastor Matt

Things are going well for our church right now. There. I said it. We are reaching more people more effectively than we have for some time. But in a season of harvest we must be careful to keep our focus. One of the things we must stay focused on is the nature of the battle we are in. Here is how Paul put it in Ephesians 6:10-20 (NKJV):

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness 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.

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Here is what I’m seeing, though. I’m seeing the devil use his wiles to fool us into focusing on *people* and *personalities* (e.g., flesh and blood) rather than *principalities* and *powers*. Someone says something to me and I catch myself thinking, “Why, **he** is so **selfish**. He just wants his way no matter what. Well, not this time,” or, “Oh, that girl. **She** is so **angry** all of the time and just says the meanest things. I need to set her straight.” Those thoughts focus on the person and their personality. That’s understandable, because they are visible and I tend to focus on what I can see. But when I do that I am in danger of missing what is happening behind the scenes where the devil is working hard to sow division, destroying what God seeks to accomplish. It is then that I need to step back, kneel down and pray against the principalities and powers rather than the person and personality. Division and destruction are the fruit of our adversary. Unity and edification are the fruit of the Holy Spirit. But here’s the thing: **What I focus on in this fight will determine the fruit.**

In this passage Paul tells us to stand, but I wonder if that is because that was how you prayed in his day, on your feet with your face and hands lifted toward heaven. What he is really calling us to do is pray, and most of us do that on our knees, with our hands folded and our heads bowed. And that, my friends, is where Christians fight best. We fight best not when we fight with each other, but when we are “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” You fight best not when you fight with your pastor, but when we pray for me, “that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Consider this, then, a call to arms. Not against people and personalities, which sows division and reaps destruction, but against principalities and powers, that we might sow edification and reap unity. Gird yourselves. Put on your breastplate. Shod your feet. Take up your helmet, your shield and your sword. Fall to your knees and fight with all perseverance and supplication where Christians fight best: on our knees.