

SPIDER LAKE CHURCH PRAYER GUIDE (January 2021)

I. UNDERSTANDING THIS IS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV 84)

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 Lord's people.

II Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV 84)

³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

A. Old Testament Examples

Elisha and his Servant

II Kings 6:15-17

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked. ¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Daniel

Daniel 10:12-14

¹² Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

B. New Testament Examples

The Apostles and New Testament Church

Acts 4:23-31

²³ On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴ When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’ ²⁷ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Paul for the Ephesians

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Recognizing the Spiritual Basis of Everything in Life that We Face

I John 4:2-3

² This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³ but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

“Prayer’s Trembling Adversary” by Samuel Chadwick

“Satan dreads nothing but prayer. The Church that lost its Christ was full of good works. Activities are multiplied that meditation may be ousted, and organizations are increased that prayer may have no chance. Souls may be lost in good works, as surely as in evil ways. The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless saints. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray!”

“Pray Without Ceasing” I Thessalonians 5:17

“There is no way that Christians in a private capacity can do so much to promote the work of God and advance the Kingdom of Christ as by prayer.” – *Jonathan Edwards*

“Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying.” – *Samuel Chadwick*

“One of Satan’s methods today is starting so many organizations that the church members have no time for communion with God.” – *G. Campbell Morgan*

“John Knox fasted regularly and history tells us that ‘Bloody Mary’ Queen of Scotland, feared his prayers more than the armies of England...” – *C.H. Spurgeon*

“We are too busy to pray and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services, but few conversations. The real do-ers have been pray-ers.” – *R.A. Torrey*

“The work of the future is to be the work of prayer.” – *Dr. John Sung (Wesley of China)*

“God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it.” – *John Wesley*

“Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure.” – *D.L. Moody*

“God’s conquering days are when God’s saints have given themselves to the mightiest prayer.” – *E.M. Bounds*

“Absence from stated prayer meetings for slight reasons, is a sure indication of a backslidden heart! No meeting is more interesting to Christians than the prayer meeting. I’m convinced that nothing in the whole Christian religion is so difficult and so rarely attained as a praying heart.” – *Charles Finney*

“Both Scripture and contemporary experience indicate that there is a cumulative power in united praying.” – *J. Oswald Sanders*

“If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:14) – *Jesus Christ*

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:4) – *The Apostles*

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;
I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (*John 10:10*)

II. ATTACKS ON US BELIEVERS

“In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” (II Cor. 2:11)

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” (I Peter 5:8-9)

1. **Dissent** (disunity, quarreling, jealousy, factions, slander, gossip, outbursts of anger, arrogance, disorder)

2. **Passivity** (lukewarmness, complacency, comfortable Christianity)

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other: So, because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” (Rev. 3:15-16)

WE DO NOT WANT TO BE THIS WAY!!

3. **Health** (drowsiness, tiredness, sickness, physical ailments that would keep us from going forward as we would desire for Jesus)

4. **Emotional** (oppression, depression, bummed out feelings, etc.)

5. **Spiritual** (temptation to sin, guilt, condemnation, I can't do anything attitude, etc.)

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful: he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” (I Cor. 10:13)

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1)

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Phil. 4:13)

6. **Confusion**

“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace.” (I Cor. 14:33)

7. **Doubt** (double-mindedness)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” (James 1:5-8)

8. **Fear**

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (II Tim. 1:7)

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.”
(I John 4:18-19)

9. **Spiritual Forces of Evil**

“Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” (I John 4:4, Eph. 6:12)

“...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matt. 16:18b)

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matt. 28:18b)

III. **PRAY FOR**

A. **Grace from God:**

1. **Guidance** (in direction of believers’ personal lives and as a church.)

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.” (Psalm 37:23)

2. **Strength** (spiritual, emotional, mental and physical for all believers)

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. There is no searching of His understanding. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lor shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:28-31)

3. **Love, acceptance and forgiveness for all believers**

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Eph. 4:2-3, 31-32; 5:1-2)

4. **Love for the unsaved, a burden for the lost**

“Jesus said, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.’ But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matt. 9:12-13)

5. **An attitude of praise no matter what**

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: REJOICE!” (Phil. 4:4)

6. **An attitude of spiritual readiness at all times for the war we are in**

“No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs – he wants to please his commanding officer. Preach the Word: be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.” (II Tim. 2:4, 4:2)

7. **Financial wisdom and stewardship**

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matt. 6:33)

“And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19)

8. **Discernment**

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (I John 4:1)

9. **Gifts of the Spirit**

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith... to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another the ability to speak in different tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.” (I Cor. 12:7-11)

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:6-8)

10. **Gentleness in Sharing God’s Word**

“And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.” (II Tim. 2:24-26)

11. **Faith** (able to stand firm no matter what)

“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. Stand firm then,

with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 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.” (Eph. 6:13-18)

12. **Protection** (spiritual, physical, etc.)

“The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.” (Psalm 34:7)

“Jesus said, “Surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matt. 28:20b)

13. **Spirit of Intercession**

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (I Tim. 2:1-4)