

Why is it so important for Christians to understand and experience the vast reach of God's love? How have you recently experienced God's love?

How does a good understanding of God's love protect and empower you?

What does it mean that God's mighty power is at work in us, accomplishing more than we can even think to ask? If you believed this, how would it affect the way you pray for yourself? For other believers?

#### REFLECT

Who currently needs your prayers for protection and empowering to stand strong in a time of testing? What do they most need from God?

#### RESPOND

Make a list of the believers you know who need prayer support in order to stand for Christ. Think of church leaders, missionaries, community partners, teachers, and those in prominent local/national leadership positions. Provide the prayer support they need together in your group and on your own during the week.



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## ALERT AND VICTORIOUS IN PRAYER

Stay engaged in this fight as if the whole struggle depended on you alone.

**Ephesians 6:18**

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.

## BE ALERT AND ALWAYS KEEP ON PRAYING...

**1 Peter 4:7**

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

**Colossians 4:2**

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Beth Moore in  
*Praying God's Word*  
I am utterly convinced that the two major weapons with divine power in our warfare are the Word of God and Spirit-empowered prayer.

## ABOUT OUR ATTITUDES

**Ephesians 4:26-29**

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Those who have been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

**Prayer:**

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

**REGARDING OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

See also Hebrews 12:15 and Mark 11:25

**Prayer:**

Luke 11:4

Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

**AMIDST OUR SUFFERINGS**

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be alert and of sober mind. 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 fellow believers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

**Prayer:**

Psalm 56:3-4

When I am afraid,  
I will trust in You.  
In God, whose word I praise,  
in God I trust; I will not be afraid.

Dr. Neil Anderson in *Walking Through the Darkness*  
I believe that the greatest access Satan has to the church in waging his war for our minds is our unwillingness to forgive each other.

David Hubbard  
The purest form of love is given with no expectation of return. Measured by this standard, earnest prayer for others is a magnificent act of love.

C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*  
Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say, landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take place in a great campaign of sabotage. When you go to church you are really listening-in to the secret wireless from our friends: that is why the enemy is so anxious to prevent us from going.

**RESCUING OTHERS**  
LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

Do you feel comfortable asking others to pray for you? Why or why not?

When have the prayers of other people helped you stand your ground?

What principle, insight, idea, or quote was meaningful to you from this week's sermon?

READ

Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul prays for young Gentile believers in the Ephesus church.

What about God's plan caused Paul to fall to his knees and pray for the Ephesians? Review the previous verses (3:6-11) for context.

Why would the spiritual victory among the Ephesians need to be protected by prayer? How are new believers especially vulnerable to spiritual attack?

How does Paul's view of God shape his prayer for the Ephesians? (14-16) How does your view of God affect what you ask Him to do for others?

What six things does Paul ask God to give the Ephesians? Which of these do you most need?