

# THE POWER CORD TO THE ARMOR OF GOD

SWAT—Spiritual Warfare & Tactics, Pt 7

## I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

**A. When I was a student at Appalachian State University, I took a class in Sociology.** The professor was good, I mean, so good that when you finished the semester you wanted to become a sociologist or a sociology professor. However, giving it a second thought, I said to myself, “Sociology isn’t exactly a profession where’s there’s an abundance of opportunity, I’d better stick with being an art major.” Which isn’t a whole lot better. Smile!

Anyway, to the point! There was a study done about productivity in a factory setting. In this particular case it was a button factory. Seeking to increase productivity, the company hired an outside firm to do an audit of the work place, with the goal of improving productivity.

The Auditing Company found that after lunch break the machine operators would spend 10-15 minutes trying to get their machines up and running. Here’s what was happening. The machine operators would unplug each other’s units before going to lunch. Upon returning they would trouble shoot only to find that the power cord was unplugged. This happened every day.

Let me finish the illustration, then we’ll focus on the reason for the illustration and how it relates to this

week's *seventh piece of armor* in our SWAT uniform: Spiritual Warfare and Tactics.

After the performance audit was submitted, the factory administration wouldn't let the factory workers unplug their units. Now catch this! Production fell off significantly. Why? The game the factory workers played every day at lunchtime was to break up the monotony of the job. It was a natural response to a boring environment.

**B. Ok, to the point of the illustration.** The machines would not run without being plugged in. No one needs to be a genius to figure that out. Right? As they say in Montana—"You betcha!" Well, the same is true of our spiritual armor. It doesn't work without being plugged in: the Power Cord is prayer.

**C. Let's look at our text.**

## **II. THE BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL SUIT OF ARMOR IS GIVING TO WARD OFF THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL**

**A. Our text.** *Ephesians 6:14-18* *PME p1334;*  
*LAB p1986*

**14** Stand firm then, with the **(1) belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with the **(2) breastplate of righteousness** in place, **15** and with your **(3) feet fitted** with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the **(4) shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the **(5) helmet of salvation** and the **(6) sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God. **18** And **(7) pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with **all kinds of prayers and requests**.

**B. Prayer is the "power cord" to the Power**

**Source, which is the Holy Spirit, in using the Armor of God.** The six pieces of armor are useless without prayer. So, where do we begin in addressing the subject of prayer?

1. Do we talk about the *Four Ways God Answers Prayer*?
2. Do we look at the *Seven Words Translated Prayer in Our English Bible*, each with a specific meaning and purpose in the original language?
3. Do we look at *The Prayer Life of Christ*—certainly there is no better model or mentor?
4. Do we look at the *Helps and Hindrances to Prayer*?
5. Or, do we look at the final two truths relational to prayer, which are *The Requirement and The Secret*?

**NOTE:** these are all covered in *Guaranteed Christian Growth*.

**C. Let's look at the *Helps & Hindrances to Prayer*.**

### **III. HELPS AND HINDRANCES TO PRAYER**

**A. Let's begin with the *negative* and end with the *positive*.** Because we will be baptizing a number of people in this service, I'm going to only give you the points and their respective references relational to the Hindrances (that's without commentary—I should say minimal commentary).

#### **Hindrances to Prayer**

1. You are not praying **James 4:2b**.

You do not have, because you do not ask God.

2. You give up *Luke 11:5-10*.

Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, [6] because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' [7] "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' [8] I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. [9] "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. [10] For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

3. You are not diligent *James 5:16*.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

**SUGGESTION**: Confess to the person you sinned against, not someone else. Otherwise your confession will be someone else's gossip. And the Church said, "I've got it!"

4. You do not expect an answer *Matthew 9:29*.

Then He touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"

**NOTE**: Usually if you just come to Him it's enough. Sometimes He may ask for more, but not often.

5. You have unconfessed sin *Psalms 66:18*.

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the LORD would not have listened.

***NOTE:*** God won't hear you if there's static in the line, unless it's a prayer of repentance.

***ILLUSTRATION:*** Sometimes I'll say to God, "LORD, how come you didn't answer my prayer?" The response is like ... "What? You really don't know? Bruce, you're paralyzed at your point of disobedience."

## 6. You do not qualify ***James 5:16.***

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a **righteous** man is powerful and effective.

***NOTE:*** There are two types of righteousness—His and ours. **His** imparts salvation, **ours** grants rewards in the *now* and *eternity*.

## **Helps to Prayer**

1. Set aside a definite time (it is a discipline). ***Daniel 6:10***

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

***PERSONAL:*** My sister has her DEFINITE time in the PM, I have mine in the AM. Although I do close the day in meditation and prayer, it's in the AM I fuel up for the day. Whatever time you select, stay with it and be consistent.

***ILLUSTRATION:*** Let me say, when I don't have my quiet time, I know it—there are all kinds of temptations that come my way with which I struggle. Yesterday's manna wasn't good for today.

2. Have a prayer partner **Matthew 18:19.**

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

3. Be honest in your prayer **Psalms 139:23-24.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. [24] See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

4. Be specific in your prayer **Psalms 37:3-5.**

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. [4] Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart. [5] Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him and He will do this

**ILLUSTRATION:** You single young ladies looking for a rich, handsome young man; you've got to be specific. If you pray, "LORD, bless me with a handsome man."



What's handsome? What's handsome to a female moose isn't what's handsome to a thoroughbred mare. **(show photos: Moose then Stallion p7-8)**

5. Be persistent in your prayer **Luke 18:2-8.**

He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about



men. [3] And there



was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' [4] "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, [5] yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' " [6] And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. [7] And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? [8] I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

6. Keep alert ***Mark 14:38***

Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

## **IV. INVITATION**

**(ASAP—during baptisms by Dave Mattson or Ron Raively)**

**Admit – your sins have separated you from God.**  
***(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23)***

**Believe – that God did something about your sins through Christ.** (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.) ***Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22***

**Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Saviour.** ***(Isa 53:5; Col 1:22)***

**Do it today *(Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2)***

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart.

penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit, come into my heart,  
Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life.  
Amen!

---

ser3790, *THE POWER CORD TO THE ARMOR OF GOD -SWAT—Pt7*. (1594 words  
w/o Invitation.)