

Theme: We need to pray as a church to be protected from the enemy in the spiritual warfare that rages around us.

## I. Intro – Series on Prayer

- A. Mameluke – symbol of war
- B. Warriors – prepare for war – dangerous business
- C. Christians need to be reminded as well
- D. We also had real weapons for the fight
- E. A key weapon for our warfare - prayer

## II. The Need for Protective Prayer

- A. We need protection – we are in a war!
  - 1. Mt 26:41; Eph 6:10-17; 2 Cor 10:3-5
  - 2. 2 Tim 4:7; 1 Tim 6:12; Piper quote
- B. Prayer provides protection in spiritual war
  - 1. Mt 26:41 (protection); Eph 6:10-18 (armor)
  - 2. St. Patrick's breastplate

## III. The Importance of Watching

- A. The biblical concept of watching
  - 1. Mt 26:41; Col 4:2; 1 Pet 5:8 (γρηγορέω)
  - 2. Eph 6:18 (ἀγρυπνέω)

- 3. To be alert – don't get lulled into sleep

## B. Watching and prayer protects us

- 1. Important! Satan will try to get you sleepy!
- 2. Remember we are at war!

## IV. The Need for Corporate Protective Prayer

### A. The call for corporate protective prayer

- 1. Mt 26:41 (Jesus!); Eph 6:11-18 (plural & shield)
- 2. Col 4:12; Eccl 4:9-12

### B. Corporate prayer protects us

- 1. Rambo does not exist!
- 2. Protection comes from others prayers

## V. Conclusion & Summary

### A. Do you see we are at war – no hope of peace?

- 1. Neville Chamberlain or Churchill?
- 2. War is here – are you ready?
- 3. No peace in this life – only in heaven

### B. Are you alert for signs of spiritual warfare?

- 1. Bad luck or spiritual warfare?

2. No teaching on kids and finances!

3. Alert for yourself and for others?

C. Are you part of a unit or alone?

1. Rambo dies quickly in spiritual war

2. Satan the lion is looking for loners

3. Regular on Sundays?

4. Part of a small group?

### Protection Through Prayer

Matthew 26:41

September 29, 2004

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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. Ephesians 6:10-17

<sup>3</sup> For though we live in the world, we do not wage **war** as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we **fight** with are not the **weapons** of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to **demolish strongholds**. <sup>5</sup> 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. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

I **have fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

**Fight the good fight of the faith**. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:12

Life is war. That's not all it is. But it is always that. Our weakness in prayer is owing largely to our neglect of this truth. John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*, 45.

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Devote yourselves to prayer, being **watchful** and thankful. Colossians 4:2

Be self-controlled and **alert**. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

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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 saints. Ephesians 6:11-18

<sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always **wrestling in prayer for you**, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. Colossians 4:12

**Lorica**

I arise today

Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,  
Through a belief in the Threeness,  
Through confession of the Oneness  
Of the Creator of creation.

I arise today

Through the strength of Christ's birth and His baptism,  
Through the strength of His crucifixion and His burial,  
Through the strength of His resurrection and His ascension,  
Through the strength of His descent for the judgment of doom.

I arise today

Through the strength of the love of cherubim,  
In obedience of angels,  
In service of archangels,  
In the hope of resurrection to meet with reward,  
In the prayers of patriarchs,  
In preachings of the apostles,  
In faiths of confessors,  
In innocence of virgins,  
In deeds of righteous men.

I arise today

Through the strength of heaven;  
Light of the sun,  
Splendor of fire,  
Speed of lightning,  
Swiftness of the wind,  
Depth of the sea,  
Stability of the earth,  
Firmness of the rock.

I arise today

Through God's strength to pilot me;  
God's might to uphold me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's hosts to save me  
From snares of the devil,  
From temptations of vices,

From every one who desires me ill,  
Afar and anear,  
Alone or in a multitude.

I summon today all these powers between me and evil,  
Against every cruel merciless power that opposes my body and soul,  
Against incantations of false prophets,  
Against black laws of pagandom,  
Against false laws of heretics,  
Against craft of idolatry,  
Against spells of women and smiths and wizards,  
Against every knowledge that corrupts man's body and soul.  
Christ shield me today  
Against poison, against burning,  
Against drowning, against wounding,  
So that reward may come to me in abundance.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,  
Christ in the eye that sees me,  
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today

Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,  
Through a belief in the Threeness,  
Through a confession of the Oneness  
Of the Creator of creation.

***St. Patrick (ca. 377)***