

EPHESIANS 6:18-20

GOD'S POWERFUL PANOPLY (PART 7 – PRAYER)

Piece seven: prayer

*"Prayer must be listed here because it brings our divine ally to our side in the battle on the wicked day."*¹ – R. C. H. Lenski

Defined.

Four biblical presuppositions concerning prayer:

1. It is necessary, Matt. 7:7-11

*"Just as the first sign of life in an infant when born into the world, is the act of breathing, so the first act of men and women when they are born again, is praying... God has no dumb children. It is as much a part of their new nature to pray, as it is of a child to cry. They see their need of mercy and grace. They feel their emptiness and weakness. They cannot do otherwise than they do. They must pray."*² – J. C. Ryle

2. It is spiritual, Lk. 18:10-14

*"Have you forgotten that it is not natural to anyone to pray?"*³ – J. C. Ryle

3. It is dependent, Ps. 119:86, 153

*"To call upon God is the chief exercise of faith and hope; and it is in this way that we obtain from God every blessing."*⁴ – John Calvin

4. It is effective, Jas. 5:14-18

"The advantages of afflictions, when the Lord is pleased to employ them for the good of his people, are many and great... Afflictions quicken us to prayer. It is a pity it should be so; experience testifies that a long course of ease and prosperity, without painful changes, has an unhappy tendency to make us cold and formal in our secret worship; but troubles rouse our spirits, and constrain us to call upon

¹ R. C. H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of St. Paul's Epistles to the Galatians, to the Ephesians, and to the Philippians* (Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1937), 675.

² J. C. Ryle, *Practical Religion* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 2013), 61.

³ J. C. Ryle, *Practical Religion* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 2013), 65.

⁴ John Calvin, *Calvin's Commentaries, Volume XXI*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003),

*the Lord in good earnest, when we feel a need of that help which we only can have from him.*⁵ — John Newton

Dressed.

Defended.



⁵ John Newton, *Select Letters of John Newton* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1960), 172-172.