

Prevailing Prayer

8-30-2020 AM

Text: Ephesians 6:18-20

Introduction: Few understand the power of prayer because few use this weapon nearly as often, as deeply, or intimately as God intended. It reminds me of the story of something else that is rarely used.

In the hospital the relatives gathered in the waiting room, where their family member lay gravely ill. Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and somber. "I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said as he surveyed the worried faces. The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, risky and you will have to pay for the brain yourselves. The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a great length of time, someone asked, "Well, how much does a brain cost? The doctor quickly responded, "\$5,000 for a male brain, and \$200 for a female brain." The moment turned awkward. Men in the room tried not to smile, avoiding eye contact with the women, but some actually smirked. A man, unable to control his curiosity, blurted out the question everyone wanted to ask. "Why is the male brain so much more?" The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and so to the entire group said, "It's just standard pricing procedure. We have to mark down the price of the female brains, because they've actually been used."

Some of you enjoy that story a little too much. However, **prayer is like the male brain - rarely used.** Many of us see prayer as frustrating and very limited in its effectiveness and power. I know it's not supposed to be that way.

Turn with me to Ephesians 6:10-20. Here we are admonished to put on the whole armor of God. Here Paul tells us how. Prayer, then is essential. **It is essential to victory in spiritual warfare.** As we study this, we discover the marks of prevailing intercession.

3 WORDS ON PRAYER from Eph. 6:18-19

① **PERCEPTION** - How you "look at" it - impacts your prayer life
- circumstances
- events
- people

② **PERSEVERANCE** - vs. 18 - on all occasions
all seasons
all times
at every opportunity
"unceasingly"
"in good times & bad"

③ **PERSONAL** - vs. 19 - "... and for me"
vs. 18 - "all saints" but also "for me"
"that utterance may be given"
not just
"personal" problems or ailments but
for help personally
to share the Gospel &
be a bold witness
w/ Christ.