

6. And lead us not into temptation...

"Lord, many of these people are in agonizing difficulties due to mistakes, sins and the traps of Satan. We are asking You to show them the way out of these problems and into Your freedom. Relieve them of all bondage, and feed them in the liberty of Your pasture. Deliver them from despair and fill them with Your hope."

7. But deliver us from the evil one...

"Father, bring these special people to a knowledge of the spiritual source of pain and suffering - to realize there is a devil and that he, not other people, is their enemy - so they will stop blaming and fighting each other. Give them an awareness of the spiritual realm and its impact on their daily lives. Grant them a sense of the spiritual battle we are all engaged in. And teach them that Jesus has already won the victory!"

8. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen...

"Again, Lord, we pray that You would be glorified in this particular place and in the town as a whole. We ask that all the people would learn to praise You spontaneously because they really know who You are - as the true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and that the Scriptures are Your priceless revelation of Yourself to the world and to each individual person. We want these people taken out of the darkness and put into Your wonderful kingdom of light so that together we may worship You in unity and love forever. The chief end of humankind is to glorify You and to enjoy You forever, and we ask that this entire town and the whole world would come to realize this ultimate purpose for their existence. Thy kingdom come - here, beginning today!"

All Pray:

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).



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Spiritual Warfare Prayer Series

A Guide to praying for your street & town



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Preparing for the Warfare

Put on the full armour of God," Paul writes in Ephesians 6:11, "so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Spiritual warfare is important, because we do not struggle "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" (v. 12).

The armour of God

Paul mentions the "armour of God": the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the strong boots of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, which Paul says is the word of God, and prayer in the Spirit (verses 14-18). We can draw interesting analogies for each of these, but I think some of the popular expositions stretch the analogies further than Paul intended.

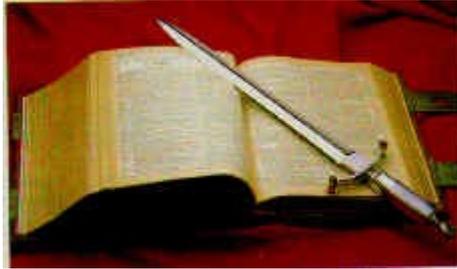
The main point is that we need spiritual attributes for a spiritual battle. We need truth, because the truth sets us free. We need righteousness, the gift of righteousness that God gives us through faith in Christ, which leads us to live righteously in him.

Faith in God helps us endure with God's peace the accusations of Satan, for we know that no matter what he accuses us of, we have been forgiven; we need not be burdened by guilt or be afraid of failure. In addition, faith gives us endurance and peace in the face of life's tragedies, injustices and trials.

When our feet are protected by the gospel of peace, we are ready to go wherever we have to in the peaceful assurance of God's faithful word. When God is for us, who can be against us? When Jesus was tempted by Satan, he resisted by quoting the word of God. We are stronger spiritually when we know and trust what God has said.

Paul ends his list of spiritual armour by reminding us that spiritual strength comes from God alone, so we need to pray – "on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests.... Always keep praying for all the saints" (verse 18). The battle depends on the Lord, and since we never know in advance when the enemy will attack, prayer needs to characterize our lives.

Paul gives a complementary list of spiritual armour in 1 Thessalonians 5:8: "faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet." Here he uses the trio of faith, hope and love. The point is that we will be spiritually stronger, less likely to stumble or fall, if these qualities are at work in our lives.



Praying through your streets, towns & cities

When we have put on the armour of God and have sought God earnestly for a fresh anointing of his Holy Spirit to empower us to pray we can then pray effectively for those in our communities.

When praying for your area, we would encourage you to "prayer-walk" together in twos' or threes'.

Plan your route deciding on the streets that you are going to walk round. When you have chosen your route, pray over it and designate eight stops where you can take turns in your group to pray through the Lord's Prayer together (taking each petition of the prayer for each designated stop).

As you walk around the specific areas of your community, pray with expectancy that God will touch lives and change the atmosphere of your town. Look around the streets as you pray and keep your ears open to the Holy Spirit's voice.

Here is a sample of a Prayer walk round the High Kirk:

1. 1st Petition – Duff's Newsagent/Glencairn St.
2. 2nd Petition – near the petrol station/Townhead St.
3. 3rd Petition – bottom of Schoolwell Street
4. 4th Petition – Church hall/ Old High Road
5. 5th Petition – top of Old High Road/Glencairn St.
6. 6th Petition – Church car park
7. 7th Petition – At the front door of church*
8. 8th Petition – Pray together in the Church

* Before the 7th petition, pray around the church grounds!

1. Our Father who art in heaven...

"Lord, You are a Father to us, Your people. But we want every person on these streets to know You as Father, too. We speak Your comfort and peace to them. We want them to know that the God of the Bible is a God of love and mercy, and the only genuine source of everything they long for now and in eternity."

2. Hallowed be thy name...

"Lord, we are here to represent Your kingdom in the midst of darkness. We want Your presence to come to these streets in a special way and never leave here. We acknowledge this territory to be part of Your Kingdom and pray, "Every place the soles of our feet tread upon will belong to You." We want You, Lord, to come back soon and reclaim all of it, because You made it and because it is also our inheritance in Christ. And we want everyone in these streets to share in that inheritance, because they too are made in the image of God and are precious in His sight!"

3. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

"Lord Jesus, we want You to come back to this earth. We pray that everyone in these streets would come to know Your will for their lives and obey that will. We pray they would repent and seek Your face and Your will without fear of compromise and that they would rejoice in their obedience, because it glorifies You."

4. Give us this day our daily bread...

"Lord, people in these streets worry about not having enough food or clothing or shelter. We pray they all learn that You are ready and willing to supply all of their physical, emotional and spiritual needs daily, if they would look to You. We pray that they would turn from dishonest or criminal acts inspired by fear and insecurity, and that they would turn to You for their confidence and security."

5. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us...

"Lord, teach these precious people about Your forgiveness for them and Your requirements of their forgiveness towards others. Father, these people need to know about Your wonderful grace and forgiveness in Christ, so that the burdens of guilt they bear can be lifted and that their forgiveness will then relieve the burdens of others. Lord, teach them about forgiveness as a stepping stone into unimaginable freedom and blessings."