Ephesians 6:16-24

<u>FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE</u>

1) The greatest loss at the Fall was, and continues to be, man's communion with God.

2) *6:18* God honors prayer even when faith is weak when the purpose agrees with His will.

3) *6:18* Living in a deep awareness of and surrender to our heavenly Father:
   * When tempted, we hold the temptation before God and ask for His help.
   * When experiencing something beautiful, we thank the Lord for it.
   * When we see evil, we ask God to make it right and are willing to be used of Him.
   * When we meet someone who does not know Christ, we pray God will draw that person to Him.
   * When we encounter trouble, we turn to God as our Deliverer.

4) *6:18* Fellowship with God is not intended to wait for heaven. God's great desire, and our great need, is to be in constant fellowship with Him now.

5) *6:18* To pray in the name of Christ is to pray in a manner consistent with His nature and will.

6) *6:18* To be devoted to prayer is to courageously and persistently bring everything before God.

7) "God answers prayer in order to put His power on display, and when we do not pray specifically, He cannot answer specifically and thereby clearly display His power and His love for His children."

8)   ~Dr. John MacArthur

9) *6:19* Paul's greatest concern was not that he was in chains. His greatest concern was for the gospel and for those to whom he was sent to announce it.

10) *6:19* Paul was gifted, courageous, and spiritually strong. Yet he greatly needed God to strengthen him and the encouragement of other believers.

11) *6:19* Jesus knows that when the battle gets hard soldiers become tired and discouraged. In the struggle with Satan, it is either pray or faint.

12) God's promise to equip us for battle is suspended in this condition: Until we pray for the performance of it, He will not force it on us.

Ephesians began by lifting us up to heaven and ends by pulling us down to our knees.

<u>GREEK WORDS</u>

Proseuchē—(prayer) refers to general requests
Deēsis—(petition) refers to specifics