

OUTLINE

IN IT TO WIN IT: A FIGHT TO THE FINISH

Prayer: Your Indispensable Weapon/Tactic

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ROPE A DOPE

The rope-a-dope is a [boxing fighting technique](#) in which one contender leans against the ropes of the [boxing ring](#) and draws non-injuring offensive punches, letting the opponent tire himself out. **WATCH THIS**

The Fight

This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels. Ephesians 6:12 (MSG)

The Fight Gear

Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet.

Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. Ephesians 6:13-17 (MSG)

Finally, the ultimate Fight Gear. . .

In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

Ephesians 6:18 (MSG)

PRAYER YOUR INDISPENSABLE FIGHT WEAPON/TACTIC

1. Paul calls on Christians to pray ALWAYS and in EVERY SEASON

Paul said— *'pray all the time'* (1-Thess. 5:17 MSG)

2. Paul calls on Christians to pray **IN THE SPIRIT**.

Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God.

Romans 8:26-27 (MSG)

3. Notice **WHO** Paul says Christians are to pray **FOR**.

"Pray for your brothers and sisters."

4. Paul calls on the Christians in Ephesus to pray for him.

And don't forget to pray for me. Pray that I'll know what to say and have the courage to say it at the right time, telling the mystery to one and all, the Message that I, jailbird preacher that I am, am responsible for getting out. Ephesians 6:19-20 (MSG)

Tychicus, my good friend here, will tell you what I'm doing and how things are going with me. He is certainly a dependable servant of the Master! I've sent him not only to tell you about us but to cheer you on in your faith. Good-bye, friends. Love mixed with faith be yours from God the Father and from the Master, Jesus Christ. Pure grace and nothing but grace be with all who love our Master, Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:21-24 (MSG)

**How would you describe your prayer life?
flourishing or floundering?
always or almost never?
Constant or erratic?**