**Prelude to Prayer**

Prayer is the mechanism that brings down the power of heaven into your experience. It is the divinely authorized method that activates your spiritual armor and makes it effective. Prayer alerts the enemy to your awareness to his intentions while safeguarding you from his attacks. It is his kryptonite. It is what weakens and unravels all his ploys against you. I believe I can say it as bluntly as this: Unless prayer is a vital and thriving part of your life, you will never achieve spiritual victory. Priscilla Shier-Armor of God

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

**10**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11**Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. **12**For our struggle is not 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.

* Heavenly Father, thank you for protecting us daily from the unseen. Give us wisdom and insight to what is happening all around us. Help us to listen as the Holy Spirit guides us and points us into the right direction. Give us an alertness to those who mean to do us harm, while not becoming jaded and suspicious of those who are our allies. Help us to lift our brothers and sisters to you constantly, so that they might be able to withstand whatever is coming against them.
* Be with Wayne, Marv, and Bret as they all look for diagnoses and healing for their health concerns. Keep them strong in their faith and give the doctors and nurses wisdom and knowledge to get each of them the care that they need.

**13**Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14**Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15**and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16**In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17**Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

* Father, we thank you for supplying each of us with these armaments of Your word. Help us surround ourselves with truth; enable us to live our lives as righteously as we can. Not arrogantly but humbly and lovingly.
* Lord, please give us knowledge and discernment to be faithful and ready to do your will when we see a need. Protect us as we go about our daily duties and help us to protect those who cannot protect themselves.
* Father, we also ask that you give us the words to say when we are asked about our faith or why we believe. Help us share the truth and light to those who are lost and hurting. Right now I need help sharing You with…

**18**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

We ask that you continue to heal our nation and bring us back to where we can all worship together once again.

It is in Jesus’ precious name we pray. Amen.