

March 7/8, 2026
"The Sword"
Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | **March:** Prayers of Confession

Each month, journey through a different biblical model of prayer.

Day 1 [Ephesians 6:17](#) | The Sword

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:17

In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul tells believers to stand firm and put on the full armor of God. He paints a picture of a soldier dressed for battle. Most of the armor is for protection, but one piece is different. The sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon. A Roman soldier's sword is short and sharp, made for close combat. Paul says a believer's sword is the Word of God. It isn't just ink on a page. The Holy Spirit gives it power. [Hebrews 4:12](#) says God's Word is living and active. It is sharp and strong. It reaches deep into hearts and always does what God intends.

Jesus shows us how to use this weapon. When Satan tempts him in the wilderness, Jesus answers every lie with Scripture ([Matthew 4:1-11](#)). He doesn't argue. He doesn't panic. He speaks God's truth, saying each time, "It is written." Jesus trusts the promises of God, and he wins the battle. We face spiritual battles too. The enemy still uses lies, fear and doubt, but we are not helpless. We have the same weapon as Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us remember and apply God's Word at just the right time. But we must give the Spirit something to work with. When we read and memorize Scripture, it takes root in our hearts. Then, when temptation comes, truth is ready.

TODAY: Let God's living Word become your sword. Memorize [Hebrews 4:12](#): "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Day 2 [Ephesians 6:18](#) | Prayer

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. Ephesians 6:18

Paul concludes his teaching on the armor of God by showing that prayer is not separate from the armor—it is how believers stand firm in it. His focus is not on circumstances but on spiritual watchfulness. To pray "in the Spirit" is to depend on the Spirit's guidance and strength, remaining alert in battle. Paul widens the Ephesians' vision beyond themselves, calling them to pray on behalf of all believers. Prayer is the continual posture that activates and sustains every piece of God's armor, enabling believers to stand firm together.

Because prayer is central to the Christian life, it is also one of our strongest weapons in spiritual battle. The Holy Spirit guides us, strengthens us and even helps us know what to say ([Romans 8:26-27](#)). In [Luke 22](#), Jesus tells Peter that Satan wants to shake him. But Jesus says, "I have prayed for you." Jesus fights for Peter in

prayer so that his faith won't fail. And when Peter returns, he helps others stay strong. Jesus is a prayer warrior. We are called to be prayer warriors too. One of the best ways we can protect others from spiritual attack is to pray for them. Even as we pray for hard situations to change, we should also pray that God will work in the middle of them. Prayer is not extra. It is essential.

TODAY: Choose one person to fight for in prayer: "Lord, strengthen _____ today. Guard their faith. Protect them from lies and fear. Give them courage to follow you. Help them stand firm and trust you in every situation. Amen."

Day 3 [Ephesians 6:19-20](#) | The Gospel

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. Ephesians 6:19

Paul asks the believers in Ephesus to pray for one specific thing: boldness. He wants courage to clearly share the gospel message. He writes this while chained in prison. He doesn't ask for comfort or freedom. He asks for courage. What is the message he wants to share? That we were spiritually dead because of sin. But God, who is rich in mercy and great in love, has made us alive with Christ by his grace ([Ephesians 2:4-5](#)). The gospel is not about earning God's love. It's about receiving it. Paul calls himself an ambassador for Christ. An ambassador represents a king in a foreign place. Paul knows that even in prison, he represents Jesus. Wherever God places him, that is his mission field.

The same is true for us. If we follow Jesus, we represent him—in our homes, at work, at school, on our teams and even on social media. We don't have to be loud or pushy. We simply need to be faithful and clear. When we share the good news, God can use our words to change someone's life. A person who trusts Jesus receives forgiveness, new life and the full armor of God. Sharing our faith matters because people matter.

TODAY: Pray for one person who doesn't know Jesus. Ask God to give you courage and the right words. Then register for "[Sharing Your Faith](#)" on March 26 at the Knapp Campus and learn how to explain the gospel in a clear and kind way.

Day 4 [Ephesians 6:10-20](#) | The Armor of God

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. Ephesians 6:13

Followers of Jesus have a real enemy. Paul reminds the Ephesian believers to stand firm when spiritual battles come. God doesn't leave his people defenseless. He gives the full armor—belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet and sword. This picture reminds the early church of a Roman soldier ready for battle. The armor has one purpose: to enable believers to stand their ground. They are not told to run or hide, but to stand. Long before them, God himself is pictured as wearing armor ([Isaiah 59:16-17](#)). The strength they fight with is his strength, not their own.

The Bible tells us our enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy. But Jesus comes so we can have life, full and abundant ([John 10:10](#)). On our own, we're not able to stand against spiritual forces, but in the Lord's power, we can. Every piece of armor points back to Jesus. Truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation and the Word of God all come from him. These are not human tools. They are spiritual gifts given to us because we belong to Christ. We fight *from* victory, not for victory. Because Jesus died and rose again, sin no longer has the final word. The enemy is real, but he is not greater than our Savior.

TODAY: Celebrate the victory we have in Jesus. Sing “[In Christ Alone](#)” with our worship team. Focus on these words: “And as he stands in victory, sin’s curse has lost its grip on me, for I am his and he is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.”



Day 5 [Psalm 51](#) | David’s Confession

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. March’s focus is Prayers of Confession.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

David writes this psalm after the prophet Nathan confronts him about his sin with Bathsheba. David has committed adultery and arranged the death of her husband Uriah to cover it up ([2 Samuel 11](#)). For weeks, David hides his sin. But when Nathan exposes it, David humbles himself before God. He doesn't make excuses or shift blame. He turns to God in raw, honest confession. David recognizes that his sin has devastated others, *and* it's an offense against God. He throws himself on God's mercy, pleading for forgiveness and a clean heart. David knows he has no right to ask, yet he asks because he knows God's character.

No matter what we have done, God stands ready to receive our confession and forgive us. Nothing is too great. No one is too far gone. Like David, we may carry hidden sin—choices we've buried, guilt we've ignored or damage we've tried to cover up. God already knows, and he invites us to come honestly before him. Because Jesus paid the full penalty on the cross, God has forgiven all our sin—past, present and future. Confession doesn't earn that forgiveness. It clears the air and restores our sense of closeness with God. When we confess, we agree with God about our sin and experience the freedom that comes from walking openly before him.

TODAY: Is there a sin you've been hiding or avoiding? Follow David's example and bring it honestly before God. Use [Psalm 51](#) as your prayer of confession. Thank God that through Jesus, no sin is beyond his forgiveness and no distance is too far for his grace to reach.