

The Church's Fiercest Weapon

Ephesians 6:18-20

We are in the midst of planting our church in Prince Frederick, Calvert County. If we could build "the perfect church," using the following list, what components would you select? You are allowed to pick only 5 components. Explain your choices.

- _____ a brand new, state-of-the-art multi-million dollar facility (debt free).
- _____ a gifted, talented, unified staff.
- _____ an operating budget of \$1 million per month.
- _____ a congregation enthusiastic about and trained for evangelism and missions.
- _____ a prayer ministry composed of faithful saints interceding at all times.
- _____ a national TV/Radio ministry featuring solid biblical exposition.
- _____ a top notch education program for children and youth.
- _____ a premier church-sponsored Christian school.
- _____ a biblical counseling ministry staffed by wise and godly leaders.
- _____ a vibrant outreach ministry to Calvert County.

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18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

The final element of the believer's weapon is prayer.

Pas, the Greek word for all, is used four times in verse 18!

I. The Frequency of Prayer... "pray at all times."

II. The Variety of Prayer... "with all prayer and petition."

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III. The Manner of Prayer... “be on the alert with all perseverance and petition.”

IV. The Indirect Object of Prayer... “for all the saints.”

Those four aspects of prayer in verse 18 are all to occur “in the Spirit”.

We need to pray for things we know God wills. Things like our virtue, our holiness, our strength, our spiritual maturity, our usefulness, our service, a deepening of our love for Christ. Those are the things the Spirit prays for that God agrees with, and our prayers need to be consistent with that.

Verse 19, here's Paul's application. “Pray on my behalf.”

Personal Application

How does this passage contribute to your understanding of prayer as a weapon in our war against Satan?

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. What insights do you learn for why Christians need to pray widely and continually?