



The Seventh Weapon: Prayer

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

Concert of Prayer

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Dr. Juan M. Moreno

TEXT: Ephesians 6:18-20

*With all [or by the means of all kinds of] prayer and petition pray at all times [or at every opportunity] 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*

I. UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

A. Verse 18 Begins with the Preposition *With* (gk: *dia*)

1. As a preposition of means, it can be translated **by the means of** all prayer and petition. . .

Referring back to verses 14-17, the thought here is, *by the means of prayer, Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. . . ,*

2. As a simple preposition, it can be translated as “with” pointing to *an additional piece of armor, i.e., with all prayer and petition . . .*

This would make prayer and petition the **seventh piece of the armor of God**.

B. Verse 18 Has the Repeated Use of the Adjective *All*

*Ephesians 6:18 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,*

1. With *all* prayer and petition

The two terms are employed together for the purpose of intensification. It is used to describe prayer in relation to its variety and earnestness, cf. 1 Tim. 2:1.

1 Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

- a. Entreaties— Prayer as an expression of our needs, implying the feeling of our great need of the gifts and blessing of God.
 - b. Prayers— This is the general term for prayer. It describes prayers directed toward Deity. Hence *prayer* is a sacred word and refers to prayer as a coming to God. The ideas of worship and reverence are its distinctive features.
 - c. Petitions— In the original language, this word occurs only twice in the New Testament, here and in 1 Tim. 4:5. Here the description of prayer is that of free access to God with childlike confidence.
 - d. Thanksgivings— These are expressions of gratitude.
- 2. Pray at *all times*— every opportunity**

What does it mean to *pray at all times in the Spirit*, v. 18? Options:

- a. Pray at all times *in the power* of the Spirit
 - b. Pray at all time while *in step* with the Spirit, Gal 5:25; Rom 8:26-27
 - (1) Prayers are to be in alignment with the will of God.
 - (2) Prayers are to be consistent with the Mind of the Spirit which is revealed in the word and the work of Illumination, cf. 1 Cor 2:16-17.
- 3. Pray with *all perseverance and petition*—** The thought here is that of *persistence*, cf., Luke 18:1-8.
- 4. Pray for *all saints*.**

II. UNDERSTANDING PAUL'S SPECIFIC REQUESTS, vv. 19-20

- A. Pray for Yourselfs,** (i.e, *pray & be on the alert*, is to be a personal prayer request)
- B. Pray for All Saints,** *be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints*
 - 1. We are to Pray Vigilantly.**
 - 2. We Are to Pray Persistently.**

3. We Are to Pray Inclusively.

C. Pray for Boldness in the Spread of the Gospel, vv. 19-20. . . . *to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, . . . that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak*

- 1. Paul Asked For Prayer On What to Say,** *and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth,*
- 2. Paul Asked for Prayer on How to Say It,** *to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel*