## **Experiencing the Power of Prayer in Community**

Ephesians 6:10-18

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

<sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

<sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

<sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>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.

## **Experiencing the Power of Prayer in Community**

Ephesians 6:10-18



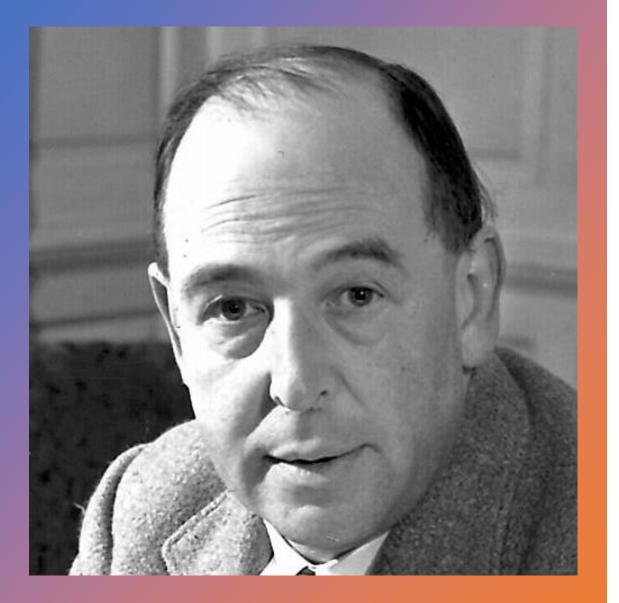


"In PMC, we seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ who experience God's power in prayer, God's love in community, and God's joy in witness."

## **Experiencing the Power of Prayer in Community**

Ephesians 6:10-18

**Sleep Paralysis** is a medical term that describes a situation when our body is not moving smoothly through the stages of sleep and as a result, a person may experience inability to move, troubling hallucinations and a sensation of suffocation.

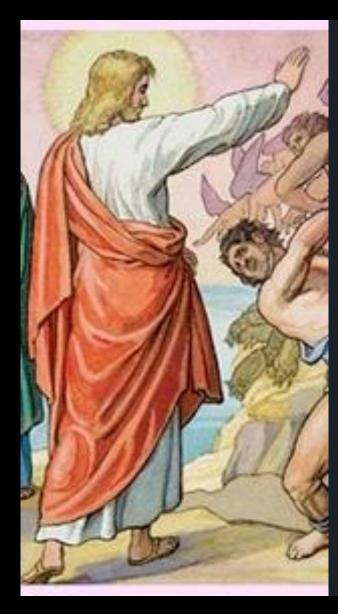


**"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race** can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." C. S. Lewis

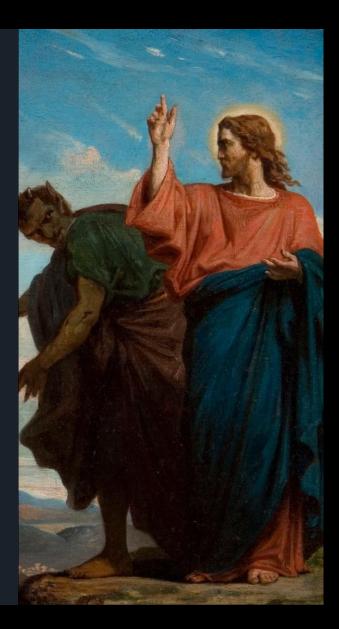
#### **Ephesians 6:12** (NIV)

"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."

The Apostle Paul warns us that there is an unseen world that exists around us where evil is real. Regardless of whether we like it or not, aware or unaware, we are engaged in a Spiritual battle.



Jesus often came into direct conflict with the forces of darkness where he had to confront and casts out demonic spirits from people.



John 17:15 "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one."

Right now, the kingdom of God coexists with the kingdom of darkness, and it is not a peaceful coexistence.

There are tensions and there are conflicts.



### THE TWO KINGDOMS





## 1 Peter 5:8 "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

We don't escape spiritual warfare simply because we choose not to believe that it exists or because we refuse to fight it.



### How do we protect ourselves from the Evil one?

1. Put on the armor of God.





### **The Amour of God** (Ephesians 6:13-17)

- Practicing righteousness;
- Believing and having faith in God;
- Being ready to testify for God at all times;
- Be secured in our identity in Christ;
- Know the Word of God and apply it to every situation in life.

How do we protect ourselves from the Evil one?

## 2. Praying for One Another.

#### **Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)**

"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."





#### **Praying in Community**

Why can't we pray alone?

We may not always have the strength nor the ability to pray consistently for ourselves.

## Fate has chosen him.

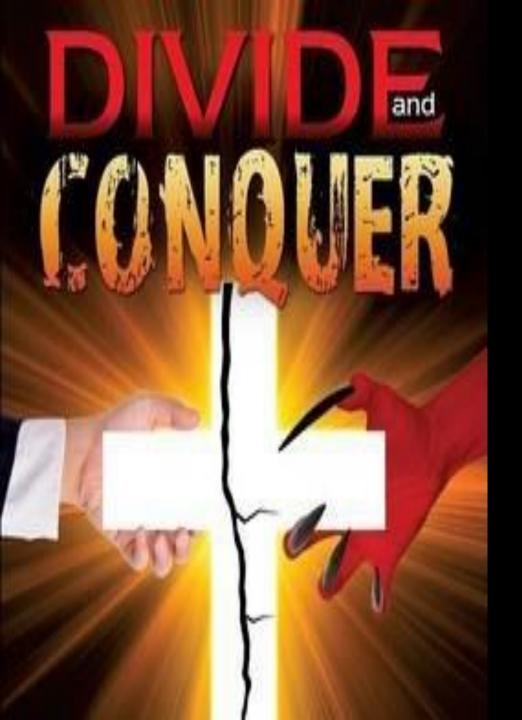
### A fellowship will protect him.

Evil will hunt them.





## 1 Peter 5:8 "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

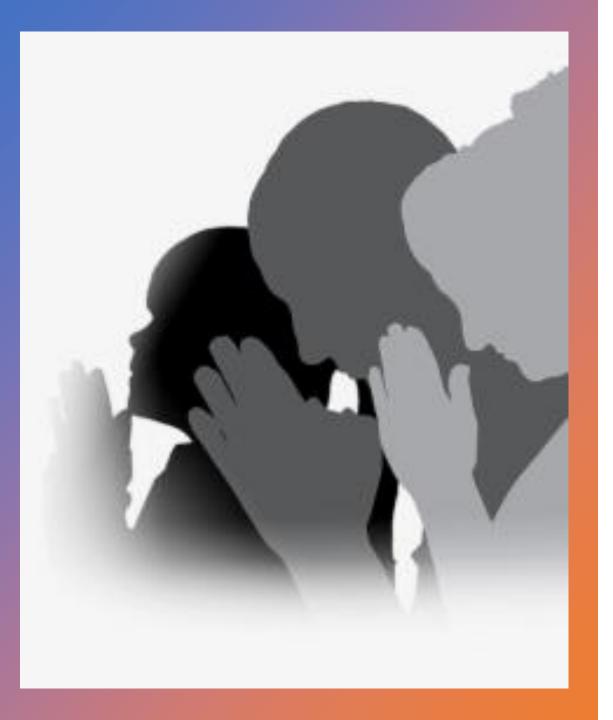


From the beginning, right in Eden, the Enemy's strategy has always relied upon a simple aim:

### **Divide and conquer.**

Isolate them and take them out. There will be times in our journey of life and faith, when we will face temptations and trials resulting in our inability to pray. This is when we are most vulnerable to the attacks of the evil one.

Thus, we need the prayers of others to protect us.



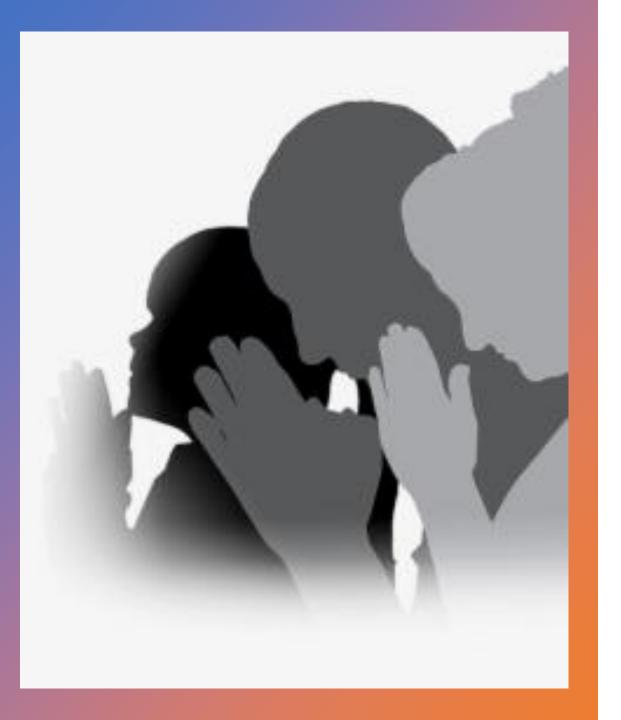
Prayer must never be an addendum in our small group meetings or any other meetings in Church.

We need the prayers of others in community to protect us from the evil one.

### What kind of prayers protect us from the evil one?

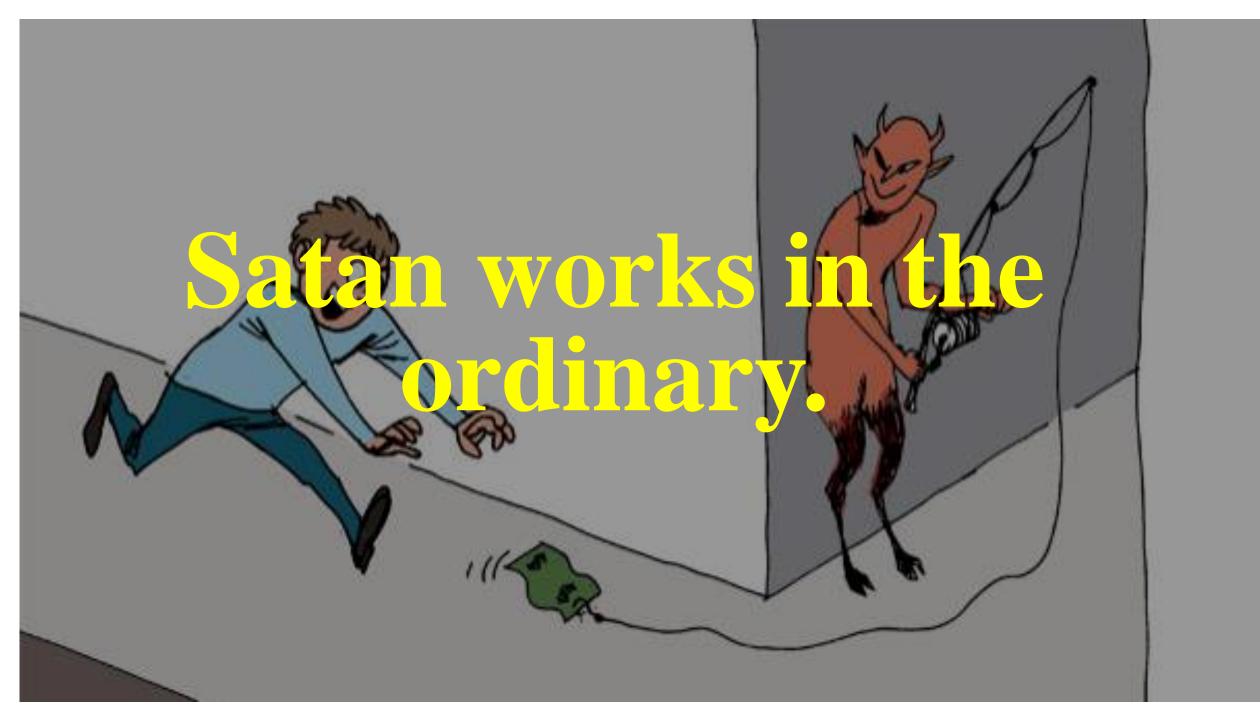
#### **Ephesians 6:18**

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with <u>all kinds of</u> <u>prayers and requests.</u> With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."



## All kinds of prayers and requests.

## Ordinary Prayers





### Satan works in the ordinary

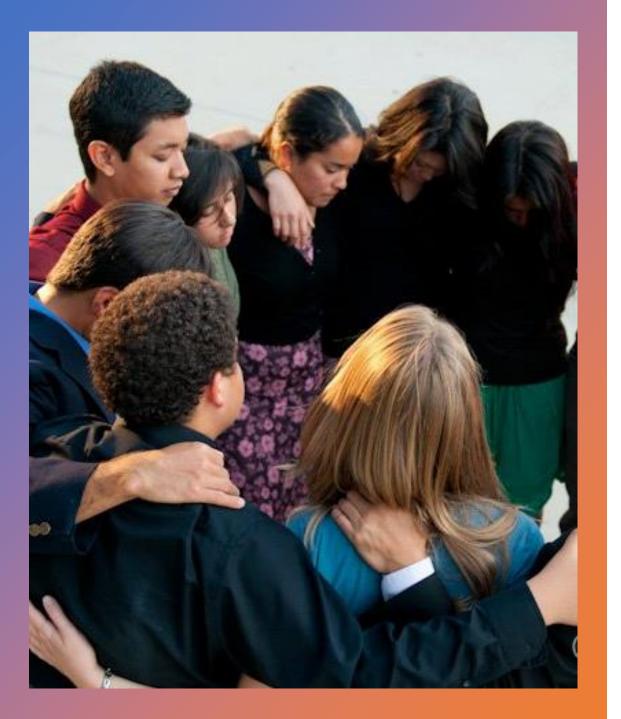
#### Luke 22:31-32 (NIV)

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthened your brothers."



## Satan works in the ordinary

If Jesus didn't tell us about Satan and his work to sift out Peter and his fellow disciples, we would not have known that Satan was involved.



How do we pray for protection from the Evil One?

**Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)** "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."

## Pray for everything;

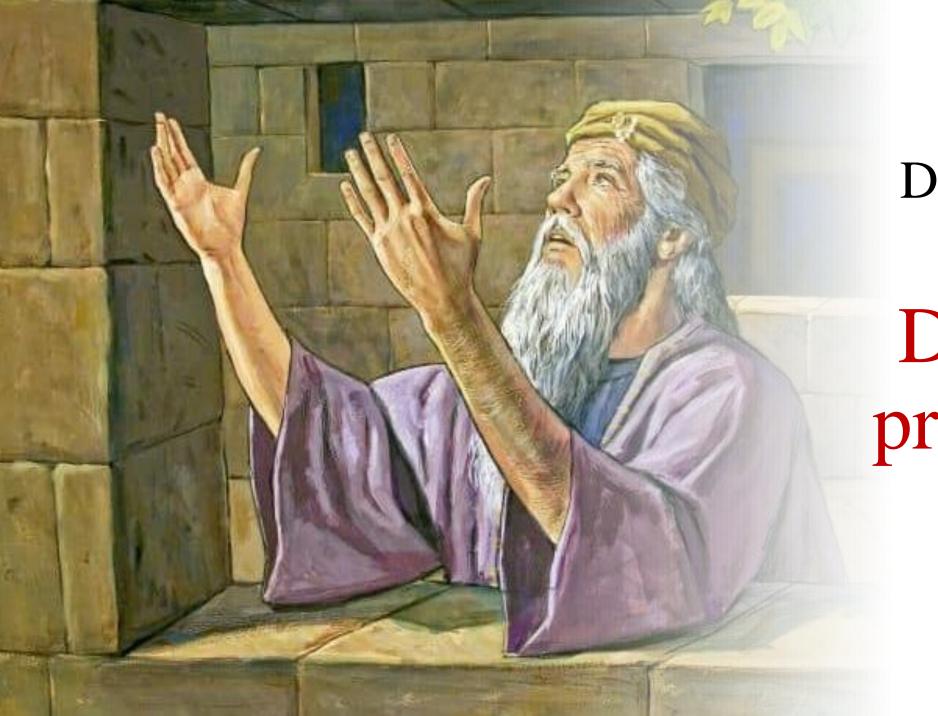
## For all saints;

## On all occasions.

We do not need to know how Satan and his demonic forces work.

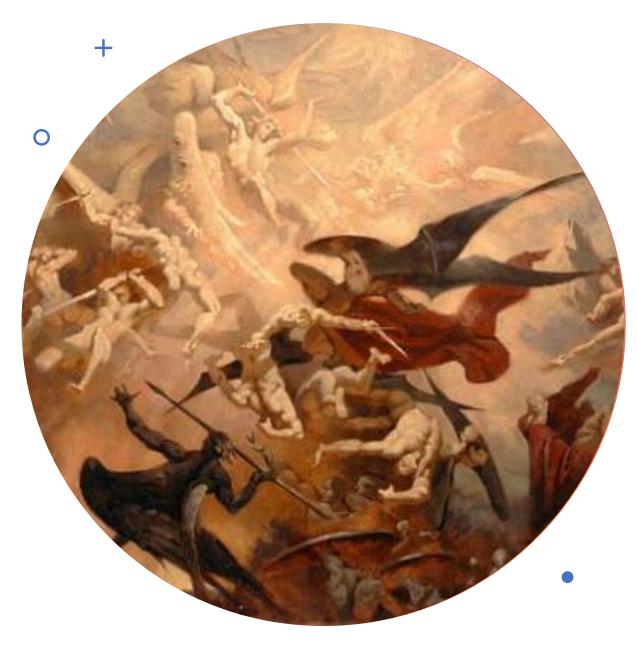
Our responsibility is to pray for one another with all kinds of prayer on all occasions and leave God to handle Satan and his demonic forces.





### Daniel 10

# Daniel praying.



The Angel Gabriel was delayed in bringing the message to Daniel because of a spiritual battle that was going on in the heavenlies.

But Daniel was oblivious to the spiritual battle occurring in the heavenlies.

**Daniel 10:12-14** 



Jesus has chosen us; Evil will hunt us; But the faithful prayers of brothers and sistersin-Christ in community will protect us.

