Four Essentials to a Christian’s Effectiveness  
I Cor. 16:13

Introduction:

A. Verse is a concise formula for effective Christian living.
   1. Does not supply details, leaves that to other passages.
   2. Does give basic attitudes - attitudes are important. (2 Cor. 10:5).

B. Verse lists four essentials for a Christian’s effectiveness.

Discussion:

I. Watchfulness. ("Watch" - "Be alert" (NASV).
   A. Alert to spiritual dangers.
      1. From within oneself. (1 Cor. 9:27).
         a. Signs of losing interest in spiritual exercise.
         b. Signs of distraction from main purpose in life.
         c. Signs of seeking easy way out of life’s difficulties.
         d. Signs of chronic complaining. (cf. 1 Cor. 10:10)
         e. Signs of chronic complacency. (cf. 2 Pet. 2:7,8; Acts 17:16).
         a. Do well to listen to experienced teachers. (Heb. 5:12-14).
         b. Experience and knowledge often can see danger ahead. (cf. 1 Sa. 8:10-20).
   B. Alert to spiritual opportunities. (Gal. 6:10).
      1. Jesus seized opportunity at well in Samaria. (John 4).
      2. We miss many opportunities by not being alert. (cf. Shoe salesmen on remote area)

II. Stability. ("Stand fast (firm) in the faith.")
   A. Must be equipped to stand. (Eph. 6:13,14).
      2. Anchored in hope. (Heb. 6:19) - based on scriptural reasons (1 Pet. 3:15).
   B. Must be determined to stand. (Eph. 6:13,14).
      1. Some equipped without determination.
      2. Some determined without equipment.

III. Maturity. ("Quit (act) like men")
   A. General maturity - not childish. (Cf. 1 Cor. 13:11). - Some babes in Christ, some just babies.
      1. Not fearful - “be brave.” (NKJ)
      3. Not fickle. (1 Cor. 15:58).
      5. Not pouters. (Lk. 15:28).
      7. Not tattlers. (1 Tim. 5:13).
   B. Spiritual maturity. (1 Cor. 14:20; 2 Pet. 3:18).
      1. God arranged for mature men to lead the church.
      2. Yet, many churches, even with elders, allow themselves to be led by immature element.

IV. Strength. ("Be strong")
   A. Source of Christian’s strength is Christ. (Phil. 4:13; Jno. 15:5).
   B. Fruit of Christian’s strength is self-crucifixion. (Gal. 2:20).
      1. Real strength not in steam-roller abusive tactics.
      2. Real strength in firm, faithful, courteous and fair teaching.

Conclusion:

A. Let us improve each of these essentials daily.
B. Let us be more interested in effective spiritual power than financial, political or social power.