

Devote Yourselves to Prayer

Colossians 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

In this passage of scripture, the Apostle Paul is giving encouragement and advice, to the Colossians, on how to pray on pray.

He goes on to say the following:

4:3-6

And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it as clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Paul the ends his comments about prayer and attitude this way.

4:12

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always in wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

You will note in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, it tells us about gifts of the Spirit. Each of these are specific and individual gifts. It doesn't mention prayer. I believe that is because prayer is a universal and personal gift, free to each one to exercise anytime and on all occasions.

In the passages in Colossians, Paul gives us specific advice about prayer and speaking with others about the gospel.

- ❖ We are to devote ourselves to prayer, as part of our individual and daily lives
- ❖ We are to pray immediately when someone asks for prayer
- ❖ Always be watchful for the incursions of the enemy, who tries to hinder us in our prayer lives and attitude
- ❖ We are to always give thanks to God for our lives, for His infilling us with His holy Spirit, and His provision
- ❖ We are to pray, no matter the condition or circumstances, we find ourselves in our journey
- ❖ We are to be diligent and wise in how we approach non-believers; be aware of there circumstance in life. Be gentle, kind and empathetic to their situations, think carefully before we respond or speak of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Make the conversation fit the situation
- ❖ Use the wisdom God has given us in everything we do
- ❖ Understand that there are people always praying for others, not just the ones they know personally, but those whom they have never met.

These bits of advice are the essence of our daily and intercessory prayer times.

Our Prayer

- Thank You Lord for being our God, the one true God
- We pray Your will be done on earth and in us, as it is in heaven
- We thank You for the gift of prayer, which allows us to keep in constant communication with You, and that allows us to give You Praise, Honour, and Glory in all things
- We thank You for the opportunities to pray for all things and for all those around us in need
- Give us open and sincere hearts to follow the promptings, the teachings and the guidance of Your Holy Spirit
- Thank You for those who have gone before us, that have left us guidance and encouragement in our journey to eternity, through Jesus Christ

We give You all the Praise, the honour and the Glory, in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen.

Remember when we do anything in prayer, God's interpretation of timing is not the same as man's understanding. When we pray, we are to wait on God's timing for His response. As Joy McEwen told us in our prayer time this week; "God doesn't always act immediately, but when He does, He acts suddenly."