

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, October 29, 2023

**Prayer That Pleases God
A Study of Colossians 4:2-4**

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When we use the word “mature” or “maturity” in the following sentences, what do we mean?

- ❖ “He’s not as mature as he should be at his age.”
- ❖ “My CDs won’t reach maturity for 2 more years.”
- ❖ “It’s a shame the hailstorm destroyed the corn before it reached maturity.”

Today, we’re looking at four marks of *mature* prayer. Read Colossians 2:2-4.

**First: Prayer that Pleases God is
Persistent Prayer**

What word(s) or phrase(s) in Colossians 2:2-4 speaks of this characteristic of mature prayer?

Read Luke 11:5-13. Choose the sentence that best explains what Jesus was teaching, and explain your answer:

- God greases squeaky wheels
- God delights to see our confidence in his ability to meet our most desperate needs.

Read Colossians 4:12. In what ways is prayer a wrestling match?

**Second: Prayer that Pleases God is
Alert Prayer**

What word(s) or phrase(s) in Colossians 2:2-4 speaks of this characteristic of mature prayer?

Make a list of things that distract us when we try to pray. How can we protect our prayer time from these distractions?

Being “alert” means more than staying focused during your prayer time. Pastor Tom said we should be alert for two things so that when we see these things we can pray about them. So make a list using the following directions, and then pray for those things before moving on to the next point.

- ❖ Identify how God is working and pray *for* it. How is God working in your life, the lives of your family and friends, and in this church?
- ❖ Identify how Satan is trying to work and pray *against* it. How is our spiritual enemy messing around with your life, the lives of your family and friends, and in this church?

Third: Prayer that Pleases God is Grateful Prayer

What word(s) or phrase(s) in Colossians 2:2-4 speaks of this characteristic of mature prayer?

Read Psalm 103:1-5. Which of the listed benefits have you experienced personally? What other “benefits” would you add to the list?

Pick the statement that best describes the reason you fail to thank God and explain your answer:

- I get lazy and don’t want to take the time to do it.
- When things go my way, I tend to credit my own skill and drive, or other natural causes.

Fourth: Prayer that Pleases God is Outreach-Minded Prayer

What word(s) or phrase(s) in Colossians 2:2-4 speaks of this characteristic of mature prayer?

Paul wanted the Colossians to pray for two things. First, he asked for an open door. This refers to opportunities to share our faith **and** it refers to an open mind on the part of the listener. At our church we work hard to provide great programming and good answers to the questions nonbelievers ask. If we're already doing all of that, why do we need to ask *God* to open a door for our witness?

The second thing Paul wanted the Colossians to pray for was boldness. It's one thing for a door of opportunity to open, and it's another thing to have the courage to walk through that open door! Make a list of the reasons we're often intimidated to share our faith.

Conclusion

At the end of the sermon, Pastor Tom challenged us to circle the one marker of mature prayer that we most need to develop. Which one did you circle?

Close with praise reports and prayer requests.