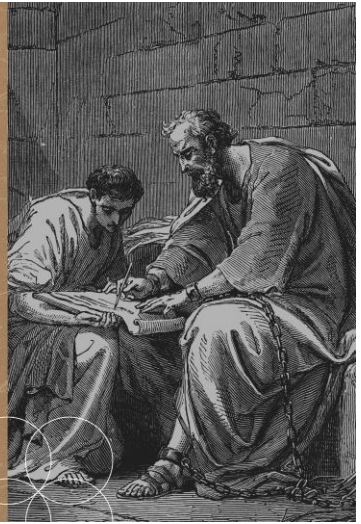


NEXT-LEVEL LIVING

SERMONS IN
COLOSSIANS



Prayer That Pleases God

Colossians 4:2-4, “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And 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. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.”

P _____ prayer.

Colossians 4:2, “Devote yourselves to prayer.”

Colossians 4:12, “Epaphras . . . is always wrestling in prayer for you.”

A _____ prayer.

Colossians 4:2, “. . . being watchful . . .”

G _____ prayer.

Colossians 4:2, “. . . and thankful.”

O _____ prayer.

Colossians 4:3-4, “And pray for us, too, that God may *open a door* for our message.... Pray that I may proclaim it *clearly*.”

Outreach-minded prayer centers on two things:

O _____

B _____

Prompts to *Supplement* or *Start* a Daily Prayer Time

Monday. Read Colossians 4:2-4. Today we'll focus on the **first** mark of a mature prayer life: Persistence. We are commanded to *devote* ourselves to prayer. When you pray, what distracts you away from it? How can you avoid those distractions?

Tuesday. Read Colossians 4:2-4. Today we'll focus on the **second** mark of a mature prayer life: Alertness. We should be alert to two things. Today, think about how God is working in our congregation and pray *for* that work.

Wednesday. Read Colossians 4:2-4. Let's look again at the **second** mark of a mature prayer life: Alertness. Yesterday we meditated on how God is working in our congregation. Today, think about how Satan tries to work in our congregation and pray *against* that work.

Thursday. Read Colossians 4:2-4. Today we'll focus again on the **third** mark of a mature prayer life: Thankfulness. Pray that a spirit of gratitude spreads throughout your heart and throughout the life of your church. We'll meditate over *what* to be grateful for tomorrow.

Friday. Read Psalm 103:1-5. Let's continue to meditate on the **third** mark of mature prayer: Thankfulness. In Psalm 103, notice how the poet takes time to *list* the things he's thankful for. One tool that can help you do this is a prayer journal. Commit for one week to write down what you're thanking God for and what you're asking God for.

Saturday. Read Colossians 4:2-4. Today we'll focus on the **fourth** mark of a mature prayer life: A concern for outreach. We should pray for God to "open a door for our message." So, pray for you and your church family to have *opportunities* to share faith, and pray that our hearers will have an *open mind*.

Sunday. Read Colossians 4:2-4. As we saw yesterday, the **fourth** mark of a mature prayer life is a concern for outreach. In addition to praying for an "open door," ask God to help you and your church family speak of faith "clearly"—that means plainly and boldly.