

Devoted

*Colossians 4:2-6 NIV **Devote** yourselves to **prayer**, being watchful and thankful. **3** 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. **4** **Pray** that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. **5** Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. **6** Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

Notice 3 targets for devoted prayer: (1) for yourself; (2) for someone you love who is bound in some way; (3) for the outsiders (the lost people who are outside the Kingdom at this time).

Devote yourselves to prayer!

Paul is writing this letter to the congregation in Colossae from prison. In chapter one, he begins talking about how much he has been praying for them:

- Prayed that they will be **filled** with knowledge and spiritual understanding.
- Prayed that they would be **fruitful** while they learn how to know Jesus better.
- Prayed that they would be **strengthened** with **power** and **endurance** and **patience**.
- He prayed that they would be **filled with joy**!

*Col 1:11-14 NLT We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, **12** always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. **13** For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, **14** who **purchased our freedom** and **forgave our sins**.*

Devote --- Yourself --- Prayer!

1) **DEVOTE** yourselves to prayer.

- Effective prayer is simply an expression of the **desires** of a fully **devoted** and **consecrated heart**.

*Mark 11:24 KJV Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye **desire**, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*

2024 – Pray for a Fully Devoted Heart! *Deal with the Distractions and Desires that weaken your devotion!*

*Proverbs 15:8 NASV The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, But **the prayer of the upright is His delight**.*

Psalms 50:15 NASV, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.”

John 14:13 ESV Jesus says, “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

In this season of prayer, what does your fully devoted and consecrated heart desire from God?

In the garden before his arrest, Jesus prayed and he took Peter, James, and John with him and told them to watch and pray: *Matthew 26:41 NIV Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

In the upper room, 120 men and women *Acts 1:14 NASV These all with one mind were continually **devoting** themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

*Acts 2:42 NASV They were continually **devoting** themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Notice that, in these verses, we find:

- Jesus commanding **3** to devote themselves to prayer.
- Then we find **120** devoting themselves to prayer.
- Lastly, we find **3000+** new converts devoting themselves prayer.

Matthew 18:19-20 ESV Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Devote – give your energy

Yourselves – join your prayer with the prayers of others

Colossians 4:2 NIV Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Pray in Concentric Circles (think of the rings of a bullseye):

- Pray over your own heart – **self**
- Pray over your family – **spouse; children; parents**
- Pray over your church family – **pastors and leaders; small group circle; missionaries and projects**
- Pray over your **lost friends and family members**

Don't know what to say in prayer? **Pray the Beatitudes:**

Matthew 5:3-10 NIV

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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