

## Devoted, Watchful, Thankful



*Devoted – hold fast to, endure in, stand perpetually ready, persevere in, persist, associate closely, serve personally, to attach oneself to, to attend constantly, spend much time in, persist obstinately, repair, be strong.* Those are the definitions found in different Biblical dictionaries and in the Septuagint for the word “devoted”. We often think of being devoted in terms of our family, possibly a friend, and even being devoted to God, so there was nothing too surprising about those definitions, but what was interesting was that I was looking the word up as it is used in Colossians 4:2 which reads, **“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”**

“Devoted to prayer” puts the definition in a little different perspective, doesn't it? One afternoon my granddaughter and I were in my backyard. We were looking at the rocks, the leaves, the birds, and were discussing whatever we saw as we walked around. She was 9 yrs old at the time, and as we were talking I mentioned the verse in I Thessalonians 5:17, “praying without ceasing”. She stopped in her tracks and said, “Wait! Am I just suppose to stay in one place and talk to God the all day long?” Ha. I explained no, but just like she and I were walking together, talking about the things we were seeing, and what we were doing, that God wants our days with Him to be like that too. Including Him, seeking His opinion of things, aware of His walking with us. All of those things lead to us being “devoted in prayer.”

Prayer life should be just that, prayer LIFE. Too often we toss a prayer up and hope He answers, (and of course, we mean answer the way we want Him to), or we pick and choose what we want God to be included in during our day, often relegating Him to an afterthought. But Colossians 4:2 says, “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful”, so let's put this definition into perspective within the text.

**“Devoted”** is a description word that is a continuous action that we perform, it's an imperative, meaning we are commanded to pray in this way: *we are to hold fast to prayer, endure in prayer, stand perpetually ready in prayer, persevere in prayer, persist in prayer, associate closely in prayer, serve personally in prayer, to attach oneself to prayer, to attend constantly in prayer, spend much time in prayer, persist obstinately in prayer, repair in prayer* (that's an interesting concept, isn't it? Reminds me of 1 John 1:9), and last, but not least, *be strong in prayer*. Does that make praying different for you? I know for me that a couple of those definitions send a convicting message. I have some areas to work on when it comes to being devoted to prayer.

I know that some of you are weary of praying for a loved one to come to know the Lord. There are situations that seem hopeless, but oh, I hope we do not grow weary in doing good (and prayer is always good.) Recommit to being devoted to prayer for that one, or that circumstance. Be devoted in prayer, and then... **“be watchful and thankful.”** You might just now be uttering the words to God, but His answer was already prepared before you ever thought to ask. He hears, He loves, and He is working on your behalf. Be hopeful, be watchful, be thankful!

*Father, it seems crazy to think that You already have in place the answer to our prayer before we even speak. How much we still have to learn where You and prayer life is concerned, but I'm grateful that*

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*You hear. I am watchful, waiting, and THANKFUL for You. Thank You Father for wanting a relationship with us that is active and participatory. You are not far off. You are not deaf to our words. Forgive us for not living daily in constant prayer with You. Help us to be faithfully devoted and not give up in praying for our loved ones that don't know You, may they come to a saving knowledge of You. May we be devoted through prayer to repair our fellowship with You daily, so that Your Spirit can lead us to a richer life with You. Help us to hold fast to prayer, endure in prayer, stand perpetually ready in prayer, persevere in prayer, persist in prayer, associate closely in prayer, serve personally in prayer, to attach oneself to prayer, to attend constantly in prayer, spend much time in prayer, persist obstinately in prayer, repair in prayer and be strong in prayer. Help us to be doers of Your word. Thank You that You are true to Yours, for we are Yours. What a joy.*

**I would love to hear if you are committing to any of these definitions of being devoted to prayer. Contact me on the "Contact" tab and let me know how the Lord is speaking to you. God bless you today. Tammy**