



Colossians 4.2-6 “Open Doors For Prayer”

Prayer – the most powerful, life changing, earth changing, Heaven influencing thing a human can do.

2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

- **“If you only pray when you’re in trouble, you’re in trouble.”**

Anonymous

- “Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them; outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world.” E.M Bounds
- “No man is greater than his prayer life.” Leonard Ravenhill
- “God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it.” – John Wesley
- “Walking with God down the avenues of prayer we acquire something of His likeness, and unconsciously we become witnesses to others of His beauty and His grace.” **E. M. Bounds**
- **Amplified: 4:2** Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer [life], being [both] alert and intent in [your praying] with thanksgiving.
(Amplified Bible - Lockman)

Three clues to great prayer times:

1. Earnestly

Acts 1.14 all with one mind **were continually devoting (proskartereo) themselves to prayer,** along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers."

Matthew 7.7-8

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

- a. Keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking!
 - i. Present imperative – a command to do it NOW!

1 Thessalonians 5:17–18

17 pray without ceasing,

18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- b. End times require end-times prayers

Luke 21:36

36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

2. Vigilant, alert

- a. **1127. γρηγορέω grēgoreúō**; fut. grēgorésō, from egeírō (1453) to arise, arouse. To watch, to refrain from sleep.¹
- b. **The duty of alertness as opposed to a slack or sleepy spirit** is proclaimed in 1 Cor. 16:13; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:6; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 3:2-3; 16:15. ²
 - i. To stay awake while praying

Matthew 26:38

38 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and **watch with Me.**”

Matthew 26:40–41

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not **watch with Me** one hour?”

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

c. Praying with your eyes wide open.

3. With Thanksgiving

- a. Thanksgiving is the conclusion of every prayer with the Father.

Philippians 4:6–7

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Spirit**,

3 meanwhile praying also for us,
that God would **open to us a door for the word,
to speak the mystery of Christ**,
for which I am also in chains,
4 that I may make it manifest,
as I ought to speak.

Open a door for me

- For the Word
- To speak the mystery of Christ
- As I ought to speak

1 Corinthians 16:9 For **a great and effective door** has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

2 Corinthians 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and **a door was opened to me by the Lord**,

Ephesians 6:18–20

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me,
that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains;
that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.
6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Story of Saul to Paul:

- Many had walked in wisdom around Saul
- Many had demonstrated their submitted lives
- All these became “pricks” for Saul to “kick.”

Acts 9:3–5

3 As Saul journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

5 And he said, “Who are You, Sir?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”³

2759. κέντρον *kéntron*; gen. *kéntrou*, neut. noun from *kentéō* (n.f.), to prick, stimulate. **Anything by which a puncture is made.**

Also from *kentéō* (n.f.): *ekkentéō* (1574), to dig out, pierce through.

(1) A goad, point, or prick (Acts 9:5; 26:14; “to kick against the pricks” or goads, meaning to offer vain and rash resistance which is a proverbial expression alluding to unruly oxen and applied to those who by unruly rage hurt themselves).⁴

- This surrender of the will to Christ was the conversion of Saul. He saw a real Person, the Risen Christ, to whom he surrendered his life. On this point he never wavered for a moment to the end.⁵

³ At this point, the King James Version inserts two sentences that are not in most modern translations. Once Jesus had identified himself, He went on to say, “It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.” Then verse 6 continues: “And he, trembling and astonished, said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” The first statement is actually found in Acts 26:14. Perhaps a scribe wrote this in the margin of the ninth chapter and then accidentally it became incorporated into the text. The second statement, found in Acts 22:10, may have found its way into the text of the ninth chapter in a similar fashion. (John W. Wade, *Acts: Unlocking the Scriptures for You*, Standard Bible Studies (Cincinnati, OH: Standard, 1987), 91–92.)

⁴ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

⁵ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Ac 9:5.