Devoted to Prayer

A Five-Day Bible Reading and Devotional Guide

Sermon Text: Colossians 4:2–4

Main Truth: A life devoted to prayer demonstrates a heart dependent upon God.

Day 1 — Don’t Stop Praying

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:1–8

Key Verse: “Now he told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up.” — Luke 18:1

Have you ever prayed about something for weeks, months, or even years without seeing an answer? Sometimes it’s tempting to give up when God seems silent.

In Luke 18, Jesus tells the story of a widow who continually approached a judge seeking justice. She refused to give up. Jesus used this story to teach His followers the importance of persistent prayer.

God isn’t an unwilling judge who must be convinced to help us. He is a loving Father who hears His children.

Persistent prayer isn’t about getting God to do what we want. It’s about learning to trust Him even when we don’t understand what He’s doing.

Reflection: Is there something you’ve stopped praying about because you haven’t seen an answer?

Today’s Prayer: Father, help me remain faithful in prayer, even when answers seem delayed. Teach me to trust Your timing and Your will. Amen.

Day 2 — Keep Your Eyes Open

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36–46

Key Verse: “Stay awake and pray, so that you won’t enter into temptation.” — Matthew 26:41

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus asked His disciples to watch and pray. Instead, they fell asleep.

Jesus knew the spiritual challenges they were about to face, but the disciples failed to recognize the seriousness of the moment.

Sometimes we do the same thing. We become so busy with everyday life that we overlook the spiritual needs around us.

There may be someone in your family who needs encouragement, a friend who needs salvation, or a temptation in your own life that requires God’s strength.

Being vigilant in prayer means paying attention to those needs and bringing them before God.

Reflection: What spiritual need have you overlooked that you could begin praying about today?

Today’s Prayer: Lord, open my eyes to the needs around me. Help me recognize opportunities to pray for others and remain alert to temptation in my own life. Amen.

Day 3 — A Heart of Thanksgiving

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:15–17

Key Verse: “And be thankful.” — Colossians 3:15

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday on the calendar. For Christians, it should be a daily attitude of the heart.

It’s easy to thank God when life is going well. But what about when circumstances are difficult?

Paul reminds us that thankfulness should characterize our lives because our greatest blessings aren’t found in our circumstances. They’re found in Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, we have forgiveness, salvation, and the promise of eternal life. Even when life is difficult, those blessings remain.

We may not have everything we want, but because of Jesus, we have every reason to be thankful.

Reflection: What are three things you can thank God for today that have nothing to do with material possessions?

Today’s Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your grace, mercy, and salvation. Help me develop a thankful heart that recognizes Your goodness in every circumstance. Amen.

Day 4 — Pray for Open Doors

Scripture Reading: Colossians 4:2–6

Key Verse: “Pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word.” — Colossians 4:3

When Paul wrote to the Colossians, he was in chains because of his commitment to preaching the gospel.

You might expect him to ask the church to pray for his freedom or comfort. Instead, he asked them to pray for opportunities to tell others about Jesus.

Paul understood that the greatest need in people’s lives was to know Christ.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, we may spend time with people who don’t know Jesus as their Savior.

Rather than simply hoping an opportunity to share our faith comes along, we should begin praying for God to open those doors.

And when He does, we should be ready to speak with grace, love, and truth.

Reflection: Who is one person you can begin praying for by name who needs to hear the gospel?

Today’s Prayer: Lord, open doors for me to share the good news of Jesus. Give me courage, wisdom, and compassion to speak when those opportunities come. Amen.

Day 5 — Living in Dependence on God

Scripture Reading: John 15:1–8

Key Verse: “You can do nothing without me.” — John 15:5

Throughout the book of Colossians, Paul teaches believers how to live lives that honor Christ.

But there’s something we must never forget: We cannot live the Christian life in our own strength.

Jesus used the picture of a vine and its branches to explain our dependence upon Him. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit apart from the vine, we cannot produce lasting spiritual fruit apart from Christ.

Prayer is one of the ways we express that dependence.

When we pray persistently, vigilantly, thankfully, and for the advancement of the gospel, we're acknowledging that we need God's wisdom, strength, and grace.

Prayer isn't simply something we add to our Christian lives. It should be a vital part of how we live every day.

Reflection: What area of your life are you trying to manage in your own strength instead of depending upon God?

Today's Prayer: Father, forgive me for the times I've relied upon myself instead of You. Help me remain close to Christ and develop a life devoted to prayer. Amen.

A Challenge for the Week

This week, set aside a few minutes each day to practice the four ingredients of an effective prayer life:

• **Persistence:** Keep praying, even when answers are delayed.

• **Vigilance:** Pay attention to the spiritual needs around you.

• **Thankfulness:** Thank God for His blessings, especially salvation.

• **Intercession:** Pray for someone who needs to know Jesus.

Remember: A life devoted to prayer demonstrates a heart dependent upon God.