

# Praying for Divine Opportunity

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*Colossians 4:2-6*

## **I. What does it mean to “devote” yourself to prayer (Colossians 4:2)?**

- A. Devote means “to give constant attention to a thing” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon). This is a frequent New Testament theme (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).
- B. Likewise, Jesus told us we “should always pray and not give up.” In Luke 18, the widow’s cry is our cry, “Grant me justice against my adversary” (Luke 18:1-8).
- C. Our struggles are ultimately “against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:10-12). Our adversary is “like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (I Peter 5:8-9).
- D. “Watchful”—to give strict attention to, be cautious, active (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon)
  - 1. Defensively—Matthew 26:40-41; 6:13
  - 2. Offensively—Watching for signs of the Kingdom (Matthew 6:9-10)
- E. “Thankful”—Philippians 4:6-8
  - 1. Being thankful diminishes the size of obstacles in front of us.
  - 2. Thanksgiving also helps us to rest, even in the middle of a struggle.

## **II. Prayer opens doors for the message of Jesus to enter any person’s world (Colossians 4:3).**

- A. Connecting our prayers with our witness—looking for open doors (I Corinthians 16:8-9; Acts 19:8-10)
- B. The Ephraim Story is our story (Colossians 4:12-13; 1:6-9).
  - 1. Who are your Colossians?
  - 2. Wrestling in Colossians 4:12 means “to struggle like engaged in an intense athletic contest or warfare” (Help Word Studies).
- C. Praying for laborers in the harvest (Matthew 9:36-38)

## **III. Praying makes it easier to make the most of every opportunity (Col. 4:4-6).**

- A. Watching increases our expectancy and causes us to be more “clear” (Colossians 4:4). Clarity not only comes with the words of the Kingdom, but also with the works of the Kingdom.
- B. Making the most of every opportunity is literally translated “redeeming the time” (Colossians 4:5).
  - 1. Redeem—a marketplace word meaning to buy up or buy out
  - 2. Time (kairos) has the sense of season, suitable time, the right moment.
  - 3. Jesus paid for it all. Buy when you see the opportunity.
- C. Is your conversation “full of grace” and “seasoned with salt” (Colossians 4:6)? When I am expecting supernatural appointments from my prayers, I am listening for God but relaxed in my conversation.

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