

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

Colossians 4:2

Are you ready to pray and give thanks?

I. BE DEVOTED TO PRAYER

A. THE CONCEPT OF DEVOTION

1. To persist in asking - Luke 11:5-10 and 18:1-7
2. A resolute adherence - Daniel 6:6-10
3. To stand at the ready

B. SOME REASONS FOR DEVOTION - See Matthew 6:9-13

1. Prayerful worship (9)
2. Prayerful submission (10)
3. Prayerful request (11)
4. Prayerful repentance (12)
5. Prayerful protection (13)

C. SOME EXAMPLES OF PERSISTENT PRAYER

1. An elderly Zacharias and Elizabeth - Luke 1:13
2. 120 faithful disciples - Acts 1:14
3. The Pentecost believers - Acts 2:42
4. Church leaders in Jerusalem - Acts 6:4
5. The Gentile Cornelius - Acts 10:1-2
6. A suffering Paul - II Cor. 12:8

D. DEVOTED PRAYER DROPOUTS

1. Some will quit due to disbelief > It doesn't work!
2. Others stop due to disappointment > I didn't get what I wanted!
3. People quit because of impatience > I'm tired of waiting on the Lord

II. BE ALERT IN PRAYER

A. BE WATCHFUL

1. Knowing what's going on around you and praying accordingly
2. Being diligently devoted to the work of prayer

Over please >

B. BE AWARE ...

1. Of your needs
 - a. There's a weak flesh within you - Mark 14:38
 - b. There's a devouring devil around you - I Peter 5:7
2. Of other's needs
 - a. The saints need prayer support - See Eph. 6:18
 - b. They will need you to assist them

C. BE FOCUSED - I Peter 4:7

1. Being sensible and self-controlled so as to pray at any time
2. Being specific in prayer

D. BE ADVISED: Some practical suggestions for alert praying

1. Pray Scripture
2. Pray by singing worship songs and hymns
3. Pray in a place without distractions
4. Pray standing up
5. Pray out loud
6. Pray on an empty stomach
7. Pray after proper rest

III. BE THANKFUL IN PRAYER**A. PAUL'S EXPERIENCE**

1. Conscious of blessings - See Col. 4:10-11
2. Perceptive about burdens - See Phil. 1:12-14

B. PAUL'S EXAMPLE

1. Thanksgiving and prayer for the Colossians - Col. 1:3
2. Expressing thanks for an eternal inheritance - Col. 1:12
3. Encouraging gratitude for Christ's salvation and sanctification - Col. 2:6-7
4. Tying Christ's peace, words and name to thanksgiving - Col. 3:15-17

C. OUR EXPRESSIONS

1. Be thankful for other believers
2. Be thankful amid trials
3. Be thankful for God's promises
4. Be thankful for Christ's salvation and sanctification
5. Be thankful for Christ's presence and power in our lives

CONCLUSION: **Psalm 86:6-12**

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