

**Devote
Yourselves To
Prayer**

12-12-21

Colossians 4:2 (NASB)

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.

The devotion to prayer is repeated several times in the NT. Jesus, the Apostles, and the early church embraced its importance. Jesus prayed and encouraged others to pray with persistence and confidence. This is not surprising, since prayer is the avenue for engaging God.

Not only should we be devoted to prayer, but we should also should “keep alert” watching for answers to our prayers. When we pray things happen. **Many times, God is doing things that don’t seem connected to our prayers. We need to be alert to all the ways God may move when we pray.**

This leads us to being “Thankful” when we pray. *We are thankful because the God who created all things hears us and moves on our behalf. We are so excited expecting God to move, we are thankful.*

Here we have three components of prayer: 1) Devotion to prayer, 2) Keep alert, and 3) Be thankful. The NT gives us these spiritual truths. However, in the OT, we often have physical pictures of these spiritual truths. In Psalm 18, we will see the physical picture of these three specific aspects of prayer. Devotion: We will see God’s children pray to HIM in their distress. Keep Alert: We will see a glimpse of God’s reaction in heaven to a believer’s prayer. Thankful: We will see God’s ultimate answer and deliverance.

First: Devote yourselves to Prayer! Commitment/Belief

Psalm 18:1–3 (ESV)

- ¹ I love you, O LORD, my strength.
- ² The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- ³ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

Devotion: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised!

Second: Keep alert! When we pray God moves!

Psalm 18:7–15 (ESV)

- ⁷ Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and quaked, because he was angry.
- ⁸ Smoke went up from his nostrils,
and devouring fire from his mouth;
glowing coals flamed forth from him.
- ⁹ He bowed the heavens and came down;

thick darkness was under his feet.

¹⁰ He rode on a cherub and flew;

he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.

¹¹ He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him,

thick clouds dark with water.

¹² Out of the brightness before him

hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.

¹³ The LORD also thundered in the heavens,

and the Most High uttered his voice,

hailstones and coals of fire.

¹⁴ And he sent out his arrows and scattered them;

he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.

¹⁵ Then the channels of the sea were seen,

and the foundations of the world were laid bare

at your rebuke, O LORD,

at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

Keep alert: We pray, look around us, then look into heaven and determine that nothing is happening. However, more is happening than we can ever imagine.

God is explaining HIS actions and response when we pray. **God is moving heaven and earth to bring everything into position to accomplish every aspect of our prayers consistent with HIS will.** In this Psalm, God is screaming out that we do not have any idea of the magnitude of the things happening when we pray. Just because we cannot see immediate results doesn't mean nothing is happening. Pastor Milliken said, "Pray it all the way through!"

Third: Thanksgiving! *We are thankful because the God who created all things hears us and moves on our behalf. It is so exciting to Pray.*

Psalm 18:16 & 19 (ESV)

¹⁶ He sent from on high, God took me;

God drew me out of many waters.

¹⁹ God brought me out into a broad place;

God rescued me, because HE delighted in me.

Thanksgiving: We are thankful because God delights in us. We are so excited anticipating the move of God! Question: Why wouldn't we be devoted to prayer, keeping alert with thanksgiving? This is why Jesus said, "Don't give up!"

Luke 18:1 (ESV)

Jesus told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.