

Prayer Basics for Everyone

Colossians 4:2-4

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.
Colossians 4:2-4 (NIV)

● MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

- Prayer is a tool or technique to get what you want.

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God . . ."
Luke 18:14a (New International Version)

Prayer = the choice to direct ourselves toward friendship with God; its primary purpose is to further our relationship with Him!

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:7 (English Standard Version)

- Prayer gets "results" when your heart is 100% pure.

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.
Psalm 66:18 (NIV)

. . . The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16 (NIV)

Prayer is effective when your heart is right, not when your heart is 100% pure.

- God already knows what we need and besides, He's going to do what He wants to do anyway, so why pray?

. . . You do not have, because you do not ask God. James 4:2c (NIV)

"What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. ⁴²Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." Luke 18:41-42 (NIV)

Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times.
Romans 12:12 (Good News Translation)

● PRAYER BASICS

- Believers are to persist in prayer.

See Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 12:12
The Parable of the Persistent Widow from Luke 18:1-8
The Parable of the Friend at Midnight from Luke 11:5-10

- Believers are to pray specifically.

He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance. Acts 28:30-31 (ESV)

How to Pray Specifically

Be watchful = Be alert and discerning

- Pray specifically for people and events and situations in your world that do not measure up to the will of God as found in His Word.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

- Pray specifically for the things in your life that would otherwise make you anxious.

- Believers are to pray with an attitude of thanksgiving.

(See Colossians 1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:14, 17; 4:2)

Thanksgiving is basic to prayer because giving thanks will change your heart.

- It promotes joy.
- It helps believers keep a godly perspective.
- It promotes faith.