

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study - April 8, 2021**

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**Title: "Continue in Watchful Prayer"**

**Scripture Reference: Colossians 4:2**

**"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."**

**I. Introduction**

A. Have you ever gone through a period in your life when you were tempted to give up on something you were praying for because the answer seemed too long in coming?

B. If we will be honest with ourselves, we all have probably experienced times when we prayed in faith, but the answer to our prayers seemed to come far too slowly.

C. When this happens, here are some questions that perhaps come to your mind:

- How long should I continue believing God for the answer to my prayers to come to pass in my life?
  
- Should I give up hope that my answer will come?
  
- Is there anything special that I should be doing while I am waiting for God to answer my prayer request?
  
- What attitude should I maintain while I continue to wait for my answer?

D. These questions are all very applicable to our spiritual walk, so let's explore what the Bible has to say about how we should

respond when the answer to our prayers are delayed.

E. In Colossians 4:2, the Apostle Paul outlined the kind of attitude we must maintain as we wait for the answers to our prayers.

## II. Exposition [Part I]

A. Paul wrote, "Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving." (Col. 4:2) Let's examine several key words in this particularly important verse.

B. First, Paul says, "**Continue** in prayer ...." The word "continue" is translated from the Greek word *proskartereo*, which is a compound of the words *pros* and *kartereo*.

C. The word *pros* is the preposition *to* or *toward*, and it carries the idea of *close, up-front, intimate contact* with someone else.

D. A good example of this word *pros* is found in Ephesians 6:12, where it is used to describe our close contact with unseen, demonic spirits that have been marshaled against us.

E. The second word *kartereo* means *to be strong, to be stout, to bear up, to have fortitude, or to be steadfast*. Typically, it carries the idea of something that is *strong, robust, solid, or heavy duty*.

F. When these two words are compounded, as they are in Colossians 4:2, the new word depicts a strong, solid, "never-give-up type" of attitude.

G. It pictures a person who wants something so fiercely that he or she is leaning forward toward that object - *pressing toward it devoted to the goal of obtaining it, and persistently engaged in activities that will bring the object of his or her desire to themselves*.

H. Therefore, by using the word *proskartereo*, Paul is emphatically urging us to do three things as we wait for God to answer our prayers:

1. Stay forward directed and focused in prayer.
2. Keep pressing into the Spirit.
3. Be committed to refuse to give up until you have obtained an answer from God.

### III. Exposition [Part II]

A. There will be times in your life when the answers to your prayers will not come quickly; but continue to pray.

B. The Greek word translated "**prayer**" in this verse is also very important. It is the word *proseuche*, a compound of the Greek words *pros* and *euche* and it is used 127 times in the New Testament.

C. It was pointed out earlier that the preposition *pros* means *to* or *toward*, and it conveys the idea of closeness. The word *euche* is an old Greek term that describes *a wish, a desire, a prayer, or a vow*.

D. This word was originally used in Scripture to describe a person who makes a vow to God because of a *need* or *desire* in their life.

E. This person is so desperate for an answer that they promise to give something of great value to God in exchange for a favorable answer to prayer.

F. This first part of the word *proseuche* - *pros* - tells us that prayer should bring us face-to-face with God.

#### Comments:

- 1) Prayer is more than a mechanical act or a formula to follow.
- 2) Prayer is a vehicle through which you can enjoy a close, intimate relationship with God, especially when you are trying to break

through spiritual barriers or press deeper into the Spirit.

**Point:** Prayer is the strength of the believer's fellowship with the Lord and the source of our power against Satan and his angels (cf. Eph. 6:18)

G. The second aspect of the word *proseuche* - *euche*, indicates that **sacrifice** is a vital component of prayer. When you come before the Lord, you must be willing to surrender yourself and make any changes in your life that God requires.

H. This is because there are potential areas in our life that can block God's blessings. Therefore, as you draw near to God, the Holy Spirit will convict your heart of any area(s) that need to be surrendered to Him.

I. If you respond in obedience to His conviction and repent, the obstacles in your life that were hindering your prayers will be removed, and a clear channel or path will open and answers to your prayers will come.

#### IV. Exposition [Part III]

A. Paul continued in Colossians 4:2 by saying, "Continue in prayer, and watch ...." The word "watch" is the word *gregoreo*, meaning to **be awake**, to **be watchful**, or to be vigilant.

B. It refers to a spiritual **watchful attitude** and can be translated, "**Be wide awake** ...." Rather than go to sleep on the job after spending time praying, pressing, and interceding, you need to **keep your eyes wide open** so you can watch for the answer you are requesting.

C. Remember, the word "Continue" (*proskartereo*) refers to someone who wants something so fiercely that he or she is leaning forward and pressing toward it, actively engaged in activities that will bring the object of their desire to fruition.

D. This person is forward directed, focused in prayer, pressing into the Spirit, and resolute in his or her determination not to give

up until they have received the answer to their prayers.,

E. It is a picture of a believer who has prayed long and hard and is now becoming weary from constant prayer. Therefore, Paul exhorts us, "Stay awake! Stay on your guard! Keep your eyes open!"

***Once you pray in faith and begin to make the changes God requires of you, you need to stay vigilant and watch for the answers to your prayers to show up!***

#### V. Exposition [Part IV]

A. The final point Paul made in this verse is that you must "... watch in the same with thanksgiving ...."

B. The word "thanksgiving" is the Greek word eucharistia, which is a compound of the words *eu* and *charis*.

C. The *eu* means *good* or *well*, and it always denotes a good *disposition* or *a good feeling about something*.

D. The word *charis* is the Greek word *grace*. When these two words are compounded, the new word *describes an outpouring of grace and wonderful feelings that freely flow from the heart in response to someone or something*.

E. By using this word, Paul taught that you must persistently engage in aggressive prayer - heartily seeking a specific answer from God as you keep your attitude vigilant and your eyes watchful for God to answer.

F. As you take that stance of faith, lift your voice to thank God in advance for the answer.

***Thanksgiving is the voice of faith that thanks God for the answer before it comes!***

G. It is hard to be discouraged or defeated when you are

continually thankful. Therefore, be sure to maintain a thankful, faith-filled heart as you watch for your answer to arrive.

Consider the following paraphrase of Colossians 4:2 using the Greek translation of the words pointed out during this lesson.

***"Be committed to ongoing and relentless prayer! You have to press toward that answer you are seeking. You have to be devoted to the goal of obtaining it as you stay engaged in the robust, strong, stout, never-give-up kind of prayer that brings you straight into the presence of God! While you are persistently and aggressively praying, you also need to stay wide awake, constantly keeping your eyes open as you look for and expect your answer. And while you are doing all of this, don't forget to stay in an attitude of thanksgiving that gives thanks to God in advance for the answer you are seeking ...."***

H. Have you been tempted to give up on something that you have been praying for because the answer isn't coming as quickly as you wish?

I. If so, don't throw up your hands in exasperation and walk away!

Remain faithful and stay alert, because you may be on the very brink of receiving your long-awaited answer! Encourage yourself (delight thyself in the Lord) and you may even feel like singing - "Lord, I need a breakthrough"!

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow. All Scriptures have been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"And let us not be \_\_\_\_\_ in well doing: for in \_\_\_\_\_ we shall \_\_\_\_\_, if we \_\_\_\_\_ not.

[Galatians 6:9]

"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, always \_\_\_\_\_ in the work of the Lord,  
forasmuch as ye \_\_\_\_\_ that your \_\_\_\_\_ is not in  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_."

[1 Corinthians 15:58]

"And \_\_\_\_\_, whatsoever ye shall ask in \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, ye shall receive."

[Matthew 21:22]

"Pray without \_\_\_\_\_."

[1 Thessalonians 5:17]

"And this is the \_\_\_\_\_ that we have in him, that if we ask  
\_\_\_\_\_ to his will, he heareth us, And if we  
\_\_\_\_\_ that he \_\_\_\_\_ us, \_\_\_\_\_ we ask, we know  
that we have the \_\_\_\_\_ that we desired of him."

[1 John 5:14,15]

"If I regard \_\_\_\_\_ in my \_\_\_\_\_, the Lord will not hear  
me."

[Psalm 66:18]

"But verily God hath \_\_\_\_\_ me; he hath \_\_\_\_\_ to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of my prayer."

[Psalm 66:19]

### Questions For You To Consider

1. Can you say that you have been unrelentingly committed to continuing in your prayers until you receive the answer you have sought from the Lord?
2. Have you maintained an attitude of thankfulness while you have

waited for an answer to your prayers? Be honest! Have you lifted your voice by faith to thank the Lord in advance for the answer even though you haven't seen it yet?

3. Before you do anything else, why not take a few minutes starting right now, to get into an attitude of thanksgiving and verbally praise and worship God for hearing and answering your prayers.

I pray that this lesson has been a blessing to you, and you have been encouraged. As always, feel free to share what you have learned with others.

Jude 3

Shalom

Pastor Austin