

# Growth Group Bible Study

Moving Toward Maturity: Becoming a Fully Devoted  
Follower of Jesus Sermon Series  
*Practicing Prayer*



February 24, 2019

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**Reading** Colossians 4:2-4; Ephesians 6:18-19

## Opening Questions

1. If you could change one thing about your family life growing up, what would it be?
2. Is prayer and praying something that comes easily to you, is a challenge or is somewhere in between? What are the “barriers” to prayer for you?
3. When and where do you feel you “pray best”?
4. Whom do you pray with (e.g. spouse, close friend, family member)?

## Study

1. How would you define prayer and why is it emphasized so often in Scripture?
2. When Paul says to be “devoted to prayer” (Col. 4:2), what does that mean and what purpose does prayer serve? cf. Mark 3:9; Acts 1:14; 2:42; 6:4; Romans 12:2; 1 Thess. 5:17
3. Paul adds that we are to “keep alert” in prayer (Col. 4:2). What does that mean and how do we do that? cf. Matt. 26:41; 1 Peter 5:8
4. What did Paul want prayer for in Col. 4:3-4?

5. Read following Scriptures and record things we can be alert to pray for:
  - a. 2 Cor. 13:7, 9
  - b. Phil. 1:9
  - c. Col. 1:9-12
  - d. Heb. 13:18
  - e. 3 John 2
  
6. Paul adds that we are to pray with thanksgiving. How does that thanksgiving fit in with prayer? cf. Phil. 4:6
  
7. Why is it important to “consider the content” of our prayers? cf. Matt. 6:7; 1 Peter 4:7
  
8. Does the length of our prayers or our posture in prayer or our place of prayer matter? cf. Matt. 6:5-7; Luke 20:46-47; Acts 10:9; 1 Tim. 2:8
  
9. How can “starting slow and simple in prayer” and “scheduling prayer” help us to move toward maturity as fully devoted followers of Jesus? cf. Luke 5:16
  
10. How can sharing prayer with other Christians be of help to us and others? cf. Luke 9:28; Acts 12:5; Romans 15:30; 2 Cor. 1:11
  
11. How can “rehearsing God’s work” from past prayers encourage us to pray more?

### **Application**

1. Honestly look at your prayer life and evaluate where God can lead you to “excel still more” in prayer. e.g. To set aside more time to pray, to pray with your spouse regularly, to “stand ready” to pray more as you go through a day, etc.