

## Colossians 4:2-4 – Prayer.

Posture (kneeling, standing, sitting, pacing, hands...), place (Jonah from a fish belly, David in a cave, Elijah on a mountain/valley, the Jews facing a wall), alone or a group, reason (relationship or circumstances), length, time, tone, what (make their paths slippery and shutter their teeth), motive, anticipating what answer?...

"I feel a great sense of lack in my own life when it comes to prayer. Not so much in regard to...on the spot prayer, but in...dedicated times of prayer." *Richard Cimino.*

"Cover to cover, the Bible is filled with different people, male and female, young and old, in different historical contexts, in different cultural contexts, in different personal contexts (rich, poor, sick, afraid, heartbroken, joyful, defeated, victorious, doubting, hopeful) talking to God."

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" - Corrie ten Boom

### **I. Ask**

The ancient Greek word translated **continue** is "Built on a root meaning 'to be strong,' it always connotes earnest adherence to a person or thing. In this passage it implies persistence and fervor." (Vaughan)

**Continue – be strong in prayer - address God** (continuous)...

Persistent (like the widow petitioning the unrighteous judge), consistence (like a marathon), and perseverance (like its wrestling down an untiring opponent)...

**1 Chronicles 4:10** - *And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.*

**Luke 11:11-13** - *So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."*

**John 14:13** - *"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

**Acts 16:25-26** - *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a*

*great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.*

*"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." - Max Lucado*

## II. Give thanks.

**Being vigilant** (*wakeful*). "Sometimes, because of the tiredness of our body or mind, we struggle against sleep when we pray. Other times we pray *as if* we were asleep." We are to thank God for what He has done, He is doing and He is yet to do.

**Psalm 136:1-3** – *Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!  
For His mercy endures forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods!  
For His mercy endures forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords!  
For His mercy endures forever:*

**Psalm 147:7-8** - *Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
Sing praises on the harp to our God, Who covers the heavens with clouds,  
Who prepares rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.*

Just as Ironside was about to begin his meal, a man approached and asked if he could join him. Ironside invited him to have a seat. Then, as was his custom, Ironside bowed his head in prayer. When he opened his eyes, the other man asked, "Do you have a headache?" Ironside replied, "No, I don't." The other man asked, "Well, is there something wrong with your food?" Ironside replied, "No, I was simply thanking God as I always do before I eat."

The man said, "Oh, you're one of those, are you? Well, I want you to know I never give thanks. I earn my money by the sweat of my brow and I don't have to give thanks to anybody when I eat. I just start right in!"

Ironside said, "Yes, you're just like my dog. That's what he does too!"

Ray Stedman, Folk Psalms of Faith.

Thanksgiving became a federal holiday in 1863, during the American Civil War. Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November, after their first Harvest...

Give thanks in prayer, in work, in singing, through the painful and joyful seasons,

### III. Intercede.

Paul asked prayer that was towards God's call upon him – apostle and preacher. It's prudent to ask for prayer and we are under obligation to pray for others.

Can you imagine coming to God and asking for His power to love your family members as you should, for His grace to make it through a trial you've encountered, for His assistance to provide for yourself and for your family and then be turned away empty handed? It's unthinkable.

**Matthew 26:39** - *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and **prayed**, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

**1 Timothy 2:1-2** - *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*

**James 5:16** - *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man **avails much**.*

**1 John 5:14-15** - *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.*

**Philippians 4:6-7** - *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

*When we pray, remember: The love of God that wants the best for us. The wisdom of God that knows what is best for us. The power of God that can accomplish it.*

**William Barclay**

"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'" - Billy Graham