• • TRANSCRIPT

• November 5th, 2026 "***The Need For Continued Prayer***

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Good to see everybody today. I'm so glad you're all here. We're so thankful that people are watching from the internet.

And we just thank you all for being a part of our worship. And if you have your Bibles, if you could please turn to Colossians chapter 4. And I'm not going to be too long with this message, even though it has four points. But it's good to have everybody here.

And this message is very important, even though I feel I'm not going to be too long with it. But if you have your Bibles, Colossians chapter 4, beginning in verse 1. The Bible says, I am also in bonds, that I may make it manifest as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man. Let's pray. Father, we thank you.

We thank you so much, Lord, for all that you've given us, the mercy you show us, the grace that you pour upon us, the promises you have given us. And Father, thank you that we can meet in a place like this, free, and worship you. But most of all, hear your word.

So, Lord, speak to each and every one of us through your word. And we give you all the glory and all the honor in Jesus' name. Amen.

Well, you can be seated at this time. You know, we all heard messages on the need to pray and the need to witness. Isn't it true? I mean, it's one of the staples of the church.

And we know that prayer makes a difference. It really does. And we have access to God of the universe at any time and anywhere.

Can you imagine that? What an honor to create a God that we have access to him. And I know that without prayer, we are powerless. We truly are.

And that's what I believe is the power of every church, is the power of the praying people, when we can get a hold of God and he hears our prayers, amen? And yet, if you were really honest with yourselves, most of us don't pray like we ought to. Amen? If we truly, truly knew that we could get a hold of God, that God can do mighty things, and yet we don't pray as we should. And there's nothing that my flesh resists quite as much as being, how I can say, still in seeking God.

You know, every time I go down to pray, there's so many things that hit me in the head, things that I'm

thinking of. It's just a battle when we really want to seek God and get alone with him. But prayer is one of the sweetest privileges we'll ever enjoy and one of the biggest struggles we'll ever endure.

How many understand what I'm talking about? Yeah. And I believe that's why on a midweek service, you don't see many people out like you would on a Sunday morning. And for some reason, there's a lot that's attacking prayer time, whether it's in your own life or whether it's corporate prayer.

We are being assaulted with our time being stolen. And in one sense, prayer is simple, but yet it is also the most difficult part of the Christian life, having that faithfulness, having that, how can I say it, that deep down grit to continue in prayer. Amen.

So here in Colossians chapter 4, notice here in this passage of Scripture, four helpful guidelines when we are to be devoted to prayer. And it's right here in verse 2 of Colossians chapter 4. The first one that we're looking at is pray with perseverance. Look what it says in Colossians chapter 4 verse 2. It says, continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

This word continue means to be earnest towards or to persevere, to be constant, diligent. To give self continually. That's persevering, amen.

That is getting down to the grit, holding on and fighting through. It implies a sense of unrelenting perseverance. And it kind of brings me back to Acts chapter 2, the first century church and what we read in the book of Acts.

Why don't we turn there, Acts chapter 2. Look what it says in verse 42. And of course, this was at the beginning. And when you look at it, the beginning of the church, you could see the enthusiasm, the excitement.

And here in Acts chapter 2 verse 42, it says this, and they continued, here's another word, steadfastly in the apostles' doctrines and fellowship and in breaking of bread and in prayers. Steadfastly. That's simply another word of persevering, amen.

And today, my desire would be that the church, and not just ours, but the church all over, the born-again Bible-believing, Bible-teaching churches, would all recognize the need for continued prayer, the need for perseverance, the need. And when we look at what's going on in the world, when we look what's going on in our own nation, boy, do we need prayer, amen. Prayer is the strength of the believer's fellowship with the Lord.

And it's the believer's source of power. The Bible has always said you can't do nothing in your own strength, amen. 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 17, what a simple, small verse.

It says pray without ceasing. Isn't that the same thing as persevering? Isn't that the same thing as steadfastly? We're called to persevere. We're called to pray without ceasing, and we're to live in a perpetual state of prayer.

I think a couple of months ago I called it situational praying, amen. That's when your mind is always set, and everything that you're doing or hearing, you're continually praying and lifting it up to the Lord. Situational prayer.

Paul doesn't leave us without just an appeal. He also gives us a couple of tips on how to remain devoted

in our prayer. Secondly, we see in Colossians chapter 4 verse 2, we see where it says, and watch in the same.

So the second point is pray with watchfulness. Again, as I just mentioned, situational prayer. That means whatever you're dealing with, whatever you see, continually lifting it up, looking at the opportunities, looking at the situations, looking at the problems, and lifting them up to the one who can change it all, amen.

With watchfulness, continuing prayer and watch in the same. It has a note of continually watching and looking around and being alert. And I think today the church is asleep, and Paul here continues by saying that we are to be watchful, or in other words, awake when we pray, awake of the situations, awake of what's going on.

First Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 6 says it this way. Therefore, let us not sleep as do others, but let us watch and be sober. More so now than ever.

The church needs to be awake of what's going on. We need to be engaged. We need to be watchful.

We need to be praying more now than ever. As we see that day approaching, amen, my desire again is for us to pray more, to see more people come out, midweek service, to put aside our busy schedules and say, listen, the most important thing is to get a hold of God, to get a hold of his throne. The apostle Paul told the first century believers to be alert as the time approaches for the Lord's return.

He said it in his day. Can you imagine what he would be saying in our day? Amen. Consider the difference between two military soldiers.

I've said this before. One God in the National Guard base in the Cape, or one God in a platoon in Tora Bora, Afghanistan. Which one you think is more alert? Which one feels he's in a fight for his life? Which one will not sleep? Which one will keep his eyes out? And because we're in a spiritual battle, and I believe most of the church doesn't even understand that.

We really are. And the greatest thing we can do as a church is to come together and pray. And that's why I say the need for continued prayer, because we're in a spiritual battle.

And then the second, I mean the third point, is pray with all faith. Look again in Colossians 4, verse 2. It says, continue in prayer and watch in the same. Now when you look at continue in prayer and watch in the same, this is not something that is just kind of like double-minded thinking.

This is doing it with faith. Amen? We need to have faith when we come. As we continually pray while being watchful, we need to approach God believing that he's the only one that can change the situation that we're dealing with.

He's the only one that can fulfill our request when we come to his throne. We can't be looking at the White House or the State House or the townhouse. Amen? We need to be putting our faith and trusting in God, in God alone.

Yes, he uses men. Yes, he uses people. He used David to slay the Goliath.

Amen? But I can bet that there were Israelites that were praying when they saw the situation and the

size of Goliath and being filled with fear. I can see that they were praying and crying out, oh God, in fear. But yet this little shepherd boy was the only one that stood in faith.

Amen? Hebrews chapter 11, verse 6 says, but without faith it is impossible to please him. For he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. That word, diligently seek him, what does that sound like? It sounds like prayer.

Amen? We need to be faithful. We need to have faith. We need to walk in faith, seeking him because he's the one.

Hebrews 11, 6, that's powerful. And then here's my last point. Pray with the attitude of thanksgiving.

Boy, I see people praying with fear. Amen? I see people praying with a double-minded. They're praying but they don't believe God's going to do it.

Amen? I'm only being truthful. But the greatest thing we need to do is come to God with a thankful heart. Look what it says in Colossians chapter 4, verse 2. It says, continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving.

We should never pray without first thanking God for who he is and the mercy he shows us and the help that he can give us. Never forget that. We can do nothing without him.

He's the one. He's the miracle maker. And we need to be thankful because he's called us to himself.

He's forgiven us. And he's given us a home in heaven. Never, never pray to God without a spirit of thanksgiving.

Philippians chapter 4, verse 6 says this. Be careful for nothing but with everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. Let your requests be made known unto God.

Is that how you pray? Do you come to God with boldness, knowing that he will hear you? Do you come to God in faith, knowing that he's going to do, he's going to change the situation that you're bringing to him? Do you come to God not with a spirit of fear, but with a spirit and an attitude of thankfulness, a spirit of gratitude? I think so many times us believers, we're more in line of what? Complaining. We're no different than the Hebrews that just came out of bondage. They were complaining.

Let us not be the complainers. Let us be thankful. Let us have a gratitude that stimulates the prayer, knowing that we see answers prayed, and it just stimulates us to pray even more and to be even more thankful when we see these prayers answered.

Our attitude of thanksgiving is a sweet sacrifice to God. Do you realize that? God loves it. When he hears the praise of his people, it's a sweet sacrifice to him.

It says it in Psalm 116, verse 17. It says, I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. What a blessing.

Do you realize how blessed we are? Forgiving. Giving a seat at his table in the protection of his throne, and yet we highly, really, truly pray with faith. Pray without ceasing.

Pray being watchful. I challenge each and every one of you. I challenge you to say in your own heart, to make a pledge to God that you're going to pray more, that you're going to seek him more.

He's given us so many things, and we can thank him for his presence, his provision, his pardon, his promises, all for his purpose and not ours. And he's called us into a relationship. And it's not only one way.

It's both ways. And it starts with prayer. I'll say it again.

The only power that this church will ever have is the power from our prayers. We can't do anything without first praying about it. With faith and thanksgiving in our hearts.

Amen? That's what pleases God. And I'm here to tell you, Jesus himself said it, you have not because you ask not. Amen? He wants us to ask.

He wants us to come with faith. Listen, persevering faith, not letting go. I can imagine the lady with the issue of blood when she first saw Jesus, if I could only touch the hem of his garment.

That was perseverance. I think of Zacchaeus climbing that sycamore tree, small in stature, couldn't see nothing. But he had to see Jesus.

Amen? What are you dealing with in your life? What's the church dealing with? What's this country dealing that needs prayer? Amen? Let's get back to being a people of prayer. Let's get back to this meeting house being called a house of prayer. Let's make a pact with God and say, God, we are going to pray more.

And I tell you right now, if that was in our heart, we could see the power of God move in this church like never before. And, you know, it doesn't really need one or two. I mean, a hundred.

It only needs a few to stop this and to say, you know what? I'm going to pray. Let it be tonight. Let's pray.

Father, we thank you. Father, I know we come here every midweek service and lift up our prayers. And, Father, as we look around, we don't see anybody else here but just the faithful.

And, Father, if we could only get a few more sold out to you that would persevere and pray continually, being watchful and being thankful. Oh, God, what you could do if we would get serious in our prayer life. I ask you now, Lord, that you would change all of our hearts.

In this I pray in Jesus' name, amen.