

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And 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. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:2-6 (NIV)

Every Opportunity

I want to see and take every opportunity that you give me to serve you. I want to walk through doors of opportunity that you will open so that I can faithfully do the work you will give me to do for you. I want to be able to boldly proclaim the good news of the Gospel to those who do not know you. I want to live wisely before others so that my life will serve as a vibrant witness for you in this dark world. Give me your words so that I will speak life giving grace filled words that will draw others to you. Let all my words be seasoned with salt so that I can add your flavor to everyone in the world around me. **You have very good desires in your heart and mind. You want what I want.** I am sure that these desires that are in my heart have come from you. **Yes, these desires that you have expressed do come from me.**

How will the desires that you have in your heart be fulfilled? That is a question that I would like to ask you. **Well, that is a question I have asked you.** If you have asked me a question you must want me to think about the answer or maybe I already know the answer. **That's right.** I will do both. **That's good. Then tell me your answer.** I will.

The desires that you have placed in my heart will be fulfilled as I remain watchful and thankful in prayer. As I pray, you will show me what you want me to see. You will show me doors of opportunity to serve you. **Yes, I will.** As I pray, you will help me to be a bold and fruitful witness for you in the world. **Yes, I will.** As, I pray, you will give me grace filled words to speak that you draw others to you, **Yes, I will.** As I pray, you will help me to live and speak a life seasoned with salt that will spread the flavor of you everywhere. **Yes, I will. Will you continue to be watchful and thankful in prayer?** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I will be watchful and thankful in prayer. As I pray, help me to take every opportunity to serve you. Guide my prayers so I and others will have doors of opportunity to boldly serve you. Help me to live wisely so I will speak grace filled words to outsiders. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Being Watchful*

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And 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. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

NIV Colossians 4:2-6

Becoming Like Christ *Being Watchful*

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

ESV Colossians 4:2-6

Becoming Like Christ *Alert*

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

NLT Colossians 4:2-6

Becoming Like Christ *Being Vigilant*

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

NKJV Colossians 4:2-6

Becoming Like Christ *Being Alert*

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should. Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

NRSV Colossians 4:2-6

Becoming Like Christ *Stay Alert*

Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide open in gratitude. Don't forget to pray for us, that God will open doors for telling the mystery of Christ, even while I'm locked up in this jail. Pray that every time I open my mouth I'll be able to make Christ plain as day to them. Use your heads as you live and work among outsiders. Don't miss a trick. Make the most of every opportunity. Be gracious in your speech. The goal is to bring out the best in others in a conversation, not put them down, not cut them out.

MSG Colossians 4:2-6

Becoming Like Christ *Being Alert*

Be earnest and unwearied and steadfast in your prayer [life], being [both] alert and intent in [your praying] with thanksgiving. And at the same time pray for us also, that God may open a door to us for the Word (the Gospel), to proclaim the mystery concerning Christ (the Messiah) on account of which I am in prison; That I may proclaim it fully and make it clear [speak boldly and unfold that mystery], as is my duty. Behave yourselves wisely [living prudently and with discretion] in your relations with those of the outside world (the non-Christians), making the very most of the time and seizing (buying up) the opportunity. Let your speech at all times be gracious (pleasant and winsome), seasoned [as it were] with salt, [so that you may never be at a loss] to know how you ought to answer anyone [who puts a question to you].

AMP Colossians 4:2-6

Becoming Like Christ *Watch*

Don't be weary in prayer; keep at it; watch for God's answers, and remember to be thankful when they come. Don't forget to pray for us too, that God will give us many chances to preach the Good News of Christ for which I am here in jail. Pray that I will be bold enough to tell it freely and fully and make it plain, as, of course, I should. Make the most of your chances to tell others the Good News. Be wise in all your contacts with them. Let your conversation be gracious as well as sensible, for then you will have the right answer for everyone.

TLB Colossians 4:2-6

Becoming Like Christ *Keeping Alert*

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

NASB Colossians 4:2-6

Becoming Like Christ *Keeping Alert*

Continue praying, keeping alert, and always thanking God. Also pray for us that God will give us an opportunity to tell people his message. Pray that we can preach the secret that God has made known about Christ. This is why I am in prison. Pray that I can speak in a way that will make it clear, as I should. Be wise in the way you act with people who are not believers, making the most of every opportunity. When you talk, you should always be kind and pleasant so you will be able to answer everyone in the way you should.

NCV Colossians 4:2-6

Being Watchful

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Becoming Like Christ – Colossians 4:2-6

In Context: Read Colossians 4

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: (What is God speaking to your heart?)

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And 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. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:2-6

Considering The Words: (What words speak to your heart?)

Devote yourselves | to prayer, | being watchful | and | thankful. | And 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. | Pray that | I may | proclaim it | clearly, | as I should. | Be wise | in the way | you act | toward outsiders; | make the most | of every opportunity. | Let your conversation | be always | full of grace, | seasoned with salt, | so that | you may | know how | to answer everyone. Colossians 4:2-6

Praying The Scripture: (What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I will be watchful and thankful in prayer. As I pray, help me to take every opportunity to serve you. Guide my prayers so I and others will have doors of opportunity to boldly serve you. Help me to live wisely so I will speak grace filled words to outsiders. Amen

What It Means: (What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How are you making it your daily practice to be watchful and thankful in prayer?

How has being watchful and thankful in prayer allowed you to see opportunities to serve the Lord?

How has prayer opened up opportunities for both you and others to fruitfully serve the Lord?

How are you being faithful in taking the opportunities the Lord gives you to serve Him?

How has living a life of prayer helped you to be bold in proclaiming the Gospel to others?

How has being watchful and thankful in prayer helped you to live wisely toward outsiders?

How has being watchful and thankful in prayer helped your conversation to full of grace?

Living It Out: (What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Be watchful and thankful in prayer so that you will see and take every opportunity to serve the Lord.

Seeing It Happen: (What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will give you opportunities to serve Him as you remain watchful and thankful in prayer.

Get Ready To Share: (What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group what you have seen as you have remained watchful in prayer.

Close With Prayer: Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you be watchful and thankful in prayer so you will use every opportunity God gives you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will be watchful and thankful in prayer so I can use every opportunity you give me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what opportunities will you give me to serve you today?
