



20

DAY 20

JANUARY 28, 2023

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KEY SCRIPTURES

Colossians 4:2–6

Be Alert!

It's very easy to become overwhelmed when faced with all the tragedy we experience in our world. This can lead to despair, as we feel hopeless in the face of a brokenness, angry at the injustice we see, and paralyzed by fear. In response, some of us express indignation without the ability or desire to be a part of the solution. Others of us create escape mechanisms so that we don't have to think about, or deal with, the pain we see all around us.

But the Bible offers another option! In Colossians 4:2-6 we read, "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."

Paul reminds us to be "watchful" and "thankful" in prayer.

What does this mean? The word "watchful" in the Greek means, "to stay awake, to be alert, to be vigilant." It's an image of a soldier who's standing guard on the watch tower, looking earnestly for any threat, so that if one reveals itself, he can sound the alarm.

The second word, "thankful" is more than just an expression of gratitude. It is a response to God's amazing grace. It's a deep understanding that in a world filled with trouble, God has given the solution: His name is Jesus.

So, when we pray, it's our way of allowing God to speak His truth into our situation, so that we know the best way to respond!

That soldier standing guard on the tower does not blindly shoot arrows at the enemy as it approaches, rather, he alerts the king and obediently follows the strategy that is subsequently laid out. And the soldier doesn't need to panic or stress, because he knows that the king has all the resources necessary to defend the city walls.

So, when we pray today, let's remember these two powerful realities:

- Even when we face the darkness, we can do so with confidence, because God is with us.
- God is always good - and He is in control

REFLECTIONS

► What area of your life needs attention right now?

Have you truly acknowledged it, taken responsibility for it, and surrendered it to God?

► What issue/situation in the world is alarming to you right now?

Take a moment to pray for God's power and will to be revealed into that situation.

► What specific area do you feel you have been called to sound the alarm on?

Pray for God's wisdom and courage to know what to do about that.

PRAYER

God, I am choosing today to trust you with everything in my life, and in this world, that gives me alarm. I know that I do not have the ability, on my own, to fix or change it. So, today, I am trusting in your wisdom to show me what I should and should not do. I am asking for your courage to do what you are asking of me. I am praying for your peace to trust you with everything else.
