



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, 09/24/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 4:2-4**

**TITLE: The Key to Meaningful Prayer**

This weekend I received one of those postcards with a key. You’ve probably received one. The text read, “This key could unlock the door to your new car.” Now, I didn’t take the bait. But can you imagine how sweet it would have been to bring that key to a car that actually opened the door? That would have been amazing, but I didn’t try it.

You know, prayer is a lot like that key. We have access to an amazing privilege: intimacy with God in prayer, but we fail to do it. We have the key to meaningful prayer, but we don’t even know it. What is that key that unlocks the door to meaningful prayer?

Paul has the answer in Colossians 4:2-4.

“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.”

Now, to be fair, Jesus wrote the ultimate prayer guide, but Paul has great advice for meaningful prayer. He says devote yourselves. “Devote” has the idea of commitment. It’s a way of life. It’s discipline.

Many of us today have relationships drift because there is a lack of devotion. Take, for example, marriage or friendship. Relationships exist and function when there is a consistent relationship. Eating together. Playing together. Exploring together. Worshipping together. But over time, relationships change, and they can drift. They need devotion and commitment to a real relationship.

So Paul says, devote or commit yourselves to prayer. But not a heartless prayer. Not “rub-a-dub-dub thanks for the grub” type prayer. Actual conversation with God.

What kind of prayer? The kind with an alert mind. We need to be engaged in the conversation and focused on God. We need to be listening to God’s Word. Silent with God. Open and honest with God. Simply put, present.

And not just present but full of gratitude. I’m amazed by how many negative, unjoyful Christians there are. They are children of the King and, therefore, recipients of a constant stream of blessings and grace. Does this mean the lives of Christians are void of conflict or pain? Of course

not, we live in a fallen world, but our realities are greater than our pains. Our lives are full of heavenly blessings. So let's pray like it.

And last, Paul asks for prayer. Not for deliverance from persecution but for the spread of the gospel. Paul wants prayer for an effective and clear Gospel declaration. Meaningful prayer is a committed presence with God full of gratitude focused on the spread of the Gospel. This is the key to meaningful prayer.

So this is my prayer with you. Pray. Just spend time with God talking with Him about anything and everything. Take time today and just talk with our loving Father. And then be ready to listen. Listen to God through His Word. Listen to Him in the silence.

Now that you have the key to meaningful prayer go unlock the door.