**Devoted to Prayer**

Acts 2:42 Devoted to prayer proskartareo to join constantly to adhere to to give attention to. To be **given over to**, committed to.

Q: What do you think that looked like?

Q: How many of you have had a lesson on the need for prayer?

Q: More than ten lessons on the topic?

Q: More than thirty lessons on the topic?

So… Why do we need a lesson on prayer?

Illustration: A skeptic: Why are you always listening to Bible lessons after 30 years? Aren’t they repetitive? Can you remember even remember the topic from a sermon five years ago or even five months ago?

Response of the believer: Do you know what you ate for dinner on the second Wed. in January eight years ago? What if you had gone two months without eating?

On the one hand: We need continual feeding and encouragement from the scriptures. I know I need it!

On the other hand, ideally, we should not need a reminder of the need for prayer, right? (about 4-5 years ago I had a major repentance on the amount of prayer)

**I. Be watchful.** Coll 4:2 Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Q: Watchful for what? For opportunities to see God’s will done. (Matthew 6:10) Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Note: Had the apostles ever prayed before? Sure, but they understood that they had a lot to learn from Jesus.

Q: What will is that? 1 Tim 2:3-4

Example from my life when I am traveling…. Like when I was going to Kansas City a couple of years ago. Getting visa to Congo last summer.

We need to anticipate open doors (Coll 4:3). Like the guy I shared with today.

Then we need to be prepared to walk through that door we prayed to be opened.

Pray before you enter a class, get into a line, pump your gas, walk through your neighborhood. (Like Joe talked about with Nehemiah prayers)

**II. Be listening to the Holy Spirit**

Romans 8:26-27 Sometimes we need to stop talking when we pray. We need to let the Holy Spirit speak for us.

We need to also be in step with the Spirit

Gal 5:16 Walk by the Spirit

Gal 5:18 Be led by the Spirit

Gal 5:25 Keep in step with the Spirit

**III. Be expectant**

Let’s use Daniel’s prayer as an example (compare this to Matthew 6:9-13)

Daniel 9:4-19

Daniel gives glory, praise and honor to God. v. 4 Always a good start

Daniel confesses his and his people’s sins v. 5-7

Daniel recalls to mind God’s promises v. 17-18

Daniel asks God to act. v. 19 Look at the boldness!

I am expecting great things in 2018 I am praying for 80 baptism in our region and 200 in our church.

Practical: Set up an all night or a late night prayer in the next 2-3 weeks with your group.

Be watchful

Be listening

Be expectant