

09/15/19 James 5:13-16, Colossians 4:1-4. Title: **How Should We Pray?**

**Introduction:** (First Aid Box pic)

Instead of it being something we do every day, prayer has become a First Aid brief case of emergency. It is true that so very often we associate prayer with crises in our life. People have misused prayer and yet prayer is one of the greatest gift that God has given us and also a resource that has not been utilized that much.

John Wesley, the founder of holiness movement and the Methodist Church insisted that prayer is necessary "if we would receive any gift from God" ("The Means of Grace," 111.3).

HOW SHOULD we pray?

I. **Pray with Devotion** (Colossians 4:2). Paul begins by saying, "Devote yourselves to prayer," (NRSV). In the original GKN language, the word *proskartereo* may mean, "to be steadfastly attentive unto, to be in constant readiness, persist in, remain devoted to."

Luke 11:9, "ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." Each of those verbs are in the present tense, active voice and could be translated, "keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking."

1Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ JS for you".

1I. **Pray with thanksgiving.** Paul never fails to mention Thanksgiving in his prayers. There are several Scriptures that talk about praying with Thanksgiving:

Ephesians 5:20, "giving thanks to God the Father at all times & for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Philippians 4:6 "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer & supplication w thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Expressing gratitude does several things:

1. It is a show of dependence
2. It demonstrates relationship
3. It communicates proper attitude.

**III. Pray with Open heart:** Be passionate.

Jesus was passionate about His prayer life.

Before He called His disciples, He spent the whole night in prayer. Genuine prayer gives direction (Luke 6:12 NRSV).

In the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 6:39 NRSV). It is only through passionate prayer that we can pour out our hearts to God.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches on prayer. It is here that we find the Lord's prayer. But just before the Lord's prayer Jesus says, "When you pray, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do." (Matthew 6:7 NRSV)

As you reaffirm your covenant to faithfully participate in the ministries of Lenexa UMC by praying, which specific ways are you going to pray for the church?