

Standing Firm Discussion Guide
Closing Thoughts - Lesson 6
(October 13, 2024)

This study guide is based on the message that is available on YouTube.

Opening Discussion: What enjoyable activity or hobby are you devoted to?

Dive Deeper:

1. Read Colossians 4:2-18. In the Book of Colossians Paul began and concluded his letter with an emphasis on prayer. What three-fold model does Paul provide for our quiet times of prayer in Colossians 4:2?
2. What does it mean to be devoted to prayer? Read Psalm 109:1-4 (ESV) and Colossians 4:12-13, and discuss David and Epaphras' devotion to prayer. How is our faith in God related to our devotion to prayer? Share a prayer request you are devoted to as you wait upon the Lord. Has this waiting period affected your faith?
3. Why does Paul instruct us to have an alert mind during prayer? How does the enemy use our distractions and exhaustion to thwart our prayers? What habits have you established to stay alert during your prayer time? Read Matthew 26:36-44, and discuss why Jesus asked his disciples to stay alert in prayer.
4. Read Colossians 4:2 and Philippians 4:6-7. Why is thankfulness important when we pray? What is thankfulness a sign of, as stated in Hebrews 13:15? Read Mark 14:22-23, and discuss how Jesus was able to express thankfulness during this difficult time. How can prayers of thankfulness change our perspective on life?
5. Paul mentions many fellow believers in Colossians 4:7-17 who have joined him in sharing the mysterious plan of salvation in Christ. Why is it vital to surround ourselves with like-minded believers? Share how your "go-to" support team for prayer, encouragement, and witnessing has strengthened your faith walk.
6. How does Paul instruct the Christians to live among nonbelievers in Colossians 4:5-6? What does living wisely look like in today's culture? Why would courtesy, respectfulness, and graciousness be attractive to nonbelievers? How can these actions be considered "making the most of every opportunity" for God's kingdom?

Encouragement: As believers we can unite, lift each other up, and go make the most of every opportunity to share Jesus' love in our wise conversations and daily living.