



WOW: Word Of the Week

SLEEPLESS

September 15, 2021

Most weeks, I try to choose an unusual word, something that catches attention. What is he going to do with this word? This week, a Bible word, although many versions choose an alternate translation.

I share two of my favorite passages regarding prayer. What do you pray about? What themes constantly resurface in your prayers? In the prayers of the church? In prayer chains? When have you been sleepless in prayer? What were you praying about? Listen to Paul's requests, part of his closing remarks in Ephesians and Colossians.

*Eph. 6:18-20. **Always pray**, especially for others, and **pray** in spirit, being sleepless with full attention, and keep **praying for God's people**. **Pray** that I will be given the message to speak and that I may fearlessly explain the mystery about the good news. I was sent to do this work, and that's the reason I am in jail. So, **pray** that I will be brave and will speak as I should.*

*Col. 4:2-6. Never quit **praying**. And when you **pray**, be vigilant and be thankful. **Be sure to pray** that God will make a way for us to spread his message and explain the mystery about Christ, even though I am in jail for doing this. Please **pray** that I will make the message as clear as possible. When you are with unbelievers, always make good use of the time. Be pleasant and hold their interest when you speak the message. Choose your words carefully and be ready to give answers to anyone who asks questions.*

God's people pray always, never ceasing. For Paul, his #1 concern was spreading the gospel effectively. Sleepless, full attention, vigilant, constant, praying for harvest workers in the harvest. In few churches is a prayer for the lost heard regularly.

Daily I pray for the advance of the Good News of the gospel. Daily I pray for those who faithfully proclaim the gospel.

Are we as God's people uniting our hearts in praying about the one thing that is closest to the heart of God? His reason for sending his Son (John 3:16)? The reason for Jesus' coming (Luke 19:10)?

Many things could be said about prayer. Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray. A part of learning to pray is to know what to pray for, with conviction. This keeps us awake at night!

Here is a biblical theme, a request Paul made more than once. Pray for the spread of the message, seek opportunities, interact with unbelievers, speak the message.