



**PRE-PRAYER**  
**THE HEAVENLY CHALLENGE**

**God has prepared a place of prayer ...**

**...and it is hidden in Christ and accessed only by faith.**

**...by gifting the Spirit who turns our focus to Christ  
in whom we are hidden.**

**...where we behold His glory and reflect it to the world.**

**Since God has prepared a place of prayer,  
we choose to go there.**

## **COLOSSIANS 4:2-4**

**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.**

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The background is a dark, mottled grey-blue color with a rough, textured appearance, similar to weathered metal or stone. It features various scratches, scuffs, and small dark spots. A solid black horizontal bar is positioned in the center, containing the text 'The challenge of consistency' in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

# The challenge of consistency

ACTS 1:14

They all joined together constantly  
in prayer, along with the women  
and Mary the mother of Jesus, and  
with his brothers.

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ACTS 6:3b-4

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ROMANS 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.



**Jesus was consistent in his practice of prayer  
even though the parameters of his practice  
constantly changed.**



**LUKE 5:16**

**But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**

**When the parameters change,  
remember that it is neither what we do rigidly  
nor what we do infrequently that shapes our lives  
*but what we do repeatedly.***

# The challenge of watchfulness

**MARK 14:37B-38**

**"Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

**Jesus's biggest criticisms  
about the disciples' prayer life  
are their *lack of faith*  
and their *lack of watchfulness*.**

**MARK 13:37**

**"What I say to you, I say to everyone: Watch!"**

**1 CORINTHIANS 16:13**

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faith; be courageous; be strong.**

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1 THESSALONIANS 5:6

So then, let us not be like others,  
who are asleep, but let us be awake  
and sober.



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1 PETER 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

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ACTS 20:31

So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.



**Does your vigilance lead you to  
sobriety or anxiety?**

## **EPHESIANS 6:18**

**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.**

**Our vigilance should lead to  
sobriety that *produces peace,*  
not anxiety that *fuels fear.***

**LUKE 12:37A**

**It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes.**