

Praying for Open Doors

Not losing sight of our Purpose; the Cause of Christ
Colossians 4:3-4

Introduction:

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.

#1-Pray for our _____ Personally v3a
3 praying at the same time for us as well

*** Turn to Romans 10:13-18**

1st – God's Word must be _____ for the Lost to be Saved
Romans 10:13 "Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

2nd – For the Word to be Heard, a Missionary must be _____
Romans 10:14 How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

3rd – The Church must be _____ in Sending and Supporting
Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent?

#2-Pray for an Open _____ for the Word 3b

3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word,

Acts 14:27 they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 *I shall remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; for a wide door for effective service has opened to me,*

2 Corinthians 2:12-13 *when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord, 13 I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia*

Revelation 3:7-8 *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: 8 'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you **an open door** which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.*

What is the Holy Spirit Pattern for Missions?

1- _____ -Evangelize strategic locations

Acts 13:44 the next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of God. Acts 14:1 in Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a great multitude believed

2- _____ -Teach Christians through the Word

Acts 11:26 for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers Acts 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith

3- _____ -Appoint a team of elders

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

4- _____ -Send out planters to start new Churches

Acts 13:2 while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

#3-Pray for an Straightforward _____ of Christ v3c

3 praying that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ,

What is the message we share?

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

1st - Christ _____ for our sins and He was Buried

Isaiah 53:5-6, He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us have turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

2nd - Christ was _____ on the third day and appeared to many

#4-Pray for the Gospel to be Proclaimed, regardless

of _____ v3d

3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

Acts 28:30 he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters, and was welcoming all who came to him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

#5-Pray for a _____ and _____ Presentation of the Gospel v4
4 in order that *I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak*

Ephesians 6:19 *and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel*

Acts 4:29 *And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Thy bond-servants may speak Thy word with all confidence*

Conclusion:

#1 – Don't forget _____ you are supposed to pray

Steadfastness =

Watchful =

Thanksgiving =

1st – Thankful for your own salvation

2nd – Thankful for what God is about to do

#2 – Never minimize the role of the _____

#3 – Raise your Children in Christ's _____

#4 – Every Christian must Consider the cause of Christ as a possible _____

#5 – Your _____ must include the cause of Christ

Remember; your responsibility, by God's enabling, is to consistently apply the divine principles and truths you have heard.

As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions:

* *How does God want my beliefs/actions to change?*

* *How can I accomplish this change?*

* *What is the first step toward bringing about this change?*

Each sermon is recorded on cassette and can be purchased at the Tape Table in the Foyer every Sunday Morning.