

Colossians



At the Center of it All

Living in the power of tension

Col 4:2-6

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2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

“Our nature, by the corruption of the first sin being so deeply curved in on itself (incurvatus in se) that it not only bends the best gifts of God towards itself and enjoys them, as is plain in the works-righteous and hypocrites, or rather even uses God himself in order to attain these gifts, but it also fails to realize that it so wickedly, curvedly, and viciously seeks all things, even God, for its own sake.”

—Martin Luther, Lectures on Romans

Outline

1. Definitions
2. Tensions
3. Glue

What is prayer?

Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

- Westminster Catechism

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- ***Psalm 62:8. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.***

*Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for **things agreeable to his will**, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.*

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- ***1 John 5:14. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.***

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- *John 16:23-24. [23](#)“In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. [24](#)“Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.*

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- *Psalm 32:5-6. [5](#)I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. [6](#)Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found...*

*Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and **thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.***

- Westminster Catechism

- *Psalm 103:1-5. 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;*

SHORTER DEFINITION :

“Bringing all of you to all of God.”

- *Matthew 11: 28 Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

What is witnessing / evangelism?

- Acts - 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
- Acts 1:1 I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach,
- Acts 4:20 For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

What is witnessing / evangelism?

DEFINITION - Seeing, savoring, speaking of all that Jesus is doing in you and teaching to you.

- *Acts 4:20 “For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”*

Tensions

Tensions in prayer

1 - Looking up — — looking all around

Col 4: 2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Tensions in prayer

2 - External circumstances - Eternal impact

Col 4: 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Tensions in prayer

3 - Uphill and downhill times of prayer

Col 4: 12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

Tensions in evangelism

1: thinking - doing - being

Col 4: 4that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. 5Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Tensions in evangelism

2: individual responsibility / communal call

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Tensions in evangelism

3: talking to God / talking to others about God

Col 4:[2](#) Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. [3](#)At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word

Philippians 1:6

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

Romans 8:26- 27

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”