

Praying & Pleading for Fellowship to be Mobilized on Mission
Ephesians 6:19-20

Intro:

- [Image] E.g. Old Life Boat Saving Station – Country Club v Saving Souls @ Sea
- [Need] So it is with many churches – have become a country club for the comfortable rather than living to save souls sinking in sin
- More than 3 billion people in 7,000 people groups unreached [radical.net]
 - 40 million Americans have left the church in the last 25 years
 - Closer to home – surrounded by friends, family members, colleagues & classmates – American dream
 - E.g. John Piper Illustration – Don't Waste Your Life
 - o Bob & Deb – he was 59, she was 51 – 30 foot yacht, golf swing, shells – that's a tragedy
- [Subject] I've got great news for you – God is on a mission, to radiate & restore His glory, through the redemption of mankind, & 1 day the renewal of all things, & He's looking for a people who will rise up & join Him on the Magnificent Mission of God
- Today we are going to turn to a passage & see the Apostle Paul pray for & plead that He, and the church following His lead, would be mobilized on mission to the ends of the earth
- [Text] Turn with me to Ephesians 6:19-20 – READ THE TEXT
- [Preview] I want to share 3 things I'm praying over Fellowship as a result of reading these verses ...
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I. I'm Praying that Wherever You've Been Positioned, That You Would See it as a Platform to Proclaim Christ [Eph 6:19a]

- "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak ..." (6:19a)

- Where is Paul? Rome, Under House Arrest, Chained to Roman Soldier [Elite Praetorian Guards], There on a Mission to Proclaim Christ [Acts 28]
- What does He ask? Whenever I speak / Not if I speak! Lit. Whenever I open my mouth
- What is He saying? Even though I am in prison, this is a platform to proclaim!
- E.g. Martin Durham "Lord, give me a platform!" "You're standing on it!" Sat nights on the streets in London!

II. I'm Praying that Whenever You Speak, the Right Words & Supernatural Power Might Be Given to You So You are Fearless to Proclaim Christ [Eph 6:19b, 20b]

- "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel ... Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should" (6:19b, 20b)

- Do you think Paul ever got fearful?
 - Sometimes we make Paul out to be the G. O. A. T & never got fearful!
 - But here he asks for prayer for fearlessness x 2 in 2 verses!
- And that's us – number 1 reason people don't share their faith = fear
 - Fear of not having the right words
 - Fear of rejection or opposition
- And so Paul prays here for 2 things:
 - (a) The Right Words:
 - a. We've spoken of sin / substitutionary atonement / faith
 - b. Remember content / context / communication
 - c. Here – pray I might have the right words – reminds me of Matt 10:
 - (b) Boldness / Courage / Unhindered Fearlessness – "to express oneself freely, speak freely, openly, fearlessly"
 - a. Eph 3:12 – believers bold & unhindered access to throne room of God / nothing stopping it / no barriers
 - b. Elsewhere in NT & Gr. Lit. fearlessness / freedom of speech
 - c. In Acts – almost like a fruit of the Spirit:
 - (c) Imagery of the Holy Spirit:
 - a. He descends like a dove – Matt. 3:16-17
 - b. He surrounds like clothing – Luke 24:49
 - c. He blows like a wind – Acts 2:2
 - d. He burns like a fire – Matt. 3:7-10
 - (d) E.g. BBC sound technician at the King's Speech

III. I'm Praying that Above All Else, You Would Remember That You Are Christ's Ambassadors & Might Rise Up to Participate in The Magnificent Mission of God [Eph 6:20a]

- "For which I am an ambassador in chains" (6:20a)

- Ambassador = Personal Representative of the King in a Foreign Land
- In Chains
- E.g. Rugby Bus – Take your stand right from the start / Tell Them Why

IV. Pray & Plead for Fellowship to be Mobilized on Mission [HP]

- Pray & Plead – Make it your prayer for you / for us / for the next generation / for a new generation
- May we see the place He has positioned us as a platform to proclaim Christ
- May we be given the right words & supernatural power so we are fearless to proclaim Christ
- May we remember, above all else, that we're Christ's ambassador's & rise up & participate in the Magnificent Mission of God



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God is on a mission, to radiate & restore His glory, through the redemption of mankind, & the renewal of all things, & he's looking for a people who will rise up & join Him on this most magnificent mission of God!

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

EPHESIANS 6:19-20

(1) I'm Praying that Wherever You've Been Positioned, That You Would See It as a Platform to Proclaim Christ

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak ..." [Eph 6:19a]



(2) I'm Praying that Whenever You Speak, the Right Words & Supernatural Power Might Be Given to You So You are Fearless to Proclaim Christ

"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel ... Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should" (6:19b, 20b)

SIN / SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT / FAITH

CONTENT / CONTEXT / COMMUNICATION

IMAGERY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

He descends like a dove – Matt. 3:16-17

He surrounds like clothing – Luke 24:49

He imparts life like a breath - John 20:21-22

He blows like a wind – Acts 2:2

He burns like a fire – Matt. 3:7-10



(3) I'm Praying that Above All Else, You Would Remember That You Are Christ's Ambassadors & Might Rise Up to Participate in The Magnificent Mission of God

"For which I am an ambassador in chains" (6:20a)

PRAY & PLEAD FOR FELLOWSHIP TO BE MOBILIZED ON MISSION