

Prayer and the Word

How is your prayer life?

Do we seek God first or last? Why?

Col 4:2-3 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—

Q: What does it mean to continue steadfastly in prayer?

Q: What does it mean to be “Watchful...with thanksgiving?”

Luk 21:36 But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Eph 6:18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Q: Do these verses clarify the issue...or confuse?

Q: What does verse 3 ask?

(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—

Q: Is there anything in verse 3 that Paul does NOT ask for? (Hint-where is he at this time?)

Paul is asking the people to pray that God may open a door for the word to declare the mystery of Christ. This may mean ministry opportunities. It may mean an opportunity to preach the Gospel when he is to appear before the Imperial Court. Other sections of scripture talk about opening doors. For example:

Rev 3:7-8 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. (8) “‘I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Q: What is Jesus telling the Church in Philadelphia?

Q: What is the calling to us here today?

2Th 3:1-3 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, (2) and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. (3) But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

Q: What is the prayer in this passage?

Q: What is the warning in this passage?

Q: What is the promise in this passage?

Q: Do we remember that the Lord is faithful and will guard us?

Mat 13:11 And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Q: What do is Jesus talking about here? (Hint: a form of teaching)

Q: How does this relate to the "open door" imagery we have been discussing?

As one of the commentators says: "The same sun that softens the wax hardens the clay; and so the very same gospel message that humbles the honest heart and leads to repentance may also harden the heart of the dishonest listener and confirm that one in their path of disobedience. Thus the parables spoke to the crowds do not simply convey information, nor mask it, but challenge the hearers."

Q: How can we use our circumstances for the Kingdom of God?

Q: How can we take advantage of the "doors" God opens for us to share His word?