

How We Should Pray

Part 9 of the Pre-eminence of Christ

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Read Colossians 4:2-6

In this section, we are urged to be earnest in prayer and in our sharing Christ with those *outside*. Most of us know we *should* pray more and we *should* witness more. This isn't another attempt to make you feel guilty into doing these things. Guilt is a poor motivator and seldom works in the long run. Rather, our focus should be on Christ – the pre-eminence of Christ. Make Him the object of your affection, devotion, and attention. If He is truly in that place, then it should become more second-nature to go to Him in prayer and to share His grace with others.

1. Some Obstacles to Prayer

- a. One Doesn't have a true relationship with God – the “natural” man does not comprehend the things of God” and God does not hear the prayers of sinners
- b. A focus on just asking God for things – James 4:3
- c. Pride – James 4:6
- d. We simply view prayer as a chore

2. How We Should Pray – Col. 4:2-4

- a. Continue earnestly – *read Luke 18:1-7*
- b. Pray with vigilance – *read Mark 14:38; 1 Peter 5:8*
- c. Pray with thankfulness

What should we pray for?

- a. Ask for *open doors* – vs. 3
- b. Ask for *clarity* – vs. 4

3. How We Should Share Christ – Col. 4:5-6

- a. Be wise – realise others are watching you and we must not make it difficult to share the gospel because of our lack of obedience to Christ
- b. Make the most of opportunities – *redeeming the time*
- c. Be gracious – show people the *hope* we have in Christ

Questions:

1. What are some difficulties you have faced in your prayer life? How have you found help to overcome these?

2. What kind of “open doors” can we see around us that God may be giving to us? Has there been times when you have ignored open doors and regretted it?

3. How can we *walk in wisdom* to those outside? In what ways might we *not*? As the Lord brings to mind some names who you know need salvation, mention them, pray for them, and ask God to help you walk in wisdom and to open doors of opportunities for you.

Prayer: *“Father, thank You for your great salvation and the fact that we can take all things to You in prayer. Help me to make the most of this and be vigilant in praying with all thanksgiving. Lord, use me in sharing Christ with others. Please open up doors of opportunity and give me wisdom to share Christ in a way that is clear and gracious. Give me a heart for the lost, I pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”*