



Pray for Open Doors

Pastor Bill West
(September 13, 2020)

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:2–6

Pray Boldly

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Colossians 4:2–4

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:36–38

Live Wisely

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

Colossians 4:5

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14–16

Praying With Paul

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Speak Graciously

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:6

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:15–16

Practical Advice:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Bottom Line: **Look for Opportunities**

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

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1. Share a time when you or someone you know shared their faith in a way that you considered appropriate? Share a time when you saw someone share their faith in a way that you think was offensive?
2. **Read and Discuss Colossians 4:2:** Paul encourages the Colossians to be devoted, watchful, and thankful in prayer. Why do you think he lists these three things? How accurately does this describe your prayer life?
3. **Read and discuss Colossians 4:3:** What does it mean to ask God to open a door for our message? Why is it called “the mystery of Christ?” How would you describe the mystery of Christ to someone?
4. **Read Colossians 4:4:** Why does our world have a more positive view of Jesus and a less positive view of Christians? What do most people believe about Jesus that might need some clearing up?
5. **Read Colossians 4:5:** What does it mean to be wise towards how you act towards outsiders? Can you give some practical examples?
6. **Read Colossians 4:6 and 1 Peter 3:15-15:** What does it mean for your conversation to be “full of grace, seasoned with salt and full of grace”? What does with “gentleness and respect mean” for us today? What role does “cultural sensitivity” play in sharing your faith?
7. What practical advice would you give about talking about Jesus to others today?
8. Share names of people you want God to open a door for you to share Jesus. Pray for each other.