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PRAYER GUIDE IN SHARING THE GOSPEL

DEVELOP A HEART FOR EVANGELISM THROUGH PRAYER

Colossians 4:2-6

"2. Devote yourselves to PRAYER, being WATCHFUL, and THANKFUL. 3. 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. 4. Pray that I may PROCLAIM it clearly, as I should. 5. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6. Let your conversation be always FULL OF GRACE, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

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A SCRIPTURAL PRAYER PATTERN FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL

Colossians 4:2-6 provides us excellent scriptural prayer guidelines to begin each day ready to be a witness for Christ.

PRAYER

Whenever it comes to sharing the Gospel, we frequently pray for individuals we want to share with. On the other hand, prayer needs to prepare our hearts for witnessing, positioning us to be used by God. Pray for love and compassion for the unbeliever. Pray to have the desire to share the Gospel. Pray to discover the openings God can bring our way. Pray for an obedient heart to share when the opportunity arises.

WATCHFUL AND VIGILANT

Then be watching and alert throughout the day for opportunities to share. Search to "discover" and realize how God may be working in those individuals around you. Allow the Holy Spirit to help make you sensitive to and watchful for opportunities. This develops and cultivates with time and practical experience. You must be prepared to respond to opportunities; if you are not, God probably will not bringing them your way.

You'll most likely pick up on the opportunity in conversations. Ask questions and engage them to tell you more. Be ready to listen carefully with grace and compassion.

Appropriately share how God has helped and supported you or made an impact in your daily life that connects to what they are struggling and having a hard time with. It may well be work-related, relationships, goals in life, parenting, challenging decisions, etc.

These kinds of stories of God's impact in your life will typically open up the way to sharing the Gospel with others.



THANKFUL AND APPRECIATIVE

The absolute best way to battle discouragement is by being grateful for everything our Lord has done. David says in Psalm 103:2 to, "Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits." Remembering what He has done for you motivates and urges you and develops your faith for what He will do. Take time to be thankful and appreciative for your salvation and having a loving relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Also for

the way, the Lord has guided you, protected you, comforted you, directed you and provided for you. Be very thankful for the opportunity to serve Jesus and be a witness of His to point others to Christ.

PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE CLEARLY AND EASILY

Study to discover how to share the Gospel easily and clearly. BE WELL PREPARED. Like many things, practice will certainly make you much better. Do not be lazy and passive when it comes to explaining the Gospel. But in such a way that those individuals you share with will undoubtedly be able to make an informed decision. Every bit as vital is to learn and discover to rely on the Holy Spirit to use what you share with others. There is no such thing as sharing it flawlessly and perfectly. So do not let the adversary the devil beat you up and defeat you thinking you did it improperly and poorly. Simply do your best to be able to share the Gospel correctly. We need to depend on God to give us wisdom, understanding, and discernment. And depending on the Holy Spirit's power to help make spiritual truth easy to understand to people we speak to. You'll be amazed at exactly how the Holy Spirit will make use of what we share whenever we are cooperating with Him.

FULL OF GRACE

People can tell if you genuinely care about them. This is true! Your next-door neighbors and acquaintances know it. Children know it. Even your family dog or cat can tell. The question is, do you really care about those who don't know the Lord? Be gracious, thoughtful, and practice kindness and compassion when you share. Let the love and passion of Jesus flow through you to them. Showing respect with being gracious and engaging towards them. Suggest practice sharing the Gospel while looking at a mirror and question yourself if you would want to pay attention to "the person in the mirror." Preparation and practice makes a lot of difference in your presentation. (Much more on presentation in our study guides here.)



SUMMARY OF THE SOUL WINNERS PRAYER (Colossians 4:2-6)

1. Ask God to open up doors and opportunities for you. – vs. 3
2. Ask God to help and guide you in the manner in which you communicate. – vs. 4
3. Ask God to help you walk in wisdom and with boldness so that you can go through the door. – vs. 5
4. Ask God to help you use the opportunities He gives you. – vs. 5
5. Ask God to help you know how to answer others. – vs. 6

To present and provide **Eternal Life (JESUS)** to others, **allow Eternal Life (JESUS)** to live through you. (John 17:3)

PRAYER AFFECTS EVANGELISM (INTRODUCING OTHERS TO CHRIST)

We are engaged in a battle. Paul, the apostle, uses wording throughout his letters that take hold of our hearts and helps advise us as Christians that there is a hidden war waging in the heavens. Soul Winning or evangelism is a statement of war on the principalities of darkness that is present in our world. The issues and problems at hand are life and death. We cannot continue being indifferent in carrying out our responsibilities and duties of being followers of Christ. Thus, prayer has to be permanently tied to soul winning.

It's essential to be motivated by the mind and heart of Jesus. The best way to do that is to have God's Word at the heart of our lives. Also, sharing the Gospel is always more effective **when we talk to God before we talk to people**. Simply put, prayer evangelism (*prayer in sharing the Gospel*) is talking to God about our next-door neighbors before we talk to our next-door neighbors about God. This definition has helped us to put at ease Christians who have a genuine desire to share the Gospel to the lost but who feel inadequate or scared to share.

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