

Pray for Open Doors and Right Words

Colossians 4:2-4

Truth: Salvation always is a miracle of grace . . . and this is why prayer is such a central part of God's plan for evangelism.

Main Idea: Only God can open doors to give us opportunities to proclaim Jesus to our friends and family. Only God can give us the right words to point them to Jesus. Since this is true, let us pray for God to work!!!

The Priority of Evangelism in a Disciple's Life

Question: Do you have any activity that is so important to you that you would willingly go to prison to continue doing it?

"From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved." (Acts 28:23-24 [ESV](#))

And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.'" (Acts 22:12-15 [ESV](#))

And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him." (Matthew 4:19-20 [ESV](#))

Truth: Telling others the Gospel is central to our identity as Christ-followers. Witness is who we are! Witnessing is what we do!

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20 [ESV](#))

Truth: Every disciple of Jesus possesses eternal purpose . . . namely to lead others to eternal life in Christ Jesus. We received the responsibility to tell others about Jesus on the day we received Jesus by faith.

How can I make evangelism a priority in my life?

1. Consider Jesus' call to discipleship.
2. Ask the LORD to give you a passion for God's glory.
3. Ask the LORD to give you an informed love for others.

"Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others." (2 Corinthians 5:11 [ESV](#))

"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all," (2 Corinthians 5:14 [ESV](#))

The Problem of Evangelism in the Disciple's Life

Three key problems to overcome:

Problem #1: Satan will resist you! Evangelism excites spiritual war!

Problem #2: Fear will paralyze you! Evangelism excites the hatred of the world.

Problem #3: Spiritual lethargy will dull you! Evangelism requires vibrant faith.

The Partnership of Evangelism in the Disciple's Life.

"For we are God's fellow workers." (1 Corinthians 3:9 [ESV](#))

Truth: Prayer is God's means to connect us to His Person and to His power so that we can love Him and do His will.

Truth: Vibrant faith fills our prayer life with every matter that is important to God.

The Petitions of Evangelism in the Disciple's Life.

1. Pray for propped doors.

"But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries." (1 Corinthians 16:8-9 [ESV](#))

Truth: God goes before us in our witness to create specific opportunities for us to share the grace of God in Jesus.

Application: Let us pray that God creates opportunities and that we see the opportunities that God opens for us every day. Pray for yourself. Pray for one another.

Truth: God's guidance is sometimes negative.

2. Prayer for proper words.

"and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains," (Ephesians 6:19-20 [ESV](#))

Truth: Specific words matter. No one has the natural ability to place the eternal message of the Gospel into words that reach the heart.

Four lessons about proper words

Lesson #1: Proper words can flow only from a consistent life.

Lesson #2: Proper words can flow only from a loving heart.

Lesson #3: Proper words can flow only from a Spirit-led tongue.

Lesson #4: Proper words can flow only from a Word-guided mind.