

Praying for Gospel Progress: The Believer's Responsibility & Resource

Ephesians 6:18-20/Colossians 4:2-4

Sunday, May 29, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

The godless fool does not pray, because he denies God's existence. So, what does it say when believers don't pray?

They are either **ignoring** or **denying reality!**

Scriptures: Psalm 14:4; Ephesians 2:2; 6:12; John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8

In light of the reality of our mission and our opposition, we must understand the nature of prayer:

I. Prayer Is the **Critical Responsibility** of Every Believer. (Eph. 6:18-19a)

A. In the Christian battle, prayer is to be **preeminent**.

B. In the Christian battle, prayer is to be **focused**.

1. The Prayers of the Soldier of Christ are to be **Spirit-Directed**. (v. 18a)

Scriptures: Romans 8:26-27; John 15:26; 16:14-15; Acts 5:32; 15:8; Heb. 2:4; 1 John 5:6-10

What is the will of God?

Repentance and Salvation of the Lost (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Sanctification of the Saints (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

Exaltation of our Savior (John 13:31-32; Philippians 2:9-10)

2. The Prayers of the Soldier of Christ are to be **Intense**. (v. 18b)

Our prayers should be **continual** and **persistent**.

- What is significant about the phrase, "be alert"?

3. The Prayers of the Soldier of Christ are to be **Selfless**. (v. 18c-19a)

All prayer should have a goal of **Gospel Progress**.

II. Prayer is the **Empowering Resource** of our Gospel Mission (Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:3)

Scriptures: Romans 15:30-32; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

A. Pray for **Clarity** in Communication (Eph. 6:19; Col. 4:4)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

B. Pray for **Boldness** in Proclamation (Eph. 19b-20)

Boldness is rooted in an informed and confident trust in the presence, provision, protection and power of God to accomplish HIS mission through you.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:7; Acts 6:7; 12:24; 13:49; 19:20; John 14:16-17:

C. Pray for **Unleashing** of the Gospel (Colossian 4:3)

God's open doors result in FAITH and FRUITFULNESS.

Scriptures: Acts 14:27; 1 Corinthians 16:8-9

What is the irony of Paul praying for an "open door for the Gospel"?

The mission of Gospel progress is driven by an army of believers on their knees.