

Prayer Opens the Door

Colossians 4:2-6

Introduction

² Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the message, to speak the mystery of the Messiah, for which I am in prison, ⁴ so that I may reveal it as I am required to speak. ⁵ Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶ Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

I. Pray Persistently

Notes: _____

1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Pray constantly."

Luke 11:9

"So I say to you, keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

Luke 18:1

He then told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not become discouraged:

Ephesians 6:18

Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

Psalms 86:3

Be gracious to me, Lord,
for I call to You all day long.

George Muller

If you are going to take up your cross and follow Jesus' prayer is not an option for you. If you are going to be like Him you will pray as He did. He was persistent in prayer and as His followers we are commanded to follow His lead.

II. Pray Passionately

Notes: _____

Luke 3:21

while He was praying the heaven was opened.

Luke 6:12

During those days He went out to the mountain to pray and spent all night in prayer to God.

Luke 9:29

As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became dazzling white

John 17

He prayed for all of those who would follow Him, that we would be kept from the evil one and that we would be sanctified by the truth, which is His word.

Luke 22:44 "

Being in anguish, He prayed more fervently, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

III. Pray Gratefully - Pray With Thanksgiving

Notes: _____

- *Ephesians 5:20*
giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
- *Philippians 4:6*
Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.
- *1Thessalonians 5:18*
Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- *Colossians 3:17*
And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
- *1 Timothy 4:4*
For everything created by God is good, and nothing should be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,

Expressing gratitude as we pray accomplishes several things:

1. **It articulates dependence**
2. **It generates humility**

Micah 6:8

Mankind, He has told you what is good
and what it is the LORD requires of you:
to act justly,
to love faithfulness,
and to walk humbly with your God.

3. **Expressing gratitude demonstrates relationship**

IV. Pray Selflessly - We Must Pray For Others

Notes: _____

Isaiah 53:12

Therefore I will give Him the many as a portion, and He will receive the mighty as spoil, because He submitted Himself to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet He bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

Luke 22:23

But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Luke 23:34

“Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided His clothes and cast lots.

John 14:15

Jesus interceded for us, asking the Father to send the Holy Spirit

John 17:9

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those You have given Me, because they are Yours.

Romans 8:34

Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the One who died, but even more, has been raised; He also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.

Hebrews 7:25

says, Therefore, He is always able to save those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them.

1 Timothy 2:1

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone,

Conclusion

1. Examine your heart attitude
2. Measure your words

Psalm 19:14

May the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to You,
LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

3. Commit your life

F.B. Meyer

"The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer.