



Prayer Opens Doors

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- “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

Prayer Opens Doors

- Prayer is an important indicator of our faith. It is an expression of our conviction that God is in control. One who does not truly believe prays in vain.
 - James 1:5-8 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

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- Matt. 21:21-22 - “So Jesus answered and said to them, Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, Be removed and be cast into the sea, it will be done. 22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”
- 1Thes. 5:16-18 - “Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
- Luke 18:1 - “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart”



Prayer Opens Doors

- He wants us to trust Him with our fears and burdens
 - 1Peter 5:7 - “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
- He will listen to all of the requests of His children
 - Phil. 4:6 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”

Christians Are Devoted To Prayer

- Consistent in the habitual practice of prayer
 - Col. 4:2 - “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving”
- God expects us to call on Him in crisis, but not only in crisis.
- Communication is critical to building relationships.

Christians Express Praise And Thanksgiving

- Col. 4:2 - “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving”
- Expressing praise and thanks to God is worship; we worship God with both our public and private prayers
 - Heb. 13:15 - “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

Christians Pray That God's Will Be Done

- Jesus did not want to suffer what He was about to suffer, but He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane for God's will to be done
 - Luke 22:42 - "Saying, Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Christians Pray That God's Will Be Done

- It is the will of God that all people be saved
 - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
 - 1Tim. 2:3-4 - “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Christians Pray That God's Will Be Done

- God's desire for all people to be saved is so strong He sent Jesus to offer Himself to die in their stead
 - John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."
 - Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Christians Pray That God's Will Be Done

- While Jesus is in Heaven interceding on behalf of the saved, He has tasked the saved with carrying the message of redemption to the lost on His behalf
 - Mark 16:15-16 - "And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
 - 1Peter 2:9 - "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"

Christians Pray That God's Will Be Done

- Paul asked for prayers that he might complete the Lord's task.
 - Col. 4:3 - "Meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains"
- Paul had every reason to be concerned.
 - Col. 4:4 - "That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak."

Christians Pray That God's Will Be Done

- Aside from social pressure, what have we to deal with?
 - Rom. 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

God Controls The Doors

- God can close and open doors
 - Acts 16:6-10 - “Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, Come over to Macedonia and help us. 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

God Controls The Doors

- God will open doors if we keep asking and keep turning doorknobs.
 - 2Cor. 2:12-14 - “Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord, 13 I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia. 14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.”

God Controls The Doors

- “When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.”
(Alexander Graham Bell)

God Controls The Doors

- God wills that you bring the light of the Gospel to the lost
 - 1Cor. 16:8-9 - “But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

God Controls The Doors

- God often opens the door for just one soul
 - Acts 8 - Philip was called away from the city to one man in the desert.
 - Acts 10 - Peter journeyed to a house with one family.
 - Acts 16 - Paul preached to a small group of women and baptized one.



God Wills That We Have Compassion For Those On The Other Side Of The Door

- Luke 19:41 - “Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it”
- Rom. 9:3 - “For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh”

God Wills That We Have Compassion For Those On The Other Side Of The Door

- The frequency and intensity of our prayers for the salvation of others is one of the most accurate measures of our gratitude for our own salvation.
- God opens doors as a reward for faithfulness
 - Rev. 3:7-8 - “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens: 8 I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”



God Wills That We Have Compassion For Those On The Other Side Of The Door

- Challenge: Let us include in every public prayer led here a petition that God would open doors for us to reach the lost, that He would increase our opportunities, and that we would have the courage, will, and love to lead them to salvation.