

HEAVENLY MINDED

ON THINGS ABOVE

C O L O S S I A N S

EARTHLY GOOD



5 reasons for the absence of prayer

(Not 'bouts of prayer'- just prayer altogether)

1. Atheism- God isn't there
2. Deism- God is too far off and disinterested to care
3. Fatalism- God is going to do what he's going to do
4. Pride- I'm doing fine by myself
5. Moralism- God only responds to obedience

1. In Watchfulness and Thankfulness

a right attitude toward God and ourselves (and the opposite of the default)

Devote yourselves to Prayer.

2. For Open Doors

3. For Courage and Clarity

Thankfulness

13 epistles- 1 without thanksgiving prayer

2 Timothy 1:2-3

To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

Philippians 1:2-6

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Thankfulness unleashes godliness and happiness

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

appiness

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Watchfulness:

False teachers

(Mat 7:15, 24.4. 24.42-43, 25.13, 26.14, Acts 20:28, Ro 16:17)

When restoring someone

(Gal 6:1)

Sins (ex. Greed)

(Luke 12:15)

Life and Doctrine

(1 Tim 4:16)

(so pretty much everything.
Wisdom required)

Good News: Psalm 121

Psalm 121:1

I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip-- he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD watches over you-- the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all harm-- he will watch over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Who is going to tell this guy what just happened?



This guy knows what's happening.

Colossians 4:12

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

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2. For Open Doors

Colossians 4:1

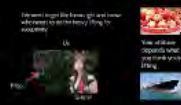
And open for us the royal gateway to this message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

What kind of a servant am I?



Open doors

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY



The more I open the doors, the more I am aware of the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

Open + Doors + Pray for



Open Doors to Pray for

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ALAMY

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Colossians 4:5-6

Be wise in the way you conduct yourselves outwardly, making the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:3

...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.

What door does he want to open?



More important:

What door doesn't he ask to be opened?

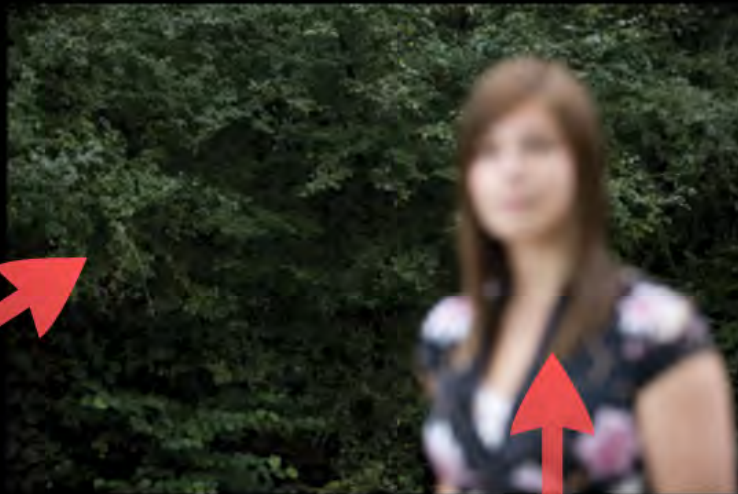


"...the *Mystery of Christ*...for which I am in chains."
Col. 4:3



We need to get the focus right and know who needs to do the heavy lifting for receptivity

Us



Prison

Gospel



Your attitude depends what you think you're lifting



Focus + Perspective + Urgency = Prayer



Colossians 4:5-6

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Open Doors to Pray for

In the Culture and City

*Missions everywhere in the world-
or somewhere in the world.*

For YOU

1. In Watchfulness and Thankfulness

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Devote yourselves to Prayer.

2. For Open Doors

3. For Courage and Clarity

Colossians 4:3-4

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. Pray that I may proclaim it
clearly, as I should.

3. For Courage and Clarity

1 Peter 2:12-17

As free people, do not let yourselves be
enslaved to the yoke of oppression, who are
to give yourselves to the Lord as you have. But do
this with good hearts and respect, for you are
serving the Lord who is invisible, not
men. Your hearts should be full of
gratitude, as if you were serving the Lord,
as though you were serving the Lord,
for you are serving the Lord.

Colossians 4:3-4

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. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

1 Peter 3:15-17

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Devoting yourself to prayer

getting started or tuned

Pray

First reaction- "Let's pray about that right now."

Just ask- don't try to make yourself feel it or think about how you'll make it happen

Pray with thankfulness
Pray watchfully
Pray for open doors
Pray for clarity and courage