

Praying for Gospel Boldness

Scripture

[PRAY] “. . . for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Eph 6:19-20 NKJV)

Devotion

Paul, after encouraging the Christian to pray that he/she would stand with the whole armor of God intact, then asks that prayers be offered for his boldness in spreading the Gospel message.

I can think of two very good reasons to ask for such prayer. The first reason is Paul was accountable to preach the Gospel. Notice how he acknowledges his accountability. “I am an ambassador in chains.”

An ambassador is a representative of another, Christ in this case. Paul took this very seriously asking that whether free or in bondage he might speak the truth boldly.

The next reason to pray for boldness is the great spiritual opposition to the Gospel. Here Paul sat in jail because of the Gospel. The spiritual forces of wickedness in high places will not set idly by while you proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Wickedness will rally to defeat you and the One you represent.

However, we know that the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (James 5:16). We also know that some demons were not cast out except by fasting and prayer during the days before Christ’s crucifixion (Matt. 17:14-21). Therefore, it is foolish to think that we will be effective without much prayer.

Now we must understand that prayer does not somehow help God to do His work. He needs nothing to accomplish His will. However, in His sovereign plan He has willed the means to effective ministry to involve our prayers.

What that means practically to us is that if we are not willing to pray for the success of the Gospel, we are not likely to see the effectiveness of the Gospel. His word does not return void, but it may be another that sees that soul profess Christ with whom we originally spoke the truth. This gets into the deep doctrines providence and sovereignty which is beyond the scope of this devotion, but it was important to mention.

However, to the point, we must understand like Paul that prayer is critical in spiritual warfare, for our own spirituality and the effectiveness of others.

So, would you please take a moment and block out five minutes on your planner to pray for boldness to spread the Gospel of Christ, and for it to be effective in the lives of those who hear? Remember, Christ said without Me you can do nothing (John 15.5).

Many seem to have lost faith in the Gospel. I hear people say things like “God is not saving people around here. He is only saving people in tribal areas;” or, “We need some kind of oppression for the Gospel to become more palatable.” Friends, I ask you this, “Are you saved?” If He saved you, why can’t He save your neighbor?

Let us have faith, and pray for Gospel boldness.