

Evangelism Class #18 - The Power of Prayer

Colossians 4:2-6 - If Paul needed prayers for his evangelism, how much more do we?

7 Ways Prayer is Powerful in Evangelism

1. It reminds us this is God's work, not ours.

- **1 Corinthians 3:5-7** - We're just servants, God gives the increase!
- When it's about us A) we take rejection personally B) we get angry and defensive when we don't know something C) we try to "win" the argument to make ourselves look smart D) we lose patience because we think it's our job to convert them E) if they do get baptized or the conversation goes well, we take all the credit.

2. Opens Doors of Opportunity

- **Colossians 4:3** - Why not pray for God to send us truth seekers?
 - Woman at the well? Ethiopian Eunuch? Cornelius? Philippian jailor? etc.
 - **1 John 5:14-15** - It's God's will to save souls, so He'll definitely hear those prayers!
 - Prayer makes us more aware of opportunities. (Psalm 5:3b)
 - Prayer can soften hearts to make way for an opportunity.

3. Helps us Use the Right Words in the Right Way

- **Colossians 4:4** - We need God's help to speak the way we ought! We're like Moses!
 - **Exodus 4:11-13** - God won't miraculously give us words, but He can help us use the tools we have effectively and He can use our best efforts for His purposes, even if we don't feel great about the conversation.

4. Helps us Use Wisdom

- **Colossians 4:5** - Lots of discernment necessary in evangelism. God will help us with that!
 - Can also help us have the wisdom to learn from our mistakes.

5. Helps to Give us Courage

- **Ephesians 6:18-20** - May be consequences to our conversations.
 - **Acts 18:9-10** - God will help us face them!
 - cf. **Acts 4** - Peter and John defy the Sanhedrin and pray for boldness!

6. Helps us See People the Way God Sees Them

- Helps us overcome gut reactions and increase our "heavy love and mercy."
- Prayer forces us to think more deeply about people; gets us beyond the surface.
 - Helps us see people as lost sheep in need of the Loving Shepherd.
 - **Luke 23:34** - "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

7. Helps us see Ourselves the Way God Sees Us

- **Luke 18:9-14** - Prayer will humble us in God's presence. Rather than get into the comparison game with "all those sinners out there," it reminds us we were former lost sheep too.
 - A) Keeps us humble, not condescending B) helps us relax because we know we're not perfect speakers like Jesus C) fills us with contagious love and gratitude for God.