

For What Should Missionaries Ask Prayer?



How to determine the key requests for missionaries?

Key to our search about praying for missionaries = find every text where Paul, the missionary, asked prayer for himself, and where he specified the request.

Look for Paul's requests for Himself or for his missionary team

- “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
- Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance.” (Col. 4:2-3)

OPPORTUNITY

**“That God would
open unto us a
door of utterance”**

— Col. 4:3

OPPORTUNITY

- Cannot assume an open door.
 - Hardness of human heart
 - Natural resistance to foreign things
- Only God can open doors for the gospel.
- Apply not only to individuals but to countries (Matthew 9:37-38).



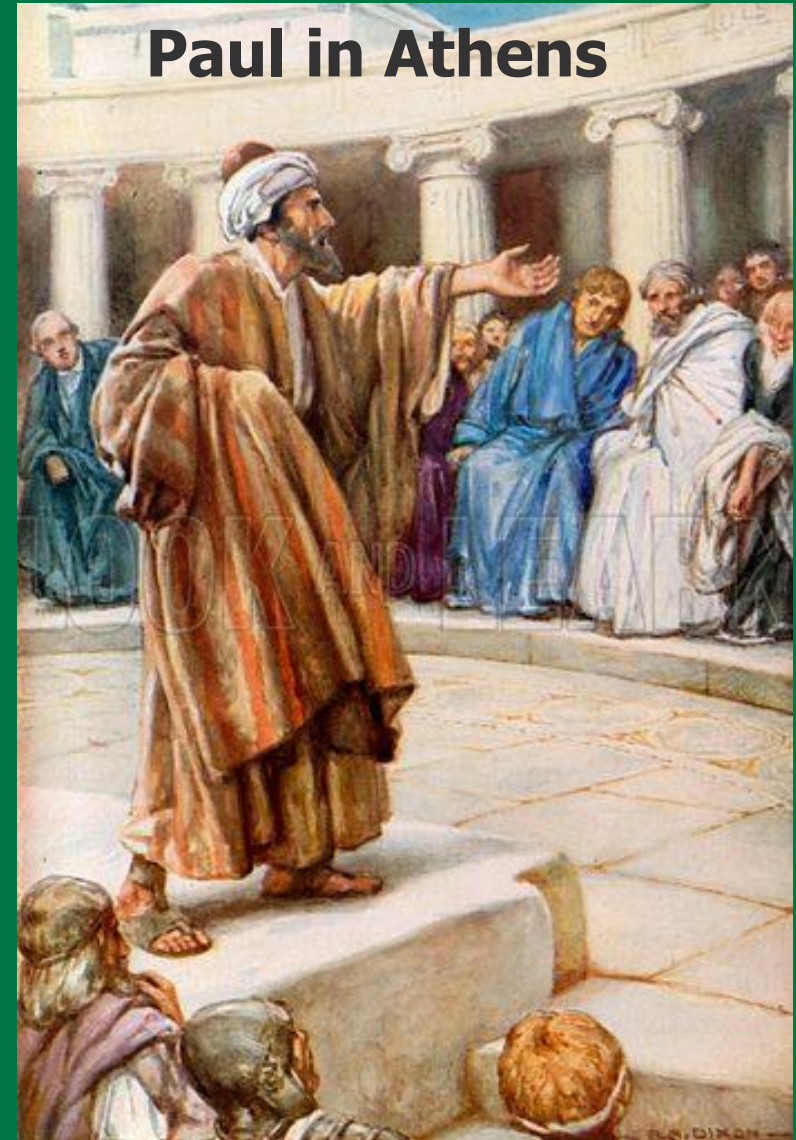
- **“That** I may make it manifest as I ought to speak” (Col. 4:4).
- **“That** I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel” (Eph. 6:19).
- **“That** therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak” (Eph. 6:20),

BOLDNESS

- “That I may make it manifest as I *ought to speak*” (Col. 4:4).
- “That I may *open my mouth boldly*, to make known the mystery of the gospel” (Eph. 6:19).
- “That therein I may *speak boldly*, as I *ought to speak*” (Eph. 6:20),

BOLDNESS

- Note progression: need boldness to go through open door.
- Was Paul timid?
- Compare yourself with Paul.
- What might a missionary fear?
 - Rejection
 - Hurting feelings
 - Anger
 - Violent opposition
 - Indifference



CLARITY

- *That utterance may be given unto me* (Eph. 6:19a).
- *To make known the mystery of the gospel* (Eph. 6:19b).
- *That I may make it manifest ...* (Col. 4:4).

CLARITY

- Note progression: need boldness for the opportunity but need to make message clear or boldness of no value.
- *Make known* = give a knowledge of
 - Must know it yourself.
 - Must explain so that others understand.
 - Note that we are explaining a *mystery*, something not understood before, even by believers.

CLARITY

- *Make manifest* = make it clear, make it so that others can see (understand) it.
- Assumes something hidden or unclear about the message.
- Requires knowing the language.
- Requires knowing how to explain the truth.





SERAMPORE (William Carey)



• 太初有道，道与神同在，道就是神。

• はじめに言葉があり，言葉は神と共にあり，言葉は神であった。

• 태 초 에 말 씀 이 계 시 니 라 이 말 씀 이 하 나 님 과 함
께 계 셧 으 니 이 말 씀 은 곧 하 나 님 이 시 니 라

• В начале было Слово, и Слово было у Бога, и Слово
было Бог.

• Im Anfang war das Wort, und das Wort war bei Gott, und
Gott war das Wort.

• In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God. – John 1:1

CLARITY

- **“Utterance”** (logos) = a word
- God must give us the ability to speak His message.
- God must give us the right word for each situation (e.g., Paul used different approach in Athens from Thessalonica.)
- This too requires knowing the language.



Note the Progression

- Opportunity
- Boldness
- Clarity

***“Finally, brethren, pray for us,
that the word of the Lord may
have free course, and be
glorified, even as it is with you.”***

– 2 Thess. 3:1

EFFECTIVENESS

- Meaning of *“have free course and be glorified”*?
- Hint: phrase *“just as it did also with you.”*
 - They received the message as from God Himself.
 - They turned to God from idols.
 - They trumpeted the message all around their part of the world (see 1 Thess. 1).

This is the effectiveness we desire!

1 Th. 1:6, “And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. 9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

**Consider: How much
the fruit of missionary
work depends on
God's people praying.**

Note the Progression

➤ Opportunity

➤ Boldness

➤ Clarity

➤ Effectiveness

➤ **Could have boldness and clarity for the opportunity, but no good accomplished if the message is not effective in hearts**

PROTECTION

- 2 Th. 3:2. “And **that** we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all [men] have not faith.”
- Rom. 15:30-31. “... strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, **that** I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea.”

PROTECTION

Note the descriptions of the danger (just as true today!)

- *Perverse and evil men*
- *Men who do not have faith*
- *People who are disobedient*



“Boko Haram slaughters 100 people, wound 500 more in Cameroon” – NY Post

PROTECTION

- **Pray that God would protect the missionary**
- ***Physically:* the enemies of the Gospel are still not above physical abuse.**
- **Satan too can attack missionaries in this way.**



“Palm Beach” in Ecuador, where Jim Elliot and his 4 co-workers were killed.

PROTECTION

Pray that God would protect the missionary ...

- ✓ *Spiritually*: the demonic activity and oppression can be incredibly strong.



Protection From Spiritual Oppression



PROTECTION

Pray that God would protect the missionary ...

- ✓ ***Emotionally***: physical and spiritual burdens can affect the emotions.

PROTECTION

“About **one-third** of our missionaries are **emotionally healthy** and making a good impact on the field. About **one-third** are **marginally healthy** and not doing any specific damage on the field, but they are not really productive. The remaining **one-third** are **very unstable emotionally** and are doing more damage than doing good.”

Rom. 15:31, “That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and **that my service which [I have] for Jerusalem may be accepted of **the saints.**”**

ACCEPTANCE

Rom. 15:31, “That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which [I have] for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints.”

ACCEPTANCE

- Paul's "service" was to those who should have been glad for the help (**poor** and **saints**).
- If even saints are suspicious and unaccepting of the goodwill of other saints, how much more will the unsaved be suspicious of the foreigner?
- Pray that the nationals would accept the missionary and his desire to do them good.
- Much depends upon this acceptance and it is harder to achieve than you might think.

Example of difficulty a missionary in Japan faces:
Support the local festival when the head of the
neighborhood comes around?



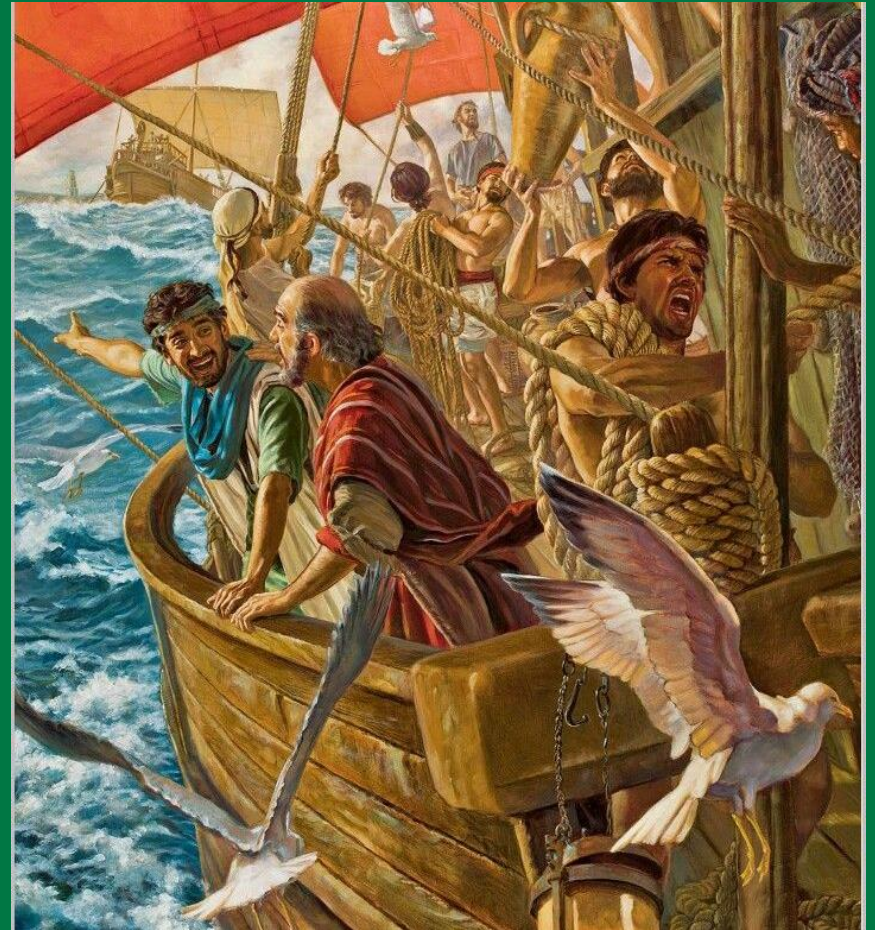


Herbie in Saskatchewan

TRAVEL

Rom. 15:32,

***“That I may
come unto you
with joy by the
will of God, and
may with you
be refreshed.”***



TRAVEL

- ✓ *Safety*
- ✓ *God's timing* (see also Rom. 1:9-13; 15:22-23)
- ✓ *Unhindered by Satan* (1 Thess. 2:18)
- ✓ *Mutual blessing* (see also Rom. 1:9-13)

REFRESHMENT

Rom. 15:32, **“That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.”**

REFRESHMENT

- Paul was looking forward to getting to Rome, because there he expected to be spiritually and physically refreshed and encouraged (see Rom. 1:12) by their fellowship.
- Pray that you can get the times of relaxation and of spiritual and physical refreshment that you and your family need.
- Do not hesitate to take those times of refreshment.



“Brethren, pray for us”

