

SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 4:2-6

Be Steadfast in Prayer and Walk in Wisdom - Part 1

STEADFAST IN PRAYER (2-4)

Don't Give Up in Prayer (2a)

Look Around and Pray (2b)

Pray in Continual Thanksgiving (2c)

Pray for Fruitful Ministry (3-4)

1. *For God's regenerating grace*
2. *For every location*
3. *For every cost*
4. *For their proclamation of the mystery of Christ*
5. *For their church and for churches around the world*
6. *For clarity*

WALKING IN WISDOM (5-6)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea is that we honor God when life is hard by continuing steadfastly in prayer and walking in wisdom—especially for and among non-Christians. Let us, therefore, pray and obey, Grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What do you do when you feel frustrated or discouraged because you just don't know what to do in life?
3. If someone asked you to name the central question of Paul's letter to the Colossians, what would you say?
4. Similarly, if someone were to ask you to name Paul's solution to the Colossians main question/problem, what would you say?
5. Do you think it's a fair summary of the Bible's teaching to say that "pray and obey" is the essence of the Christian life?
6. How steadfast are you in prayer? What are the main things that have shaped your prayer life?
7. How watchful are you in prayer? Do you tend to pay attention to the world around you and turn it quickly to prayer?
8. When you pray, do you tend more towards asking God to change things or thanking Him for the changes He's already made?
9. How often do you pray for fruitful ministry (the whole spectrum of disciple-making) for yourself and others? Do you pray that more for yourself or others? Do you pray that more for people and ministries near or far from you?
10. Does the fact that all people need God's regenerating grace to believe the gospel encourage or discourage you?
11. Have you ever felt like it was impossible for you to share the gospel because of location or cost?
12. Do you feel confident in your ability to share the gospel clearly in 10 seconds and 10 minutes? To a 3 and 30 year old?
13. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

14. Pray. Commit to a certain time of prayer each day this week and to praying with at least 5 people.
15. Get a prayer journal and write in it each day. Focus on the clear evidences of God's grace in your life.
16. Pray through one missionary newsletter each day.
17. Write out the gospel in a paragraph, using only the Bible. Find someone to practice sharing the gospel with.
18. Pray that you'd share the gospel with three non-Christian friends and that God would grant them regenerating grace.
19. Ask three different people what their prayer life and evangelism look like.
20. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

21. Adoration. Praise God that He is all-present and all-knowing. Praise God for His unending mercy and Grace in Christ. Praise God for being Trinitarian. Praise Jesus for dying, raising, and advocating. Praise the Spirit for His power, holiness, and love.
22. Confession. Confess prayerlessness, fear, a lack of love, laziness, faithlessness, selfishness, wrong priorities, a lack of discipline, pride, distraction, and anything else that is keeping you from a robust prayer life and a life of faithful ministry.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for every good thing you can think of. Thank God for saving you. Thank God for giving you His Word and knowledge of His will. Thank God for a church that teaches and models godliness in prayer and evangelism. Thank God for any good examples in your life of steadfast prayer and walking in wisdom.
24. Supplication. Ask God to save three specific people in your life. Ask God to make us a more faithful and prayerful church. Ask God to give us an increased burden to evangelize our neighbors. Ask God to make us steadfast, alert, thankful, and fruitful in prayer and ministry. Ask God to cause us to treasure Jesus above everything.