

PRAYING FOR MINISTERS

Christian Character in Action: Lesson 28

2 September 2022

1. PRAY FOR MORE LABORERS IN THE LORD'S WORK (Luke 10:1-2)

Jesus said, "**The harvest truly is great.**" There are plenty of souls that need to be saved in this world (the field is the world, Matthew 13:38).

"**But the labourers are few.**" There are not enough Christian workers in the world to witness to the lost.

"**Pray ye therefore**" that the Lord would send more labourers.

- Just having a church does not produce laborers. Most church attendees do not labor for the Lord.
 - If you want more laborers, you are going to have to pray and ask God to send them.

2. PRAY FOR MINISTERS TO SPEAK THE WAY THEY OUGHT TO SPEAK (Colossians 4:1-4)

Paul asked the believers at Colosse to pray together (*withal*, vs 3) for him and his **fellowworkers** (vs 11) who were ministering the truth of the word of God. What did he want them to pray for?

- "**That God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ**" (vs 3).
 - Pray that we would have a place to preach the gospel truths.
- "**That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak**" (vs 4).
 - Pray that God would help us to speak as we ought to speak.
 - Pray that we would not neglect the responsibility to speak to the lost (as I ought).
 - Pray that we would speak to the lost in sincerity.
 - Not only knowing **what** to say (i.e. Romans Road), but also knowing **how** to say it effectively (**speaking the truth in love**, Eph 4:15).
 - Individuals in different age groups and family situations will respond better to a particular (and differing) approach of ministry.
 - We need to ask God to enable His ministers to be observant of the needs of each person so they can choose their words accordingly.

3. PRAY FOR GOD'S MINISTERS TO BE BOLD (Ephesians 6:18-19)

Most Christians picture the Apostle Pauls as being a fearless witness for the Lord. But here, he states his need of boldness to proclaim the gospel. He says, "**Praying always...and for me...that I may open my mouth boldly.**"

1 Cor 2:2-4 Paul admitted that his speech and wisdom was not naturally excellent (vs 2).

When he spoke to people, there was an element of weakness, fear, and trembling (vs 3).

But because he yielded himself to the power and control of the Holy Spirit (vs 4), he was able to overcome his fears and preach the gospel.

Ministers need to be prayed for so they can be bold in their witness for the Lord.

Ministers need to be prayed for, so they won't stop preaching against sin in the church because of the fear of man or because of previous experiences with unruly church members.

4. PRAY THAT MINISTERS AND MINISTRIES CAN LABOR FREE FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE

1 Timothy 2:2 We pray for kings and all that are in authority so they will not interfere with the church.

We don't want the government controlling what we preach, pray, and practice.

Pray (CONSISTENTLY) that the government never outlaws what your preachers are preaching.

Pray that the government does not restrict tract distribution, door-knocking, and evangelism in your area.

5. PRAY THAT ENEMIES OF THE GOSPEL WON'T STOP THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL (Romans 15:30-32)

Paul asks the believers in Rome to pray that unbelievers won't be able to stop him from Christian service.

- The comments section of social media pages, news articles, posted sermons, Christian photos, etc., are filled with the hateful comments of people who hate God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, and Christianity.
 - These are people who have been given over to reprobate minds (Rom 1:28) and corrupt minds (2 Tim 3:8).
 - They hope to destroy the reputation of godly ministers and hinder the gospel work.
 - We need to pray that God will not allow these haters to stop His workers.

6. PRAY THAT GOD'S PEOPLE WILL HAVE EARS TO HEAR THE BIBLE TEACHING (same passage).

Pray "...that my service which *I have* for Jerusalem may be **ACCEPTED** of the saints."

- Pray that the preaching will change, convict, and bless God's people. Pray for effectual preaching.
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7. PRAY THAT MINISTERS (AND BRETHERN) WOULD LIVE CLEAN LIVES (2 Corinthians 13:7-8)

- We need to make sure we don't let our bad actions give ammunition to the enemies of God to speak evil of the minister, the ministry, or the people of God.
 - Whenever any preacher falls into sin, it does great damage to the reputation of all God's ministers.
 - Pray that your pastor will live a clean and holy life for the sake of the ministry.
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Please pray for all these things, and don't ever stop (1 Thessalonians 5:17).