

PRINCIPLES FOR PRAYING MISSIONALLY

“Lord, **teach us to pray**,...” (Luke 11:1)

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, **hallowed be your name.**
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10 ESV)

We want to pray **STRATEGICALLY** (With **PURPOSE** and **FAITH**):

- **Gospel OPPORTUNITIES:** *At the same time, **pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ,*** (Colossians 4:3a ESV)
- **Gospel CLARITY & BOLDNESS:** *To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, **that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*** (Ephesians 6:18-20 ESV)
- **Gospel FRUITFULNESS:** *Finally, brothers, **pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,*** (2 Thessalonians 3:1 ESV)
- **Gospel WISDOM:** *And so, from the day we heard, **we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;*** (Colossians 1:9-11 ESV)

We want to pray **SPECIFICALLY** (For Particular **PEOPLE** and **PLACES**):

- **For the Gospel to Bear FRUIT in OUR OWN LIVES and in the LIVES OF OUR FELLOW CHURCH MEMBERS (By NAME):** *By this my Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*** (John 15:8 ESV)
- **For the Gospel to bear FRUIT in and through our OWN CHURCH:** *To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, **this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*** (Ephesians 3:8-10 ESV)
- **For the Gospel to bear FRUIT IN OUR OWN COMMUNITIES:** *But **I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*** (1 Corinthians 16:8-9 ESV)
- **For Jesus to DRAW SPECIFIC KINDS of PEOPLE into our LIVES and CHURCH:** *No one can come to me **unless the Father who sent me draws him.*** (John 6:44 ESV)
 - **SINNERS** (Especially those whose sins aren't like our own.)
 - **SKEPTICS** (Those who appear to be opposed to the Gospel.) See Matthew 5:44
 - **SEEKERS** (Those who have spiritual questions.)
 - **SAMARITANS** (Those who want to do good but don't know why.)
 - **Unchurched SAINTS** (Those who're longing for discipleship, community, and mission.)
- **For Jesus to SEND LABORERS to OUR specific corner of HIS HARVEST FIELD:** *And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. **Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*** (Luke 10:2 ESV)

We want to pray **SCRIPTURALLY** (With our language and thoughts guided by God's Word) and **SPIRITUALLY:** *Likewise **the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*** (Romans 8:26-27 ESV) See also: 2 Thessalonians 1:11; Philemon 6