

**Colossians - Chapter 4**  
**“The Keys to Paul’s Prayer Life – Part 2”**  
**Colossians 4:3-4**

In verse 2, we learned these principles about prayer:

- Pray faithfully and consistently – “*Continue in prayer*”
- Pray fervently and intelligently – “*watch in the same*”
- Pray thankfully – “*with thanksgiving*”

**Verse 3**

1. There is another principle that we learn about prayer in this verse. God desires that we pray specifically. So often, our prayers are too general. “Lord, bless all the missionaries,” “Be with our church leaders,” “Lord, bless our nation,” “Lord, be with my family and bless them today.”
  - **Illustration:** Instead of having to pray over every meal, one guy got an idea. When he went in the grocery store to buy groceries for the week, he bowed his head and said, “Lord, bless all the food.” He covered it all in one prayer.
2. Notice how Paul taught these people to pray specifically. He said, “*Withal praying also for us...*” Paul desired that these Colossian believers pray specifically for him and his ministry team there in Rome (Paul gives the name of some of these in vs. 7-14).
3. Paul also had specific requests. Paul wanted them to pray that God would open doors (opportunities) for them to speak the mystery of Christ. We studied this mystery in 1:26-27.
  - In 1:26 we learned that there is new truth that **was** a mystery, **but now** is made manifest to his saints.
  - “*The mystery*” was the divine truth that Christ gave Paul, that Gentiles can receive divine grace, blessing, and favor through simple faith in Christ alone. They do not have to go through the nation of Israel, but can go straight to God. Grace and mercy are being bestowed upon all men on an absolutely equal basis.
  - In 1:27, Paul declares that the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles is “*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*” This is very special, and it is something that saints in time past did not possess.
4. It was Paul’s proclamation of this mystery to the Gentiles that angered the Jews, and landed Paul in prison. He said, “*...for which I am also in bonds.*”  
1 Thessalonians 2:15-16; Acts 22:21-22 (the word “*Gentiles*” enraged them)
5. Even though it had landed him in prison, Paul knew that his gospel was the power of God unto salvation, so his passion was that it would continue to go forth. He said, “Pray specifically for open doors for me and my ministry team to speak forth this truth.”

#### Verse 4

1. Paul also asked them to pray specifically for boldness and courage to speak forth the gospel once the doors were opened.
2. It is one thing to have an open door, but it is another thing to actually open our mouths and make the gospel of Christ manifest to others.
3. We tend to think of Paul as some sort of kamikaze for Jesus, that had no fears whatsoever when it came to sharing the gospel with others. This simply is not true.
  - When Paul went to the city of Corinth to proclaim Christ, he later told them, *“I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.”* 1 Corinthians 2:3
  - In fact, while he was there, God had to encourage Paul with a special vision (Acts 18:9-11). Therefore, Paul stayed and continued for a year and a half in Corinth.
4. Paul knew he was prone to be intimidated by Satan to keep his mouth shut, just like everybody else. So, Paul asked for prayer. He knew he needed prayer for boldness. Ephesians 6:19-20
5. We all need prayer in this area, don't we? When we share Christ with our loved ones, coworkers, neighbors, friends, or strangers, there is always the possibility of rejection, ridicule, mockery, and persecution.
6. Satan uses these thoughts to intimidate us, and to keep our mouths shut. Satan absolutely hates the mystery revealed to Paul, and hates the good news of Christ contained in this mystery. Satan will do everything he can to shut doors of opportunity, and to shut mouths.
7. We are in a battle for the souls of people, and prayer will make the difference. Paul said:
  - Pray for open doors – Colossians 4:3
  - Pray for open mouths – Ephesians 6:19-20
  - Pray for open hearts – 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2