

## A Request

### Scripture Reading — Colossians 4:2-9

*Pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message ... Colossians 4:3 —*

Paul's request here is no mere formality. It expresses his conviction of the absolute necessity of prayer.

Now, we might wonder: "Paul, do you really think that if you prayed alone for an open door, it would be less likely to occur? Do you think there is strength in numbers? Your desire is so God-honoring--why would prayer even be necessary?"

Paul doesn't deal with such questions. He assumes our total dependence on God both for opportunities and for the power to use them. Paul takes for granted that we will always pray for an open door in our families, at our work, and in our church and city.

Perhaps our problem is not that we lack open doors but that we are less than alert to their presence. Suppose everyone in church today prayed that God would make us alert to opportunities he gives us to share Christ.

It's been said that what we set ourselves to be alert to not only reveals our personality but also shapes it. For example, writers on economics speak of "entrepreneurial alertness," being ready to notice and seize upon new and profitable opportunities. Creative people too are on the alert for new projects, elements, techniques, or materials they can use in their work. Likewise, as Christians, we are to be alert at all times to the opportunities God provides to make Christ known in word or deed.

### Prayer

*Lord God, may we be alert to opportunities to show and tell of your marvelous goodness. May our conversations be always full of grace and seasoned with salt. In your name, Amen.*

**Devotion topics:** [Christianity](#), [Discipleship](#)

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