

## ***PREVAILING IN PRAYER***

*(Part 2: Ephesians 6:19-20)*

Evangelism is spiritual warfare. It involves fighting the lies of the devil with the gospel truths of Christ and rescuing souls from the domain of Satan. **As witnesses of Christ, we must prevail in prayer to advance the proclamation of the gospel.** For it is through the fervent prayer of God's people that the Lord unleashes His divine power to revive His church and to bless the proclamation of His saving gospel. As we reflect on Ephesians 6:19-20, we will consider two specific concerns that we must pray for in order to advance the ministry of the gospel.

**1. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ *proclamation of the gospel.***

Paul did not ask prayer for his freedom from prison but for freedom for the proclamation of the gospel (Ephesians 6:19). What mattered most to Paul was his love for Jesus and his commitment to fulfill his mission to herald the gospel of Christ. That's why the apostle implored the church to pray that God would grant him divine guidance and clarity in presenting the gospel truths effectively and powerfully (Exodus 4:12; Matthew 10:19-20; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

In light of the fact that there is a crisis of gospel clarity even in the so-called evangelical churches today, we must pray for clear and biblical proclamation of the true gospel of Christ. Satan, who is the father of lies, is the one behind all the distortions of the gospel such as the false gospel of legalism, salvation by good works or the prosperity, health and wealth gospel (Galatians 1:6; 5:4; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:23; John 16:33; Luke 9:23; Philippians 1:29; Psalm 73:25-26). The true biblical gospel is the good news about God's plan of salvation for sinful men and women which is centered upon the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This gospel declares that Jesus Christ, the Righteous Son of God, died for our sins and rose again from the grave, eternally victorious over sin, death and Satan, so that those who repent of their sins and trust in Christ alone for salvation will be fully forgiven and would receive the gift of eternal life with God (Isaiah 53:5; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

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**2. Pray for \_\_\_\_\_ *proclamation of the gospel.***

Twice, Paul mentions the word boldness which means courage, confidence, fearlessness and frankness of speech that conceals nothing (Ephesians 6:19-20). Paul asks the Ephesian believers to pray that as he proclaims the gospel of Christ, he would be empowered by God to hold nothing back and that he would be infused with divine strength to speak freely, courageously and fearlessly about the gospel of Christ. Proclaiming the biblical gospel boldly is our holy obligation before the Lord. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:16, "*I am compelled to preach. Woe is me if I don't preach the gospel!*"

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