

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!**



Open My Eyes

Hymn 486



No, Not One

Hymn 221



Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is centered on the pages.

Call to Worship
Psalm 18:1-6

Psalm 18:1-6 A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said: I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.

It is Well with My Soul

Hymn 495



Precious Lord Take My Hand

Hymn 611





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Receiving of the Offering



2 Corinthians 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came ... Anticipate your battles; fight them on your knees before temptation comes, and you will always have victory.”

R. A. TORREY

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in the center of the book's pages.

Today's Message

“A Praying Mother”

Scripture text: Colossians 4:2-6

Colossians 4:2-6 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 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, on account of which I am in prison-- that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Today as we Celebrate Mother's Day, I would like to take a moment to thank every praying mother, grandmother, sister, and Aunt, because your prayers **do make a difference!**

How many are here today because of a praying mother, grandmother, sisters or Aunt?

As we look to the encouraging word of the Apostle Paul, may we learn how to focus our prayers, and so move mountains for the Kingdom of God.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Prayer and worship are perhaps the highest uses of the gift of speech. Paul was not ashamed to ask his friends to pray for him. Even though he was an apostle, **he needed prayer support** for himself and his ministry. If a great Christian like Paul felt the need for prayer support, **how much more do you and I need this kind of spiritual help!** In these few words, Paul described the characteristics of a satisfying and spiritual prayer life.

First, **our praying must be faithful.** “Continue in prayer” (Col. 4:2). This means, **“Be steadfast in your prayer life; be devoted; don’t quit.”**

This is the way the early church prayed (Acts 1:14; 2:46). Too many of us pray only occasionally—when we feel like it or when there is a crisis. “Pray without ceasing” is God’s command to us (1 Thes. 5:17).

This does not mean that we should walk around muttering prayers under our breath. Rather, it means **we should be constantly in fellowship with God so that prayer is as normal to us as breathing.**

Act 1:14 All these **with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer**, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

This is not to suggest that God is reluctant to answer prayer and that we must “wear Him out” by our praying. Quite the opposite is true: **God enjoys answering our prayers.** But He sometimes delays the answer to increase our faith and devotion and to accomplish His purposes **at the right time.** God’s delays are not always God’s denials. **As we continue in prayer, our own hearts are prepared for the answer God will give.** We find ourselves growing in grace even before His answer comes.

Our praying must also be watchful. We must be awake and **alert as we pray.** The phrase “**Watch and pray!**” is used often in the Bible. It had its beginning in Bible history when Nehemiah was rebuilding the walls and gates of Jerusalem: ***Nehemiah 4:9** And we prayed to our God and set a [watch] guard as a protection against them [the enemy] day and night.* Jesus used the phrase (Mark 13:33; 14:38); Paul used it too (Eph. 6:18).

Mark 13:33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

Mark 14:37-38 And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? **Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.** The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Ephesians 6:16-18 In all circumstances take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God, **praying at all times in the Spirit**, with all **prayer and supplication**. To that end **keep alert** with all perseverance, **making supplication for all the saints,**

There is no power in dull, listless praying. If there is no fire on the altar, the incense will not rise to God (Ps. 141:2). **Real praying demands spiritual energy and alertness**, and this can come only from the **Holy Spirit of God**. Routine prayers are unanswered prayers.

Our praying should also be thankful: “Watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2). **Thanksgiving is an important ingredient in successful praying** (Phil. 4:6). If all we do is ask, and never thank God for His gifts, we are selfish. **Sincere gratitude to God is one of the best ways to put fervor into our praying.**

Psalm 141:2 Let my **prayer be counted as incense before you**, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

Philippians 4:4-7 **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, **but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, **will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

There is always so much to be thankful for! We have already noted the emphasis in Paul's Letter to the Colossians on thanksgiving (Col. 1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15, 17; 4:2). When we recall that **Paul was a prisoner** when he wrote this letter, it makes this emphasis even more wonderful.

Finally, our praying ought to be purposeful: "Praying also for us" (Col. 4:3). **Too often our prayers are vague and general.** "Lord, bless the missionaries!" How much better it would be if we **would pray for specific needs.** By doing so, we would know when God answered and we **could praise Him for it.** Perhaps it is our lack of faith that causes us to pray generally instead of specifically.

It has well been said that the purpose of prayer is not to get man's will done in heaven, but **to get God's will done on earth.**

Prayer is not telling God what to do or what to give. **Prayer is asking God for that which He wants to do and give, according to His will** (1 John 5:14–15). As we read the Word and fellowship with our Father, we discover His will and then boldly ask Him to do what He has planned.

Richard Trench (1807–1886), archbishop of Dublin, said it perfectly: **“Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness.”**

1 John 5:13-15 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. And **this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.** And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, **we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.**

Paul did not ask for the prison doors to be opened, but **that doors of ministry might be opened** (1 Cor. 16:9; Acts 14:27). **It was more important to Paul that he be a faithful minister than a free man.**

It is worth noting that in all of Paul's prison prayers, his concern was not for personal safety or material help, but for spiritual character and blessing.

1 Corinthians 16:9 for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

Act 14:27-28 And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and **how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.** And they remained no little time with the disciples.

Paul was in prison because of the “**mystery of Christ**” which related to the Gentiles (see Eph. 3:1–13). The mystery involved God’s purpose for the Gentiles in relation to Israel; for in the church, Jews and Gentiles are one (Eph. 2:11–22).

Read the account of Paul’s arrest in the Jewish temple (Acts 21:18–22:30).

Note that the Jews listened to Paul till he spoke the word Gentiles (Acts 22:21–22). It was Paul’s concern for the Gentiles and his ministry to them that put him into prison.

Ephesians 2:13-18 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off **have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and **has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he **might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,** and might reconcile us both to God in one body **through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.**

Even among some believing Jews, **there was a kind of bigotry that wanted to force the Gentiles into a lower position (Acts 15:1ff).**

This extreme legalistic party **wanted the Gentiles to become Jews ceremonially before they could become Christians!** Paul and Barnabas met this threat to the Gospel of grace head-on and the council decided in their favor. But **the legalistic party continued to oppose Paul and his ministry.** They did not want the Good News of the mystery of Christ to get to the Gentiles. **They wanted to maintain their air of Jewish superiority.**

How strange that Paul would want God to help him do the very thing that had caused his arrest! He had no intention of giving up his ministry or of changing his message. When John Bunyan was arrested for preaching illegally and put into prison, he was told that he would be released if he promised to stop preaching. “If I am out of prison today,” he replied, **“I will preach the Gospel again tomorrow, by the help of God.”**

How could Paul share the mystery of Christ when he was a prisoner? **Paul’s case was discussed by many people;** Paul was also able to witness to the guards to whom he was chained (Phil. 1:12–18). **Imagine being chained to the Apostle Paul!**

Through this witness, the Gospel was carried into parts of Rome that would have been inaccessible to Paul had he been a free man. There were even “saints in Caesar’s household”! (***Philippians 4:22*** *All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.*)

The proclamation of the Gospel is empowered by prayer. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God as we come to the throne of grace and ask God for His blessing. **We must never separate the Word of God from prayer because God has joined them together** (***Act 6:4*** *But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.* ").

A visitor at Spurgeon's Tabernacle in London was being shown around the building by the pastor, Charles Spurgeon.

“Would you like to see the powerhouse of this ministry?” Spurgeon asked, as he showed the man into a lower auditorium. **“It is here that we get our power, for while I am preaching upstairs, hundreds of my people are in this room praying.”** Is it any wonder that God blessed Spurgeon's preaching of the Word?

You, as a church member, can assist your pastor in the preaching of the Word **by praying for him.**

Never say to your pastor, “Well, the least I can do is to pray for you.” **The most you can do is to pray!**

Pray for your pastor as he prepares the Word, studies, and meditates. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give deeper insights into the truths of the Word. **Pray too that your pastor will practice the Word that he preaches so that it will be real in his own life.** As he preaches the message, pray that the Spirit will give him freedom of utterance, and that the Word will reach into hearts and minds in a powerful way. **(It wouldn't hurt to pray for other church leaders too.)**

The proclaiming of the Word of God is a great privilege and a tremendous responsibility. You do not have to be an ordained preacher or a missionary to share God's Word. Even in your daily conversation you can drop the seed of the Word into hearts, and then pray that God will water that seed and bring forth fruit.

It is that Dear Praying Saint that can make all the difference in the life of a believer. For it is through prayer to Almighty God, that one becomes a believer.

Thanks mom, for praying and not giving up on me!

I Surrender All

Hymn 408

