

TWO THINGS TO PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

Reminders from the Apostle Paul

BY JOEL WILLIAMS

Our international missionaries need our prayer. Even if we don't know them personally, we can know how to pray for them through the prayer requests of Paul. He tells us what missionaries need the most: God's power and God's protection for the work of spreading the gospel to all nations.

GOD'S POWER TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Paul asked others to pray that God would enable him to proclaim the gospel boldly.

Ephesians 6:18: "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, 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."

Paul asked others to pray that God would open doors for evangelism and enable him to proclaim the gospel clearly.

Colossians 4:2: "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."

Paul asked others to pray that the word would speed ahead and be honored.

2 Thessalonians 3:1: "Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you."

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GOD'S PROTECTION FOR THE WORK OF THE GOSPEL

Paul asked others to pray that he would be delivered from evil men.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2: “Finally, brothers, pray for us ... that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith.”

Paul asked others to pray because he knew that prayer was essential for his ministry and that answered prayer would lead to thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 1:10: “He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.”

Paul asked others to pray persistently for his protection from the enemy and for his service to the church.

Philippians 1:19: “For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance.”

Romans 15:30: “I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.”

May we remember that Paul’s prayer requests always give us something specific to pray for in the lives of our international missionaries. May we make these prayers a priority so that God’s glory will be shown among the nations.

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