

“The Power of Words”
Jesus at the Center of It All—Part 12
Colossians 4:2-9

1. The most powerful use of words are prayer and worship.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too...
Colossians 4:2-3a

***Prayer must be faithful, watchful,
thankful, and purposeful!***

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.
Nehemiah 4:9

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

***Prayer is not to get men's will done in heaven,
but to get God's will done on earth.***

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.
1 John 5:14-15

2. The proclamation of the Gospel is empowered by prayer.

...that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.
Colossians 4:3b-4

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.
Philippians 1:12-14

***The Word of God proclaimed in the power
of the Spirit of God, always
hits its target and makes its mark.***

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. *Acts 4:31*

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

3. Our words are powerful when they match our testimony.

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:5-6

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:15-16

4. Our words are powerful when they encourage and inform.

Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

Colossians 4:7-9

- **Tychicus:** is mentioned in 5 New Testament Books, always in connection with Paul's ministry. It seems he often carried news to churches of what Paul was doing.
- **Onesimus:** was a runaway slave who came to Christ under Paul's ministry in Rome. His master, Philemon, was also converted under Paul's ministry. Paul is now using Tychicus and Onesimus to carry letters to Ephesus, Colossae and Philemon. Onesimus is on his way to make amends with Philemon.

I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced. Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good—no longer as a slave, but better than a

slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

Philemon 12-16

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well...

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Application: Your words can have a powerful effect when connected with a life of prayer and worship. Your words when matched with godly character, conduct and conversation make a powerful witness to those in your sphere of influence and have great credibility.