

Colossians 4:3 – “Praying...that God would open...a door for the word to speak the mystery of Christ.”

PRAYER FOR AN OPEN DOOR

The request is for God to open the door for the Gospel. We have no business opening our own doors. It is arrogant to assume God will let us go where we please, if it is not for His purpose. God opens the doors He wants, and He closes doors He doesn't want. Paul and Timothy wanted to go from Galatia to Asia and preach the Gospel, but “they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit.” Then they tried to go to Bithynia, but “the Spirit did not permit them” (Acts 16:6-7). Then God opened a door to Philippi where Paul started one of his strongest churches. Jesus told the church in Philadelphia, “I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it.” When God opens the door, the Devil and all his imps can't shut it. God opens doors so the Gospel can be preached, so Christians can be built up, and so churches can be started. I have started five churches, and everyone was the result of an open door. I opened my own door once, and it was the biggest ministry mistake of my life. It was so disastrous, I resigned as pastor on Sunday and left town on Tuesday. I drove to Dallas, Texas, where it took two years to recover. I learned my lesson, and I never made that mistake again. When you want to get out of Dodge, ask yourself why. When the grass looks greener on the other side, question your motives. When you want more satisfaction or more success, pray about it. Pray whenever you make a major decision. Ask yourself two questions: First, Is this my door or God's? Second, will this door allow me a better opportunity to spread the Gospel?