

## **Ephesians 6:19-22 – A Personal Request**

Calvin, TSK, GreekLexicon, Henry, Handfuls, Rienecker, Ellicott, Henriksen, JFB, Family, Geneva, Geneva, Robertson, PNT, Trapp, Moule, Clarke, Gill, Poole, Barnes?  
Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: The Ephesian Christians were involved in a war. The **Devil was attacking them personally** to sin against the Lord. And **the Devil obstructing their work** of winning the world for Jesus. So they were constantly on the front line.

To aid in this battle, the **Lord gave Christians armor, including the armor of prayer**. This last piece of the armor had very wide usage, and you will see one use today. The Apostle Paul called the Ephesian Christians to pray for some specific things about him.

Our headings are:

**Pray for me to have the right Gospel**

**Pray for me to be bold**

**But don't worry about me**

Our goals are: **That you will allow yourself to be vulnerable to your Christian brothers and that you will support each other as you guard yourselves from the wicked one and work to establish Christ's kingdom.**

**Pray for me to have the right Gospel**

19 and [**pray**] for me, that **utterance may be given to me**, that I may open my **mouth boldly** to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may **speak boldly**, as I ought to speak.

**1. Apostle Paul requested the Ephesian Christians to pray for him that he might have the right words to speak when he proclaimed the Gospel.**

**2. The Lord knew the world needed to hear this Gospel of Peace, so he commissioned Apostle Paul to take it to the whole world.**

This Gospel was the full message of Jesus Christ. So he had to speak about man's **fall into sin** and man's **total depravity**, he had to speak about the **holiness of God**, he had to speak about the **work of Christ** and his of **his 2 natures**, and he had to speak of the **necessity Christ's death, burial, and resurrection**! This Gospel was not, "Ask Jesus to come into your heart."

**The Apostle Paul was put in chains for taking the message of the King** – something that should not have been done to an ambassador. But **preaching was his calling and his craving**.

**3. The Apostle Paul did not ask the Ephesian Christians to pray for food...for freedom...or for friends...**

**He requested prayer that the Gospel might spread!** He was surrounded by disease and death in prison, but he still focused on spreading of the Good News of Jesus.

Yes, **Apostle Paul was called Mercury because of his ability to speak well**, but yet he didn't put trust in his own ability. He wanted God to work in him. (Acts 14:12 shows that he was the chief speaker!) So he requested prayer.

**Matthew 10:19** But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;

He even wanted **prayer for the manner of speaking** – to speak in the right way.

**Colossians 4:2** Continue earnestly in **prayer**, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, **as I ought to speak**.

#### **4. But why is the Gospel called a mystery?**

It was called a mystery in 2 senses.

**First, it was hidden before from the Gentiles** but it was now being revealed.

**Second, it is a wonder or a mystery why God would take the Gospel to wicked people.**

**Romans 16:25** Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery** kept secret since the world began...

#### **5. Lessons:**

**a. It is easy to forget your Christian duty to live and proclaim Christ when you are going through difficulties (like now), but difficulties should never prevent you from doing this.** If you remember what the Lord went through for you, then you won't forget his work when life gets bumpy. (This is a good reason not to stay away from the Lord's Supper.)

**b. How can anyone remain silent with the Gospel when people are dying and going to hell?**

**c. How much and how often do you pray for me as I preach the Gospel?** Even the best ministers become weak-kneed, let alone those of us who are ordinary! Even the ones strongest in faith buckle under pressure! Yes, there is not a minister in this world who does not need God to bless his speech and make him bold...and to use the right words.

**d. Prayer moves the hands of God. I remember sitting in the room at the back of Metropolitan Tabernacle in South London where C.H. Spurgeon ministered (I had read about this room.)** and hearing Pastor Peter Masters describe it as room." The Prince of Preachers was in front, but many women gathered the "power to pray there while he was preaching!

**e. Someone wrote: The shortest road to any heart is by way of heaven...heaven's message.** This is the message of life.

### **Pray for me to be bold**

#### **1. Apostle Paul requested the Ephesian Christians pray for him to be bold when he proclaimed the Gospel.**

This was his constant request. And even though Apostle Paul was known for being brave...even as he stood up to Felix, Festus, and Agrippa...**yet he asked for prayer for boldness.** He knew boldness came from Jesus. But he knew the tendency for God's spokesmen to become afraid.

Jeremiah 1:7 But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. **8 Do not be afraid of their faces,** For I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD.

Ezekiel 3:9 "Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; **do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks,** though they are a rebellious house." <sup>[11]</sup> "And go, get to the captives, to the children of your people, and speak to them and tell them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' whether they hear, or whether they refuse."

#### **2. Apostle Paul was well aware of his weakness – to be intimidated...and hide...**

Romans 15: 30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, <sup>31</sup> that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,

He did not ask for fluent speech...or charm...but to be bold. The Roman scene could be quite intimidating.

#### **3. Apostle Paul was indeed a bold ambassador of the Lord, with very specific duties to ably and accurately represent the King.**

**Normally a government official would have a gold chain (necklace) around the neck** to show power and authority, but Apostle Paul's chain was made of iron and he was kept in prison.

**What is ironic is that an ambassador could never be arrested**...then or now, but he was.

**There is no selfishness here. He prayed for boldness so the Gospel could continue to be spread.**

#### **4. Lessons:**

**b. Be bold in the Gospel.** When you are not...when you are intimidated...maybe because the opponent seems like a more knowledgeable debater...or you are not the most fluent speaker and you get a little tongue-tied...or maybe you are not as fluent in English...pray for the Holy Spirit to make you bold. God who is strong for battle makes you strong too!

**b. Pray for men and women in prison that they will boldly proclaim the whole and living Gospel!** Pray they may be bold and **have the right words to speak.** If you hear someone witnessing of Jesus on the bus or in your school, pray their words would be effective...even pray in your heart!

### **But Don't Worry about me**

21 But **that you also may know my affairs** and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; 22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that **he may comfort your hearts.**

#### **1. In order that the Ephesian Christians not worry about Apostle Paul and all the dangers around him, he sent Tychicus to the Ephesians to encourage and comfort them.**

Tychicus told them what life was like for the Apostle. Was he sick? Was he sad? Did he still have a fighting spirit? Was he eating properly? Was he lonely?

**The word for comfort is the same word for “paraclete,”** the word used to describe the work of the Holy Spirit. (You see this concern in the way children would worry if their Mom or Dad were sick and they want to comfort their parents.) The Apostle was in the habit of letting his brothers know what was going on in his life so they could pray...and not be worried.

**Colossians 4: 8** I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, 9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

More, Tychicus would tell the Ephesians about the success of the Gospel he had witnessed.

#### **2. Who was Tychicus?**

He was a dear friend of the Apostle from Asia Minor. **He is called a minister** of the Gospel. Exactly what “minister” means, we do not know. It could mean “pastor,” or more likely, it refers to someone who assists, like a deacon. Context is king. Tychicus was used multiple times to take messages for the Apostle.

#### **3. Apostle Paul could have sent a letter, and often did, but this issue required a face to face conversation.**

When Tychicus would give them the details and the reassurances, it would **cause them to worry less** about the Apostle.

And isn't it striking that Apostle Paul was chained to a Roman guard all day long and facing

the prospects of execution, **but his concern was that the Ephesians would worry about him**. So he had to assuage their worries.

Yet, **Apostle Paul had warned them of this before he left Ephesus the last time**.

Acts 20: 24 "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25 "And Indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, **will see my face no more**.

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. God is pleased to use anyone to minister to comfort those who are struggling.** He may use your minister or a member. He could use your elder, or a divorced mother, or a barber, or a young child! Receive God's comforts from which ever direction they come! **Mutually comfort each other always!**

**b. Specifically now, have you ever written to a missionary to find out how he is doing and how you could pray for him?** Do you care how your missionaries are doing? It doesn't have to be a big project. Maybe you could just send an e-mail or a card. Do you encourage your pastor? His work is hard.

**c. Teach your children sound doctrine so they won't fear. Teach them of the sovereignty of God,** of the love of God, of the power of God, of the joys of heaven, and of the glorious hope of the resurrection! Teach them that death is not punishment for sins. Teach them to face death with a smile...so they won't worry if you die...or if they die!

#### **Conclusion:**

Apostle Paul asked for prayer so he would **speak the full unadulterated Gospel** of Jesus Christ, and **to be bold** when he spoke it. But more, he **wanted his beloved brothers and sisters not to worry about him**, whatever happened to him. He was prepared for whatever God had in store.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Know the full Gospel, not the pop Gospel, the social Gospel (which is no Gospel at all), or any other Gospel.** Know about God's holiness, your sin, and the work of the Savior.

**2. Speak this Gospel clearly and boldly so there can be no equivocation – no excuses.**

Remember, "no Gospel" means "no life." And pray that yours and your brother's words may be strong, clear, and effective.

**3. When you boldly proclaim the message of Jesus Christ, you will see the kingdom of Jesus Christ expand.** This is the most powerful weapon in the world. This message makes men surrender from the inside. This message gives men eternal life.

Finally, if you don't know and believe this Gospel, God, who is holy, will send you to hell. Your one way out of hell is in Jesus. So know the Gospel of Jesus today. Believe this Gospel. And receive new life in Jesus.