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## The Three-Open Prayer

By Jeff Bedwell on July 12, 2021

### TODAY'S READING: Colossians 4

Paul closes his letter to the believers in Colossae with a flurry of instructions, greetings and encouragements. I invite you to focus on his call to prayer in verses 2-4. Particularly, I want to invite you to begin to incorporate the prayer pattern Paul models for us here to help us engage in spiritual conversations. It has been called the "three-open prayer."

First, pray, "open a door." Ask God to open an opportunity for you to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ask God to help you recognize where He is already at work in someone's life and how He wants you to join Him in His work. Pray for the chance to speak a word of witness about Jesus Christ and your relationship with Him.

Second, pray, "open their heart" to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus reminded us that, "*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day*" (John 6:44, ESV). God can use world events, life experiences, other people and many other means to help a person be more open to hearing and responding to the gospel. You might make it even more personal and insert the names of people you care deeply about into this prayer.

Third, pray, "open my mouth." Pray asking God to give you a "humble boldness" to seize the moment and the words to say that fit the moment. Paul asked others to pray for him to have the right words in our passage today and in other places. In Ephesians 6:19, Paul asks his friends to pray for him, "*that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.*" God has been answering that prayer for 2,000 years and He will do it for you today!

Are you willing to engage in a "holy experiment"? Would you be willing to pray the three-open prayer every day for the next 40 days and see what God might do in you and through you in that time? It will definitely change you and how you approach your day. It may very well be something that God uses to help change someone else's eternity!

**PRAYER:** Father, I admit I am a little uncertain about what might happen as I pray this way, but here goes. Open a door, open their heart, and open my mouth.

**TOMORROW'S READING: Ephesians 1**

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