**Topic**: Evangelism

**Theme**: How to Become an Effective Soul Winner

**Passage**: Colossians 4:2-6

**Colossians 4:2-6**
2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;
3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;
4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.
5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.
6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

**1. Effective soul winners devote themselves to prayer**

 **2**Devote yourselves to prayer,

 **Devote** = to commit, to give yourselves

The apostolic church was devoted to prayer

**Acts 1:14**
14 These all with one mind were **continually** **devoting themselves to prayer**, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

**Acts 2:41-43**
41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

42 They were **continually devoting themselves** to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and **to prayer**.

**Acts 6:4**
4 "But we will **devote ourselves to prayer** and to the ministry of the word."

A visitor at Spurgeon's Tabernacle in London was being shown around the building by the pastor, **Charles Spurgeon.**"Would you like to see the powerhouse of this ministry?" Spurgeon asked, as he showed the man into a lower auditorium. "It is here that we get our power, for while I am preaching upstairs, hundreds of my people are in this room praying.

**2**“keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving”;

**Alert** = to be able to think clearly and notice things, fully aware and attentive, wide awake.

**2. Effective soul winners pray that God would open a door for ministry.**

**3**praying at the same time for us as well, **that God will open up to us a door for the word**, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;

**Acts 14:27**
27 Upon arriving in Antioch, they called the church together and reported about their trip, telling all that **God had done and how** **he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles**, too.

**1 Corinthians 16:8-9**
8 In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost,
9 for there is a **wide-open door** for a great work here, and many people are responding. But there are many who oppose me.

When **John Bunyan** was arrested for preaching illegally and put into prison, he was told that he would be released if he promised to stop preaching. "If I am out of prison today," he replied, "I will preach the Gospel again tomorrow, by the help of God."

**3. Effective soul winners pray that God would give them the right words to speak to.**

**4** “ that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak “.

**Ephesians 6:19-20**
19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the **right words as I boldly explain** God's secret plan that the Good News is for the Gentiles, too.
20 I am in chains now for preaching this message as God's ambassador. But **pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him**, as I should.

**4. Effective soul winners behave wisely with unbelievers.**

**5** ”Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders”,

**1 Thessalonians 4:11-12**
11 This should be your ambition: to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we commanded you before.
12 As a result, **people who are not Christians will respect the way you live,** and you will not need to depend on others to meet your financial needs.

**1 Timothy 3:6-7**
6 An elder must not be a new Christian, because he might be proud of being chosen so soon, and the Devil will use that pride to make him fall.
7 Also, **people outside the church must speak well of him** so that he will not fall into the Devil's trap and be disgraced.

**5. Effective soul winners take advantage of every witnessing opportunity.**

**5**“ making the most of the opportunity” .

**6. Effective soul winners have the Word of God living in their heart.**

**6**Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, **so that** **you will know how you should respond to each person**.

* to make sure that we speak with grace , that is, with kindness, courtesy, and graciousness.
* to season our conversation with salt; that is, we are to flavor and turn the conversation to tasteful and enjoyable subjects and away from corruptible and tasteless subjects.

**Psalm 119:11**
11 **Your word** I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

**Colossians 3:16**
16 Let the **words of Christ**, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

**1 Peter 4:11**
11 Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God;

**1 Peter 3:15**
15 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,

The Reason Paul could be in and be at peace, was because he had put his faith in Jesus Christ. And therefore received the gift of eternal life. Paul knew that he was going to be with God in heaven when he died.

**Question:** if you were to die today do you know for **sure** that you are going to be with God in heaven?