

SUBJECT:
THE FELLOWSHIP FOR THE SAINTS
WHO ARE WILLING TO OPEN THEIR HOMES
Message One
The Prayer for the Gospel

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:46-47; 1:14; Eph. 6:12; Phil. 1:3-6; Rom. 1:9; 15:16; 2 Cor.
4:13; Eph. 17-18

- I. We should encourage every brother and sister to open their homes for the preaching of the gospel; this is a very crucial point—Acts 2:46-47:**
 - A. Preaching the gospel by opening our homes is different from preaching the gospel in the meeting halls, because there is no place for show or façade; it only requires everyone to exercise his or her spirit; preaching in this way attracts people, and it warms and comforts them—John 12:1-3.
 - B. We should constantly encourage each other to preach the gospel by themselves in their homes; although this preaching may not be flawless, it will have a much better flavor—Mark 2:15; Acts 2:46-47.
- II. We need the preaching and the speaking of the Word, but first we have to pray—Acts 1:14; 4:31:**
 - A. As Christians we are priests and kings; when we pray, we are functioning as priests; when we preach, we are functioning as kings—2 Pet 2:9; Rev. 1:6.
 - B. As priests we should bring people to the Lord in our prayer; and if possible, pray for them by name—Rom. 1:9.
- III. Prayer is also necessary to deal with the principalities and powers in the heavenly places; our fighting is against the evil spiritual forces in the heavenlies—Eph. 6:12:**
 - A. Men do not reject the gospel because of its content; people reject the gospel because they are in the captivity of the strong man, the devil—Matt. 12:29.
 - B. The prayers of the saints will cause all the demons to tremble; we have to be one with the Lord to fight the spiritual warfare against His enemy—Eph. 6:17-18.
 - C. We are not wrestling with flesh and blood; we are wrestling with the principalities and powers in the heavenlies—v. 12.
 - D. We must beseech the Lord to bind the strong man, Satan; in Matthew 12:29 the Lord Jesus clearly said that if the strong man were not bound, no one could plunder his house—vv. 28-29.
- IV. We must learn to pray continually; George Müller is a good example of someone who prayed continually; according to his autobiography, everyone for whom he prayed eventually was saved—Phil. 1:3-6; Col. 2:1-2:**
 - A. There is the need for persistence in prayer; we should pray continually and not give up; we do not know when the people in our prayers will be saved —4:2.

B. We also should persistently pray for our contacts and even pray for them together with other saints; the ones that we mention before the throne of the Lord, asking in His name, will be saved —John 14:13-14.

V. The work of preaching the gospel is not a quick, mushrooming work; it is based upon our prayer—Rom. 1:9; 15:16:

A. There is a principle in the Bible that the more you speak, the more light you will receive; I can testify that the more I speak, the more light and truth come to me—Eph. 5:19 note 2; Ezek. 34:1-31; 38:1-28.

B. We should learn to speak based upon our prayer and to speak by faith in the Word—Matt. 11:25; 2 Cor. 4:13.

C. We must fulfill our priestly service by praying to bring people to the Lord—Rom. 15:16; 1 Pet. 2:5:

1. We should put them on our breast and shoulders, bearing them in love and in power into the presence of the Lord—Exo. 28:29-30.

2. After we pray in this manner, we will be authorized and filled with the word; the word is our authority to go to the people as kings—Acts 13:9-11.

D. Weighty speaking comes only from prayer and the use of the holy Word; you must be filled with prayer and the Word—Eph. 6:17-18.