

Series: Habits for a Fruitful Life: A Study of the Book of Colossians
Title: **Speak to God about others and others about God**
Speaker: Ed Stetzer | Scholar in Residence
Date: Jul 20/21

Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains, so that I may make it known as I should. Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person. (Colossians 4:2-6)

1. Speak to God with Gratitude.

...pray constantly... (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

2. Pray for believers to Focus.

When there are many words, sin is unavoidable, but the one who controls his lips is prudent. (Proverbs 10:19)

There is one who speaks rashly, like a piercing sword; but the tongue of the wise brings healing. (Proverbs 12:18)

A gentle answer turns away anger, but a harsh word stirs up wrath. (Proverbs 15:1)

The one who has knowledge restrains his words, and one who keeps a cool head is a person of understanding. (Proverbs 17:27)

But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)

My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger... (James 1:19)

For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should. (Ephesians 6:20)

3. “Speak” to others by our Actions.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits. (1 Peter 2:12)

4. Proclaim with Winsome Engagement.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29 NIV)

Reflection Question:

What would it look like for you to show and share the good news of Jesus this week?