

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. (Eph 6:18-20 NIV)*

**Strong Comfort: Our Saviour Jesus Christ has abolished death, and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: (2Ti 1:10 KJV)**

1. Pray for the faithful proclamation of the gospel throughout the world and ages:
  - 1.1. St. Paul as the greatest missionary of all times, but not the last.
    - 1.1.1. Supportive congregations and the prayers of the church. God hears prayers and does more than we ask and wish for.
  - 1.2. Spanish Francis Xavier<sup>1</sup> JS to India & Japan, Irish monk St. Columban<sup>2</sup> to the heathens of W. Europa Gaul (France) and (N.Italy/Switzerland), pagans and idolaters and the German missionary Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg<sup>3</sup> to India. Rev. Sithole to Limehill, Pastor Lubede to Umlazi (KZN) and pastor Mokopanele to the Barolong in Botswana.
2. Fear of persecution, chains and suffering, death and grave.
  - 2.1. St. Paul's persecution, imprisonment, punishment, torture and martyrdom.
  - 2.2. Demoralization, demotivation, impediment, obstacle, give up, stop.
  - 2.3. Last enemy is death and the grave: Danger of stopping the gospel proclamation!
 

That's why we need to speak up at the shut-ins, hospitalization and graves!
3. Strong comfort as antidote: IX has abolished death, Life & immortality has been brought by IX through the gospel!
  - 3.1. Therefore you are praying to the living God!
  - 3.2. He has promised to hear our prayer!
  - 3.3. He is faithful and strengthens and keeps us in the true faith
  - 3.4. Therefore we pray gladly and regularly and in the sure conviction of being heard:
    - 3.4.1. Hallowed be your name!<sup>4</sup> Your Kingdom come!<sup>5</sup> Your will be done!<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_Xavier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Xavier)

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbanus>

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartholom%C3%A4us\\_Ziegenbalg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartholom%C3%A4us_Ziegenbalg)

<sup>4</sup> *Thus it is a matter of grave necessity, about which we should be most concerned that God's name receive due honour and be kept holy and sacred as the greatest treasure and most sacred thing that we have, and that, as*

We pray with the holy Christian Church a collect of this past Sunday: *“Almighty and everlasting God, comfort of the sad and strength of those who suffer: Let the prayers of your children who are in any trouble rise to you. To everyone in distress grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment; through IX, our Lord. Amen.*

### 3.5. Hymn 758: *The will of God is always best ...*

good children, we pray that his name, which is in any case holy in heaven, may also be holy and be kept holy on earth in our midst and in all the world.

How does it become holy among us? The plainest answer that can be given is: when both our teaching and our life are godly and Christian. Because in this prayer we call God our Father, it is our duty in every way to behave as good children so that he may receive from us not shame but honour and praise. (K&W 445)

<sup>5</sup> We ask here at the outset that all this may be realized in us and that his name may be praised through God's holy Word and Christian living. This we ask, both in order that we who have accepted it may remain faithful and grow daily in it and also in order that it may find approval and gain followers among other people and advance with power throughout the world. In this way many, led by the Holy Spirit, may come into the kingdom of grace and become partakers of redemption, so that we may all remain together eternally in this kingdom that has now begun.

“The coming of God's kingdom to us” takes place in two ways: first, it comes here, in time, through the Word and faith, and second, in eternity, it comes through the final revelation. Now, we ask for both of these things: that it may come to those who are not yet in it and that, by daily growth here and in eternal life hereafter, it may come to us who have attained it. All this is nothing more than to say: “Dear Father, we ask you first to give us your Word, so that the gospel may be properly preached throughout the world and then that it may also be received in faith and may work and dwell in us, so that your kingdom may pervade among us through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit and the devil's kingdom may be destroyed so that he may have no right or power over us until finally his kingdom is utterly eradicated and sin, death, and hell wiped out, that we may live forever in perfect righteousness and blessedness.”

From this you see that we are not asking here for crumbs or for a temporal, perishable blessing, but for an eternal, priceless treasure and for everything that God himself possesses. (K&W 447)

<sup>6</sup> Thus far we have prayed that God's name may be hallowed by us and that his kingdom may prevail among us. These two points embrace all that pertains to God's glory and to our salvation, in which we appropriate God with all his treasures. But there is just as great need for us to keep firm hold on these two things and never to allow ourselves to be torn from them. In a good government there is need not only for good builders and rulers, but also for defenders, protectors, and vigilant guardians. So here also; although we have prayed for what is most necessary—for the gospel, for faith, and for the Holy Spirit, that he may govern us who have been redeemed from the power of the devil—we must also pray that God cause his will to be done. If we try to hold these treasures fast, we will have to suffer an astonishing number of attacks and assaults from all who venture to hinder and thwart the fulfillment of the first two petitions.

For no one can believe how the devil opposes and obstructs their fulfillment. He cannot bear to have anyone teach or believe rightly. It pains him beyond measure when his lies and abominations, honored under the most specious pretexts of God's name, are disclosed and exposed in all their shame, when they are driven out of people's hearts and a breach is made in his kingdom. Therefore, like a furious foe, he raves and rages with all his power and might, marshaling all his subjects and even enlisting the world and our own flesh as his allies. For our flesh is in itself vile and inclined to evil, even when we have accepted God's Word and believe it. The world, too, is perverse and wicked. Here the devil stirs things up, feeding and fanning the flames, in order to impede us, put us to flight, cut us down, and bring us once again under his power. This is his only purpose, desire, and thought, and for this end he strives without rest day and night, using all the arts, tricks, methods, and approaches that he can devise.

Therefore we who would be Christians must surely expect to have the devil with all his angels<sup>174</sup> and the world as our enemies and must expect that they will inflict every possible misfortune and grief upon us. For where God's Word is preached, accepted, or believed, and bears fruit, there the holy and precious cross will also not be far behind. And let no one think that we will have peace; rather, we must sacrifice all we have on earth—possessions, honor, house and farm, spouse and children, body and life. Now, this grieves our flesh and the old creature, for it means that we must remain steadfast, suffer patiently whatever befalls us, and let go whatever is taken from us. (K&W 448)