As Paul brings this lesson to an end, he urges the believers to pray for him. There is nothing unusual about his request for prayer, but what I find unusual is his prayer request. Paul ask that they pray for him to have utterance and boldness, in other words he says, “when I open my mouth to speak that God gives me the words to say and the boldness or courage to say them”.

Paul’s desire is to boldly present the mystery of God’s new creation, the oneness of all people in Christ. As he faces a flesh and blood enemy called Caesar, Paul is mindful that his spiritual enemies will do all they can to destroy his testimony and lead him to apostasy.

What needs to be considered here is Paul is in prison and he is dealing with some sort of affliction and yet he does not ask them to pray for deliverance from either of them but for words and courage to keep doing what got him locked up in the first place.

It is the responsibility of every believer to make a practice of encouraging and praying for one another; we can promote unity and show the love of Christ by doing this (Hebrews 3:13, 10:24).

Pray for your Pastor because of the nature of the work there is a consistent flow of negativity, disappointment and discouragement that will require the attention of the Pastor and it is expected that the Pastor when called will be the one who will always be the encourager. Pastors are always dealing with the spiritual and personal issues of the congregation and need the prayers of the righteous. Sometimes your Pastor and his family need to be encouraged by the same people they serve.

* Encourage rather than criticize, Job 16:4–5.
* The discouraged Prophet: 1st Kings 19:1-19
* Hebrews 13: 17-19
* 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5