Spiritual Warfare:

Ask God to Give Me the Words to Speak Boldly

And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So, pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should (Eph. 6:19-20).

Weakness, Fear, & Great Trembling

1 Cor. 2:1-3

And when I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come as someone superior in speaking ability or wisdom, as I proclaimed to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. But I came to you in weakness and fear, and in great trembling.

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Washing feet is not flashy. Repentance is not marketable. And a gospel that requires self-sacrifice does not get airtime in a world of self-comfort. But it is the example and invitation of our Lord, and therefore should mark our ministry...We may develop great strategic plans for theoretically multiplying disciples, but if we aren't investing in actual relationships with individuals, there will be no disciples to multiply.

Matthew Bennett Hope for American Evangelicals: A Missionary Perspective on Restoring Our Broken House

1 Cor. 2:4-5

And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of mankind, but on the power of God.

Give Me the Words

Colossians 2:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. ³ Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities (an open door) to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. ⁴ Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone.

Notes:

Speak Them Boldly

Romans 1:14-16

I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike. ¹⁵ So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."