<u>S E R M O N N O T E S</u> SEPTEMBER 3, 2006

Battle Plans for Grace Church

2 Kings 6:8-23

1. Expect plenty of opportunities.

Plan on opportunity

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.

⁹For a great and effective door has opened to me, and *there are* many adversaries.

Prepare for Opportunity

1 Peter 3:15-16 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Pray for opportunity

Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, ⁴that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

2. Expect to encounter powerful opposition (v. 8).

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

3. Expect to experience personal <u>inadequacies</u> (v. 15). What are we going to do?

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

4. Expect to discover <u>divine omnipresence</u> (vs. 16-17).

Hebrews 13: 5 For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

- You need not ask, "Is God with me?
- You need pray "God, please let me see!"