

October 2024
Prayer & Devotion Guide



Luke 18:1

Pray Always and Never Give Up.

Pray For Jerusalem

O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls; they will pray day and night, continually. Take no rest, all you who pray to the Lord.

⁷ Give the Lord no rest until he completes his work, until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth. Isaiah 62:6- 7

One the most effective ways to pray as an intercessor is to pray back to God His very Own Word, which does not return void, but accomplishes the purposes for which He sent it forth.

Pray for Restoration

And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” Revelation 21:5b

The time is coming when Jacob’s descendants will take root. Israel will bud and blossom and fill the whole earth with fruit! Isaiah 27:6

I will give you back your health and heal your wounds,” says the Lord.

“For you are called an outcast—‘Jerusalem for whom no one cares.’” Jeremiah 30:17

“In that day I will restore the fallen house of David. I will repair its damaged walls. From the ruins I will rebuild it and restore its former glory. Amos 9:11

Pray for the Children & Youth of the Land.

Pray for Caring of the Neddy, Elderly, and Homeless in the Land.

Prayer for Persecuted Church

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Hebrews 13:3

Global watchdog Open Doors reports that in just the last year...

- Over 360 million Christians face high levels of persecution for their faith.
- 14,700 + churches and other Christian properties were attacked.
- 295,120 Christians displaced.

These numbers are heart-breaking. And sadly, they do not tell the whole story.

Please pray:

- Whatever their circumstances, God will give persecuted Christians the right words. (Ephesians 6:19-20)
- That persecuted Christians will understand and find peace in the sufficiency of God's grace, even in their weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- That Christians facing hardship will draw from a source of power larger than themselves. (2 Corinthians 1:7-9)
- God be present in their hardship, protecting them according to His will.
- That their witness would inspire those who seek to harm them.

Malaysia

Persecution Type: Islamic oppression, Dictatorial paranoia, Ethno-religious hostility

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Federal Parliamentary, Constitutional Monarchy

Leader: Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim

Turkey

Persecution Type: Islamic oppression, Dictatorial paranoia, Ethno-religious hostility, Religious nationalism

Main Religion: Islam

Government: Presidential Republic

Leader: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

North Korea

Persecution Type: Dictatorial paranoia, Communist & post-Communist oppression

Main Religion: Agnosticism

Government: Single-party Dictatorship

Leader: State Affairs Commission President Kim Jong Un

Prayer For Our Nation

Pray for Revival

“Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!” Psalm 80:19

Pray for Restoration & Healing

“Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.” Jeremiah 33:6

Pray for God’s Grace & Mercy

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:4-5

Pray for Unity & Peace

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.” 2 Corinthians 13:11

Pray for Justice & Christians to Rise

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

Pray for the Integrity of Our Political Leaders

“For lack of guidance, a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.” Proverbs 11:14

Daily Prayers for October:

“A church should be a camp of soldiers, not a hospital of invalids.” Charles Spurgeon

Tuesday, October 1st, 2024:

Fearfully, Wonderfully

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.” (**Psalm 139:14**) This is what God says about us - about *you*! In place of “fearfully” some translations use awesomely or remarkably. And don’t miss that He says *we are marvelous*, because *His works are marvelous*, and we are His workmanship! (**Ephesians 2:10**)

I recently shared with a friend that what He *doesn't* say is that we were made to be fearful or to wonder about His goodness. He doesn't change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (**2 Timothy 1:7**) And that's not all He has given us. “But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.’” (**Luke 12:31-32**)

“Do you see what we've got? An unshakable kingdom! And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander.” (**Hebrews 12:28**, The Message) Knowing how much He loves us and how lavishly He blessed us - “...with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...” (**Ephesians 1:3**), we need never be fearful or doubt our security or identity. We are His, and as an old phrase used to proclaim - I'm a child of God, and He doesn't make junk! No, we are fearfully, awesomely, wonderfully made in His image. Why not own that identity and tell Him thank You.

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

Faith Under Fire

“So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.” (**Galatians 6:9**)

Sometimes it can feel like we’re doing all the right things and nobody notices or even cares. And maybe we really *are* doing the right things, but think of it in terms of going to the gym or being on a diet. It takes a while to begin to see any results. But if “our eyes are on the prize” we’ll hang in there and keep on keeping on. This holds true with our faith walk as well.

Joshua and Caleb were the only ones from the original group out of Egypt that were allowed to enter the Promised Land, and it was because of their complete trust in and faithfulness to God. Joshua rose to the number one position, taking the place of Moses, but we hear very little of Caleb. Yet Caleb is only one of three people in the Bible of whom it is said they wholly followed the Lord. The other two were Joshua and David. Because of his intense devotion to the Lord, he asked for and was given the first choice of land; and even at the age of 85, Caleb was ready to “take” the land that had been promised to him by Moses over 40 years prior.

Our takeaway is: at every juncture in his journey, Caleb was ready to put his full trust in God despite seemingly overwhelming odds; he was willing to wait without complaining while he endured delay that was the result of the unbelief and disobedience of others; when his time came, he acted boldly and in faith.

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.” (**James 1:12**)

Thursday, October 3rd, 2024:

Submission and Dependence

When temptations arise, do you have a plan in place to resist the enemy? Scripture tells us Satan prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour, and that the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life comes from him.

We need to be prepared because it's not a matter of if it will happen but when it will happen! The enemy is cunning and patient. He'll wait for the perfect moment when we're unprepared and vulnerable. He wants nothing more than to destroy our relationship with God.

So, we must have a strategy in place before the enemy strikes. To find the perfect plan for resisting temptations, we need look no further than the example Jesus provided when he was here.

Jesus modeled complete submission and dependence on God the Father. He said He could do nothing by Himself, and that He did everything to please the One who sent Him. Jesus didn't come to us in human form on His own; God sent Him. And He didn't speak on His own authority but rather it was His Father living in Him who was doing His work.

Jesus also knew Scripture. When the Spirit led Him to the wilderness, each time Satan tempted Him, Jesus responded with "It is written..." and quoted His Father's inspired Word. For the Word of God is alive and active and sharper than any double-edged sword.

Jesus provided the perfect plan for how we should be living. Complete dependence on and submission to God our Father, and having the Word hidden in our hearts so we might not sin against Him.

1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 2:16; John 5:30; John 8:42; John 14:10; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:11

Friday, October 4th, 2024:

Bring Your Requests

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1Thessalonians 5:18)

You are invited into the throne room to bring your requests before God, the Father, through Jesus Christ. The Word of God tells us God Hears and answers our prayer when we pray according to His will. Prayer is like opening the door of heaven and speaking directly to the God of Heaven! The Lord is a merciful God who knows our thoughts before we even speak. He is the “...God of all comfort.” (2 Corinthians 1:3) At times we wait for the answer, but we can trust God knows what is best for us. We are reminded of the scripture that says: “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord.” (Isaiah 55:8). When we bring everything before God, we have an assurance that God hears us. We are to pray according to His will. At times when our prayers are answered contrary to our hope, it is our faith that leads us to Romans 8:28 “We know that all things work together for good to those that love God to those who are the called: according to His purpose.” Jesus prayed to His Father. It was His habit to be alone, early in the day and pray. It is so comforting to know that if we “draw near to God, He will draw near to us.” (James 4:8) So, bring your requests, by starting the day with prayer. He is listening. We know we are invited to pray because of the words of Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

John 6:63, Psalm 139:2, 1 John 5:14, 1 Peter 3:12, Matthew 14:23

Saturday, October 5th, 2024:

You Are Accepted

Romans 15:7 says, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." This verse reminds us that we are accepted by Christ, not because of our accomplishments or efforts, but through His grace. In a world where we often feel the need to compete for approval or prove our worth, this truth brings freedom.

Because Christ has already accepted us, we don't need to strive for the acceptance of others or compare ourselves to them. Instead, we can focus on loving others as He loves us, letting go of insecurity and embracing unity. This acceptance empowers us to reflect Christ's love, creating an environment of grace and understanding, not competition.

Philippians 2:3 echoes this, urging us to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." When we rest in God's acceptance, we are free to value and build up others, without feeling the need to compare or compete.

Prayer Points

1. Lord, help me to rest in the acceptance You have given me, freeing me from striving for approval.
2. Father, teach me to love and accept others as You have loved and accepted me, creating unity and peace in my relationships.

Sunday, October 6th, 2024:

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

There is a mobilization underway to set aside the first Sunday of every October as the Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem. As believers in Yahweh - the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who gave the land to His people - this should be a priority. In fact, scripture commands us to do so. "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch." (**Isaiah 62:1**) And in **Psalms 122:6** we are urged, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May those who love you be secure.'" Israel is the apple of His eye, and He will bless those who bless her, but He will also curse those who curse her. (**Genesis 12:3**)

With all that is happening now, we need to remember that there are Christian Arabs with approximately 1000 living in Gaza. Pray for the protection of all the innocents, both Jewish and Palestinian, that as they experience God's presence they will reflect their hope and peace in Him to others. Pray also for wisdom and godly counsel for the leaders of Israel, that they would seek You first in every decision that every victory would be attributed to You and Your mercy and grace. Let that be a sign to the surrounding countries and to all the world that You alone are our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and our true Prince of Peace. (**Isaiah 9:6**)

Heavenly Father, we ask that You would be a very present help in Israel's time of need. May she seek Your guidance and protection as You reveal Yourself in signs and wonders, shielding her from her enemies and drawing her to You and to Your Son Jesus as her promised Messiah.

Monday, October 7th, 2024:

Blessing or Curse

In **Deuteronomy 30:19** Moses laid it out pretty plainly - the people had two choices: be blessed or cursed. This was prior to entering the Promised Land. Joshua reiterated the choice after defeating Ai as a reminder that obedience to God was crucial to their success, and they had witnessed first hand the reality of that. They were at a critical point as a nation, and the need to align with the Lord would determine their future.

We find ourselves at a crossroads as well. The trajectory of our nation will depend on the outcome in November. The results of the election will not fix us - no political party, government, law, or any other human entity can do that. But we also are being given two choices, and we need to decide which side more closely aligns with God's directives.

"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!" (New Living Translation) Among those things that would bring a curse were setting up idols, dishonoring parents, misleading the "blind" or distorting justice, immorality, and failure to uphold the words of the law. That failure would bring about ultimate destruction!

But diligent obedience would result in God setting them high above all the nations of the earth. The United States was founded on a Biblical worldview that honors and protects life, and the result has been unparalleled favor and prosperity. He is clear in His word about what is righteous and what He sees as evil, and He is putting before us two choices. Choose you this day whom you will serve - choose life.

Tuesday, September 8th, 2024:

God's Child

John 1:12-13 reminds us of a beautiful truth: *"Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."* Through faith in Christ, we are not just created by God—we are His children, loved and accepted into His family.

Being God's child means we have a Heavenly Father who cares for us deeply. He knows our every need, provides for us, and is always near. It's not based on what we do, but on who He is and the work Jesus accomplished on the cross.

Romans 8:16 also affirms, *"The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."* It's the Holy Spirit within us that assures us of our identity and inheritance in Christ.

As God's child, you are loved, valued, and never alone. Rest in that truth today.

Prayer Points:

1. Thank God for the privilege of being His child and ask Him to help you live in the confidence of your identity in Christ.
2. Pray for a deeper understanding of God's fatherly love and trust in His provision and guidance each day.

Wednesday, October 9th, 2024:

Christ's Friend

In John 15:12-17, Jesus invites us into a profound relationship, calling us friends rather than servants. A true friend is someone who knows us deeply, loves us sacrificially, and desires the best for us. Jesus embodies the ultimate friend. He laid down His life for us, demonstrating the highest form of love (**John 15:13**).

Friendship with Jesus is not merely based on feelings or convenience. He calls us to obey His commands, especially the command to love one another as He has loved us. True friendship with Christ grows through love, obedience, and abiding in Him. When we love like Jesus, we reflect His friendship to others and walk closely with Him.

So how can we be a friend of Jesus? First, by obeying His commands. "You are my friends if you do what I command" (**John 15:14**). Second, by remaining in His love. He chose us, appointed us to bear fruit, and promises that whatever we ask in His name, He will give (John 15:16). Friendship with Jesus transforms our lives and empowers us to love others sacrificially.

Proverbs 18:24 – "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Prayer Points:

1. Pray for a deeper revelation of Christ's love and friendship in your life.
2. Ask for the grace to love others as Jesus loves you, reflecting His sacrificial friendship in all relationships.

Thursday, October 10th, 2024:

Words Matter

Some things are better left unsaid ... which we usually realize right after we've said them.

Matthew 12:36-37 tells us, “And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak. The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.” We too often don’t take seriously enough the words that come out of our mouths, much to our detriment. The Bible has a lot to say about the power of our words!

Proverbs repeatedly warns us: death and life are in the power of the tongue (18:21), thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal (12:18), gentle words are a tree of life; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit (15:4), the wicked are trapped by their own words, but the conversation of good people keeps them out of distress (12:13), and finally, watching what you say can save you a lot of trouble. (21:23)

And if you prefer the New Testament, “With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women He made in His image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth! My friends, this can’t go on.” (**James 3:8-10**, The Message) Without the power of the Holy Spirit, our flesh will take control of our tongues, and this can lead to our ruin. The bottom line is, “Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if *there is* any good *word* for edification according to the need *of the moment*, say that, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” (**Ephesians 4:29**, NAS) Our words matter!

Lord, set a guard over our mouths as You remind us of the tremendous power in our words to both heal and to destroy, and remind us as well that You hear and remember them all.

Friday, October 11th, 2024:

Loving Like a Friend

"And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother (sister)." — **1 John 4:21**

Loving others isn't just a suggestion; it's a command. God calls us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ with the same grace He has shown us. But how do we love others deeply, as both a brother (sister) and a friend? It starts with understanding that true love is selfless, sacrificial, and rooted in God's love.

Jesus said, *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends"* (**John 15:13**). True love involves putting the needs of others before our own, seeking their well-being above our comfort. It may be as simple as showing kindness or being a source of encouragement when they need it most.

Furthermore, love must be sincere and patient. As Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 13:4-5**, "Love is patient, love is kind... It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking." Loving like a brother(sister) means forgiving faults, standing by them in times of hardship, and being their support, just as Christ stands by us.

God's love transforms our hearts, empowering us to love genuinely. When we let Him lead, loving a brother (sister) like a friend becomes an act of worship and obedience.

Prayer Points:

1. Lord, help me to love others with the same sacrificial love that You have shown me, placing their needs above my own.
2. Father, give me the grace to be patient, kind, and forgiving towards my brothers and sisters in Christ, reflecting Your heart in my relationships.

Saturday, October 12th, 2024

Perfect Harmony

Colossians 3:14

"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

Colossians 3:14 highlights the essential role of love in our lives. Love is the force that binds all virtues and relationships together, creating unity and harmony. It transcends individual differences and imperfections, allowing us to live in peace with one another. By embracing love, we can foster a supportive and harmonious community that reflects Christ's love to the world.

Prayer Points:

Cultivating Love: Ask God to help you cultivate a heart full of love, that you may reflect His love in your interactions.

Unity in Relationships: Pray for strong, loving relationships that contribute to harmony in your family, friendships, and church community.

Overcoming Discord: Seek God's guidance in resolving conflicts and bridging gaps where love may be lacking.

Witnessing Through Love: Pray that your expressions of love would be a powerful witness of Christ's love to those around you.

Sunday, October 13th, 2024:

Sinner or Saint

Do you think of yourself as a sinner or a saint...or perhaps somewhere in between?

As a believer, it's important that we fully understand our identity in Christ. Being a Christian isn't simply about being forgiven and going to heaven; it's about being spiritually alive and having Christ in us! It's about who we are and our relationship with Him.

When you accept Christ: You're God's child. You're Christ's friend. You're united with the Lord, and you're one spirit with Him. You have been bought with a price. You belong to God. You are a saint! And so much more!

Being a saint refers to your position in Christ, not necessarily your maturity in Him. While we all will still face struggles with sin, this gives us hope. Our flesh patterns don't define who we are.

By God's calling, we are saints, and we share in the inheritance of Christ. "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ."

Every believer is identified as a saint with Christ!

Yet many Christians struggle because they have a false perception of who they truly are. They think of themselves as sinners who hope they make it into heaven but they can't seem to rise above their sinful patterns.

You must believe that you are a child of God to live like a child of God. God wants us to know and grow closer to Him. And through Jesus, God made Himself known to all. He wants everyone to know this rich and glorious secret inside and out, regardless of their background, regardless of their religious standing.

John 1:12; John 15:15; 1 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 1:1; Romans 8:16-17; Colossians 1:27

Monday, October 14th, 2024:

Nothing Too Difficult

“...This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.’” **(Zechariah 4:6)**

This was spoken during the time when the Temple was being rebuilt. The challenges were overwhelming and after years of work on the Temple, the construction was halted. It seemed like a great mountain stood in the way of progress and discouragement loomed heavy for Zerubbabel. Just when he might have been ready to give up, he received words of encouragement from The Lord, saying that the mountain he was facing would become as a flat land and it would not take human might or human power to finish the Temple, but it would be done by the “Spirit of the Lord.” These words of encouragement were spoken to someone who was facing tremendous pressure in the rebuilding of the Temple. Today, we have our own challenges and mountains we are facing. But God is the same God today as He was yesterday, when He spoke those encouraging words to Zerubbabel. The Lord says, “...not by might”, so, it isn’t ours to plow our way through and make it happen. And it is not by our power that our “mountains” are removed. It is by God’s Spirit. He is our strength. He is our helper. There is nothing too difficult for God when we turn to the Lord for help. Such an encouragement to know God is in our midst and working by His Spirit.

Zechariah 4:6-9, Hebrews 13:8, Psalm 46:1, Psalm 54:4, Jeremiah 32:27

Tuesday, October 15th, 2024:

Love God More

“But you need to be aware that in the final days the culture of society will become extremely fierce. People will be self-centered lovers of themselves and obsessed with money. They will boast of great things as they strut around in their arrogant pride and mock all that is right. They will ignore their own families. They will be ungrateful and ungodly. They will become addicted to hateful and malicious slander. Slaves to their desires, they will be ferocious, belligerent haters of what is good and right. With brutal treachery, they will act without restraint, bigoted and wrapped in clouds of their conceit. They will find their delight in the pleasures of this world more than the pleasures of the loving God. They may pretend to have a respect for God, but in reality they want nothing to do with God’s power.” (2 Timothy 3:1-5, TPT) Or as the NIV puts it - having a *form* of godliness but *denying its power*. *Have nothing to do with them!* (emphasis added)

We have to understand that this was written in the 1st century to Timothy, pastor of the church in Ephesus. Paul just as easily could have written it to us! It seems every day we are witness to some new expression of evil and ungodliness, yet many churches are hesitant to address the spiritual darkness that is engulfing our country because they’re at a loss as to how to respond. But God is not at a loss and neither should we be. He will still pour out His Spirit as He did in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost to transform us if we’ll be open to it.

Just as that was a season of disruption and destruction, where they found themselves and where we are today is no accident. God has placed us here to prove ourselves faithful and fearless in order to shine His light more brightly in the advancing darkness.

Lord, we pray for Your Holy Spirit fire to fall on us that we might be bold in overcoming evil with good, hating the sin but loving the sinners who desperately need You. Let us be Your valiant soldiers.

Wednesday, October 16th, 2024:

Dwell In Unity

Psalm 133:1

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

Psalm 133:1 celebrates the beauty of unity among believers. It's a powerful reminder that when we come together in harmony, we reflect God's love and presence. Unity fosters a supportive community, strengthens faith, and makes the church a beacon of God's grace. Let us strive to embrace each other with love, set aside differences, and work together for His glory.

Prayer Points:

Unity in Relationships: Pray for harmony in your relationships, that you may experience and contribute to a spirit of unity.

Strengthening the Church: Ask God to bless and unify the church community, guiding us to work together effectively.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Seek God's help in overcoming conflicts and fostering reconciliation where there is division.

Reflecting God's Love: Pray that your actions and attitudes would reflect God's love and promote unity in all areas of your life.

Thursday, October 17th, 2024:

Focus on the Eternal

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” — **2 Corinthians 4:17-18** (NIV)

In life, it's easy to get overwhelmed by our struggles and challenges. We often focus on the pain or the disappointment, forgetting that these are temporary. The Apostle Paul reminds us that our troubles, though they may seem heavy now, are momentary in the grand scheme of eternity. Our hardships are not without purpose; they are shaping us, refining us, and preparing us for a glory that is beyond our comprehension.

Paul encourages us to shift our focus from the visible to the invisible, from the temporary to the eternal. When we fix our eyes on God and His promises, we are reminded that He is working all things for our good (**Romans 8:28**). Even in trials, there is hope because we know that this life is not all there is. Our true home and our ultimate reward are in heaven.

Supporting Scriptures:

1. **Romans 8:18** — "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."
2. **Philippians 3:20** — "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Prayer Points:

Trust in God's Sovereignty: Pray for the strength to trust in God's plan, even when faced with difficulties, knowing He is using every situation to prepare us for eternity.

Focus on the Eternal: Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance to keep your focus on eternal things, rather than the temporary struggles of this world.

Friday, October 18th, 2024:

A Little Leaven

We read in **1 Corinthians 5:6** “Your boasting [over the supposed spirituality of your church] is not good [indeed, it is vulgar and inappropriate]. Do you not know that [just] a little leaven ferments the whole batch [of dough, just as a little sin corrupts a person or an entire church]?” (Amplified Bible) This was the idea behind what God did to Achan when he defied God’s command to have nothing to do with the idols of Jericho or to keep any of the silver or gold or bronze or iron - these were dedicated to the Lord.

Achan tried to hide his disobedience, but God unmasked his sin and “removed” that which had put the camp under a curse. Sin is contagious and cannot be allowed to go unchecked lest it spread like a virus. God is holy, and in order for us to walk with Him, He demands holiness in us. It’s not that He expects perfection; He expects us to own up to our weaknesses and seek restoration before it’s demanded. He also expects us to lovingly confront blatant sin in others with the objective to restore the sinner to fellowship and to keep the rest of the body from possible temptation or contamination. The result of Achan’s sin was God responding that He would be with them no more until they destroyed the “devoted things” from among them.

We can’t toy with disobedience or try to hide it. Thanks to Jesus, our position with Him is secure, but our fellowship is provisional, and sin affects us all. Put it to death! We need to all be walking in His power, and that only comes when we’re walking in obedience. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (**1 John 1:9**) Thank Him for His purging, His provision, and the power of His Presence.

Saturday, October 19th, 2024:

It's All Temporary

Our culture feels upside down. We don't have to look far before witnessing or personally experiencing chaos! Some days it feels like we're walking on eggshells while waiting for the other shoe to drop. Cliché overload!

With rising costs, it's getting harder to afford the basic necessities let alone splurging on anything extra. It's understandable to feel the need to cling to all our earthly possessions for fear of losing them.

Jesus warned us that we will have trouble in this world but sometimes it's easy to get caught up in the turmoil and allow anxiety and fear to seep in. We must remember that Christ has already overcome the world and in Him, we can have peace.

Paul reminds us that even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without His unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

We must stay vigilant and not allow the enemy to distract us from our purpose of loving God and loving people. This is the time for us to dive even deeper into our Bibles, pray without ceasing, share the Gospel with others, and serve our communities.

It's all about perspective and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus because nothing will separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

It's time for Believers to rise up and be bold!

John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (MSG); Romans 8:38-39

Sunday, October 20th, 2024:

He Watches Over Us

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them.”

(Psalm 8:3-4 NIV)

We are loved by a Majestic and Mighty God. Our Heavenly Father loves us so much he counts the number of hairs on our head and engraves us on the palm of His hand. He cares about the smallest details of our life. He knows our frame. He watches over us like a mother hen, who gathers her little brood under her wings for protection. He is the Maker of Heaven and Earth, and He is Sovereign over it. But still, He cares about us in ways we may not even know. He has said “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” **(Isaiah 55:9)** There are times when things don’t go the way we hoped and prayed. We don’t always know the reason why our prayers are not answered but still, it is God who is in control. Then, what should we do? The answer from God’s word is “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;” **(Proverbs 3:5)** Many times over in God’s Word we are told to “Fear not.” **(Isaiah 41:10)** Praise the Lord, because we are in His hands, so, “Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let them say among the nations, “The Lord reigns.” **(1 Chronicles 15:31)** We can trust The Lord is watching over us and He has said, “For I know the plans I have for you, “declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” **(Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)** Thank you Lord and AMEN.

Luke 12:7, Isaiah 49:16, Psalm 103:14, Psalm 91:4, Psalm 146:6

Monday, October 21st, 2024:

Christian Love

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul paints a beautiful picture of love, known as **agape love**. This is not just any love, but a selfless, sacrificial, Christ-like love that seeks the well-being of others above our own desires. Agape love is patient, kind, and not envious or boastful. It does not dishonor others, is not self-seeking, and keeps no record of wrongs. True Christian love goes beyond emotions; it is an act of will, reflecting God's love toward us through Jesus Christ.

As believers, we are called to embody this love in our daily lives. Jesus told His disciples in **John 13:34-35**, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

True Christian love is the marker of our faith, distinguishing us as followers of Christ. Brotherly love, or **philadelphia**, is another expression of love that binds believers together. In **Romans 12:10**, Paul urges us, "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." This love calls for mutual respect, kindness, and humility as we interact with one another in the body of Christ.

Prayer Points:

1. Lord, teach me to love with the same selfless love that You have shown to me, reflecting Christ in all my relationships.
2. Help me to grow in brotherly love, honoring others above myself and fostering unity within the body of Christ.

Amen.

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

Pressing Forward

Philippians 3:13-14 says, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Paul reminds us that our past does not define us. Instead, we are called to focus on the future God has for us.

When we dwell on past mistakes or successes, we can become stuck. But God desires us to let go of what lies behind and pursue His calling with determination. This forward-looking mindset enables us to grow in our faith and become more like Christ.

Supporting Scriptures:

1. **Isaiah 43:18-19**: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
2. **2 Corinthians 5:17**: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

Prayer Points:

Pray for the grace to let go of past mistakes and hurts, trusting that God has a better future in store.

Ask God to help you focus on His promises and purpose for your life, empowering you to press on with perseverance and hope.

As we choose to forget the past and look forward, we align ourselves with God's plan and move toward the prize He has set before us.

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024

Hilarious Generosity

We know that it says God loves a “cheerful” giver, but did you know that the word for cheerful is actually *hilaros*? It’s where we get the word hilarious, but it can also mean joyous or prompt to do something. So, what would cause someone to *want* to give? What is it about giving that would make us joyful or maybe even hilarious?

Proverbs 11:25 explains that generous people prosper, and those who help others will receive help themselves. And **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** reminds us, “Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly.”

But possibly the greatest motivator would be found in **1 Timothy 6:17-19**. “Tell those rich in this world’s wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they’ll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.” (The Message)

There’s so much more to life than possessions, which can be lost in the blink of an eye. People who love God and are generous with their time, giftings and material resources will never be abandoned by Him and will experience true joy both here and in the hereafter. It’s both a command and a promise, and that should make us cheerful. Be hilariously generous.

Thursday, October 24th, 2024

Minds Set on Heaven

Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." This verse calls us to focus our thoughts on heavenly matters, aligning our hearts with God's will. When our minds are occupied with heaven, we gain a perspective that enables us to impact the world around us meaningfully.

When we focus on God and His eternal kingdom, we are better equipped to love, serve, and bring positive change to those around us. A heavenly mindset doesn't mean ignoring earthly responsibilities; rather, it means approaching them with God's wisdom and love.

Supporting Scriptures:

1. **Philippians 4:8:** "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

This verse encourages us to focus our thoughts on things that reflect God's nature, which helps us align our actions with His will.

2. **Romans 12:2:** "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

By renewing our minds according to God's Word, we can discern His will and act accordingly, bringing heavenly wisdom to earthly situations.

Prayer Points:

Pray for a Renewed Mind: Ask God to help you renew your mind daily, focusing on things that are true, noble, and aligned with His Word.

Pray for Heavenly Perspective: Seek God's help to maintain a heavenly perspective in all circumstances, enabling you to make wise decisions and impact others positively.

By keeping our minds set on heavenly things, we become conduits of God's grace and love here on earth, making a lasting difference in our communities and beyond.

Friday, October 25th, 2024

Unity In the Body

Ephesians 4:1-6

In Ephesians 4:1-6, Paul urges us to live a life worthy of our calling by embracing humility, gentleness, patience, and love. Unity is essential in the body of Christ, as we are all called to one faith, one Lord, one baptism, and one God and Father of all. This passage emphasizes the importance of maintaining peace and unity within the church, reflecting our shared identity in Christ.

Prayer Points:

Living Worthy: Pray for the strength to live out your calling with humility, gentleness, and patience.

Promoting Unity: Ask God to help you actively contribute to unity and peace within your church and community.

Strengthening Relationships: Seek God's guidance in building and maintaining harmonious relationships with others.

Reflecting God's Character: Pray that your actions and attitudes would reflect the character of Christ, showing love and grace to all.

Saturday, October 26th, 2024

Know the Basics - Lesson 1

You could consider the Lord's Prayer basic training in many areas. It begins with an affirmation of who God is - He's our Father, He's our provider and king, and He exists in another realm, but He can be known by us. So to begin with, we need to confess that He IS and He reveals Himself to us through His word.

Since we are acknowledging His existence and supremacy, it would behoove us to know Him and understand His character. Just believing He exists isn't enough - even the demons do that much, and in all honesty, they are more aware of His power and authority than we are. It takes faith and a desire to understand His nature and to accept that He is beyond our ability to grasp it all. We accept that fire exists - it just is, and although we can "make a fire," we didn't create it and we can't earn its benefits or judge its destructive power. It exists beyond our understanding, but we benefit from getting to know its nature.

In some respects, the same can be said of God. He exists outside our ability to totally comprehend. We can't "earn" His blessings nor can we "judge" His actions. His ways are forever higher than ours (**Isaiah 55:8-9**) and His judgments are unsearchable and His ways unfathomable. (**Romans 11:33**) That said, He has given each of us a measure of faith with which to pursue our relationship with Him. **Romans 12:2** urges us, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

It won't happen overnight, but it's a great starting point. Lord, thank You that You desire a relationship with me. I commit myself to seeking You through Your word and to conforming to Your will for my life as You transform me.

Sunday, October 27th, 2024

Lesson 2 - Forgiveness is a Big Deal

When Jesus was teaching the disciples to pray, right after they're told they can ask for daily provision He tells them to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (**Matthew 6:12**, emphasis added) He goes on to tell them to ask they not be led into temptation but instead be delivered from evil. Then after the "amen" He goes on to say, "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." (verse 15)

This creates something of a paradox. We all need forgiveness *every day*, but the forgiveness that brings us into His presence is provisional. Does this mean He isn't fair? No! It means He's gracious.

Joseph is such a good example. Joseph had every reason to be bitter and to seek revenge or to wallow in self-pity on multiple occasions. Instead, he chose to continue to trust God and to see as best he could what could be gained from each experience. The outcome was exponential success in his personal life and the ultimate salvation of his entire family, which eventually led to our salvation!

Part of following Jesus will involve suffering, and forgiveness can feel emotionally painful and unjustified. In fact, if it weren't justified, they wouldn't need forgiveness! When Jesus was on the cross, He prayed for the Father to forgive those responsible because *they didn't know what they were doing*. He was there for *all* sins - including ours. Let that sink in. How we process forgiveness defines our faith. When we hang on to unforgiveness, it creates bitterness and resentment and we can't walk fully in all He intends for us. However, when we choose to forgive, we can walk in total freedom. That's a big deal. Thank You, Jesus!

Monday, October 28th, 2024

A Precious Treasure

“He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His Name’s sake.”
(Psalm 23:3)

I will open the scriptures to you as you spend time in My Word. I have not left you without help in your desire to follow Me. My Word will guide you, teach you and give you wisdom. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” **(2 Timothy 3:16)** My word is like a sword, used spiritually to fight for your faith. “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **(Hebrews 4:12)** Do you want to increase your faith? Paul told us when he wrote the book of Romans: “So then faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” **(Romans 10:17)** The Word of God is true, and it will transform your mind and your heart. Do you want to know the Maker of Heaven and Earth? Well, you can! “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **(John 1:1)** Jesus spoke about the Word and told us “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are Spirit and Life.” **(John 6:63)** God’s Word even promises a way of success, found in the Old Testament but still relative today. “This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua1:8) God’s word is a precious treasure and God even said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” **(Matthew 24:35)**

Tuesday, October 29th, 2024

Wise Whys

Reflect on God's truths to build your faith and surrender to Him.

Why should I have doubts when Jesus said everything is possible because I believe? Mark 9:23

Why should I be afraid when Jesus told me not to let my heart be troubled and not to be afraid because He gave me His peace? John 14:27

Why should I feel overwhelmed when Jesus invites me to come to Him and He will give me rest? Matthew 11:28

Why should I feel lonely when Jesus promised me, He is always with me, even to the end of the age? Matthew 28:20

Why should I be anxious when Jesus has already overcome the world and God is with me wherever I go? John 16:33; Joshua 1:9

Why should I allow myself to get confused and try to figure things out on my own when all I need to do is trust in God with all my heart and acknowledge him and He'll reveal what's best for me? Proverbs 3:5-6

Why should I keep dwelling on past sins that I've confessed when God is faithful and He forgives me for my sins and purifies me from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Why should I feel worthless when Christ died for me even when I was still a sinner? Romans 5:8

Why should I be a slave to my addictions because where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom? 2 Corinthians 3:17

Why should I feel insecure when God will meet all my needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus? Philippians 4:19

Why should I feel insignificant when God created my inmost being and He knit me together in my mother's womb? He even knows the number of hairs on my head! Psalm 139:13; Luke 12:7

Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

Teach Them the Way

Proverbs 19:20 tells us that if we listen to advice and accept discipline, or as some translations say - instruction, in the end we'll wind up being among the wise. Winston Churchill put it another way in his 1948 address to the House of Commons. He said, "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." We all have a dual responsibility: we first need to be forever open to listening and learning; then we must commit to passing what we learn on to the following generations.

After the death of Joshua, a generation grew up that didn't know God and thus abandoned Him. They assimilated into the surrounding culture, adopting their false gods and pursuing things of the flesh. They became weak and vulnerable, lacking the guidance and protection of the Lord, and were eventually overpowered by their enemies. Then they would cry out to Him, He would show mercy and rescue them by appointing a righteous judge, they would follow for a while, but then the cycle would repeat.

They hadn't really learned, and they didn't pass on anything worth emulating. They needed more than a strong leader; they needed a change of heart. They needed to listen, learn, and then model and teach the next generation. And that's our mandate. In his 1967 inaugural address Ronald Reagan warned, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." It applies to our spiritual heritage and freedom as well.

Lord, give us the wisdom and the determination to cherish our heritage in You and to pass it on to our children. Thank You for Your grace and mercy and Presence.

Thursday, October 31st, 2024

A Chosen People

“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* patience;” (**Colossians 3:12**) What a privilege we have to be chosen - *chosen* by the Creator of everything! And He calls us holy and beloved and then tells us to *put on* hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Each of those calls for an attitude of selflessness and being mindful of others.

“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,” (**Philippians 2:1-3**)

Paul encourages us “...to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.” (**Ephesians 4:1-2**) We can only do these things through the power of the Holy Spirit, but in Him all things are possible. He obviously puts a high premium on being selfless and in showing honor and preference to one another, so that should definitely be our aspiration.

Peter gives us our reason. “But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.” (**1 Peter 2:9-10**, The Message) When we value and honor others, they’ll see the difference in us, it will reflect Jesus, and we’ll be bringing Him glory. Not a bad thing to pursue.