

Pendleton Street Baptist Church

2022
PRAYER GUIDE
WEEK 2

A CALL TO PRAYER

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14



Week 2: Repentance

Praising God, seeing Him as He is, always shines a light on our failings and sin. Approaching the Throne of Grace in prayer is always a humbling experience. And it should be. Scripture reveals repeatedly that God's moving among His people (and through His people) is preceded by deep repentance and cleansing. Thus we have calls to repentance, such as 2 Chronicles 7:14. Strategies and plans, regardless how seeming brilliant, are powerless to bring Glory to God and display His power, if we do not first confess the sins that we harbor. "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened... (Psalm 66:18)."

*Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!*

Psalm 139:23-24

This week as we pray together we will be pursuing holiness through repentance. Don't expect this to be easy! We are asking God to reveal things we'd rather not think about or face. The joy of repentance is found in God's promise to cleanse and restore us, to shower us with grace after grace. Take time each day to ask God to reveal those things that are separating you, take responsibility for them, and release them. Believe God's promise that, "if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Day 1 – Wrong Priorities

Colossians 3:1-3 - ³ *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.* ² *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.* ³ *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

There are so many things that demand our attention. Work, responsibilities at home, social and relational demands, hobbies, and the list goes on. When you are preparing to sleep at night, what are the thoughts that crowd your mind? Do you find your mind returning to "things that are above, not on things that are on earth?" Take some time to reflect on the things that you are actively pursuing today. Ask God to direct your thoughts, to take them captive, and to ground them in His Word. Remember C. T. Studd's poem, "Only one life, t'will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

Father, I confess that I allow the things of this earth to occupy my mind far too much. Today I surrender my thoughts to you. As a shepherd lead's his sheep, I ask that You forgive me, and that You keep my thoughts from wandering astray to concerns that aren't Yours. Instead, help me to remember throughout the day that my life is safe, "hidden with Christ in God." Let my plans and activities of this day further Your kingdom and Your glory.

Day 2 – Insufficient time in God's Word

Psalm 119:15-16

*I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.
¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.*

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in Scripture. It is sometimes challenging to think of it as a song, and yet it was written to be sung by God's people. The theme of this song is the Word of God, and how we are to fill our minds and lives with it as we all God to shape our lives by it. As a part of our confession this week, ask God to reveal to you how much or how little time you spend in His Word. Ask Him to help you make meditating on His Word a priority in your life, starting today.

Father, I confess that too often I neglect to open my Bible, and when I do it is often a task to be accomplished rather than time spent in intimate communication with You. I ask you to forgive me, and to continually call me back to your Word. Bring to mind the truths I've read and help me to meditate on them. Father, make me to delight in your Word today.

Day 3 – Pride

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

No time of confession is complete until we have addressed the sin of pride. I believe it is the root of all sin, certainly it was Lucifer's downfall and was used by him to tempt Adam and Eve to fall. Pride, simply defined, is the exalting of Self above all other authority, especially God's authority. One way this makes itself known is selfish ambition - the mindset and habit of putting yourself first in all of your concerns. Another is in conceit, or the attitude that I know best, do best, and am better than others. It is the opposite of Humility.

Father, point out the places where pride lurks in my heart. What are the areas I have not surrendered to you? When have I thought and acted selfishly? When have I boasted? When have I thought myself better than others? I confess these to you and ask you to forgive me and cleanse me. Grow humility in my heart and attitudes. Make me mindful of others and help me to pursue their interests over my own.

Day 4 – Unwillingness to Forgive

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Psalm 103:10-14

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Mark 11:25

And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

Colossians 3:13

Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

One of the most difficult things we are commanded to do is to forgive people who offend or hurt us. And it is often the people we care about the most that can wound us the deepest. Scripture clearly shows us our own need for forgiveness, and how God has graciously forgiven us. Because He has forgiven us and though His power working in us, we are able to forgive others. Even those who have hurt us the most. Unforgiveness binds us to past hurts, but when we forgive we find that we are the ones set free.

Father, thank you for not dealing with me according to my sin. Thank you for forgiving me and showing compassion on me. Bring to mind the people I need to forgive today. Help me see how unforgiveness has held me captive to the past. I trust in Your strength to release the wrongs and offenses against me, and to forgive the people/person with whom I've been angry. As you have forgiven me, I extend forgiveness.

Day 5 - Materialism/Coveting

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.*

Every good and perfect gift is from God. It is so easy, though, to focus on the gift and not the giver. There are so many things around us that bring us pleasure that it is often hard to see how easily they capture our affection. It is so easy to love the world, and the things of the world without realizing how great a trap that is for us. When we get our desires from God, though, "the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."

Father, I confess that I love stuff. I thoroughly enjoy my comforts, everything from my favorite chair, good food, clothes, and a whole myriad of nice things. Far too often I am enamored of the things I have, or I am preoccupied with the things I want but don't have. Show me the times I've been possessed by my possessions, the times I've held tight to things that don't last and don't ultimately matter. Teach me to hold my possessions loosely, recognizing they are gifts from you, and are to be used as You direct. Train me to find my contentment in You.