



# 2022 PRAYER GUIDE

## WEEK THREE

# A CALL TO PRAYER

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14



## Week 3: Petition

Petition is a part of a healthy prayer life, when preceded by praise and repentance. To simply begin and end with our requests conveys the attitude that God is here to serve us rather than an attitude of submission to His will. And yet, submitted to His will, God continually invites us to "let your requests be made known" to Him. Often, as James says, we do not have because we do not ask; and when we ask, we ask for the wrong things.

As we begin this part of our prayer journey together we will be praying for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. In Paul's letter to the Ephesian church he reminds them that we are all involved in spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6). We need to take up the whole armor of God, and we are to be "*praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints (Ephesians 6:18).*" Praying for one another is the greatest way we can love and support one another. This week we will follow Paul's example and pray some specific prayers for each other.

Father, make us a praying church. Teach us how to abide in You, depend upon You, look to You, and continually seek You in our daily lives. Help us to love each other well, to care for each other in practical ways, and to encourage each other as we face so many of the trials You have promised us. Help us to increasingly Glorify You as we love one another. Amen.

## Day 1 – Walk Worthy of the Lord

Colossians 1:9-10a - *"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,<sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:"*

No one, apart from God's grace and power, can please Him. We aren't disciplined enough or righteous enough. We would have to be perfect in our thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors (righteousness exceeding that of the Pharisees). That is what grace is all about. Jesus' righteousness is given to us in the same way that our sin has been given to Him (2 Cor. 5:21). The way that we walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, is to know His will, apply His wisdom, and depend upon His power. Then we can please Him, individually and as a church.

Father, today I am praying for specific friends. I pray that as they go through this day they will walk in Your grace, rest in Your promises, and depend on Your power. Help them to set aside time to meet with You in prayer today. Draw them into Your presence. Work in them in such a way that they spend time in Your Word, reading and meditating, listening to You. Fill them with the knowledge of Your will, with Your wisdom and understanding.

## Day 2 – Good Works

Colossians 1:10b-11 - *"bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience"*

Scripture is clear that having a relationship with God is not based on our performance (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is by grace through faith. Being born again is a work of God, not a result of our works. There is great peace for us in this truth. We can rest in Jesus when we trust in Him. But there is something that happens when we are resting and trusting in Him - He produces good works in us. We want to please Him, and He equips us (2 Tim 3:16-17) to do those things that please Him - good works. And those good works bear fruit in our lives.

Ask God to lead you to pray for a brother or sister in Christ, that their lives will be characterized by good works today.

Father, place someone on my heart today who needs my intercession. As they go through this day I ask you to produce good works in their life. Help them to think the right thoughts, setting their minds on you. Keep them from unrighteous anger, deceit, slander, and gossip. Give them words to day that do not compromise Your truth, and that do demonstrate Your love.

## Day 3 – Joy and Thanksgiving

Colossians 1:12-14 - *"with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

Joy and rejoicing are not disciplines of the Christian life, they are attributes of a life surrendered to Him. The joy we have is experienced in different ways. Sometimes it is restful peace, even in difficult circumstances. Sometimes it is active exuberance from seeing God's work in and around us. Sometimes it is simple confidence that fills us because of our faith in God (because God is on His throne, all is right with the world). In this text it is the consequence of experiencing His power enabling us to please Him, increasingly knowing Him and His will. And, of course, it is the result of acknowledging and celebrating what He has done.

Just reflect on these truths for a few minutes:

- Jesus has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
- He has delivered you from the domain of darkness.
- He has transferred you to the kingdom of His beloved Son.
- He has redeemed you.
- He has forgiven your sins.

Father, today I pray for my friend who does not seem to have much joy in their life. I ask that you remind them of what You have done for them. Capture their attention with Your goodness. Fill them with the light of the knowledge of You. Help them to understand more fully what it means to have been redeemed. Remind them of the joy of being forgiven. Father, today, let them experience joy.

## Day 4 – Protection from the Deceitfulness of Sin

Hebrews 3:13 - <sup>13</sup> *But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

There is no one in the church, not even the strongest among us, who at some time or another does not need the help of a fellow believer. We can at times be blind to our own sinfulness. Sin, when allowed to take root, can cause us to become weak in our faith, and as a result, neglect our Christian responsibilities to God and to others. We can easily become hardened by the effects of sin in our lives. Because recognizing our own sin can be hard to do, we need those brothers and sisters in our lives who will be honest with us and help us to see the truths to which we are blind. It is so important that we pray for God to continually convict of sin in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

Father, I pray that my friend will not be blind to sin in their life. Help me to be that friend who can lovingly confront a brother or sister in Christ as You lead. Help them today to be aware of the consequences of harboring sin, to reflect on the cost of sin to Your Son, and to confess and repent, experiencing Your cleansing today.

Search my heart and give me a teachable spirit. Open my eyes to my own sin that I may be clean before you. Take away my excuses and restore unto me the joy of salvation.

## Day 5 - Worshipful Hearts

Psalm 100:1-5 - *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.<sup>2</sup> Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.<sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Worship is an everyday experience for one who is walking worthy of the Lord. It is an amazing thought that God, creator of all that is, is my God, and I am His. He made me, saved me, made me one of His people, all because He loves me. Amazing!

Who do you need to ask God to give a heart filled with worship today? Worship is so often described as a shared activity. We are often called to encourage and pray for one another, and one of the requests we should make is that God will increasingly make us worship Him.

God, we praise You for Your goodness and mercy. You are a good God. You provide and care for us. Teach us to be a people who honor You in worship, showing thankfulness for Your goodness toward us. Today I pray for specific friends, asking that they worship You with gladness. Remind them of a song that expresses praises to You. Remind them of Your goodness and love. Put joy in their hearts and a song on their lips, as they set their minds on You.