

Pray

Praise Him as God Almighty - Praise Jesus our Redeemer – Thanksgiving

Revelation 4:8,11 *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come. You are worthy, our Lord and God, To receive glory and honor and power, for YOU created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being.*

Revelation 7:10,12 *Salvation belongs to our God, Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb... Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!*
We are but a speck – He alone is Almighty.

Lift your heart, mind, soul, and strength up to God

Psalms 51:1-17 *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer 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.*

Psalms 90:12 *Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

“Worship is not part of the Christian life; it is the Christian life.” (Gerald Vann)

Never settle for 'good enough'. Never grow stale or complacent. If we are truly renewed and transformed what should our lives be like? Everything will be different – our time, our treasures, and the use of our talents.....but most of all – our hearts.

*As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after Thee. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.
I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy. You alone are the*

real joy giver, and the apple of my eye. You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield. You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.

Intercession

In Matthew 6:9 Jesus says, "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in Heaven...' Did you notice that? Jesus did not say: Now, when you pray say 'My Father'. Jesus used the plural, "Our Father". We live in a society of self-centeredness – but those belonging to Christ are not to be so.

Pray we will keep our focus on Christ and His will for us

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

I am not to look like or compete with this world. I am to be separate. Forgive me for looking too much like the world. Father, may I realize You have called me out of this world.

For the times when trials seem overwhelming – 'When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away your ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.' - Corrie Ten Boom

"The only way to get our values right is...to see things not in the light of time, but in the light of eternity". – William Barclay

In the morning, when I rise, In the morning, when I rise, In the morning, when I rise - Give me Jesus; Give me Jesus, give me Jesus, You can have all this world...But give me Jesus

Pray our lives will be filled with His Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 – *be filled with the Spirit.*

Forgive me Father when I fail to acknowledge and allow Your Holy Spirit to be my guide.

Father thank You for the gift of Your precious Holy Spirit. May I never forget that He is my Helper, my Counselor, my Comforter, and my Advocate. He

is real; He is living inside of me. I pray my life will produce the fruits of Your precious Spirit. Less of me – more of You.

Pray for His church:

*That we will carry out His will on this earth.

Matthew 28:18-20- *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

I pray we will keep "the main thing the main thing". Father, it is wanting the lost to know You and to have the opportunity to spend eternity with You. Keep us **focused** in a world that is so unfocused.

I can be there for you when it can't get much harder; I can cover your head when life starts to rain; I can hold on tight when you feel like you're falling; I can bread crumb the path when you've lost your way; I can make you laugh when the whole world is crying; I can build you up when you're broken in shame. But if all that we do is absent of Jesus, then this so called love....is completely in vain.

*Unity.

Ephesians 4:2-3 *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

John 17:20-21 *I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.*

The night before Jesus' crucifixion He was not praying for powerful preaching, great music, a beautiful building, talented people...He was praying for unity... unity that would show the world that it is all about You Father.

*Our leaders.

I Thessalonians 5:12-13 *Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.*

Father, I pray for our elders, our ministers, teachers, deacons, and every servant at Cornerstone. I pray You will give each wisdom, discernment, direction, vision and above all – the leading of Your Holy Spirit. I pray this for Your leaders everywhere.

*The congregation.

Father, I want to specifically pray for the body of believers at in Pike County. I pray we will be a body of servants realizing we are to be Your Hands, Your Feet and Your Mouth on this earth. I pray there will be no division among us but each member of Your body will be praying and in Your Word every day. I pray we will seek to grow in You through true worship and Bible study times together.

I pray Your Word will be “a lamp to our feet and a light for our path” Ps 119:105

I pray I will hide “Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Ps 119:11

Father, bless our sister congregations – unite us. How we need Your Holy Spirit to guide us. Keep us focused.

Pray for the missionaries we personally support

IDES (International Disaster Emergency Service) – Focused throughout the world in disaster response, hunger relief, development and sustainability, medical care and evangelism. This past year reached out to 36 foreign countries and 12 states.

Hippo Valley in Zimbabwe – Holistic mission reaching out to mind, body and soul through Christian education: 27 Christian schools with over 17,000 students, two orphanages plus a half-way house, two medical clinics, Bible college for preacher training, dozens of churches in Zimbabwe plus four church plants in Mozambique.

Mid-India – Christian school and Bethlehem Bible College, church planting and provision of vocational training, a widow’s care program and relief work for Christ in India

SALT – Proclaim Christ to Arabs globally using technologies - working incognito.

Sonlight – Reaching and teaching Haitian people to reach and train others for the kingdom of God. The academy has up to 350 students, preschool through high school. The Bible college has four American professors and

eight Haitian professors. They have seen more than two dozen graduates from the Sonlight Bible College. The total enrollment to learn computer, English and Bible is around 250 students. Sonlight Church has grown by leaps and bounds with another church plant on the other side of Port-de-Paix.

Praying for missions all over the world and those we work with locally – HOP, Pregnancy Center - praying our light shines brighter here.

Pray for those suffering persecution

Pray to Almighty God on behalf of our precious Christian brothers and sisters facing persecution.

Rev. 7:13-17; Hebrews 10:32-34

The following gives a brief overview of a few countries where oppressive governments hate and persecute Christians. The information was garnered from www.persecution.org (with permission). As we consider the freedom we have to worship, let us not think that our situation is the norm...it is not. While we, many times, "make time for the church" our brothers and sisters, throughout the world, are risking their lives to know Christ and to gather together.

10 Ways to pray for our persecuted family:

1. Pray that persecuted believers will sense God's presence. (II Kings 6:16)
2. Pray that they will feel connected to the greater Body of Christ. (ICor. 12:20,26)
3. Pray they will experience God's comfort when all is confiscated, when their family members are killed, injured or imprisoned for their witness. (II Cor. 1:3-5)
4. Pray they will have more opportunities to share the gospel and that those who would persecute would see the love of Christ and desire it. (Col 4:3)
5. Pray for their boldness to make Christ known. (Phil. 1:14)
6. Pray they will forgive and love their persecutors. (Matt 5:44)
7. Pray that their ministry activities will remain undetected by authorities or others who wish to silence them.
8. Pray they will rejoice in suffering. (Acts 5:41)
9. Pray they will be refreshed through God's Word and grow in their faith.

(Eph. 6:17-18)

10. Pray they will be strengthened through the prayers of fellow believers.

(Jude 20-25)

Top nations of persecution as listed by Open Door

North Korea, Somalia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Eritrea, Nigeria, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Central Africa Republic, Qatar, Kenya, Turkmenistan, India, Ethiopia, Egypt, Myanmar

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For Your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." Romans 8:35-37

Pray to our God for the unreached people groups in the world.

There are approximately 7.4 billion people in the world. Of that 7.4 billion 3.11 billion (Joshua Project) live in unreached groups with little or no access to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus' command, before returning to heaven, was to "go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation".

Top listed unreached people groups (Team Expansion)

India (1,217,461,000 unreached)

Pakistan (190,194,000 unreached)

China (185,714,000 unreached)

Bangladesh (157,751,000 unreached)

Indonesia (155,689,000 unreached)

Japan (122,789,000 unreached)

Iran (78,836,000 unreached)

Turkey (75,938,000 unreached)

Thailand (66,334,000 unreached)

Nigeria (60,696,000 unreached)

Pray for those near and dear Pray for the lost around you – family, neighbors, co-workers, friends. Lift six individuals up to the Lord right now.

What about me Lord? Jesus said in Matthew 9:23 "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Where am I with this? Where do I want to be with this? Search me O God

and convict me. Help me, as I live in this world not to be of this world. Teach me, rebuke me, correct me and train me by Your Word and through Your Spirit living in me to realize this is not my home. O God Almighty, Creator, Father...open my eyes.

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Matthew 9:37-38

Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray: to see Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, follow Thee more nearly, day by day.

I pray in and through Your precious Son's Name, Name above all names, my Lord and my Savior Jesus Christ, Come Lord Jesus Come -Amen.