



# Prayer

STUDY



CHRIST FELLOWSHIP  
**Freedom  
& Care**

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# Introduction

*My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isaiah 56:7)*

Christ Fellowship has always been a church of prayer! We are passionate about prayer because we know that God can do more in seconds than man can do in centuries. And yet we recognize that many believers struggle in their prayer life. We believe that some Christians don't enjoy prayer because they have never been taught to pray. That is where this prayer study can help. It's designed to assist any believer—whether new or experienced in prayer—develop a vibrant, enjoyable, fulfilling and powerful prayer life. By going through it as an individual or in a small group setting, you will come together to learn about prayer and intercede for each other, the church, and the lost. One of the goals of this prayer study is to see every person in our church praying and worshipping God.

Throughout the Bible we are encouraged to pray:

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)*

*I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask. (John 11:22)*

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)*

*Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. (Psalm 2:8)*

*Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come. (Jeremiah 33:3)*

*We do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. (Colossians 1:9)*

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)*

*Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (Luke 18:1)*

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

*Pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

As you go through this prayer study, we want to encourage you to look for opportunities to put what you are learning into practice: in your own life, at home, at work, at school, and especially at church. Get ready to grow in your relationship with God and others!

Enjoy!

Christ Fellowship Freedom & Care Team

## Session One: What Is Prayer?

*You will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)*

You hear us say it all the time, “Prayer is simply having a conversation with God.” That’s true! We can talk to God just like we talk to each other, but the difference is we can’t physically see God. Prayer requires faith in God:

*Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see... Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. (Hebrew 11:1,6)*

Prayer involves believing that God exists and seeking Him. When you seek Him, you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13).

The Bible tells us that there are “all kinds of prayers” (Ephesians 6:18).

Sometimes we pray for ourselves. This kind of prayer involves having a conversation with God as a friend, worshiping Him as our Lord and King, and turning to Him as our Father who takes care of us. It includes declaring God’s Word to ourselves, singing to Him, laughing with Him, crying to Him, and listening to Him. All Christians are called to pray these kinds of prayers. Jesus told His disciples that they should always pray and not give up. (Luke 18:1)

*You do not have because you do not ask. (James 4:2)*

Other times we pray for others. This kind of prayer involves “interceding” on behalf of someone else. This is intercessory prayer. Sometimes we simply call it intercession. When we pray for others, we get the opportunity to be Jesus’ voice, His Hands and His feet to them. We do what He would do if He were here in the flesh.

*As the Father has sent Me, I also send you. (John 20:21)*

Jesus is our example. He prayed and continues to pray for us.

- He laid His hands on children and prayed for them. (Matthew 19:13)
- He prayed for the food before they ate it. (Matthew 14:19)
- He laid hands on the sick. (Luke 13:13)
- He prayed for Himself. (John 17:1-5)

- He prayed for His disciples. (John 17: 6-19)
- He prayed for us. (John 17:20-26)
- He prayed the night He was betrayed. (Matthew 26:36- 44)
- He prayed for the people who hung Him on the Cross. (Luke 23:34)

When we pray for others there are a lot of things we can pray for. However, it is important to say that God's number one agenda is for the lost people in world to come to know Him. Therefore, that should be our first and primary focus when we pray for others: making sure that they know God and if they don't, trying to lead them into a relationship with Jesus. If you think about it, all intercession is based on the greatest act of intercession: Jesus taking on our sin in order to make a way for us to be reconciled with God (Hebrews 10:12)

*For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.  
(Isaiah 53:12)*

When we pray for others, we are Jesus' representatives. We represent Him by doing everything we possibly can to bring people to Him. We are speaking for Jesus Himself when we declare:

*Become friends with God; He's already a friend with you.  
(2 Corinthians 5:18, The Message)*

But intercession is more than just praying for people's salvation. We also get to distribute the blessing, peace, grace, and life of God to others. A great visual example in the Scriptures of God's disciples distributing the abundance of God is the story of the loaves and fishes:

*He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.  
(Matthew 14:19-21)*

As Pastors Todd and Julie often say, "We want everyone to live the full and abundant John 10:10 life that Jesus came to give us." When we pray for others, we help them experience that!

*I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. (John 10:10)*

## Assignment:

Make an intentional effort this week to pray for lost people and to look for opportunities to distribute the grace and goodness of God! Ask the Holy Spirit to show you His will and His promises for each person you pray for, including yourself!

## Session Two: Boldly Approach the Throne

*God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

How can we, as sinners, stand before a holy God in prayer? There's only one reason: the blood of Jesus. Because of what Jesus did on the Cross, we can meet with God. Jesus left heaven to become a baby and grew up with all the same struggles and temptations that we face. He encountered each of these things and yet He did not sin. He was holy and blameless and obeyed every commandment of God. Because of this, He is the only One who can pay the penalty for our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Because of what Jesus did on the Cross, God declares us “righteous.” This righteousness is the condition of being acceptable to God, perfect in His sight. Because of this righteousness, the author of Hebrews says we can come boldly to the throne of grace!

*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16)*

*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)*

James says that the prayers of a righteous person are powerful and effective. And this power is for everyone who believes—everyone who puts their full hope, trust and confidence in the Gospel (Romans 1:16). However, to gain access to this power we must have faith that we have been made righteous through the Cross. Why is believing this so important? Because every day we will look into the mirror and there will be evidences to the contrary!

Although it is Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross that makes us righteous, it is also important that we seek to live a holy life. Doing this does not mean that we will never sin, but it does mean that we will confess our sin whenever we blow it. Confessing our sin to God will increase our power in prayer. When we carry the load of our sin, our prayer life and sense of connection with the Lord is hindered. But when we confess our sins, Jesus cleanses and empowers us!

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7-9)*

The Bible says that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. The word “cleanses” is in a verb that literally means “continually cleanses”. Confess your sin to God today and allow His blood to continually cleanse and empower you!

### Assignment:

Take a personal inventory your life. Confess any sin to the Lord. The word repent, “*metanoō*” in the Greek, means to turn away. Turn away from your sin and toward the One who took it away, continually cleanses you, and empowers you through His Spirit. For example, if you struggle with anger, turn to God and say, “Thank you, Lord, that You loved me enough to die for me and pay thea penalty for my anger. Thank you for forgiving me! Help me to be patient with others.” Confess each area of sin to the Lord knowing that He loves and forgives you, and your prayer life will go to a new level!

## Session Three: Pray God's Word

*Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see...  
Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.  
(Hebrews 11:1 and Romans 10:17)*

When we pray we speak words. We ask for things. We make declarations. The words coming out of our mouths are the overflow of our hearts (Luke 6:45). What is in your heart? You may believe God in your heart for many things but faith is not faith until you activate it by speaking it. You need to speak it out!

Remember this important truth: the authority for all of our prayer is the Bible. It is inspired, complete, perfect, finished, and alive.

- Inspired means that it's not just a collection of writings that man put together, but that it was authored by God and penned by the Holy Spirit Himself through the instrument of human beings.
- Complete means it's not missing anything.
- Perfect means it's 100% right.
- Finished means we don't need to add anything to it.
- Alive means the Bible is not just words. John 1:1 tells us that the word is Jesus.

With words God spoke the entire universe into being (Hebrews 11:3). With words He communicates to us. Jesus is the living Word of God (John 1:1). Jesus and the Word of God are the exact same thing!

*Jesus said, "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life." (John 6:63)*

Jesus' words are spirit and life. The word "spirit", *pnuema* in the Greek, means the presence of God, or literally the breath of God. The words of the Bible are the very breath of God and are powerful. No word that God speaks will be void of power! The word "life", *zoe* in the Greek, means the miracle-working, supernatural, powerful life. Jesus came to give us the full and abundant John 10:10 life!

Psalm 1 speaks of the blessed man:

*His delight is in the word of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.  
(Psalm 1:2)*

Meditation on the Spirit-breathed, life-giving, word of God will make our prayer lives come alive, and we will prosper in every way. The word “meditates” is the Hebrew word haga which means to “mutter under your breath” – to speak God’s word under your breath. For example, “The Lord is my shepherd... the Lord is my shepherd... HE IS—right now HE IS MY SHEPHERD...I need guidance... should I take this path or do that one instead?... Thank you Lord, you are my shepherd...you guide my decisions...” This is meditating on God’s word. Meditation is not hard. It is as easy as worrying. If you can worry, you can meditate!

*And whatever he does shall prosper. (Psalm 1:3)*

The psalmist says that whatever you do prospers when you meditate on and pray in alignment with God’s Word. Whatever means whatever! Meditation produces faith. Powerful, effective prayer is centered on the truth and on claiming the promises of the Bible. The more of the Bible we immerse ourselves in, the more revelation we will have. The more revelation we have, the more our faith will be activated in our prayer. And faith will move mountains!

### Assignment:

As you pray for yourself and others, meditate on specific Scripture verses. Write them down. Use your faith to declare His truth over every situation you are interceding for.

## Session Four: Pray with Faith

*He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God. (Romans 4:20)*

Abraham is called the father of our faith, yet just like us he had to wait on God for an answer to prayer. How did Abraham believe God? How did he become such a person of faith? Abraham's way was this: against all hope, he believed!

*God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he [Abraham] became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. (Romans 4:16-19)*

Abraham and Sarah were 100 and 90 years old, but God had promised them descendants. The Bible says their bodies were as good as dead, but "contrary to hope" Abraham did not give up hope.

Sometimes God will speak to us and everything in the natural says the opposite. Yet God talked about Abraham's descendants when his body was as good as dead.

*And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness." (Romans 4:19-22)*

Romans 4:20 says he was strengthened in his faith "giving glory to God." What is giving glory to God? Is it worship? Singing songs? And that's not what the phrase giving glory means in the New Testament Greek. The word is "doxa" in the Greek and it always means having a "good opinion" in the New Testament. Abraham grew in faith because he gave glory to God! He had a good opinion of God! How could Abraham have a good opinion of God?

*And being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. (Romans 4:21)*

Don't pray desperate prayers! Have a good opinion of God and believe that He will hear you and answer. Every time you see God, see a smiling face, never an angry face. See someone who loves you. When we have a good opinion of God, we will know the truth. There are thoughts that come that we need to combat with the truth. For example, say you start thinking something like: "You are going to die young. Your father died young. It runs in your family." Those negative thoughts can be very loud in your head so you need to speak up. Say, "God, because You are with me and because You love me, You will satisfy me with long life." This is from the Bible (Psalm 91:16).

But you do not have to know chapter and verse. It is enough to know the truth and to say it! Your statements should all reflect a good opinion of God. God delights in that!

If God shuts a window, have a good opinion that He is going to open a door. When God shuts a door, have a good opinion that He is going to open a big gate! And He will not always explain everything now. He is willing to risk our misunderstanding of Him as long as He is able to love us and protect us. Sometimes we don't understand God's plans, but give God a good opinion and you will find His plans are better than you can imagine.

*Is any among you suffering, let him pray. (James 5:13)*

Trust the goodness of God. He will be a good Father to you. For people who do not know God, their trials can destroy them. But for you, if you always have a good opinion of God, you can rejoice in your trials because all things work together for our good. Trials and troubles have a redemptive quality for the believer. Through your trials and the goodness of God, you will touch many people.

### Assignment:

List areas of your life where you are standing on God's promises and growing in faith by having a good opinion of God.

## Session Five: Walk with the Lord

*Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith. (Hebrews 10:19-22)*

A beautiful picture of the pathway to God's presence is found in the Tabernacle of the Old Testament. It is a picture of how Jesus made a way for us to have fellowship with God. The Tabernacle was made of three parts. There was an outer court where the people would sacrifice the animals. It was busy, busy, busy. Then there was the Holy Place with priestly spiritual "activity". And lastly, there was the Holy of Holies where the priest would listen to the Lord. Just like the Tabernacle, we are made in three parts: the body—like the outer court there is a lot of activity. Then we have the soul—our mind, will, and emotions—like the Holy Place where we outwardly serve the Lord. And then we have our spirit where we connect with the Lord from the center of our being. The spirit is like the Holy of Holies.

*He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17)*

Our bodies and souls can be busy, but on the inside we can be at peace in the Lord's presence and hear His voice. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit because the Spirit of God lives inside of every believer. In other words, His presence dwells in us and He said He would never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

Intimacy, our closeness with God, is something to be cultivated in our lives as we walk with Him. The Lord wants us to experience His presence and love. Out of that will come trust, wisdom, and direction in life. Intimacy also produces fruit—the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The more love we receive in intimacy with the Lord, the more love we will give. The more peace we abide in through resting in the "shadow of His wings" (Psalm 91), the more peace we will walk in. The more joy we experience in His presence, the more attractive He will be in us for the world to see.

The greatest force in the world is love, and love is the essence of intimacy. The Bible says that those who have been forgiven much, love much (Luke 7:47). We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

*This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. (1 John 4:10)*

As we approach the Lord in prayer, we should always focus on the love that He has lavished on us through His Son, Jesus. Do not let your love for Him be your focus, let His love for you captivate you! His love was expressed through the Cross. When you do this, you will love Him back as a response. You will worship Him and adore Him—you will not be able to stop yourself! He has been so good to us! In God’s presence we can rest easy knowing that He loves us unconditionally.

### Assignment:

Practice the presence of God through intimate worship. Worship Him in song and through meditating on His Word and His names. Allow yourself prolonged times where you can focus completely on Him. Plan “appointments” with the One who loves you perfectly and completely. You will be refreshed and filled up with His fullness! And out of that will be an overflow that will bless everyone around you.

## Session Six: Understand Your Authority

*If by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:17)*

God's original plan was to give Adam and Eve and their descendants dominion (rule) over the entire earth and all creation. So complete was Adam's authority that he had the ability to give it away—and he did! He gave it to Satan when he sinned in the Garden of Eden. Fortunately, Jesus restored our authority when He was resurrected. The more you understand your authority in Christ, the more powerful your prayers will become. The devil is so afraid for us to know about our position and authority in Christ because he knows that if we do we will begin to declare God's Word and operate in our authority as kings and priests in God's kingdom.

*To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:5-6)*

God says that through the blood of Jesus, He made us kings and priests. When we know our position, we don't have to work hard make our words happen. We are truly kings. It's not a figure of speech. Kings in ancient times would stop and sit on the throne before making a decree for the nation. Even if they were walking, they would stop and sit to make their declaration. In the same way, we are seated with Christ in heavenly places far above all rule, power, authority, and dominion (Ephesians 1:20- 21 and Ephesians 2:4-7). Our seated position is where we speak from. It is a place of rest.

God is not telling us to believe that we are seated with Christ so that one day we will be seated with Christ. No. It is a divine reality! We are right now seated with Christ. You may not feel like you are seated with Christ. You may not feel princely or like a princess. You may even wonder if you have the authority of God flowing through you. You may feel empty or lost sometimes. You may feel depressed. What is all of that? Feelings! But feelings have nothing to do with facts.

Listen to what the Word of God says:

*You have made man a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands. (Psalm 8:5-6)*

*The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth He has given to man. (Psalm 115:16)*

*I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know... His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength. (Ephesians 1:17-19)*

Anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12)

*Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)*

## Assignment:

Meditate on the Scriptures listed above and list areas where you are taking authority over the power of darkness. Make declarations of God's word from your position in the heavenlies.

# Session Seven: Engage in Spiritual Warfare

*We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)*

Whether we like it or not, all of us face spiritual warfare. The devil is real and uses strategies against Christians and against the spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ. If we embrace the victory we have through Jesus, we will not run from spiritual warfare, but instead we will stand secure and without fear.

Warfare is not a petition, it is a declaration of what Christ has already accomplished. Declare the word, speak to the demonic forces against you and your family, and continue to exalt the name Jesus which is above every other name in the earth and below the earth. Every knee has to bow.

*The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." (Acts 2:34-35)*

In other words, Jesus defeated all the enemies. Now the Father says, "I am going to bring them one by one under Your feet." The Father did not say you can only rest after all the enemies were made a footstool. The Father says sit down first until I make your enemies your footstool. So, we are to rest before we see the victory.

The only fight in the New Testament is to fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12). You are on victory ground. When the devil says, "Come down and fight me", remember that Jesus defeated the devil. Your part is simply to believe and rest in the victory. And remember this: The devil cannot do anything in your life without your consent of worry.

*Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:7-8)*

Look at the context of this passage. The context is very clear: Satan is powerless if you cast your care on Jesus. The devil is seeking whom he may devour. But He can't devour a Christian who has put their trust in Christ. He has to keep seeking. He might roar, but if you resist him, he has to flee!

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)*

*We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)*

We are not conquerors. The Bible actually says we are more than conquerors! That's significant because Jesus Himself was the conqueror! In the story of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20, God's people never even had to fight. They just praised the Lord and by the time they reached the battlefield, they only had to pick up the spoils from the enemies. All the gold, all the silver. That is a picture of the church.

*Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow march down against them... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you. (2 Chronicles 20:15-17)*

If only we had eyes to see that the battlefield is strewn with the spoils of victory. Open your eyes—Jesus has brought a perfect victory. It is time to take up all the trophies of His great victory!

The “work” in warfare is standing firm in the truth of Christ's victory and who you are in Him. Our “weapons” are to stand against Satan with His Word, His name, and His blood.

His name:

*At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11)*

His Word:

*“The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith which we are proclaiming; That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:8-9)*

And “saved” is not just forgiveness of sins. In Greek, the word is *sozo* which speaks not just to salvation but also healing and deliverance from evil—all the blessings of God poured out!

His blood:

*And they overcame him (Satan) because of the blood of the Lamb. (Revelation 12:11)*

## Assignment:

Look around your world and ask the Lord to show you the enemy's strategy against you, your family, your co-workers, and friends. Are there places where the devil seems to be gaining ground through deception or fear? Declare victorious Scriptures. Ephesians 6:17 tells us to take the "sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" as a weapon of warfare. In other words, take the Word of God and stand firm. The Word of God is our sword in warfare. Let God's Word work for you and you will be victorious in spiritual warfare!

## Session Eight: Pray from Peace

*You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. (Isaiah 26:3)*

When we come to God, we should come to Him in perfect peace knowing that He cares for us and He is on our side. Before Jesus was betrayed, He prayed to God in the Garden of Gethsemane. There was so much pressure on Him as He prayed, knowing that His time to die was approaching. He literally “sweat great drops of blood” (Luke 22:44). This was the first place He shed His blood for us. Because of the redeeming quality of Jesus’ blood, He redeemed us from “sweat”. He sweat blood to save us from stress, fear, worry, and anxiety in our own lives. He purchased our peace (Isaiah 53:5).

So always pray from peace, not from worry or fear. Rest in the finished work of Jesus and have your mind fixed on Him.

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (John 14:26-27)*

When you pray from peace, the Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance Scriptures to believe and stand on. When the Holy Spirit teaches, the result will be peace.

In John 14, Jesus was speaking to His disciples so He would have been speaking in Hebrew. He told them that He was leaving them peace. This is the word shalom. According to Strong’s concordance, shalom is completeness, welfare, health, prosperity, and peace. So it is not just peace where we have a tranquil mind. It is much more than that. It means there’s nothing broken, nothing missing.

When Jesus rose from the dead, His first words to His disciples were, “Peace be with you.”

*Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands... (John 20:19-20)*

Right away He showed them His nail-pierced hands. Why? Because they were the proof of the payment. He was saying, “Receive your peace; it has been paid for.” When He appeared they were frightened, but when He showed them His hands, they had peace.

He said, “Not as the world gives do I give to you.” Everything the world gives us is outward, but those things cannot give us true peace. They are not resilient, strong, and aggressive like the peace that God gives. Jesus said the only thing He wants us to do in John 14:27 is “let not your heart be troubled.” Do not worry about the outside. You guard your heart. You guard the inside and He will guard the outside. “Neither be afraid.” Troubled is the first step to being afraid. If your heart is not troubled, it can never be afraid. So don’t even allow your heart to be troubled. Your part, your responsibility (the word “response” is in responsibility) is the imperative that you “let not your heart be troubled.” Just quoting this verse is powerful all by itself. Say to yourself often, “Let not your heart be troubled.” It’s amazing! Your heart obeys the voice of its Master, Jesus.

## Assignment:

Are there any situations, relationships, or circumstances that have caused you fear, worry, or anxiety? Take them before the Lord. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Read the following Scriptures and worship the One who purchased eternal peace for you.

*A promise remains of entering His rest; let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. (Hebrews 4:1)*

*Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (Matthew 6:25-29)*

*And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” (Exodus 14:13-14)*

*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)*

## Session Nine: Pray for the Sick

*I am the LORD, who heals you. (Exodus 15:26)*

When praying for the sick, the best thing we can do is look at Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and read the Word concerning healing. There are no formulas to “get someone healed.”

Read through the miracle accounts in the Gospels. There is no question that He will heal. We need to keep on reading the word again and again and again until we believe it.

*“Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately the leprosy left him. (Luke 5:12-13)*

The Bible says Jesus is willing to heal. He healed all. Jesus went about healing every sickness and every disease (Acts 10:38). He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

When the people heard that Jesus was in the vicinity, they ran to Him and the Bible says, “Many were reaching out to touch Him and as many as touched Him even His clothes were made perfect” (Matthew 14:35-36). Eyes were opened. Demons left. Lives were restored. None of them were confessing their sins. None of them were renouncing anything. They were just touching Him and Jesus’ power went out to them. Freely they received (Matthew 10:8).

*He who has seen Me has seen the Father. (John 14:9)*

If we want to know what God’s will is like, we need to look at Jesus. Is it God’s will to heal? Look at Jesus. Do you want to know what God’s heart and attitude toward us is? Look at Jesus

*My son, give attention to My words; Incline your ear to My sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. (Proverbs 4:20-22)*

God’s promises and His words are alive to those who find them. It is the only medicine with no side effects. If there is any part of our bodies that is sick, God’s Word is health to us!

## Assignment:

Read the miracle accounts in the four Gospels and learn about Jesus and His grace and compassion for people. Meditate on the following healing Scriptures and pray in faith for the sick.

*I am the LORD, who heals you. (Exodus 15:26)*

*Great crowds came to Jesus, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at His feet; and He healed them. (Matthew 15:30)*

*Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases. (Psalm 103:1-3)*

*When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying His hands on each one, He healed them. (Luke 4:30)*

*And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing them all. (Luke 6:19)*

*He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)*

*A heart at peace gives life to the body. (Proverbs 14:30)*

*Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. (James 5:14- 15)*

## Session Ten: Pray for the Lost

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

God desires that everyone be saved and that none perish. Scripture after Scripture reveals His heart for the lost:

*The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)*

*Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. (Psalm 2:8)*

*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. (John 11:25-26)*

*He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field. (Luke 10:2)*

*Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household. (Acts 16:31)*

Our role in prayer is extremely significant in bringing the lost to Jesus.

*If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)*

Notice the word veiled. When there is a perishing person, there is no Gospel being revealed. Who is the one who has put the veil there?

The devil is the “god of this age”. How did Satan get the title “god” (with a lower case “g”)? In the Garden of Eden God gave Adam authority over the earth to subdue and have dominion over it, but Adam sold out to the devil, and the devil took his title. God did not make the earth to have disasters, earthquakes, tornados, and floods. He did not make man to have diseases, be cursed, and die. All of this came with the fall. And God never intended for man to go to hell. Hell was made for Satan and his demons, but it is a place where man can go to pay his own debt.

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. (John 3:17)*

The veil is the condemnation that comes from falling short of the glory of God and the devil will do anything in his power to keep people from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ! The devil is afraid that this glory of Christ in the Gospel will shine on people.

*I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness. (John 12:46)*

Jesus is so attractive, so glorious. All we need to do is lift the blinders off people's eyes so they can see Him. Intercession for the lost is one simple prayer: declare that the veil is lifted, that the god of this world is bound, and that the light of the Gospel is revealed!

*If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)*

## Assignment:

Make a list of every person you are in relationship with who does not know the Lord. Bind the god of this world. Pray that the veil of condemnation be lifted and that the light of the glory of Jesus be revealed to them!

## Session Eleven: Praying for Weekend Services

As a church we believe in the power of prayer, and are committed to covering everything we do in prayer, especially our weekend services.

Here are some ways to pray for our weekend services:

Pray that everyone feels welcomed. Pray against distractions and for people to be receptive to the message.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations (Psalm 100:4-5).*

Pray that people connect with God and experience His presence. Pray that people shift their focus to the Lord and away from their problems.

*Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises (Psalm 22:3).*

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people (Ephesians 1:17-18).*

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).*

Pray for people to experience life and clarity. Pray for the lost to be drawn to God and to commit their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ.

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10).*

*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you*

*believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved (Romans 10:9-10).*

Pray that all spirits of fear, guilt, shame, condemnation, and rejection would be bound.

*Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, "Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him." Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him (1 Samuel 16:22-23).*

Pray for their willingness to take next steps.

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).*

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you (Psalm 32:8).*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

Pray for Pastors Todd and Julie, our Campus Pastors, our Worship Teams and everyone else involved in leading our weekend services.

*The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord (Acts 11:21).*



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