

Only By The Hand of God

We are grateful for all the good things God has done and praise Him for the blessings we enjoy. But, we are not content to stay in the same place. We thirst for more, we hunger for a deeper walk with God. We want to experience growth, life, ministry impact, and community transformation that can only be explained by the hand of God. This passion is the spring from which all the verses listed below have been drawn.

These verses and corresponding prayers are designed to help stimulate Word-based prayer for the things that can only be explained by the hand of God. The prayers have been written for use in a corporate setting, but can also be individualized (simply substitute “I” for “we” and “me” for “us”) for times of personal petition.

These verses and prayers can also inform times of intercession for others. They have been divided into topic categories (See topic list on page 2) to help you easily find a passage that is relevant to the need of someone who requests prayer. You can substitute the person’s name for “us” and adapt your prayer accordingly.

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COMPASSION

Grow in us Your heart for the helpless. Give us the gracious compassion that takes the initiative to help those who are hurting.

How blessed is he who considers the helpless; The Lord will deliver him in a day of trouble (Psalm 41:1).

When the sun comes up, affirm your love for us. Just as the sun's rays lift our spirits, warm us with the knowledge that You love us.

Let me hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in Thee; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to Thee I lift up my soul (Psalm 143:8).

Whenever we are overwhelmed because everything seems to have come unhinged, breathe hope into our hearts by reminding us of what hasn't changed – every day will not lack for fresh evidence of Your unfailing goodness. Help us to keep our focus on Your faithfulness, not our disappointments.

Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness.

Surely my soul remembers

And is bowed down within me.

This I recall to my mind,

Therefore I have hope.

The LORD's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,

For His compassions never fail.

They are new every morning;

Great is Thy faithfulness.

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him."

The LORD is good to those who wait for Him,

To the person who seeks Him (Lam. 3:19-25).

Give us eyes to appreciate the scale and scope of Your love for us. Help us to understand that Your love cannot be fully understood. But help us to trust what we can know, You love us and do what defies description on our behalf.

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen (Eph. 3:14-19).

Show us where the needs are, help us identify where those needs are most pressing, and then help us spring into action to address those needs. Deliver us from blindness to need or the lethargy that holds us inert when needs are crying out.

And let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful (Titus 3:14).

Help us to not live in a defensive posture. Help us to take the offensive, to not just try to resist temptation (although that is a good thing), but to beat back the tide of advancing evil by doing good.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

DEDICATION & DEVOTION

Help us not to hesitate between allegiances. Fill us with passionate conviction to live for God alone. Root out recreation, pleasure, entertainment, comfort, and all other lesser gods; show us how unworthy they are of the allegiance that only rightly belongs to You. Deliver us from wishy-washy commitment.

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word (1 Kings 18:21).

Help us to wholeheartedly enter into a commitment to live all out for God.

And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people entered into the covenant (2 Kings 23:3).

Give us such a strong love for You that we delight in giving You what is costly to us.

But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price; for I will not take what is yours for the Lord, or offer a burnt offering which costs me nothing" (1 Chronicles 21:24).

We want to become people with a heart like Hezekiah who went all-out for God. We want to experience God's blessing as we go for it.

And thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah; and he did what was good, right, and true before the Lord his God. And every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered (2 Chronicles 31:20-21).

We want to follow through with the things that we commit to. Give us no rest while anything that we have vowed remains unfulfilled.

Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them; Let all who are around Him bring gifts to Him who is to be feared (Psalm 76:11).

Make us great students of You. Help us to be engrossed in looking at all the things that You have done.

Great are the works of the Lord; They are studied by all who delight in them (Psalm 111:2).

Make of us people who want to commune with You more than we want to sleep.

I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Thy words. My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Thy word (Psalm 119:147-148).

Convict us with the simplicity of knowing that fearing and obeying You is all we need to worry about. Keep us aware that every thought, word, and deed must stand the test of Your scrutiny? Please do not let us lose sight of this.

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Remind us whenever we need to hear it, that there is no comparison between whatever we give up for You and what we will receive for a surpassing commitment to You.

"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:29).

Transform us into people who are truly passionate about prayer, praying non-stop with great depth of devotion.

These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers (Acts 1:14).

Make of us a people who know how to truly pray fervently, even through the dead of night.

So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God (Acts 12:5).

God, please help us to give ourselves to You first before beginning any great work.

And this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God (2 Corinthians 8:5).

Pour perseverance into our hearts. Give us, by Your Spirit, the staying power to endure to the end regardless of what we encounter.

“And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. But whenever they persecute you in this city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you shall not finish going through the cities of Israel, until the Son of Man comes (Matthew 10:22-23).

Protect our minds where the enemy wants to attack. Help us to be ever more truly and singularly focused on Christ.

But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).

Make of us a people who go way beyond what is required.

Transform us into “Philemons” who are looking for ways to excel in our service, to surpass what is required and to go way beyond “the call of duty” in our growth and ministry.

Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say (Philemon 21).

Harden our resolve to follow hard after You with the confidence that our inheritance with You is absolutely secure.

To obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you (1 Peter 1:4).

Grow a love for You in our hearts that transcends even our love for life itself.

“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death” (Revelation 12:11).

DELIVERANCE, DIFFICULTY, AND PERSECUTION

Thank You that it is not necessary for us to be great in number to see you work in a mighty way. The key is if You will work for us. So we are calling out to You to bear Your strong arm on our behalf and take us to a place of deliverance that can only be explained by the hand of God.

Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, “Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the Lord will work for us, for the Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few” (1 Samuel 14:6).

You are Lord of the breakthrough. We are asking You to allow us to experience You as Baal-perazim, the Lord of Breakthrough!

So David came to Baal-perazim, and defeated them there; and he said, “The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like the breakthrough of waters.” Therefore he named that place Baal-perazim (2 Samuel 5:20).

Give us hearts that are completely Yours and then strongly support us.

“For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His” (2 Chronicles 16:9).

Please fight for us that we might see the salvation of the Lord. Give us courage to “go out” with trust that You will fight for us.

“You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.” Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the Lord is with you (2 Chronicles 20:17).

We long for a sudden outpouring of joyous renewal and dedication just as You blessed Israel in Hezekiah’s day.

Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over what God had prepared for the people, because the thing came about suddenly (2 Chronicles 29:36).

Just as Ezra refused to rely on crutches and strategies, help us to have a dependance on You alone. Help us to pray so seriously that even food doesn't matter; to trust You enough in prayer to knock out the false props on which we are so prone to depend.

Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God to seek from Him a safe journey for us, our little ones, and all our possessions (Ezra 8:21).

Defend us. Surround us with Your favor.

But let all who take refuge in Thee be glad, let them ever sing for joy; And mayest Thou shelter them that those who love Thy name may exult in Thee. For it is Thou who dost bless the righteous man, O Lord, Thou dost surround him with favor as with a shield (Psalm 5:11-12).

Bless us for Your honor and glory. Like David, we are choosing to link the two: We are purposing to seek Your honor and glory, so we ask You to bless us that You might be honored.

God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us—[Selah]. That Thy way may be known on the earth, Thy salvation among all nations (Psalm 67:1-2).

Thank You that affliction can help the Word become more real to us. Give us Your perspective so that we value the Word more than comfort. Help us to see that when we enter into adversity, we stand to gain something far more valuable than ease.

It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Thy statutes (Psalm 119:71).

If the difficulty we have encountered is the product of our sin, forgive us for dishonoring You. Help us to forsake sin and to seek You will all our heart. Show us Your compassion and cause the new green growth of a Spring of the soul to replace barrenness.

*Seek the LORD while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
And let him return to the LORD,
And He will have compassion on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.
“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.
For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth,
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.
For you will go out with joy,
And be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you,
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up;
And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up;
And it will be a memorial to the LORD,
For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off” (Isa. 55:6-13).*

When we encounter a lack or shortage of the things we think we need or the things upon which we depend, stabilize us with the knowledge that You are our strength. Remind us that we have You and therefore have all we need.

Though the fig tree should not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the Lord. I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds' feet, and makes me walk on my high places (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

Remove the blinders from our eyes. Help us see that our assessment of what is difficult is irrelevant to You. Take away from us all notions of what is “too difficult.”

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, will it also be too difficult in My sight?’ declares the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 8:6).

Deliver us from the small faith that can keep us from experiencing the genuinely miraculous.

He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief (Matthew 13:58).

When we are persecuted for a pure allegiance to You, help us to have the right perspective – to be truly grateful for the honor of being allowed to suffer for Your name.

So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name (Acts 5:41).

Fling wide a great door of opportunity – help us see the opportunity even when there is great opposition clouding our vision.

But I shall remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries (1 Corinthians 16:8-9).

Make us people who can actually celebrate tribulation – genuinely get excited about it – because we see all the eternal benefits and profitable character changes it produces.

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us (Romans 5:3-5).

When we are suffering for Your sake and wondering if it is worth it, encourage with the knowledge that there is **NO COMPARISON** between the dinky difficulties of the here and now and the greatness of the glories to come.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).

Fill us with “cross-power,” the ability to endure every challenge without giving up. There is no explanation for this apart from You working inside of us – thank You for making it possible for us to have this kind of resolve by sending Your Son to die on the cross. Work in a way that makes it obvious – there is no explanation for this kind of resilience except God is real and working in and through us.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body (2 Cor. 4:7-9).

Give us the grace to bear unjust suffering. Help us to remember that having a pure conscience before You matters more than easing the threat of retribution by compromising our commitment to You. Allow us to feel Your pleasure and be buoyed up by it as we persevere in the pressure cooker.

For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man

bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God (1 Peter 2:19-20).

ENCOURAGEMENT

Thank You that You will not abandon us. You are the same God whose lovingkindness was steadfast with Israel. We trust You to remain faithful to us because your name is “the Faithful One.”

“For the Lord will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the Lord has been pleased to make you a people for Himself” (1 Samuel 12:22).

Thank you that nothing of what You promised in Your Word to Israel has failed. We take our cue from Your impeccable track record of faithfulness to your people in the past and choose to rely on You for our future. Thank You that we can depend upon You implicitly.

“Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant” (1 Kings 8:56).

Make us perceptive people who are alert to ways in which those around us are in danger of being hardened by sin. Help us minister encouragement to each other on a daily basis. Make of us a people, each of whom can say one year from now, “Everyone in my circle of friends is receiving a word of encouragement on a daily basis.”

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13).

Motivate us to unstinting sacrifice and unfailing love out of an unshakeable confidence that our ministry efforts will not be forgotten by You. Encourage us with the knowledge that You care and appreciate what we do for You even when it seems no one else notices or cares.

For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints (Hebrews 6:10).

FEAR

Show us that we don’t have to be afraid of men or of what they think. Yours is the only opinion that matters. Give us the poise to fearlessly live for You alone!

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee. In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me? (Psalm 56:3-4).

Give us insight. Help us to recognize that when we are afraid of men it becomes like a trap, it stifles our ability to do what matters. Encourage us with the knowledge that when we trust You instead, that is the path leading to worthy accomplishment.

*The fear of man brings a snare,
But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted (Prov. 29:25).*

You are the One who vindicates us by working great things through us and among us. Strengthen us, uphold us by Your righteous right hand. Help us to rest in You and to be unafraid.

“You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its remotest parts, and said to you, ‘You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’ Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored; Those who contend with you will be as nothing, and will perish. You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them. Those who war with you will be as nothing, and non-existent. For I am the Lord your God,

who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you'" (Isaiah 41:9-13).

Show us the ways in which fear is incompatible with who we are in You. We are Your adopted sons, what does fear and slavery to sin have to do with us?

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" (Rom. 8:14).

HEALTH

We are like the leper. We recognize that the only thing that stands in the way of a dramatic turn-around is Your willingness. So we are pleading with You to work because You are the only One who can make the difference.

And behold, a leper came to Him, and bowed down to Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed (Matthew 8:2-3).

You are the source of perfect health. So we are coming to You as the only One who can help; Give us the strength that is found in Your name, give us the perfect health which comes from trust in You alone.

"And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all" (Acts 3:16).

HUMILITY & BROKENNESS

Transform our worship into something You value because it comes from broken and contrite hearts. Help us to become desperately dependent upon You.

For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise (Psalm 51:16-17).

Help us to see that our brokenness can prepare us to experience Your presence. Bring us to Yourself and revive us. Breath life into us and lift us up.

For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite (Isa. 57:15).

Do whatever it takes to shatter any smugness in us that would presume we do not need Your guidance.

"So I will stretch out My hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the names of the idolatrous priests along with the priests. And those who bow down on the housetops to the host of heaven, and those who bow down and swear to the Lord and yet swear by Milcom, and those who have turned back from following the Lord, and those who have not sought the Lord or inquired of Him" (Zephaniah 1:4-6).

Slay the spirit of pride in us that keeps us from becoming a people of prayer.

Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the tyrannical city! She heeded no voice; She accepted no instruction. She did not trust in the Lord; She did not draw near to her God (Zephaniah 3:1-2).

MATERIALISM

Help us become a people who don't care about stuff because our focus is on heaven. Help us to see, to know with unshakeable confidence, that our inheritance is far more sure and exceeds anything the earth has to offer. Make heaven so real to us, that we have little regard for the things that the world says are so important.

For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one (Hebrews 10:34).

Help us understand that when we get attached to the world and its trappings, we become an embarrassment to You. Help us to be a people of whom You are exceedingly proud because we don't care about the world but have our eyes fixed on what You are preparing for us.

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them (Hebrews 11:13-16).

OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

We want to experience something like what this verse tells us will happen in the future. We want to be part of a great movement in which people are coming to us asking for the favor of being able to come to church to hear from God.

"Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you"'" (Zechariah 8:23).

You are the source of true renewal. So we are asking You for a mighty work of refreshment to be experienced in our midst as many men and women, boys and girls, turn to you and experience forgiveness from their sins.

"Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).

Boldness is something we cannot manufacture, but can be received from Your Spirit. Shake us up and give us the courage to be courageous ambassadors for the gospel.

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31).

Would you allow us to experience something of what You did in Acts? Would You be willing to bring us to a place where the entire Town of Collierville would gather because they want to hear what You have to say?

And the next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of God (Acts 13:44).

It is easy to remain silent sometimes. Help us to become so uncomfortable with our own silence that we keep on speaking out for You. Remove the fear that causes our lips to freeze like deer in headlights. Remind us that You are with us.

And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:9-10).

Make us so uncomfortable when we are at a window of opportunity that we cannot bring ourselves to remain silent. Encourage us to NEVER yield to the voice that beckons us to shrink back from communicating everything You have made known.

“Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God” (Acts 20:26-27).

Help us see the power of the gospel clearly so that we are bold and not ashamed.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16).

We long for the salvation of the people we love.

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation (Romans 10:1).

Help us keep “what Jesus has done for me” in the center of our conversations.

For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed (Romans 15:18).

Help us to see the power of the message of the cross and be unsurprised by the reaction of some that this is foolishness.

For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Help us to not be wishy-washy but to communicate with a clear word from You.

But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no (2 Corinthians 1:18).

Help us to not lose our pungency. Make us more and more like aroma therapy to those around us.

For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing (2 Corinthians 2:15).

Make us bold with the fuel of hope.

Having therefore such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech (2 Corinthians 3:12).

Encourage us with the knowledge that when we are witnessing, you are witnessing with us.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Give us the wisdom and insight to blow apart every idea that would justify less than total allegiance to Jesus.

We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Encourage us with the knowledge that we don't have to be the best debater, or orator, or communicator. Regardless of how it is delivered, our message is the hands down winner.

But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet I am not so in knowledge; in fact, in every way we have made this evident to you in all things (2 Corinthians 11:6).

Open the eyes of those who do not know You to see the richness of what is available in Christ. Heal them from the blindness to the incredible treasures of grace found in Him.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might (Ephesians 1:18-19).

Spread the Word rapidly in our community. Soften people's hearts so that they give honor to Your Word in a measure that matches how worthy it is of being glorified.

Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

We are asking You to work through all men and leaders to grow the kind of culture that is supportive of godliness and that promotes what You desire. Work in our land that all men might be saved and honor Your Word as the truth.

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Help us to be attentive to our own walk and to what we teach, to work long and hard at these things so that those within our sphere of influence have a clear and unobstructed path to salvation.

Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you (1 Timothy 4:16).

Make us cognizant of our failings and gentle in our ministry to others who don't get it or who are headed in the wrong direction.

He can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness (Hebrews 5:2).

PERSEVERANCE

God, help us to keep at it; to remain unfazed by contrary influences; to always be looking for ways to go to the next level in our kingdom efforts. Fuel this perseverance by helping us to remember that our efforts are not wasted when they are for the Lord.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Prompt us to think about Jesus and all He endured whenever we are losing steam or losing motivation to resist the steady pressure of the world toward compromise.

For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart (Hebrews 12:3).

Help us remember that perseverance in the faith when things are not going well, when it costs us something to stay true to you, will be worth it. Encourage us in the knowledge that life in its purest and highest form will be given to those who truly love You.

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him (James 1:12).

PURITY & INTEGRITY

Deliver us from the pull of worthless things.

I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me (Psalm 101:3).

Encourage us with the knowledge that the safest, best place we could possibly be is one where we openly and unashamedly confess our fear of You. Make us bold, courageous living advertisements for the value of a life lived for Your pleasure.

Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly. But it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen

his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God (Ecclesiastes 8:12-13).

Help us to not do or say anything that puts You in a bad light.

May those who wait for Thee not be ashamed through me, O Lord God of hosts; May those who seek Thee not be dishonored through me, O God of Israel, because for Thy sake I have borne reproach; Dishonor has covered my face (Psalm 69:6-7).

We are choosing to believe this verse. So help us to walk in a way that is upright and we will trust You to only give us what is good and truly profitable.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, how blessed is the man who trusts in Thee! (Psalm 84:11-12).

Deliver us from the delusion that You are impressed by worship spectacle. Turn our eyes to this simple truth – You are impressed by justice, kindness, and humility. Help us to become a people whose lives are perfectly summarized by these three descriptors.

With what shall I come to the Lord and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves? ...He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:6, 8).

Make of us a people who are passionately following what your grace teaches us. Help us to make a clean and decisive break from the ungodliness and longing for the stuff of the world that is all around us; empower us to live the kind of lives that are characterized by a well-reasoned devotion to righteousness and godliness. Fuel these endeavors by branding us with a burning eagerness for your return.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus (Titus 2:11-13).

Deliver us from mixed motives. Burn away the dross of any unworthy motives. Make us a people whose passion burns solely for Your glory and the honor of your name. Make that the fuel for every prayer. Silence every selfish request before it is even uttered.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures (James 4:3).

Help us see the incompatibility between loving You and loving the world. Strengthen us to always make the wise choice and choose You in all things.

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him (1 John 2:15).

PURPOSE

Give us the kind of verdant spirituality that helps us to bear fruit into our golden years. Many saints seem to dry up as they age – help us to just keep bearing fruit all the more.

The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green (Psalm 92:12-14).

Prepare us to be “truth brokers” who feed many when the famine for Your Word has come. Make us devoted to Your Word to such an

extent that we can feed many who are famished for a word from You.

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord God, “When I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the Lord. And people will stagger from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; They will go to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, but they will not find it” (Amos 8:11-12).

Everything must be subsumed under this simply objective – to live for His pleasure. We ask You, God, to make this our consummate passion.

Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him (2 Corinthians 5:9).

Has the grace God has shown us been a waste, or has it caused God to say “I am so glad that I have been gracious to them?” God, help us become more and more a people whose lives produce incredible returns for Your grace.

And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1).

Give us desires for good things, things pleasing to You, and then supply what is lacking for those desires to be fulfilled as we are faithful.

To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power; in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).

We don’t want to be ashamed of how we have lived. By your Spirit, fuel the kind of zeal that sustains daily diligence in the Word and a passion to be found faithful to what it teaches. Allow us to experience the kind of lives for which we would have zero embarrassment when we stand before You

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

Give us clear guidance in how to live lives that count, that make a difference for eternity; lives in which what we do has impact that extends beyond the grave.

And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Write, ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them” (Revelation 14:13).

STRENGTH

Flood our hearts with great joy in You so that we can be strong for what lies ahead.

Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

You are the God who is never tired. Whom better to ask, “Give us strength?” Replace our bone-weariness with the strong ease of an eagle having its way with the wind. Make us like marathon runners for You who near the end and still have reserves of strength.

The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD

*Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary (Isa. 40:28-31).*

Give us discernment of spiritual issues around us; give us the strength and backbone to not cave-in or back off from what we know is true; strengthen and embolden us to defend whatever is under attack; help us bathe all of the above in a desire to promote the best interests of others.

Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

Thank you for the reminder – when we hit a brick wall, trusting in ourselves is a dead end. Help us see that when we get in over our heads, it is still the shallow end for You. Help us to rely on You, to not waver in that trust, and to experience the deliverance that only You can bring.

For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many (2 Cor. 1:8-10).

Help us to be bold and humble out of awareness that our adequacy comes solely from God.

Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God (2 Corinthians 3:5).

SUCCESS

We affirm that You are the One who controls our destiny. We are asking You to bless us. If You will bless us we will truly be blessed.

“The Lord makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts” (1 Samuel 2:7).

You alone can bless us; honor us; give us power and success. You alone can give us the strength for the challenge. So we are coming to You alone as the One from whose hand we seek these things and for whose glory we serve.

“Both riches and honor come from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone” (1 Chronicles 29:12).

Help us see how trust in anything other than You is a false hope. Give us the eyes to see through all the “stuff” of life which masquerades as a basis for security. Help us see that true security and success is only found in You.

Some boast in chariots, and some in horses; But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God. They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stood upright (Psalm 20:7-8).

Deliver us from the pride that says our methods, our resources, and our knowledge are the keys to our success. May it always and only be about You.

For I will not trust in my bow, nor will my sword save me (Psalm 44:6).

We love You and trust You to bless us even when we can't stay awake or go on any more. You will give us what we need even while we sleep.

Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved even in his sleep (Psalm 127:1-2).

Deliver us from taking You and Your provision for granted. You are good and You give us so many good things. Destroy the spirit of pride wherever it lurks in us. Replace it with the humility that says we have You to thank for every good thing we are experiencing.

As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, And being satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore, they forgot Me (Hosea 13:6).

Turn our lives into a 24/7 praise chorus. Help us see the many and profound ways in which we have You to thank in all things. Deliver us from complacency. Shield us from taking all Your graces for granted.

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name (Hebrews 13:15).

WISDOM

Be with us so powerfully that we will be able to do exactly what is required in every situation we face.

“And it shall be when these signs come to you, do for yourself what the occasion requires; for God is with you” (1 Samuel 10:7).

Give us the wisdom to make judgments that please you because they reflect what is truly right in Your eyes.

“So give Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Thine?” And it was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing (1 Kings 3:9-10).

Help us to become known as a people among whom the wisdom of God can be found, to have a reputation for giving wise counsel, and to become a resource for people from all over who want to hear what You have to say.

And men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom (1 Kings 4:34).

Help us to be men who understand the times and who understand what it is necessary to do.

And of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command (1 Chronicles 12:32).

Just as You gave David a specific strategy for victory, so we are asking You to give us a specific strategy by which to prevail and advance in our work for the kingdom.

And David inquired again of God, and God said to him, “You shall not go up after them; circle around behind them, and come at them in front of the balsam trees” (1 Chronicles 14:14).

We want to learn what You have for us – the easy way. We want to learn how to follow Your eye. We don’t want to be a people who have to be led by constraint and hardship. Keep our hearts soft and attentive to You.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you (Psalm 32:8-9).

Don’t let us take for granted the days we receive. Help us to use every day as if it is our last opportunity to put the finishing touches on a heart of wisdom.

So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12).

Transform us into a people whose axes are sharp because we daily hone the edge of our understanding of wisdom. Provoke us to spend time in Your Word every day, to get off the treadmill of “being productive,” and use the cessation of our routine as a time to go deeper with You.

If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success (Ecclesiastes 10:10).

Help us understand the Scripture and Your power so that our “ministry” does not end up opposing what You want to do.

But Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God” (Matthew 22:29).

Fill us up with goodness and give us just the right words to make us adequate to every need for a ministry of admonition.

And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another (Romans 15:14).

Give us the eyes to see what “Your will” looks like, and then the desire for it more than “what we want.” Help our requests to be informed by the former and not the latter.

And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us (1 John 5:14).