A Focus on Ephesians



Dear Antioch Friends and Family,

It was a joy and privilege to put together this 30 day prayer guide on the book of Ephesians. It combines all the things I love most -- worship of God, the Word of God and prayer to God! I drew upon a practice I have in my own time with God, which involves praying the scriptures back to God and declaring truth out loud. When we pray His own words back to Him in worship, confession and intercession, it makes conversation with God focused and powerful. When you speak truth out loud in bold proclamation, you are changing the atmosphere, strengthening your heart and letting the enemy know you are one who walks in the authority of Jesus! It is my prayer that you would use this prayer guide many times over as a catalyst for your own prayers to God. Whenever you feel your time with God needs a renewed spark, you can pray through any passage of scripture and need never run out of powerful prayers. The Word of God is powerful, living and active, and is called our "sword of the Spirit." Studying and praying God's Word is a way to strengthen our arms for battle and wield this weapon more effectively.

May God bless you richly as you spend time with Him. May you rejoice in all the spiritual blessings of your position seated with Christ in heavenly places. May you walk worthy of your calling and may you stand strong in the Lord and the strength of His might!

To the glory of His name,

Peggy DeLeenheer Mission Viejo, California January, 2014

Day 1 TO THE SAINTS...GRACE AND PEACE

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, <u>to the saints</u> who are at Ephesus, and who are faithful in Christ Jesus; <u>grace</u> to you and <u>peace</u> from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 1:1-2

Father, I worship You today as the God of grace and peace. I praise You for the eternal Word of God, given through Your chosen servant, the Apostle Paul. You preserved this 2,000-year-old letter because You knew the church would need this message of grace and peace. You knew I would need to know its relevancy to my life as well. I pray for myself, the church and my city to be forever changed by the power of Your Word and by Your amazing grace that reaches down from on high and is able to transform a proud, hardened heart into a humble bond servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. After encountering Your glory, Paul was willing to die for his faith and for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He forever knew Your amazing grace and peace that passes understanding in his most extreme trials and tribulations. This was all accomplished according to Your good pleasure and perfect will. Thank You for working that same miracle in me, transforming me with Your grace and power from self-righteousness into someone who is seen as a saint in Your eyes. Strengthen the faithful saints in this church who are not perfected yet in their living condition, but are perfect in their legal position in Christ. Father, may the grace of Your unmerited favor rest upon us, and may the blessing of "shalom," the peace that comes only through the Prince of Peace, flow into every heart and mind through Christ Jesus our Lord, to the glory of Your name!

Day 2 HE PREDESTINED US TO ADOPTION

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <u>He predestined us to adoption</u> as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." Ephesians 1:3-6

God, I worship You today as Father God in whose heart the plan for my adoption was conceived even before You formed the earth. I worship You, Jesus, as my gracious Redeemer through whom the work of my salvation was accomplished through Your death on the cross. I praise You, Holy Spirit, for applying such a great salvation to my heart. Thank You for the eternal spiritual blessings I receive through Christ, which can never be lost or stolen and are not based on any merit in me, but are based on the perfection of Your goodness, mercy and love. Thank You for working out this salvation in me day by day through the sanctifying work of Your Holy Spirit. It is Your will for me to be holy and blameless before You because You are holy. In Your loving kindness, You chose me out of the orphanage of sinful humanity to be Your child forever, with all the privileges and responsibilities involved in being Your heir. Continue to reveal Your Father heart to me. Break off any orphan spirit in me and help me to live out my full identity as a son/daughter of the King. Break off any poverty spirit in me, and forgive me for the times I have lived as a spiritual pauper when I have the spiritual resources of heaven to draw upon. May I see with new eyes the spiritual orphans You have placed around me, and show me how You want to reveal Your Father heart to them. I bless You today, Father, for Your glorious grace and abounding love, which You have freely given me in the One You love, my beloved Savior Jesus Christ! May my life be to the glory of His name as I walk out my spiritual blessings in Christ, in whose name I pray.

Day 3 REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD

"In Him we have <u>redemption through His blood</u>, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth." Ephesians 1:7-10

Father, I worship You today as Redeemer, who gives without measure from the boundless riches of Your love and grace. I praise You for the lavish generosity You displayed through the gift of Your beloved Son, whom You gave for my salvation. Thank You for redeeming me and paying the ransom for my enslaved soul through the priceless blood of Jesus, my perfect sacrificial lamb. Thank You for His redeeming love that delivers me forever out of a life of slavery and bondage to sin and provides forgiveness for the countless ways I have missed the mark, fallen short and overstepped Your commandments. I am so grateful I need never return to my old life, for my chains have fallen off and You have set my heart free. In Jesus, I am saved, healed and delivered! I can look forward with eager anticipation to the day when Your eternal purposes will be fulfilled through Christ. I glory in the revelation of this divine plan that will be put into effect when the time is right, according to Your eternal time clock. You will redeem and bring all things together in heaven and on earth under the Lordship of Christ! Every knee will bow before Him and He will restore all things in submission to His righteousness, through His redeeming power. I praise You, Father, for this great mystery that reveals Your wisdom and insight, and for making me a part of the redeemed who will willingly bow in worship before Jesus Christ for all eternity, to the praise of Your glorious name!

Day 4 SEALED IN HIM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the Gospel of your salvation -- having also believed, you were <u>sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit</u> of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

Ephesians 1:11-14

Father, I worship You today as my inheritance. Thank You for choosing me to be a part of Your plan and for working out everything in my life in conformity to Your will as I trust in You and put my hope in Jesus Christ. Thank You for Your Word of truth, the Gospel of my salvation, that was enlightened in my heart through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within me. Thank You for the Holy Spirit's ministry of glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ to lead me to salvation and His ongoing work of producing the character of Christ in me. Thank You for validating the eternal change of my status before You by marking me with the seals of approval, authenticity and ownership. You have given me eternal security by placing a seal of protection over me forever so no one can ever snatch me out of Your hand. Because of Your grace in depositing the Holy Spirit in my heart, I know Your claim upon me is sure and Your redemption of me is secure. What a wonderful down payment You have given me as I anticipate the eternal glory that awaits me when You come again to claim me as Your own! Thank You for Your favor, for the power of Your protection over me and for the pledge You have given me of my eternal hope. I am Yours, Father, and may I live my life to the praise of Your glory forever and ever!

Day 5 THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING

"For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is <u>the hope of</u>

<u>His calling</u>, 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." Ephesians 1:15-19a

God, I worship You today as the Father of glory! Lord, we ask You to enlighten the eyes of our hearts to know You better -- not just to know about You or to know the scriptures, but to KNOW YOU experientially, relationally, deeply. I pray for an enlarged capacity in the church to receive an anointed spirit of wisdom from Your Word and greater revelation through Your Holy Spirit in our knowledge of You as the God of hope. Cause us to grow in hope as we understand what You have called us to: to the hope of being holy and blameless in Your sight, to the hope that is in our adoption as Your children and to the hope of living our lives to the praise of Your glory! I am in awe that You consider me to be Your inheritance and the treasure of Your heart, and rejoice because You are that for me as well. Bring a manifestation of the greatness of Your mighty resurrection power to our daily experiences and encounters with others so we would daily demonstrate the reality of our relationship with You. I thank You for each of the saints, and I make mention of them in my prayers today. May each one in the church come to a deeper knowledge of You with a greater love for one another so we can live out the hope of Your calling as we believe You and take You at Your word -- to the glory of Your name!

Day 6 HEAD OVER ALL THINGS

"These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as <u>head over all things</u> to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:19b-23

Lord, I worship You today as the all-powerful sovereign King who is head over all things. Your name is high above every other name. You are high above the names of Allah, Muhammad or Buddha, for You alone are a living Savior. I praise You, Jesus, as the exalted one who has won the victory over death and is now raised to life at the Father's right hand where You rule and reign in authority and righteousness forever. You are my advocate with the Father, interceding for me forever. Who can bring a charge against me? All glory to Your name, King Jesus, in this age and in the age to come! You are the living testimony of the resurrection power of God, for You have triumphed over death and Satan. I praise You that my life is also a living testimony, for You have demonstrated Your power to resurrect me from being dead in sin to being alive in Christ. You are my victory over the world, the flesh, the devil and even death!

You are head over all things in my life and in the church, for there is no power, authority or dominion that can stand against You. I declare today that You are the Name above all names, the King over all kings and the Lord of all creation! Be glorified in Your church, Lord, and fill us with the fullness of Your power, authority and glory in the mighty name of Jesus!

Day 7 SEATED WITH HIM IN HEAVENLY PLACES

"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. BUT GOD, who is rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him and <u>seated us with Him in the heavenly places</u> in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:1-7

Father, I worship You today as the God of mercy. There is no other explanation for my salvation other than the surpassing richness of Your great mercy and abounding love. Apart from Your grace I would be a walking corpse -- not just a little sick or a little off the mark, but spiritually DEAD, lost in my trespasses and sin. Apart from Your mercy I would still be seeking to satisfy the insatiable lusts of my own flesh, living under the control of the evil one. I shudder to think that in my lostness and sin I was by my very nature one deserving of Your wrath. Thank You for two of the greatest words in the Bible, "BUT GOD," which turns a hopeless and dire situation into one of incredible blessing and eternal glory. I praise You for Your sovereign grace that reached down and touched my dead life with Your eternal life-giving power and made me spiritually alive in Christ. You raised me up into heavenly places in Christ Jesus and You seated me in the place of honor, authority and victory with Him. I am forever above and not beneath my circumstances! For all the ages to come, the glory of Your kindness, goodness and mercy will be applauded by those of us You have redeemed. May I understand what You have done for me and where You have seated me in Christ and show it by living a victorious life for the glory of Your name, Jesus, the name above all names, in whose name | pray!

Day 8 SAVED THROUGH FAITH

"For by grace you have been <u>saved through faith</u>; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10

Father, I worship You today as the God who saves! Thank You for the good news of the Gospel, that it is not by good works that I am saved, nor is it something I deserve or anything I can earn. It is a gift that flows from Your eternal heart of grace to my lost soul in need. Thank You for saving me from religious works, self-righteousness, rituals, and for inviting me into a true and living relationship with You that is initiated by Your love and grace from start to finish, and for that I take no credit whatsoever. You came to seek and to save the lost, and that includes me! May I never boast in myself, but boast in the cross of Jesus Christ and in Your amazing grace. You didn't try to piece me back together again with a little tape and super glue, but You made me a whole new creature in Christ. I am the creative masterpiece of Your heart, a unique poem written by Your hand for Your good pleasure and will, recreated with a new nature, a new heart and a new set of priorities to do the Kingdom work You have ordained for me. Help me to recognize how You have wired me, gifted me and shaped me to be used by You for the ministry and mission You have for me. Protect me from taking on responsibilities I was never called to do. Help me to recognize the difference between being called and being driven. May I live a called life as I walk in step with Your Spirit with divine alignment to do the divine assignments You have for me, to the glory of Your name!

Day 9 BROUGHT NEAR BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

"Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by the so-called Circumcision, which is performed in the flesh by human hands -- remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been <u>brought near by the blood of Christ."</u> Ephesians 2:11-13

Father, I worship You today as the covenant-keeping God. Thank You for invading this lost world and choosing a man named Abraham through whom You would build a nation called Israel and make an everlasting covenant with them. Thank You for

entrusting the nation of Israel with Your laws, Your Word, the knowledge of Your ways, Your worship and for bringing forth the Messiah through the Jewish blood line. I especially want to thank You for grafting me, a Gentile, into the rich olive tree of Israel, where the roots of my faith lie. Thank You for changing my identity from being called: **Uncircumcised to one who has been circumcised in my heart by God

- **Separate from Christ to a member of Christ's body
- ** Excluded from the commonwealth of Israel to an heir with Christ
- **Stranger to the covenant to adopted into God's household

**Hopeless and without God to brought near by the blood of Christ

Help me to always remember my former condition when I was far off and without hope. May I always thank You for bringing me into Your very presence through the blood of Jesus. Thank You for always keeping Your promises, even through thousands of years of history. Your will and Your Word never change! In Jesus' name I pray.

Day 10 ONE NEW MAN

"For He Himself is our peace who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father." Ephesians 2:14-18

Lord, I worship You today as the eternal Prince of Peace. Through the work of the cross, You accomplished what no United Nations or peacemaking group on earth ever could. You brought Jews and Gentiles together in Christ by extending Your Gospel to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles. In Christ, there is no Jew or Gentile, just as there is no male or female, rich or poor. Christ was preached to the Jews who thought they drew near to You through the law, and Christ was preached to the Gentiles who were far away from You in their paganism. But You gave both Jew and Gentile believers access to You through the Gospel by one Spirit. You have made one new man out of the two! I pray today for greater unity in the body of Christ, understanding that it is Your will to make us one new man in Christ. Thank You for tearing the curtain of the temple in two from top to bottom so all Your children may have unlimited and direct access into Your presence through the blood of Christ. I glory in the peace of a reconciled relationship with You and I pray for greater revelation of the one new man in the church. May I never forget what it cost You to break down the barrier wall of hostility. Help me build bridges and not walls, as You seek to make us into ONE NEW MAN, in Jesus' name | pray!

Day 11 A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into <u>a holy temple in the Lord</u>; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit." Ephesians 2:19-22

Lord, I worship You today as my firm foundation and the cornerstone of my life and faith. I praise You that I am no longer a stranger or an alien to You and Your eternal covenants, but that my citizenship is in heaven and my identity is as a son/daughter of the King! I now live my life as a sojourner on the earth, not putting my roots down too deeply, for this place is not my home and I am no longer of this world. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on the earth as You build Your church upon the foundation of Jesus Christ and Your eternal Word. Thank You for the two-fold blessing of being born again into Your eternal family and being adopted into Your household. I am forever blessed to know that Your desire is to dwell in me! Thank You for making me a living stone in Your spiritual temple, and for chiseling away at my character in the secret place so I might be perfectly fitted for the position You have for me. May I value the different sizes and shapes of stones who are also a part of Your building. I pray for unity among Your children as You make Your dwelling among us in the Spirit, as we all rise up together as a holy temple for Your glory. As I minister to You in the secret place of prayer and worship, I pray You are blessed and that all I do for You flows out of my time with You, to the glory of Your name forever!

Day 12 THE STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S GRACE

"For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles -- if indeed you have heard of <u>the stewardship of God's grace</u> which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel..." Ephesians 3:1-6

Father, I worship You today as the giver of every good and perfect gift! Thank You for giving revelation of Your mysteries to Your prophets and apostles, who stewarded this revelation so we have Your inspired Word. Thank You that I am a recipient of the faithful stewardship of the letter to the Ephesians in which You reveal the mysteries to the church to build us up in our holy faith. I praise You for including me in the promises You have made in Christ Jesus my Lord, and for making me a fellow heir and fellow member of Your body through Christ. May I partake fully of all that is mine through the Gospel and live as one who has been blessed beyond measure with the spiritual riches of Christ. I pray I will be faithful to share those blessings with others at home and throughout the nations of the earth. Thank You for continually giving me insight and understanding into things hidden in ages past; and for entrusting such spiritual riches to me. You have given me spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ and I pray I will steward these gifts and abilities well. May I never leave one of Your gifts unopened or sitting on the shelf when You have been gracious to bestow it upon me. Give me spiritually attuned ears to hear Your voice speaking to me, a mind to understand and a heart to obey as I seek to glorify Your name!

Day 13 THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD

"...of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been in God, who created all things; in order that <u>the manifold wisdom of God</u> might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory." Ephesians 3:7-13

Father, I worship You today for Your manifold wisdom. You know the end from the beginning and are working out all things in accordance with Your divine purposes and eternal will. Forgive me for seeking wisdom from the world or from my own understanding. May I always remember that wisdom is personified in Jesus Christ! I marvel that You have chosen me, the least of all saints, to be the recipient of Your grace. You have put the message of salvation into my mouth to proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ Jesus my Lord among the lost. Thank You for Your amazing plan to use the church to reveal Your glory to the rulers and authorities. Glorify the church Lord, that we may glorify You! May we seek Your wisdom in bringing about Your eternal purposes in Christ, for Your ways are far above our ways! Thank You for welcoming my involvement. Thank you for giving me the confidence to enter Your presence through the blood of Jesus, my Savior, so I can ask for help in my time of

need. Give me renewed boldness in prayer through the power of Your Holy Spirit, and may I never lose heart in the midst of opposition or tribulation that comes my way because of the testimony of Jesus. Pour out Your Spirit of wisdom on this church, to know the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is the greatest understanding there is. May we be strong and mighty ministers of the Gospel of grace and experience more of the working of Your mighty power, to the glory of Your name!

Day 14 ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE

"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 <u>rooted and grounded in love</u>, 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 fullness of God." Ephesians 3:14-19

Father, I worship You today as the God of incomprehensible love. Thank You that my family name is "Beloved," and that I am part of Your eternal family. Strengthen the church with power through the Holy Spirit in our inner person, to be strong in the midst of suffering and persecution that comes as a result of following Christ. I pray Christ would take up residency in each heart as the rightful owner of our lives and dwell in our hearts through faith. May no area of our hearts be off-limits to His Lordship. May we be firmly rooted in Your love like a well-nourished vine and grounded in relationship in You with a firm, unshakable foundation. Enlarge the capacity of our hearts and minds to comprehend that Your arms of love are wide enough to encompass all who come to Christ through faith. May we know that the length of Your divine love will endure for all eternity. May we experience heights of glory in Your love, and know that Your love is able to descend to any depth of darkness with grace that is greater than all our sin. Father, cause us to know the unknowable, that Your banner over us is love, and fill us with the fullness of all You are, out of the infinite resources of Your riches and grace, to the glory of Your name, I pray!

Day 15 ABLE TO DO EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY

"Now to Him who is <u>able to do exceeding abundantly</u> 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." Ephesians 3:20-21

Father, I worship You today as the God of exceeding abundance! You are able and willing to answer the biggest prayers of my heart when I am aligned with Your will and seek Your glory. Forgive me for my small and faithless prayers, which stem from my unrenewed mind. You are all-powerful; and You are exalted and glorified when I believe You for that which is beyond my scope of asking or thinking. Enlarge the prayers of Your people to align rightly with who You are and what You say about a situation or person, that we might bring glory to Your name by revealing Your greatness to a hopeless, spiritually bankrupt world. Help us to dream Your dreams and to know that nothing is impossible with You. Give me faith to believe You for something that seems too big in my own understanding. May I never despair of anyone coming to salvation, for Your arm is not too short to reach the most hardened heart. May I reject discouragement, anxiety and fear as coming into agreement with Satan, for You are able to make a way where there seems to be no way. You are never at a loss, You never make a mistake and You are never late. When You give, You are not like those of us who are skimpy, stingy or miserly, but You are generous and lavish beyond measure! Thank You for the many ways You have exceeded my expectations over the years by doing abundantly beyond what I have asked, thought or imagined, according to the power of Your Holy Spirit at work within me. May I remember to give testimony to Your faithful provision in my life and may You would be glorified in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever!

Day 16

WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE CALLING

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to <u>walk in a manner worthy of the</u> <u>calling</u> with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called to one hope of Your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:1-6

Father, I worship You today as the one true God and Father of all. As I think of all You have done for me in Christ -- my adoption, my redemption, my rebirth, my sealing through the Holy Spirit, my spiritual blessings and my position seated with Christ in heavenly places - please help me to walk in a manner worthy of the calling I have received. Help me walk in the humility of Christ, who humbled Himself to death on the cross that I might die to my rights and my own will. Help me walk in the meekness of Christ, who submitted His strength to Your control, that I would not try to assert my own will, but would let You have Your way with me. I submit the rough edges of my nature to the sandpaper of difficult circumstances and relationships until I am conformed to the patience of Christ, showing forbearance with others who are in process in their journey with You. May my words bring unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace within the church, laying aside petty differences as I seek to speak to and not about others. Just as there is perfect unity within the Godhead between Father, Son and Holy Spirit, help Your children to live out that unity to which we are called: one body with many parts but one in purpose; one Holy Spirit who unites us to You and to one another; one hope through the resurrection of Christ and His sure return; one Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins; one faith in Christ by which we are saved; one spiritual baptism into true identity with Christ; one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. To You be the glory in my life and in the church now and forever, I pray!

Day 17 THE EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS

"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, 'When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.' (Now this expression, 'He ascended,' what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for <u>the equipping of the saints</u> for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:7-13

Lord, I worship You today as the Ascended One, high and lifted up on Your throne, who gives good gifts. Thank You for being willing to descend to this sin-filled earth in order to lift me up to an eternal position in heaven with You. Thank You for the measure of grace You have given me that is altogether sufficient to cover my sins and enable me to live a life of service that is pleasing to You. Thank You for the spiritual gifts You have given to equip Your church. I ask You to raise up the five-fold ministry within the church to strengthen us for the days ahead. Raise up apostolic leaders who have a Kingdom vision and mindset and are able to build for the glory of Your name and not for their

own. Raise up bold prophetic voices who are pure in heart and motive and speak fearlessly the spirit-filled words You give them to proclaim. Raise up evangelists with a heart for the lost and a passion for Your name to be proclaimed to the nations of the earth, especially to those who have never heard the name of Jesus. Raise up pastors with a shepherd's heart who will nurture and minister Your love in the church. Raise up teachers who have a true spiritual understanding of the scriptures who can train up and equip the church to know You through Your Word and who can bring the plumb line of truth to realign hearts rightly with You. Let these gifts work together in humble servanthood to empower and equip the Body of Christ in their love and service for You. May Your church grow up in spiritual unity, in true knowledge of the Son of God and in mature stature unto the fullness of Jesus Christ, to the glory of His name!

Day 18 GROW UP IN ALL ASPECTS INTO HIM

"As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to <u>grow up in all aspects into Him</u>, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." Ephesians 4:14-16

Lord, I worship You today as the head of Your body, the church, whom You hold together by Your mighty power and divine authority. Thank You for using the illustration of the church as Your body, that we might see more clearly the necessary interdependence on each other. When every member of the body does his or her part, and the oil of Your Spirit lubricates the joints, everything works properly and in unity. No one is meant to do it all, nor can they. We need one another! May the church feed upon the truth of Your Word like spiritual nourishment that enables us to grow up into all aspects of You so we are not weak and immature, carried away by wrong teaching or tossed about like a ship without an anchor. Strengthen us through spiritual weight-lifting to build up our understanding of the theological basis of our faith as we study and meditate upon Your Word. Ground us so deeply in truth that we recognize the counterfeit when it comes along. Help us understand the headship of Christ and His Lordship over the church so the foundation we build upon is held together by the core truth of the sovereignty and divine nature of Christ. When we speak Your truth to others, may it be clothed with the love and grace we have received through Jesus Christ. Help us to keep growing into spiritually mature adults who are becoming more like Christ, to the glory of Your name!

Day 19 WALK NO LONGER AS THE GENTILES

"This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you <u>walk no longer just as</u> <u>the Gentiles</u> also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness." Ephesians 4:17-19

Father, I worship You today as the God of transformation. Thank You for transforming me and redeeming my life out of futility, darkness and ignorance and into a whole new life in You. Thank You for helping me walk out my faith daily with a renewed mind, enlightened understanding and a softened heart as I live in spiritual oneness with You. Keep me pure and holy, protected from the influences around me as I am in the world but not of the world. As I read these verses, I think of the people I know who are still futile in their thinking and darkened in their understanding because of their spiritual ignorance and hardened hearts. They may say they are doing great and life is good, but You say differently. I pray for a burden to rise up in my heart and in the church for these lost ones, and for sustained, powerful prayer to bring forth a mighty move of Your Spirit among the lost. I ask You to do what only You can do and move upon their hearts to create a sense of need and a thirst for that which only You can satisfy. Open their eyes, like You did mine, to see how the things they have substituted for You cannot fill the void in their lives. May I have compassion for them and speak truth in love as You lead me by the Holy Spirit. Rather than curse the darkness as I come in contact with futility, hardness, sensuality and greed in the world, may I dispel the darkness through the love and light of Jesus, to the glory of Your name!

Day 20

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS OF THE TRUTH

"But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that in reference to your former manner of life you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in <u>righteousness and holiness</u> <u>of the truth</u>." Ephesians 4:20-24

Father, I worship You today as the God of righteousness, holiness and truth. Thank You for inputting Your righteousness to me through the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ

and for filling me with Your holiness through the Holy Spirit. Thank You for Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. All that is true is personified and found in Him. Thank You for Your transformational work that allows me to leave my old self behind with all its lusts and deceit, and to put on my new self with a renewed mind which glories in Your truth. Thank You for speaking to me through the whole counsel of scripture, where I am learning truth through hearing Christ's voice. Help me follow the leadership of my Good Shepherd as I seek to walk out my new life in Christ. I joyfully enroll in Your school of righteousness, and pray that I will to be a good student and make spiritual progress as I learn Christ more and more. Continue to attune my ears to His voice, and block out the clamor of the world and its deceitful ways. Show me what is right in every situation in my life so I might live out righteousness. Reveal Your holiness and truth to me in the inner recesses of my heart that I might continue to put off the old corrupt ways of my former way of life. Thank You for the transformational power of Your Word as You renew me in the spirit of my mind, as I spend time with You daily meditating upon Your glorious nature. I praise You with gratitude in my heart that I can become more like You in righteousness, holiness and truth as I behold Your glory!

Day 21 DO NOT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

"Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. And <u>do</u> <u>not grieve the Holy Spirit</u> of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." Ephesians 4:25-31

Father, I worship you as the Holy One, who has sealed me for the day of redemption through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Thank you that I have moved from death to life, putting off the grave clothes of my sin nature and putting on the wedding garments of salvation! Continue Your sanctifying work in me by purifying my tongue from all falsehood, exaggeration and half-truths. Give me grace to speak forth only that which is edifying to others and glorifying to You. When I am angry, may I not let my anger cause me to sin by holding on to it and allowing a bitter root or murderous spirit to grow within me. Help me remember that harboring bitterness causes a spiritual cancer to take over my heart that negatively affects every relationship. I pray I will quickly release situations and people with whom I am angry, lest I give Satan a foothold on the Velcro of unresolved anger in my heart. Convict me of any ways I may be stealing from others --

even time from my employer or a good reputation from a friend -- and give me the grace to repent! Help me to grow in diligence and give You glory by doing my work with excellence, that I might have something to share with others in need. I pray I will not grieve your Holy Spirit through wrong attitudes, actions or words that harm others and cause You to be silent within me. As your Holy Spirit fills my life, may undesirable attributes disappear entirely. May my heart be so pure that when I am jostled, what spills out of my mouth is blessing and not cursing. I praise You and thank You for the precious gift of the Holy Spirit, and His sanctifying work in me, to the praise of Your glorious grace!

Day 22 BE IMITATORS OF GOD

"And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Therefore, <u>be imitators of God</u>, as beloved children, and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." Ephesians 4:32-5:2

Father, I worship You today as the God of sacrificial love. Thank You for the kindness You have shown me in Christ Jesus through the forgiveness of my sins. May the mercy and grace You have shown me cause my heart to be tenderized towards others who offend me. In fact, I ask for an unoffendable heart! I pray to grow in kindness towards those You sovereignly cause to cross my path today. As I have received forgiveness so freely from You for the debt of sin I owed, may I give forgiveness freely to the ones who sin against me. I pray to develop more and more of a family resemblance as I seek to be conformed to the likeness of Christ, my brother, and demonstrate the heart of God, my Father. Show me what it looks like to live a life of love as I meditate upon the life of Christ, who was never too busy or distracted to see the one in the crowd who needed a touch from Him. Just as the sacrifice of Christ was a pleasing aroma to You, may my life take on a sweetness as I submit my will to You every day. I offer my life today as a living sacrifice to You, an offering of love for all You have done for me. May fire fall from heaven on my heart as it becomes an altar of sacrifice to You, and may it be a fragrant aroma before Your throne. May I go forth to spread the fragrance of Christ wherever I go, to the glory of Your name, I pray!

Day 23 WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

"But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; <u>walk as children of light</u> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, 'Awake sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.""

Ephesians 5:3-14

Father, I worship You today as perfect Light. Thank You for transforming me from darkness into light through Jesus Christ. Thank You for awakening me from spiritual deadness and allowing Christ to shine upon me. I am eternally thankful to no longer be under Your wrath through my fallen nature, but can now experience the fruit of goodness, righteousness and truth. Your light within me allows me to see sin more clearly and recognize the fruitless deeds and disgraceful acts that previously did not bother me. Your light brings a plumb line of truth into situations and relationships and exposes the evil deeds of darkness around me. May my words be a sweet sound to Your ears as I daily express my thankfulness to You for taking away my heart of idolatry and putting the moral purity of Jesus in its place. Thankfulness is befitting one who has an inheritance in Your kingdom! Help me to continue to learn Your ways and seek to please You in all that I do. I pray for the church to recognize Your good gifts of sexual pleasure in marriage, money and speech are to be used for Your glory. May we not be deceived by the world's perversions of these gifts through sexual immorality, greed and obscenity. Wake up the church from spiritual slumber and bring revival! Give us grace to live in the light of Your presence with transparency in order to dispel the darkness of this sin-sick world. Let us walk as children of light for the glory of Your name!

Day 24 BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but <u>be filled</u> <u>with the Spirit</u>, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father..." Ephesians 5:15-20

Father, I worship You today as the all-wise God. Thank You for sharing Your wisdom with those who ask. I ask for Your wisdom to help me to walk carefully through my days, understanding the times and the seasons in which I live. Teach me to number the hours in my day that I may gain a heart of wisdom for the significant, or "kairos" moments. Align my priorities every morning as I spend time with You and help me to recognize opportunities that may come my way disguised as interruptions in my schedule. Help me make the most of each day to further Your kingdom. As I bring You into every part of my day, You will help me see Your will being revealed through me. Thank You for giving me wisdom to recognize the foolishness of drunkenness, which is a fleeting pleasure with a high cost to pay. Instead, I embrace the true and lasting joy of continually being filled with Your Holy Spirit. Fill me today with the sweet fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. May my words be life-giving and Spirit-filled like spiritual melodies flowing from my heart to the hearts of others. Give me spiritual songs to sing in worship to You. Give me words from the Psalms to express my love for You as I praise Your name. Let the deep meaning of the timeless hymns of the faith be my meditation and song throughout the day and into the night. May a spirit of thanksgiving be such a part of my nature that no matter what comes my way, I give You thanks IN the situation, even if not FOR the situation, knowing You are good and can work all things together for good in my life when I am fully devoted to You.

Day 25 BE SUBJECT TO ONE ANOTHER

"...and <u>be subject to one another</u> in the fear of Christ. Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such things; but that she should be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great, but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see to it that she respect her husband." Ephesians 5:21-33

Father, I worship You today as the God of covenant. Thank You for the covenant of marriage You ordained from the beginning of creation when You said it was not good for man to be alone. Marriage is Your divine concept and I bless the institution of marriage and pray for the strengthening of this foundational building block of our society. Please strengthen the sanctity of marriage, which represents a picture of Christ and the church. Protect this holy institution from Satan's attempt to destroy the image of marriage through perversion. Help us as husbands and wives to submit to one another out of our love for Christ. Help wives to be subject to the leadership of their husbands, as unto the Lord. Give husbands the wisdom and grace to be godly, servant leaders of their wives and families. May husbands draw deeply upon the love of Christ in loving their wives unconditionally, sacrificially and eternally. May husbands understand the high calling in their lives to nourish spiritual growth and development in their wives, as they love and cherish them as Christ does the church. We pray for equally yoked marriages that become one in body, soul and spirit, joined together as one flesh in the holy union of marriage. May Christ-like love grow in the hearts of every husband, and may wives grow in unconditional honor and respect for their husbands, that the covenant of marriage will be honored among us as a testimony to the world, to the glory of Your name!

Day 26 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <u>Honor your father and mother</u> (which is the first commandment with a promise), that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:1-4

Father, I worship You today as my eternal Heavenly Father who gives me identity, provision and protection. Thank You for the institution of family that You established from the beginning of time to be a basic building block of our society. Thank You for our children who are our heritage and a blessing from You. We pray for all the children in

our midst to learn the blessing of obedience to their parents that is immediate, joyful and complete. May they know in their hearts that this is right and have a desire to please You, God, as well as their parents. Give us the big picture of our children's spiritual development, that teaching our children to obey in the home is a stepping stone to their spiritual obedience to You. Help us to model a culture of honor before our children in the way we treat one another, so they learn to honor others, especially their parents and other authority figures, that their lives might be blessed with prosperity and longevity. Help fathers not to provoke or exasperate their children with unrealistic expectations or an indifferent attitude, but to bring them up in patient discipline and instruction of the Lord. May our families prioritize rich and meaningful times together, building strong bonds of relationship. I pray the families in this congregation would be incubators of godly, honorable and spiritually mature young men and women who will one day be shot forth like sharp arrows from the quiver of home life to go even farther in their spiritual lives than their parents. May they strengthen our society as they stand strong for godly families against the evil influences all around us, to the glory of Your name!

Day 27 RENDER SERVICE, AS TO THE LORD

"Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; not by way of eyeservice, as menpleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. With good will <u>render service, as to the Lord</u>, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. And, masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him." Ephesians 6:5-9

Father, I worship You today as my Lord and Master. Thank You for elevating the status of all men to a place of honor in Your eyes. Help us continue to learn the lessons of submission to one another that enhance our earthly relationships. Thank You for the example of Jesus Christ, who was Lord over all, and yet came to humbly serve, even taking a towel and washing His disciples' feet. Help us to see every situation we are in, whether we are the one in charge or the one who is in submission to another, as an opportunity to serve as though we were serving the Lord. In the workplace, help employees serve their employers with obedience, respect and loyalty, in a way that honors You. May they show integrity by doing their work with diligence whether the boss is looking or not, for nothing is hidden from Your eyes. Excellence gives You glory for You are a God of exceeding excellence! May the eternal reward that comes from doing the right thing with integrity be a motivation for diligence. I pray for employers to honor and respect their employees as ones who are made in the image of God, drawing out the best in them through encouragement and affirmation. May both employees and employers know that when they serve one another, they are also serving You. May our

workplaces be filled with dignity and honor, revealing the Father heart of God, to the glory of Your name!

Day 28 BE STRONG IN THE LORD

"Finally, <u>be strong in the Lord</u>, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the power, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:10-12

Father, I worship You today as the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God! I am so thankful the enemy has none of these attributes. He is a created being, limited in power, in knowledge and in locality. Thank You for the strength You give me to stand against the enemy when I look to You. Open the eyes of Your people to the spiritual battle raging around us so we would not be caught unaware, but would be strong in You and in the strength of Your mighty power. Thank You for not leaving us defenseless against our enemy, but giving us protective armor so we can stand our ground against the devil's schemes. Give us boldness to stand against Satan when he comes against us as a roaring lion, seeking to devour us through intimidation and fear. Give us wisdom to recognize Satan when he comes to us with cunning words, tempting us through pride to seek to become like You. Give us discernment when he comes to us disguised as an angel of light, looking very appealing on the surface, but hiding his lies under layers of deception. Help us to not make people our enemies, but to wage war against the spiritual forces of wickedness that have taken them captive to do Satan's destructive work. We stand today against the lies of the enemy through the truth of Your Word, that the light of the knowledge of the glory of God may be revealed in the face of Jesus Christ, to the glory of Your name!

Day 29 TAKE UP THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

"Therefore, <u>take up the full armor of God</u>, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:13-17

Father, I worship You today as Jehovah-Nissi, my banner of victory! Thank You for giving me Your full armor to protect me from the attacks of Satan so I can stand firm in the evil days. I plant my feet firmly in You today, Lord, and I cinch up the belt of truth to keep out the lies of Satan. I stand in the truth of Your Word and have security and confidence because of who I am in You. I praise You for the breastplate of righteousness that protects my heart and enables me to stand faultless before Your throne. Because of Christ's righteousness in me, I am set free from Satan's accusations of shame and guilt and can do rightly in situations as a true child of God. Thank You for fitting my feet to bring the good news of the Gospel wherever I go. Direct my steps today, and may I be prepared to give an answer for the hope I have in Christ. I praise You as my protective shield of faith as I advance into enemy territory. Raise up Your army and may we hook our shields together in this spiritual battle, so there would be strength through spiritual oneness and an invincible wall to protect us from Satan's fiery arrows. I thank You for the helmet of salvation that protects my mind from hopelessness, despair and fear, especially in the heat of the battle. Thank You for all this defensive armor that protects me, and also for the offensive weapon You have given me, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God that cuts like a doubleedged sword. May I hide Your Word in my heart so I have ammunition stockpiled for the battle. Strengthen me to wield this sword effectively as You ground me more deeply in Your Word. Thank You that I stand in victory and hope in Christ in every spiritual battle, for the glory of Your name!

Day 30 PRAY AT ALL TIMES IN THE SPIRIT

"With all prayer and petition <u>pray at all times in the Spirit</u>, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly as I ought to speak. But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you. And I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts. Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with a love incorruptible." Ephesians 6:18-24

Father, I worship You today as the highest goal of my heart! Thank You for the gift of prayer that connects my heart with Yours in the Spirit. I cast down any spirit of prayerlessness, and step into my eternal identity as a consecrated person of prayer. I look for opportunities today to avail myself of the gift of prayer as I grow in my vision of the immeasurable power and necessity of prayer. Thank You for teaching me to pray

through the scriptures and to pray with others in need without hesitation. Thank You for revealing to me my authority in prayer, knowing that it is the secret weapon for victory in this life. What a joy to pray worship-based prayers that focus my attention on the majesty of Your divine attributes rather than on the magnitude of my needs. I am filled with thanksgiving for all You are and all You do and lift my prayers in a heart of gratitude and love. Because I am seated with You in heavenly places, I receive Your perspective on people and situations, so I can pray with a heavenly view and a greater sense of Your will. You alert me to persevere in prayer for all the saints, in particular for my persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ who are imprisoned, that they would fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, even to their persecutors. Thank You for opportunities in the church to express our undying love for You and our complete dependence upon You through corporate prayer times that edify the body of Christ and glorify Your name. We give all blessing and honor to You, Father God, and to Jesus Christ!