

"Pray without ceasing."
1 Thessalonians 5:17

A YEAR OF PRAYER WEEK 47

PRAYER OF PRAISE

(Genesis 17:1-8)

PRaise GOD FOR HIS STRENGTH

"I am the Almighty God ...And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant...."

Genesis 17:1, 7

God is a God of strength. The promise He made to Abraham was kept - even though at age 99 Abraham was without children. He gave his descendants the land of Canaan and made them a great nation. Most importantly, through his bloodline God sent the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, to bring salvation to the world.

In prayer, let us seek to honor God for His strength. Let us come before Him with humility and reverence, recognizing just how much we need Him. Yet, let us pray with boldness, for He is able to keep His promises and He will hear and answer our prayers.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

(1 Peter 5:13)

PRAY FOR THE STRENGTH OF THE CHURCH

"The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you...."

1 Peter 5:13a

The church must be strong. Think of the power of this statement: "The church that is at Babylon." Babylon is a place in the Scripture that is synonymous with evil from the book of Genesis onward! Yet, the Gospel was preached and the church existed in this wicked city. This required strength of the Christians to be a light in a world of darkness.

Let us pray for the church - locally and worldwide. Pray that each congregation will have the strength to set a godly example in a wicked world. Pray that the church will be strong in every community and country throughout the world.

PRAYER FOR OTHERS

(Acts 8:21-24)

PRAY FOR THE SPIRITUALLY WAYWARD

"... [T]hy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. ...Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me...."

Acts 8:21-24

The spiritually wayward are those who have sinned and stand in need of forgiveness. We must do all that we can to encourage their repentance. When they repent, we must pray for them.

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1 Thessalonians 5:17

Let us pray for the spiritually wayward. Pray that they may have opportunity to learn and to repent. When they come home to the Lord and the church, pray for their forgiveness.

PRAYER FOR PHYSICAL NEEDS

(Proverbs 30:7-9)

PRAY WITH CONTENTMENT

"... [G]ive me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."

Proverbs 30:8-9

When we pray for our needs, we must do so with an attitude of contentment. There is a danger in both poverty and abundance. God has promised to meet our needs. That must be enough. Anything more should be received with humility and gratitude.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

(1 Timothy 1:12-17)

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry ...And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 1:12, 14

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL NEEDS

(1 Thessalonians 5:14; Hebrews 6:15; 12:1)

PRAY FOR PATIENCE

"And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise."

Hebrews 6:15

Patience is cheerful or hopeful endurance, steadfastness, or constancy. Thayer defined it as: "the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings." All Christians need patience.

Let us pray for patience. Pray without worry that God will make our lives difficult (cf. Jam. 1:5). Pray that we may endure with joy and cheer. Pray that we may remain steadfast unto the end.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(Colossians 2:6-7; 3:12-17; 4:2)

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. ...And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Colossians 2:6-7; 3:17