



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

January 28, 2018

### Praying Boldly

*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. —Hebrews 4:14-16*

There are several ways we get our bearings in this world. Different methods we use to figure out what's what and determine who we are, what really matters, and where to go from here.

A sideways glance looks around, sees the crowd, and judges by popular opinion. It's a "shorthand" way of reasoning that reveals things as they are right now and focuses on what's current. The fickle winds of daily life makes things unstable and quickly changing, so a sideways glance reveals what's real but not what lasts.

The upward look lifts up its eyes to see God, seated on His throne, and His truth forever settled in heaven. Focused on the eternal, it seeks an everlasting reality and examines Scripture to find the bedrock of unshakable truth. It makes the Lord a fixed point of reference for what is true, right, and good.

A cross-ward look sees Christ on the cross, suspended between heaven and earth. He came to earth, to share our trials and experience the pangs of sin in His life and the judgment of sin in His death. But then He rose from the dead. Jesus is alive today. The cross-ward look beholds Christ on heaven's throne right now and sees the eternal involved in the every day. When Jesus bought our salvation, He also bought the privilege of prayer that keeps us connected with heaven.

An inward look shines the light of truth on every part of our selves. Trusting Christ's grace, it receives His critique along with His forgiveness and brings freedom from sin. In Christ, self-examination frees us to see our sin with stark realism. With no illusions about personal holiness, it confesses sin for what it is and lets it die with Christ. The inward look descends into hope. It relinquishes all confidence in our own ability and receives the life of the Christ, who purges our sin and replaces it with His holiness by His resurrection from the dead. That's why we pray boldly in Jesus' name.

Dear Lord, break the fleshiness of your Church. We are so busy doing things for you that we're powerless to change one heart, much less our culture. Take our eyes off our surroundings and turn them onto you. Train us to take our cues from you rather than the world around us, so we can be a blessing to others. Teach us to change things on earth through our influence with heaven.

You passed from heaven to earth, from the manger to the cross and the grave. When you were born we didn't notice. When you taught, we spurned your message. Within ourselves, we have nothing but sin and rejection of you. But you used that very evil to make us new in Christ, through His death to sin and resurrection to new life.

Reveal the impact of the Gospel in our daily lives—our marriages and families, our interactions and relationships, our hobbies and pass times, our careers and goals. Direct our choices, train our emotions, and recreate our affections. Release us from our bondage to sin and self. Set us free to receive your new life, flowing through us. Move our hearts to seek—and enable us to find—You.

Make us bold in prayer and confident in Christ—Son of God and Son of Man—who opened the door to your presence, so we can come to you boldly and obtain from you freely the eternal riches of our Risen Lord.

*To the praise of His glory.*

## Prayer for the Week

- Sunday (Church):** Ask God to use Taylor Mendoza, Interim Director of Student Ministries, to lead our students to love Christ, trust Him, and follow His ways.
- Monday (Home and Family):** Pray for future generations of your family to come to faith in Christ early, walk with Him all their lives, and enjoy Him forever.
- Tuesday (Job/School):** Make a list of people with whom you work closely, and pray for their salvation.
- Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community):** Pray for the families of your children’s friends to come to know Christ as Lord and Savior. Ask God to use you.
- Thursday (Our Nation):** Pray for Godly influences in the businesses of America, so that Godly principles to guide their practices more than the dictates of the marketplace.
- Friday (The World):** Pray for the liberation of North Korea and the conversion of its people to Christ. Pray that God’s light will shine brightly in that dark land.
- Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing):** Praise the Lord for the blessing of attending in a healthy church. Rejoice in the “church family” God has given you.

### Faith Is ...

Allowing Christ’s redeeming blood to reconcile our relationships with each other as it has in our relationship with God.

### Prayer Record

Record specific prayers you have below. Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. –Colossians 3:12-15*