



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

February 4, 2018

For All People

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus ... –1st Timothy 2:1-5

To move men, by God, through prayer alone was Hudson Taylor's stated goal as he prepared to lose himself in China to win that great land for Christ. His goal for China is our goal for earth, and his method for reaching that goal must be equally rooted in God's power.

If the world seems less comfortable for those who love Jesus, it's not without reason. Founded on Scriptural truth and springing from centuries of Christian culture, the United States of America been a cozy home for Christ followers from its inception. But our freedom to choose leaders to write our laws and create policy has led us to the comfortable misconception that we are creating heaven on earth—as if that were possible.

But humanity still is on the run. God's rule does not rest comfortably with our fallen race. We're bent on doing things our own way, convinced it's as good as God's. Slowly but surely—and now it would seem finally—we have cast off His yoke and feel free to do what's right in our own eyes. What a mess!

But there is still "salt" on the earth to preserve it from decay—us. A "light" still shines to show the world the way—the Church. God is taking His people back from the pleasant distraction of making a place for ourselves in the world and putting us back on task. We feel the sinfulness of the world around us, because we bring the sting of conviction for sin to a world that has lost all moral sense. We feel the darkness closing in, because the light of hope through Christ alone is shining by itself in a world that has chosen darkness, because its works are evil (John 3:19).

Prayer puts divine omnipotence at the believer's disposal, so God can accomplish His mighty work through us. He desires all people to be saved and He works through His people to save them. Our prayer shapes events in this world, so God can use us to accomplish His work of reaching lost souls for Christ.

That's why God, through Paul, urged Timothy and all believers to make *supplications*—urgent requests, *prayers*—expressions of need of God, and *intercessions*—prayers for the needs of others—for all men. Paul's purpose is not to make the world a better place, but to bring people to Christ. Everything we do in this world serves the next world, because this one is passing away.

Think of a ship, gently rocking as it moves ahead. Life seems good, and celebrations big and small, public and private proceed apace. A sudden jolt momentarily gets everyone's attention, but the mild shock is soon forgotten. That jolt describes the beginning of the end of the *Titanic* and the coming death of hundreds of unsuspecting people.

And that disaster depicts the reality of planet earth. In His grace, God has informed His people of coming disaster and His holy judgment on sin. And He has called us to spread the unwelcome news—to save those who don't want to be saved, because they have no concept of their coming end.

Let's pray urgently for presidents, governors, and mayors, legislators, judges, and officials. Ask God to work in and through them to make the world safe for the spread of the Gospel—God's life raft. Expect God to work in response to our prayers.

He doesn't always answer just the way we'd like, but His answers are always perfect. He works in ways that are not always big, but they are always mighty. Pray, expecting your prayers to shape world events, not to accomplish our purposes but God's, who always works for good for all whom He has called for His purpose—the salvation of all and *the praise of His glory*.

Prayer for the Week

Sunday (Church): Ask for God to be present with Geoff Grant, our new Worship leader and his wife Chelsae, as they lead us to worship God and give ourselves to Him in faith, joy, and love.

Monday (Home and Family): Commit your household to Christ. *As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord* (Joshua 24:15).

Tuesday (Job/School): Pray for opportunities to express God's love for those you serve through your job.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for your relationships and Christian influence in your neighborhood. Acknowledge God's right to command you to, "Go and make disciples."

Thursday (Our Nation): Pray that the love of God will spread throughout His Church in America, so that we are "filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:18).

Friday (The World): Pray for the triumph of the Gospel throughout Latin America. May the Gospel be the "power of God to salvation for all who believe."

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Praise your Creator for His glorious creation and for giving you life. *Of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace* (John 1:16).

Faith Is ...

Investing in God's purposes and seeking all our good through the advancement of His kingdom.

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

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. -1st Timothy 4:10