



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

March 25, 2018

The State of the Church

... having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power ... always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. —2nd Timothy 3:5, 7

And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: "The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God." —Revelation 3:1-2

When people speak of the end times, they usually talk about the antichrist and the political scene. But there's little talk about the state of the Church as history draws to a close. And that's God's primary concern.

As it so often does, lethal danger approaches silently and slowly—imperceptibly. Like a frog in water that's slowly approaching the boiling point, American Christians lie comfortably as calamity draws near. Parking in well-kept lots and entering attractive buildings, we are lulled into a sense that all is well with the world. Singing songs exactly to our taste (otherwise, we'd just go to the church down the road) and imbibing preaching that reinforces familiar truths, we live in an illusion of spiritual health.

Wake up! Jesus says, and in His grace, He delivers a splash of cold water to save the life His Church.

Praise God for the calls to prayer from ministries scattered around the country. Light is beginning to dawn and the truth is starting to hit home with God's people. God calls us to live the truth, not just hear it—to minister the Gospel, Not just consider it true. And it's utterly impossible to live and minister God's Word effectively without the work of the Holy Spirit. He is the lifeblood of the Church, and we receive Him and His power for ministry through prayer.

Our work on earth is far from done, and the Day of the Lord will never overtake us like a thief, if we're ensconced in our recliners waiting for Jesus to come and rid us of our troubles. The daily news is sounding the alarm of a world becoming increasingly hostile. Open hostility to Christ and cynicism about Christians are clearly Satanic opposition, but they're also God's clarion call to get His people up and moving.

Our number one prayer need is for the Holy Spirit of God to come upon His Church and enable us to live and speak the Gospel in power. Not power to get the world into shape so it suits us better but power to rescue souls from this dark and wicked world by the blood of Christ. Not political clout to make America like it used to be. America has never been anything more than the best this world has to offer. This world is not our home, and it's passing away.

There is no hope for the world, but there is hope in this world. We hold out the one and only hope there is on earth—hope to live on after it's destroyed. The bright good news of the Gospel shines against the black backdrop of God's just and certain judgment on sin. And the Holy Spirit, whom Christ sent to fill, comfort, guide, and empower us, is our essential resource in proclaiming this hope.

So pray for God's Spirit to fill His people and bring an end to ungodliness and unbelief within His people, including you. Pray with King David, *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting* (Psalm 139:23-24)!

Ask Him for conviction of sins like idleness and complacency. Seek freedom from worldly influences that have a comfortable place in your heart. Pray for unmistakable evidence of God's presence in your life and a growing burden to see lost souls saved and their lives and families transformed. Ask for a hunger to read His holy Word, a longing for His presence, and a heart of praise for His infinite goodness.

God hasn't called us to do the work of His kingdom for Him. He called us in order to accomplish His work in and through us. The day of the Lord is coming—like a thief in the night. That's why it is essential for Christians to Watch and Pray for the Spirit to fill us and use us on earth *to the praise of His eternal glory.*

Prayer for the Week

Sunday (Church): Pray for Robert Brown, Ministry Support, Communications. Ask God to use him to keep people informed of opportunities to worship, learn, and serve.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for family members and loved ones who do not know Christ. Ask God to give life to their souls and enable them to receive Christ as Savior and honor Him as Lord.

Tuesday (Job/School): Pray for the person with whom you work most closely to be saved from sin and to come know the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Ask God to raise up Godly leaders in Corona, who will model integrity and excellence in our city. Pray for the free spread of the Gospel.

Thursday (Our Nation): Ask God to raise up godly leaders in the legislative branch of the US government, so our laws will reflect His holy standards.

Friday (The World and God's Kingdom): Pray that the truth of Christ's death for our sins will pierce hearts and bring repentance, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Give Thanks! The Lord is King! He rules the world with perfect justice, everlasting love, and infinite wisdom to a glorious future

Faith Is ...

Letting God search your heart, trusting Him to gently and lovingly cleanse you from sin and rejoice as the image of Christ emerges in your heart and life.

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

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. –Revelation 3:20-22