



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

February 9, 2020

### Love Overflowing

*For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. —Philippians 1:9-11*

Our world teems with rival philosophies, overflows with conflicting truth claims, and resounds with foundational principles competing to define the spirit of the age. Moral posturing, virtue signaling, and rhetorical “gotchas” multiply, as one group after another vies for control. We’ve lost our moral center, but the central issue isn’t race, economics, the environment, or anything physical or social. Ultimate issues are always spiritual, and now as always, the question is “Who is God, and how do we know for sure?”

Paul’s power encounter with a demon possessed slave girl in Philippi demonstrated that Jesus Christ is Lord, but his victory just got him thrown in jail. But when he introduced the Philippian jailer to Christ God began to set up His reign in that city.

The Truth is Jesus Christ, and the ultimate apologetic for Christ is the character of His people. Jesus said it very directly. *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another* (John 13:34-35). Abounding love is the mark of the Christian. It’s what the world has always longed for, and what Paul first prayed for the Philippian church.

And Paul’s prayer begins with a confession of his love. *How I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus* (Philippians 1:8). Christian love involves emotions. There is genuine longing, yearning, and affection that come from Christ. But love is more than emotion, and feelings don’t define or control love.

Christian love abounds *with knowledge and all discernment* (1:9). Far more than mere sentimentality, love knows the truth and distinguishes it from error. Christians know God’s character and what He finds pleasing. They also know the nature of fallen man and can discern the difference between divine love and human desire. Christians know better than to trust and follow their passions.

Christian love also keeps God’s righteousness in mind and holds holiness in highest regard. Christ warned that His return would bring a day of judgment. Love prepares for that awesome day by imitating Christ and serving the good of others. The Christian timeframe is eternal, and our horizon is in heaven, not on earth. Christian love is accountable to God, not men, and has in mind the Day of Judgment.

And it is God who will judge. This fact brings fear, because God is an awesome and holy Judge. But it also gives hope, because He is full of mercy and compassion. It is God Himself who prepares His people for Judgment Day, by filling us *with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ* (1:11a). That’s why *perfect love casts out fear* (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:18).

As Paul told the Corinthians, *the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:14-15).

The events of the past few weeks and the presence of the news media at our recent memorials have put our church in something of a fish bowl. The world is looking on in our time of mourning and loss. They’ve seen Christian grief mingled with eternal hope in Christ. They’ve heard prayers for the perpetrator of evil together with prayers for comfort for the victims and their families.

God was—and always is—on display in His people, and the greatest evidence for the truth we proclaim about the God we worship is His love on display among us, and flowing through us, to a world in desperate need.

*To the glory and praise of God* (1:11b)

## Prayer for the Week

**Faith Is:** Loving others as Christ has loved us and trusting that His love will never, ever stop.

**Sunday (Church):** Pray for Tim East and Steve Flood. Ask God to make the truth of His Word clear to them and to strengthen their faith as they walk with Him each day. Pray for God’s protection and guidance.

**Monday (Home and Family):** Pray for your grandparents and brothers and sisters. Thank God for them and ask Him to keep them in His care.

**Tuesday (Job/School):** Pray for the quality and effectiveness of your work to exhibit excellence and exalt Jesus Christ.

**Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community):** Pray for the city where you live. Ask God to burden your heart to reach the lost of your neighborhood and community.

**Thursday (Our Nation):** Pray for our nation’s judges to humbly seek Christ in their judgments, as they apply our laws to individual cases.

**Friday (The World):** Pray for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in China and Japan. Ask God to turn those ancient cultures to Himself.

**Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing):** Thank God that the Gospel has spread across the world and into your life. Great is the power of the cross!

## Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray that God’s hand will be on our leaders, to give them His strength and protection.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Terilyn Brown, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Vinoj Zechariah, and new elders who will soon come onto the board.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Tamene Menna, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, Karen Sherwood, and Dani Tiqui.

## 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

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.*

–1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-9