

**PRAYER FOR AN EPIC YEAR & PERSONAL REVIVAL
NEW YEAR'S WEEK OF PRAYER 2019**

FIRST TEN MINUTES – LOVING CHRIST

QUESTION: Sin is less about our behavior and more about our heart. It's less about doing wrong things and more about loving the wrong one. What/who do I love more than I love Jesus?

READ: Philippians 3:7-14

SING OR MEDITATE: "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong Worship

You were the Word at the beginning, One With God the Lord Most High

Your hidden glory in creation, Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is...What a beautiful Name it is, The Name of Jesus Christ my King

What a beautiful Name it is...Nothing compares to this

What a beautiful Name it is...The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us, So Jesus, You brought heaven down

My sin was great, Your love was greater, What could separate us now

What a wonderful Name it is, The Name of Jesus Christ my King

PONDER: In Colossians Paul says that when you see the face of Jesus, you see the face of God. "In Christ all the fullness of the deity lives in bodily form." What do you see when you look at Jesus? I see a man who went out of his way to love people in the margins of life; tough love mixed with amazing grace and an impatience with those who loved religion more than they loved people. I see deep peace mixed with an uncontainable passion for his purpose. Unhurried Joy. Sacrificial love. God.

PRAY: Ask the Spirit of God to show you what keeps you from loving Jesus and receiving his love with all your heart. Pray about the ways you might love him and experience his love in 2019.

SECOND TEN MINUTES – PLEADING FOR HIS PRESENCE

QUESTION: For what do I pray most? Am I hungry for Christ's presence? Do I value His presence?

READ: Read Matthew 15:21-28

MEDITATE: Remember that moment of worship? We talked about it the first Sunday of Advent. She came and worshiped him, pleading...(vs25) She didn't worship him by singing a heart-moving song. She didn't worship him by lighting a candle and meditating. She didn't worship by giving a great gift. No. She came and worshipped him, pleading, "Lord help me." This year, you will be given opportunities to worship. Some of those opportunities will include songs of worship, acts of sacrificial generosity, or moments of deep Biblical insight. But some of those worship moments are going to involve getting on our knees in a quiet place and pouring our hearts out to Jesus about the problems we cannot overcome. As we plead for his power, we may come to realize it's his presence we crave. What is Worship? Sometimes the most elegant, most powerful worship encounter is found when we cry out the words...Lord Help Me. Your Persistent Pleading Is Worship.

PRAY: Ask God to make His presence the passion of your heart. Ask Him to give you a spirit of travailing for his power and his presence in your life. Ask him to deepen your life of prayer.

THIRD TEN MINUTES – LOVE EXTRAVAGANTLY

QUESTION: Christ has loved us extravagantly. How can I love him extravagantly? Who might he be calling me to love extravagantly?

READ: Matthew 26:6-13, Matthew 25:34-40

SING OR MEDITATE: “The Reckless Love of God” by Cory Asbury (Bethel Worship)

Before I spoke a word, you were singing over me. You have been so, so good to me.

Before I took a breath, you breathed Your life in me. You have been so, so kind to me,

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.

Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine. I couldn't earn it. I don't deserve it.

Still You give yourself away. Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God

Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine I couldn't earn it. I don't deserve it.

Still You give yourself way. Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God

PONDER: Mary was just crazy in love with Jesus and nothing will inspire us to extravagant sacrifice and passionate generosity like being crazy in love with Jesus. Her extravagant love led her to extravagant sacrifice and that gift touched the heart of Jesus. How can we love Jesus like that today? Jesus said that when we love others, especially those in the margins of life...we love him.

PRAY: Ask God to bring to mind someone (or group of people) who live in the margins in this area. Ask him to help you see them and see Jesus in them. Ask him for opportunities to love Jesus by serving them.

FOURTH TEN MINUTES – CREATING SPACE

QUESTION: In Luke 1, after the angel’s announcement of her coming pregnancy, Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord. What I magnify fills me up. Do I magnify Christ or do I need to create more space in my life for him?”

READ: Luke 2:3-7

MEDITATE: “As servants of God, we must learn to make room for Him— to give God ‘elbow room.’ We plan and figure and predict that this or that will happen, but we forget to make room for God to come in as He chooses... Do not look for God to come in a particular way, but *do look for Him*. The way to make room for Him is to expect Him to come, but not in a certain way. No matter how well we may know God, the great lesson to learn is that He may break in at any minute. We tend to overlook this element of surprise, yet God never works in any other way... Keep your life so constantly in touch with God that His surprising power can break through at any point. Live in a constant state of expectancy, and leave room for God to come in as He decides.” Oswald Chambers

PRAY: Ask God to show you how you can (or must) create space in your life, in your schedule, in your relationships, in your vocation for Christ. Ask him to show you that this is not a burdensome sacrifice but rather surrendering something of lesser value for something of the utmost value. Perhaps you might consider offering him a media/screen/facebook/food fast. Perhaps you might consider a daily appointment with him. Ask him to deepen your desire to be with him.

FIFTH TEN MINUTES – CELEBRATING HOMECOMING

QUESTION: Do I believe God loves me unconditionally, totally, and forever? What keeps me from experiencing his love? In the story of the prodigal son...with whom do I most identify?

READ: Luke 15:11-32

MEDITATION FOR PRODIGALS: “Although claiming my true identity as a child of God, I still live as though the God to whom I am returning demands an explanation. I still think about his love as conditional and about home as a place I am not yet fully sure of. While walking home, I keep entertaining doubts about whether I will be truly welcome when I get there. As I look at my spiritual journey, my long and fatiguing trip home, I see how full it is of guilt about the past and worries about the future. I realize my failures and know that I have lost the dignity of my sonship, but I am not yet able to fully believe that where my failings are great, 'grace is always greater.' Still clinging to my sense of worthlessness, I project for myself a place far below that which belongs to the son.” Henri J.M. Nouwen, “The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming”

MEDITATION FOR OLDER BROTHERS: “The more I reflect on the elder son in me, the more I realize how deeply rooted this form of lostness really is and how hard it is to return home from there. Returning home from a lustful escapade seems so much easier than returning home from a cold anger that has rooted itself in the deepest corners of my being. My resentment is not something that can be easily distinguished and dealt with rationally...(it has) attached itself to the underside of my virtue. Isn't it good to be obedient, dutiful, law-abiding, hardworking, and self-sacrificing? And still it seems that my resentments and complaints are mysteriously tied to such praiseworthy attitudes. This connection often makes me despair. At the very moment I want to speak or act out of my most generous self, I get caught in anger or resentment. And it seems that just as I want to be most selfless, I find myself obsessed about being loved. Just when I do my utmost to accomplish a task well, I find myself questioning why others do not give themselves as I do... It seems that wherever my virtuous self is, there also is the resentful complainer.” Henri J.M. Nouwen

PRAY: Pray for your own homecoming. Ask God to fill you with his Spirit, baptize you with His love. Whatever attitudes or doubts keep you coming home, ask God to take them away. Confess sin. Perhaps even spend some time in silence, having asked God to show you his love.

SIXTH TEN MINUTES

QUESTION: Gratitude is a description of what truly coming home looks like. There are times when gratitude is spontaneous, but also times when it is a discipline. Have I told God thank you for all He has done in 2018?

READ: Psalm 100:1-5

SING OR MEDITATE: “Come Thou Fount”

*Come thou fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise
And teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above
I'll praise the Mount I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love*

PRAY: Make a list of the ways that God has blessed you; Christ has pursued you with reckless love; and the times the Spirit has breathed life into you...and tell God thank you for all he has done in 2018.

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