

Intercession

Trust on the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3v5-6.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1v5-6

- Pray for our church leaders that they may not grow weary in their leadership role – pray for discernment, wisdom and Christlike insight as they execute their responsibilities.
- Pray for our pastor: Pray for refreshment of his soul with grace and love, and faith to keep pressing forward.

Immanuel, God with us!

Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our **sorrow**, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in **resurrection**, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendour.

Charles H Spurgeon.

PRAY IN THE PATTERN OF THE MASTER

The night before His death Jesus teaches His disciples in some of His most famous and moving words:

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14v1)
I am the true vine...As the Father has loved me, so I loved you. Abide in my love. (15v1,9)

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (15v13)

If the world hates you, know that it hated me before it hated you. (15v18)

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (15v26)

Take heart; I have overcome the world. (16v33)

Then comes the first verse of chapter 17:

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said..."

Jesus prayed. And he said in effect, Father, I am praying now that the things I have instructed my friends about, and that they have come to understand as a result of my teaching, may actually be their experience as they go into the world. (Alastair Begg – Praying Big)

Read, meditate on, and journal John 17 throughout the month.

Week 1 Peace and Hope

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5

- Receive the message that Jesus has risen and is with you to the end of the age and praise Him for the promise of total victory in Him. John 20:19, 21-23.
- Bless your family, children and grandchildren, with Peace – Shalom! i. e. Contentment; completeness; wholeness; well-being and harmony. It is theirs in the name of the Prince of Peace.

Come Holy Spirit!

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Isaiah 30:19-21

Paraclete: literally means "one who is **called**" (kletos) "**alongside**" (para). Read John 14-16. Bible translators have used words like "helper", "companion", "advocate", "comforter" or "counsellor" to translate and explain the Spirit's work. These words are all helpful to colour in this beautiful picture of God's Spirit being with us, in us, helping us, strengthening us and guiding us.

- Lord Jesus, show me your way so that I may walk in it.

Week 2 Intercession

Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Mark 11:22-26

- Reflect on the above Scripture verses and thank God for the gift of grace we received in Jesus Christ – make it your own and pray for a spirit of forgiveness also for your family and friends.
- Pray for a spirit of repentance and that God may restore our land! (Read Joel chapter 2:13 – 27)
- Commit South Africa to the Lord: stand on God's promises that he can move mountains! Pray that He will pour out His Spirit on all people!
- Pray for a peaceful solution for the war in the Middle East – to the Glory of God.

Spiritual Worship

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:15-18

I will offer up my life in spirit and truth,
Pouring out the oil of love as my worship to You.
In surrender I must give my every part;
Lord, receive the sacrifice of a broken heart.
*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a friend, to so loving a King?*

I praise you Spirit of God, for being my life's companion. Amen

Week 3 The Spirit who heals

No longer will a man teach his neighbour or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Jeremiah 31:34

- Pray that God will pour out His Spirit like a mighty purifying flood and bring healing and reconciliation to the nations.
- Seek His face for the healing, comfort and strength for the sick as well as the bereaved in our church family.

Holy Living

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4

- Praise God our Father for our new identity in Christ – God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved. (v 12)
- Before the Lord, examine your own way of life. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern how to lead a life hidden in Christ.)

Week 4 The King of Glory

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god."

Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory. - Psalm 24

- Bring an offering of thanksgiving before the Lord.
- Praise Him for His mighty His mighty deeds.