

100 Days of Prayer

PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE LORD

WEEK 11 (April 5 - 11)

A Weekly Guide for 100 days of Praying to Prepare the Way for the Lord

Starting on January 25th, 2023 (Day 1), Culminating on May 4th, 2023 (Day 100)

KEY VERSES FOR THE WEEK: John 17:20-23 (NIV)

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

REFLECTION: *Choosing Unity*

Shortly before Jesus was arrested and condemned to the cross, he prayed with His disciples. He prayed for them to be protected from Satan, and He also prayed that all believers might demonstrate oneness in Christ. He wanted them to be one just as Jesus and Father God was also one. This was extremely important to Jesus. It was a big deal to Him.

Why was it such a big deal? Jesus noted that this oneness of all believers would have a huge impact on how the world viewed them. Their unity would confirm that God indeed had sent them and loved them. They ought to maintain that unity, to hold on tight to it. But, it wouldn't be easy.

Certainly, unity must have seemed nearly impossible to the early disciples. Even among that initial group of Christ followers, it was a mixed bag of humanity. There were ordinary fishermen, tax collectors, and anti-Roman zealots. Old and young. Rich and poor. Men and women. And maybe more than a few Gentiles in the

bunch. Outsiders looking in were likely amazed that such a dissimilar group with so many differences could sit at a table and eat together peacefully. Yet, one thing was clearly common to all these believers: they had all been with Jesus. The unity of the early church would testify mightily to the reality of God's love at work in their midst.

And what about today? As talk of revival spreads across the nation, it no doubt has caught the eye of even those outside the Church. What will they make of the non-stop worship and immense crowds and contagious spread of spiritual fervor? The jury is still out on what the world will finally decide. But one element that may tilt the world's heart towards God is whether there is unity in the Church.

It's not about guitars or percussion or how modern the music is. It's not about how much or how little liturgy is used. It's not about what style of clothes we embrace or how big our buildings are. We don't have to look or sound the same. True unity isn't about this. It is what is needed to bring together all kinds of people, different perspectives, varying expressions of faith. We get to lay down our traditions, our personal preferences, and the insistence to do things "my way." It brings all eyes to gaze upon Jesus, to agree whole-heartedly on what is essential, and to allow grace and love to flow through the rest.

How much of a priority will unity be in your church and throughout your city? Revival ignites and awakens the Church most powerfully when unity has already paved the way.

PRAYER POINTS:

Use these suggested prayer items as a starting point for where the Holy Spirit will lead you...

1. Praise the Lord that He has designed the Church to operate as it should in a spirit of oneness. Thank God that He has prayed and is praying for unity in all our churches.
2. Pray that our churches can celebrate the diverse expressions of Christian faith and worship, and at the same time, choose to show unity in Christ. Pray that we can pray together, work together, and look out for one another.
3. Pray that God would allow unity in the Body of Christ to reveal the potent truth that God has redeemed us and has sent us to be His witnesses. May the world see this and take notice and, by His grace, come to seek after the Savior.
4. Pray for an increase in the longing of Christians in all denominations and traditions to gather and pray as one. May the Church call upon the Lord with one voice in our city.
5. Pray for the host churches in the 40 cities. Pray that God will give provision and wisdom on where the Korean teams will stay and where best they can eat during the week. Pray for divine leading as to where the teams should be praying in each locale.

FOR MORE INFO ON THESE GUIDES:
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