

# Prayer Power Tower

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## Preparation

To walk with Jesus, to be a part of His small band of followers and to witness all that He did during His short life here on earth must have had a powerful impact on each one of the disciples! Each would also have witnessed the hours that Jesus spent in prayer, praying for His followers and demonstrating His intimate relationship with the Father. Even as Jesus faced the cross, He continued to pray for those who believed and followed. But listen to Jesus' words as He prays for you as well: *"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one – as You are in Me, Father, and I am in You. And may they be in Us so that the world will believe You sent Me. I have given them the glory You gave Me, so they may be one as We are one. I am in them and You are in Me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that You sent Me and that You love them as much as You love Me. Father, I want these whom You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they can see all the glory You gave Me because You loved Me even before the world began! O righteous Father, the world doesn't know You, but I do; and these disciples know You sent Me. I have revealed You to them, and I will continue to do so. Then Your love for Me will be in them, and I will be in them"* (John 17:20-26 NLT). Every generation of believers can read these verses and know that Jesus is praying for them. Although these words are focused on the community of believers, take a moment to reread these verses, substituting your name for *they* or *them* in the text as appropriate. Use this text as you pray for others in our Prayer Initiative, inserting each one of their names in those same places. How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus is lifting you before the Father? At this time of focused prayer, remember to lift up your brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Scripture

Jacob gives his remaining sons the paternal blessing (Genesis 49:14-28). Each one will lead a mighty tribe. *How* he will do so is the question, and a key part of the patriarch's blessing.

- It is hard for us to decipher the precise meaning of the blessing upon Issachar (49:14-15). The donkey was a humble beast of burden. But is this particular donkey lying down so that he can

be laden – or because he refuses to move with his burden? Consider whatever burdens you have borne in your life, and the satisfaction you have known through serving others.

- The land of Gilead, where Gad resided, was frequently raided by desert dwellers (49:19). Asher's land, north of Carmel, was fertile (49:20). Naphtali (49:21) experienced territorial expansion of the tribe. Jacob's blessings bore mixed fruits for his sons.
- Joseph, along with Judah, receives the richest blessing (49:22-26), further evidence of the double inheritance his father had bestowed (48:5). Benjamin, the overly protected youngest son, receives a blessing denoting his predatory habits and zest for war (49:27). Jacob was able to see the uniqueness of each of his sons. Give thanks that God has made you one with brothers and sisters in Christ, yet also totally one-of-a-kind!

## Adoration

United in faith, united in prayer, united in the Spirit. Rejoice that we are a community of believers in our Lord and Savior.

### Thou God of All, Whose Spirit Moves

John H. Holmes, 1879 -1964

*Thou God of all, whose spirit moves  
From pole to silent pole,  
Whose purpose binds the starry spheres  
In one stupendous whole,  
Whose life, like light, is freely poured  
On all beneath the sun,  
To Thee we lift our hearts, and pray  
That Thou wilt make us one.*

*One in the patient company  
Of those who heed Thy will,  
And steadfastly pursue the way  
Of Thy commandments still;  
One in the holy fellowship  
Of those who challenge wrong,  
And lift the spirit's sword to shield  
The weak against the strong.*

*One in the truth that makes men free,  
The faith that makes men brave;  
One in the love that suffers long  
To seek, and serve, and save;  
One in the vision of Thy peace,  
The kingdom yet to be,  
When Thou shalt be the God of all,  
And all be one in Thee.*

## Confession

As a living legacy to each of his sons, Jacob gives his blessing. Quite different from the way stole his father's blessing from brother Esau years before! As you ponder the meaning of each individual benediction (Genesis 49:1-28), think: what words of blessing would your father have found to bless you? More importantly, with what words would our Father describe your life? To some Jacob leaves genuine blessing. But his words must surely sting others! The legacy each of us leaves for heirs demonstrates what kind of lives we have led. The endurance of a family or a nation depends upon the quality of its founders. As each of the twelve tribes of Israel was one of Jacob's heirs, the father's blessings should give us insight into each son's character and the quality of the nation as a whole. As you look at these ancient founders of a nation, give thanks that the founders of *our* nation were godly men who wanted to establish our country on Christian principles. At this time of confession, consider in what ways your heirs have benefited from the example you have set. Have you shown your Christian faith in all aspects of your life, or are you significantly different at home than you are in public – especially at church? Seek forgiveness for those times you have been a less-than-stellar example of Christian principles, and strive for improvement, by God's grace.

When you've finished your prayers of confession, take great comfort and peace in this promise from God's holy word:

*If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared."*

(Psalm 130:3-4 NKJV)

*Rejoice in the Good News: in Jesus Christ you are forgiven!*

## Thanksgiving

Jacob gives Joseph a blessing of fruitfulness and blessings of the breast and the womb, indicating fertility and plenty. Give thanks for the plenitude in your life.

- Thank God for many days in which you have been able to worship Him without persecution.
- Thank Him for plentiful harvests of fresh foods that are delivered each day to markets, foods that enrich our diets.
- Thank God for the fertility of this land, with great fields of wheat and grains, supplying bread to sustain the world.
- Give thanks for the abundance of technology that makes contact with friends and loved ones easier and quicker.
- Give thanks for the God-inspired wit of Proverbs: *"If you love sleep, you will end in poverty. Keep your eyes open, and there will be plenty to eat!"* (Proverbs 20:13 NLT)

## Supplication

The Bible assures us that *"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results"* (James 5:16b NLT). Intimidated by the "righteous" part? Be encouraged by the truth that God gives to all believers the very righteousness of Christ, and pray confidently, even boldly – especially for those who stand shoulder to shoulder with you in this great ministry of prayer.

Daniel Adams, Kristen Agnew, Audrey and Bill Allen, Corinne Baker, Jon Baker, Cyndy Beech, Joyce Bett, Ed and Goldie Black, Betty Bowser, Barbara and David 'Skip' Byers, Jan Carr, Lisa Cook, Ray and Jane Cornelius, Jennifer and John Culp, Ed Daggitt, Gina Brenda Dolan, Jane Dunmire, Ruth Dykstra Entwistle, Mickey Edmiston, Becky Elliott, Janice Good, Dorothy Gooden, Kathleen Graham, Dorothy Henderson, John and Marilyn Hicks, Joy Holland, Suzanne Howat, Gail Jablonovsky, Alberta Keener, Louise Keough, Joann Kettler, Dana Krepps, Michelle Kurtz, Donna Lewis, Jean Longnecker, Linda Longwell, Nancy MacRae, Rich Madsen, Don McAninch, Myrna Jane McCamey, Greg McElroy, Colleen McGaffic, Bob and Joanne Miller, Sandy Minor, Shirley Minshull, Jane and John Moser, Alan and Terry Northcott, Sean O'Brien, Edna Orange, Phyllis Osborne, Hazel Palmer, Joan Pashley, Jeannette Patterson, Nancy Rankin, Joanne Raymer, Andrea and Tod Reiser, Rachael Renick, Megan (Illsley) Sateia, Erin Scott, John Snow, Mary Jane Surrena, Charles Timmons, Beth Utsch, Betty Walters, Toni Walters, Alice Winger, Tami Witzke and Chris Yeakle.

- Please ask God to help you and all who are part of our Prayer Initiative to be faithful, diligent and *joyful* in our praying labors.
- Please ask Him to bless our children in particular in worship this week.
- Please pray for all who serve Christ at Tower through our Christian Education Team, helping lead this vital aspect of our discipleship.
- Please pray for choir director David Adams (and wife Amy) in his important work of helping us to glorify God.
- Please ask God to continue to help us each take seriously our commitment as a church and as individuals to be *Daring Disciples*.
- Please pray for Janet Graham de Araujo and all who work with her at Grace Memorial Hospital in Brazil.
- Please pray for our session and trustees in their continuing efforts to make our building more accessible.
- Please ask God to continue to bring new people to us, that we might grow together in Christ.