

# Prayer Power Tower

Volume 8, No. 24

June 13, 2010

## Preparation

We hear so much about frivolous lawsuits – one feels that he or she has been slighted and then seeks monetary compensation for the hurt. Perhaps you heard about the Nebraska state senator who filed suit in 2007, claiming that God had caused “widespread death, destruction and terrorization of millions.” The district court judge threw out the suit, ruling that the case couldn’t proceed because God wasn’t properly notified about the suit due to an *unlisted home address!* Before you condemn the senator, know that his suit was filed in protest against actions taken in a trial for sexual assault against a woman. The presiding judge in that case barred the use of the words “rape” and “victim” during the trial. (The plaintiff subsequently sued that judge.) The senator felt his case *had* merit since God is always present. He also said there would be no need to contact the Defendant since He is also omniscient. As we come to this time of prayer, surely we too can claim we know where *and* how to address God! “O God, we have heard it with our own ears – our ancestors have told us of all You did in their day, in days long ago: You drove out the pagan nations by Your power and gave all the land to our ancestors. You crushed their enemies and set our ancestors free. They did not conquer the land with their swords; it was not their own strong arm that gave them victory. It was Your right hand and strong arm and the blinding light from Your face that helped them, for You loved them. You are my King and my God. You command victories for Israel. Only by Your power can we push back our enemies; only in Your name can we trample our foes. I do not trust in my bow; I do not count on my sword to save me. You are the one who gives us victory over our enemies; You disgrace those who hate us. O God, we give glory to You all day long and constantly praise Your name” (Psalm 44:1-8 NLT). The psalmist first sings the praises of his Lord, then he shares his lament and anguish in the remaining verses of this psalm. As you come to the Lord in this hour of intentional praise, thanksgiving and confession, what thoughts first come to your mind? As you lift your voice to Him rejoice, knowing that He listens to your praises as well as your cries, and will lift your spirit.

## Scripture

From words of assurance that we are saved by faith, the Apostle Paul now shares those things that we do that cause God grief

(Romans 1:18-23). As you read the word of God, recall those times when you realized that your actions could be making God angry, praying then – and *now!* – for His grace.

- God is angry at those who suppress the truth revealed in His word (1:18-19). Since He “made it obvious,” there is no good reason for people to act as though they don’t know God. Are you spending enough time with God and with His word to *know* it?
- We can readily see all that God has made in creation (1:20). If God called it “good,” what should we call it? Of all the bounty created by God, we would be hard pressed to come up with anything manmade that could compare. How smart are we to condemn anything that bears the handprint of God?
- When we assume that we are smarter than God, we play the fool (1:21-23). Our perverse minds can concoct some pretty strange notions! When we put ourselves in the position of not being right with God, we also cannot be right with our fellow human beings. All these notions lead us away from the One we are to worship as we look to gods of our own design. What homegrown idols are interfering with *your* worship of our God?

## Adoration

A life-changing encounter on a well-traveled road launched the Apostle Paul on the journey of a lifetime, teaching, preaching, loving and caring for Christians. Rejoice that all who believe in Christ can and should continually lift our voices in praise.

### Come, Let Us Who in Christ Believe

Charles Wesley, 1741

*Come, let us, who in Christ believe,  
Our common Savior praise,  
To Him with joyful voices give  
The glory of His grace.*

*He now stands knocking at the door  
Of every sinner’s heart;  
The worst need keep Him out no more,  
Or force Him to depart.*

*Through grace we hearken to Thy voice,  
Yield to be saved from sin;  
In sure and certain hope rejoice,  
That Thou wilt enter in.*

*Come quickly in, Thou heavenly Guest,  
Nor ever hence remove;  
But sup with us, and let the feast  
Be everlasting love.*

## Confession

The Apostle Paul reminds us that since Creation itself, humanity has been able to see the earth and the sky, solid and consistent reminders of God's power and divine nature (Romans 1:20). We have also been aware, for at least several decades now, of the significant harm we have caused to this wonderful display of the magnificent work of God's hand. Conservationists and manufacturers today continue to promote "green" products. We may often fail to consider our human stewardship of God's divine creation. Perhaps you have also never confessed your part in the current state of this planet. As you come to this time of confession, seek to find peace with your Savior, and find the grace to work toward restoring the earth to be a cleaner, greener reflection of the splendor of God. Pray for guidance and a renewed commitment to the kind of stewardship of nature that will reflect your understanding that all we have is merely a trust from God, to be used and cared for in such a manner that it can be confidently returned to the Owner.

When you've finished your prayers of confession, praise God for this tremendous promise in His eternal word:

*The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.* (Psalm 145:18-19 NKJV).

Know that in Jesus Christ you are forgiven, and be at peace!

## Thanksgiving

Most of us want to know the truth, hoping that we are also wise enough to know what is false. Give thanks that we know to whom we turn for Truth of eternal weight.

- Give thanks for those who have spoken the truth to you in love, even when it stung a little or a lot.
- Thank God for the beauty of the heavens and the earth, evident each day.
- Thank Him for the natural artistry that we see painted across the sky in colorful sunsets.
- Thank God that we are able to wake up refreshed each day by the shining *Son*.
- Thank Him for the ability to distinguish truth from falsehood.
- Rejoice at the many times that you have been awed by the countless wonders of God's creation.
- Give because Jesus said, "*Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world*" (John 17:24 NIV).

## 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 pray for the members of our Christian Fellowship Team (especially as they seek new leadership), that God will continue to use them to share the gift of hospitality.
- Please lift up prayer partner and Financial Secretary Don McAninch as he serves in this important ministry of oversight.
- Please ask God to bless the music of our weekly worship, that it will lift our hearts and glorify His great name.
- Please pray for Nathan and Koolyash Fleming and their family, as they serve in crucial overseas mission.
- Please ask God to remind us all each day of our calling to be *People helping people to know Jesus Christ*, and pray that He will help us all to be just that.
- Please ask Christ to guide our session and trustees, and all of us as His church, as we weigh specific plans for a proposed elevator and new building entryway.
- Please pray for all from our church and community who are graduating from various schools in this season, that they will seek and follow God's call on their lives.