

Prayer Power Tower

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Preparation

In a recent book, Lysa Terkeurst talks about witnessing to a man on an airplane one day. As she sat there, she felt God calling her to give the man her Bible. He was amazed that she would give such a prized possession to him. Lysa told him, “Sometimes the God of the universe pauses in the midst of all His creation to touch the heart of one person. Today He paused for you.” (Lysa Terkeurst: *What Happens When Women Say Yes to God*, Harvest House Publishers, 2005). In your daily walk with the Lord, are you surprised and amazed by His grace – or do you take it for granted? Those in ancient Israel, who had seen both God’s very visible wrath and His blessing and protection, sometimes forgot to be amazed. But the psalmist gives voice to the joy of those who know and follow the Lord: “*How joyful are those who fear the LORD – all who follow His ways! You will enjoy the fruit of your labor. How joyful and prosperous you will be! Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine, flourishing within your home. Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees as they sit around your table. That is the LORD’s blessing for those who fear Him. May the LORD continually bless you from Zion. May you see Jerusalem prosper as long as you live. May you live to enjoy your grandchildren. May Israel have peace!*” (Psalm 128 NLT) As you take time now to “be still and know,” take care to be amazed by the wonder of the Lord’s blessings in and through your life.

Scripture

The Apostle Paul continues (Romans 1:24-32) to remind his readers of the consequences and the perversions of our relationships with others when we are not in right relationship with God. As you read God’s word here, realize that the fundamental claim is not about sexual behavior. It is a call to doxology, to right worship – right worship of the true God.

- Three times Paul repeats that “*God gave them up...*” (1:24, 26, 28) because of the practice of idolatry – worshiping manmade gods, instead of the Creator. As you walk through this text, pray for understanding and wisdom in your *own* walk with the Lord.
- Proud arrogance results in “*every kind of wickedness (unrighteousness)*”. The extensive list that follows (1:29-30) is frightful: evil, covetousness, malice, envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, gossip, slander, God-hating behavior, insolence, haughtiness, heartlessness, and ruthlessness. Pray that you will be able to resist such wickedness in your own life.

- In the closing words of this text (1:32), Paul reminds the readers of his letter that ignorance cannot release them from their sin. The wrath of God and the resulting death sentence are known, but not only do people continue to do that which they know is wrong, they take pleasure in, or approve, of those who commit such sins. Consider the number of behaviors that our society condones and accepts today, things that are clearly sin when measured by God’s revealed standard. Ask God how He would have you live as salt and light to a dying world.

Adoration

As the Apostle Paul gives us vivid reminders of the results of sin and God’s wrath, we who also know His grace should surely be amazed at the goodness and mercy that He freely gives to us as believers. It is indeed truth that transforms!

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

I stand amazed in the presence

Of Jesus the Nazarene,

And wonder how He could love me,

A sinner, condemned, unclean.

Refrain: O how marvelous! O how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
O how marvelous! O how wonderful!
Is my Savior’s love for me!

For me it was in the garden

He prayed: “Not My will, but Thine.”

He had no tears for His own griefs,

*But sweat drops of blood for mine. **Refrain***

In pity angels beheld Him,

And came from the world of light

To comfort Him in the sorrows

*He bore for my soul that night. **Refrain***

He took my sins and my sorrows,

He made them His very own;

He bore the burden to Calvary,

*And suffered and died alone. **Refrain***

When with the ransomed in glory

His face I at last shall see,

’Twill be my joy through the ages

*To sing of His love for me. **Refrain***

Confession

Our in-depth study of God's "Top Ten" last year should have warned us to apply the deep moral principles the commandments embody, rather than seeking a narrowly-defined catalogue of do's and don'ts. But here in his letter to the Romans (1:29-32), Paul does give a list of specific sins that humankind has been committing for ages. Not only do we continue to repeat these sins, we as a society even applaud those who commit some of the worst of them! As our culture continues to reshape the "norm" by its acceptance and advocacy of sins perpetrated by idolatrous worship of our own bodies, in what ways have you fallen into the trap of accepting or overlooking the sins of your fellow human beings? This is a growing threat to the church of Jesus Christ! Know that as long as we continue to condone, encourage, or overlook sins now widely accepted by our society as *normal*, we ourselves bear some measure of responsibility. Come to God now in a time of sincere confession for *all* your sins, trusting in His unfailing mercy.

After making your confession, trust in the glorious promise God gives us here in His holy word of Scripture:

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2 NRSV)

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

Thanksgiving

We are often reminded in Scripture of the consequences of sin, especially for those who do not repent and seek the forgiveness of our good God. Let us be particularly thankful this day for His eternal love that grants us undeserved grace and amazing mercy.

- Give thanks for young people you know who demonstrate their strong faith in Christ Jesus as they live and serve Him.
- Thank God for all who show their convictions by living holy lives, distinctly different from what society sets as the norm.
- Give thanks for the conscience that God uses to help guide you into such holy living.
- Thank God for each time He amazes you by His mercy.
- Thank Him for the ability to read His holy word, thereby gaining wisdom and understanding.
- Thank God for the joy of living *in* Christ!
- Sing His praises by the peace you feel as you rest in Him.
- Rejoice that "*God's work is the talk of the town. Be glad, good people! Fly to God! Good-hearted people, make praise your habit.*" (Psalm 64: 9-10 *The Message*)

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 Daggit, 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 Ketler, 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 all who serve with Tower's Personnel Team, and ask God to guide their efforts to be good stewards of our precious human resources.
- Please pray for choir director David Adams (and wife Amy) in his important work of helping us to glorify God.
- Please ask God to do powerful things in our lives through prayers of confession in our corporate worship each week.
- Please pray for Patrick Mentzer and for his campus ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at Slippery Rock University and Grove City College.
- Please ask God to challenge each of us daily (and to help us!) to be growing as Christ's *Daring Disciples*.
- 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 who will be ordained and installed on June 27 to new terms as deacons, elders and trustees, and for their leadership of our church.