

Prayer Power Tower

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Preparation

Have you ever begun your day with a burst of the joy of the Lord? If so, what did you do in response to that joy? The psalmist, in praise of his human king, writes of the elation of his heart, much as we could write of our heavenly Lord and King: *“My heart bursts its banks, spilling beauty and goodness. I pour it out in a poem to the king, shaping the river into words: ‘You’re the handsomest of men; every word from your lips is sheer grace, and God has blessed you, blessed you so much. Strap your sword to your side, warrior! Accept praise! Accept due honor! Ride majestically! Ride triumphantly!... Your throne is God’s throne, ever and always; The scepter of your royal rule measures right living. You love the right and hate the wrong. And that is why God, your very own God, poured fragrant oil on your head, marking you out as king from among your dear companions’... ‘Now listen, daughter, don’t miss a word: forget your country, put your home behind you. Be here – the king is wild for you. Since he’s your lord, adore him. Wedding gifts pour in from Tyre; rich guests shower you with presents’ ”* (Psalm 45:1-3;10-12 *The Message*). Try beginning this hour of prayer lifting your voice in adoring praise – even if it is somewhat out of character for you – to the one who is *your* Lord.

Scripture

Although we have read much of Paul’s writings on justification and righteousness, perhaps the best summation comes in our text this week (Romans 3:19-26). Should you need a reminder of where you rightly stand before God, you will find one here in these verses. And the good news is that where you *should* be and where God sees you are not the same! As you read His word, rejoice in the grace that permeates the text.

- Those who would base all their faith and future on upholding the law will find they come up dangerously short (3:19-20)! Paul sums up his argument by telling us that even total fulfillment of the law will not be sufficient for our salvation. On what (or *in whom*) do you base *your* salvation?
- There is only one answer to the question of salvation (3:21-24). None of us is any better than our brothers or sisters: we have all sinned in a manner that will bring God’s judgment. But – and *this* is the goodness of divine grace – we are made right with God only through the redemptive power of

Jesus Christ. This is an essential truth (one that Paul will continue to remind us of) that is of life-and-death importance to each of us. As you reflect upon this truth, look to Jesus to grow in your grasp of it.

- We see God’s righteousness in the way He makes us right with Him (3:25-26). Since we could never be able to justify ourselves, He sent us Jesus as a once-for-all sacrifice for our atonement (*at-one-ment*) with Him. The cross demonstrates God’s justice: He has not ignored our sins, but laid their penalty on His own Son, so that we might marvel at the extent to which God has gone to make us right with Himself.

Adoration

Realizing our proper status before God, we should surely rejoice greatly and praise Him when we grasp the love and grace in which He lifts us up, only through our Lord and Savior. *“We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”* (1 John 2:1). Lift your voice now in the words of this great hymn of praise.

Come, Let Us Lift Our Joyful Eyes

Isaac Watts, 1707

*Come, let us lift our joyful eyes
Up to the courts above,
And smile to see our Father there
Upon a throne of love.*

*Once ’twas a seat of dreadful wrath,
And shot devouring flame;
Our God appeared “consuming fire,”
And Vengeance was His Name.*

*Rich were the drops of Jesus’ blood
That calmed His frowning face,
That sprinkled o’er the burning throne,
And turned the wrath to grace.*

*Now we may bow before His feet,
And venture near the Lord;
No fiery cherub guards His seat,
Nor double-flaming sword.*

*The peaceful gates of heav’nly bliss
Are opened by the Son;
High let us raise our notes of praise,
And reach th’almighty throne.*

*To Thee ten thousand thanks we bring,
Great Advocate on high;
And glory to th’eternal King,
That lays His fury by.*

Confession

Only a few times in most of our lives do we encounter a simple statement or revelation of truth so awe-inspiring as to change our whole way of life. You may very well find that arresting sense in Paul's convicting words here: We have *all* sinned and fallen short... But through Christ we find redemption! As you ponder that profound truth, consider its impact not only on you, but on *all* God's children. How do you live in the light of words of truth (such as these) God has revealed to you? Do you heed Moses' ancient summons? *"Place these words on your hearts. Get them deep inside you. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder. Teach them to your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning until you fall into bed at night"* (Deuteronomy 11:18-19 *The Message*). If we are always conscious of Bible truths, why is it that we don't share their wonderful Good News with others? At this time of confession, consider all the opportunities you have had to share the Gospel with an unbeliever, but remained silent. Speak now to the Lord seeking forgiveness – and courage for the next time.

When you've finished your confession, accept God's invitation:

Since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. (Hebrews 10:21-23 NLT)

Believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanksgiving

As you pause now to give thanks, rejoice in all God's abundant gifts – especially those you may often fail to see or acknowledge.

- Thank God for His grace, and for subtle and gentle ways that He nudges you along in your faith walk.
- Thank Him that there are others praying for you each day, even those you may not know.
- Give thanks – especially during the heat of the day – for the coolness of the morning.
- Thank God that you are a member of His family, and that you are blessed with many brothers and sisters.
- Paul wrote to his Philippian friends: *"The Lord has made me very grateful that at last you have thought about me once again"* (4:10 CEV). Thank God for those who've shown concern for you in many ways across the years.

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, 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, **DJ Wagner, Betty Walters, Toni Walters, Alice Winger, Tami Witzke and Chris Yeakle. ***New to our praying team!☺☺*

- Please ask God for His continued guidance and blessing as we concentrate on leadership for our new entrance/elevator project.
- Please pray specifically that He will be preparing the hearts and minds of all who will provide the funds to cover the costs of the project.
- Please ask God to challenge and help us each to be doing all we can to grow daily as Christ's *Daring Disciples*.
- Please pray for those who serve with our Christian Fellowship Team, leading us in the gift of hospitality.
- Please pray for Pastor Janice Good and her whole family as she ministers here at Tower Church.
- Please ask God to do powerful things in our lives through prayers of confession in our corporate worship each week.
- Please pray for Janet Graham de Araujo and all who work with her at Grace Memorial Hospital in Brazil.
- Please pray for leaders in our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at the presbytery, synod and General Assembly levels, that they will follow Christ faithfully.