

Seeking His Face

2 Chronicles 7:13-15

When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

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Adoration

"My eyes will be open and my ears attentive"

Psalm 57:9-11

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!*

Psalm 103:8-12

*The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

HYMN OF ADORATION

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him alleluia
Thou burning sun with golden beam
Thou silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Thou rushing wind that art so strong
Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along
O praise Him alleluia
Thou rising moon in praise rejoice
Ye lights of evening find a voice
O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him alleluia
Praise praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit three in One
O praise Him O praise Him
Alleluia alleluia alleluia

REFLECTION & PRAYER

“His immutability presupposes His faithfulness. If He is unchanging, it follows that He could not be unfaithful, since that would require Him to change. Any failure within the divine character would argue imperfection and, since God is perfect, it could not occur.”

(A.W. Tozer – The Knowledge of the Holy)

God is Faithful (Psalm 89:8, 14)

“O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you?... Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.”

God is Merciful (Psalm 13:5-6; 136:1)

“But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me... Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

God Hears our Prayers (1 John 5:14-15)

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”

God Heals (Psalm 147:3; 34:18; 103:2-4)

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds... The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.”

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*It is a good thing to give thanks unto Thee and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High, to show forth the loving-kindness in the morning and Thy faithfulness every night. As Thy Son while on earth was loyal to Thee, His Heavenly Father, so now in heaven he is faithful to us, His earthly brethren; and in this knowledge we press on with every confident hope for all the years and centuries yet to come. Amen. **(A.W. Tozer)***

HYMNS OF ADORATION

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation
O my soul praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings yea so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
gladly fore'er we adore Him

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the power of Jesus' name, let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall
Hail Him who saves you by His grace and crown Him Lord of all
Hail Him who saves you by His grace and crown Him Lord of all

Let every kindred every tribe, on this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all

O that with yonder sacred throng, we at His feet may fall
We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all
We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all

Confession

"If my people humble themselves and turn"

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting!

PERSONAL CONFESSION

Confession of sin is necessary for fellowship with God and revival among God's people. It is also helpful in allowing us to remember who we are in relation to the greatness and glory of the Lord. Prayerfully consider the following questions and answer them truthfully, being honest about your heart and actions. Be encouraged to name your sin to God specifically.

Allow the Spirit of God to speak to you regarding the following questions. Try not to get too bogged down on any one question and pay attention to where the Spirit may or may not be bringing conviction.

"If my people humble themselves...."

James 4:6, 10 – *"But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you."*

- Are there areas of pride in your life, exhibited by a feeling of superiority or self-dependence?
- How do you feel/respond when things do not go in the direction you want?
- Do you try to take credit for God's work through you?

"If my people....pray..."

Luke 18:7-8 – *"And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"*

- Does your prayer life reflect a heart of faith and dependence upon God?
- Does your prayer life include requests that only a God as powerful as the Lord could answer?
- Do you doubt that God cares about your needs?

“If my people...seek my face...”

Psalm 27:4, 7-8 – *“One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple...Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said, ‘Seek my face.’ My heart says to you, ‘Your face, LORD, do I seek.’”*

- Does your heart reflect the same desire for the “one thing” that David describes?
- When was the last time you “gazed” upon the Lord’s beauty?
- Is personal worship a priority for you? Has it been recently?

“If my people...turn from their wicked ways...”

Colossians 3:1-5b – *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you...”*

- Do your life and actions reflect a focus on the things of the Lord and things eternal, or on this present life?
- Is your greatest hope that of Christ’s return and your consequent resurrection?
- What habits or actions need to be put “to death” right now?

Assurance of Pardon

“I will hear and I will forgive”

1 John 1:8-9

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Psalm 103:10-12

*He does not deal with us according to our sins,
Nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
As far as the east is from the west,
So far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

Romans 5:8-10

*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood,
much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,
Much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

HYMNS OF ASSURANCE

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

The Lord has promised good to me
His Word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Through many dangers toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

*This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long*

Perfect submission perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy whispers of love

Perfect submission all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest
Watching and waiting looking above
Filled with His goodness lost in His love

Thanksgiving

"I will hear and I will heal"

Psalm 107:1-2

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

*Personalize **Psalm 103** and write down specific ways in which the Lord has blessed you. Spend time alone thanking Him.*

- Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!*
- ² Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and
mercy,
⁵ who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
⁶ The Lord works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.
⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love.
⁹ He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the
earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those
who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from
us.*
- ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who
fear him.
¹⁴ For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.
¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.
¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the Lord is from
everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.
¹⁹ The Lord has established his throne in the
heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.
²⁰ Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,
obeying the voice of his word!
²¹ Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers, who do his will!
²² Bless the Lord, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!*

GROUP PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

As a family or group, spend time thanking God for His blessings.

Blessings of God to your family

Blessings of God to friends and neighbors

Blessings of God to our church

Blessings of God to our city and nation

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

My Jesus I Love Thee

My Jesus I love Thee I know Thou art mine
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign
My gracious Redeemer my Savior art Thou
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

I'll love Thee in life I will love Thee in death
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath
And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

In mansions of glory and endless delight
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

Supplication

"If my people will pray and seek my face"

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

PRAYERS OF SUPPLICATION

Pray that . . .

God's Glory would be Manifested

- In our daily lives – 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Through our suffering – 1 Peter 4:12-13
- In the church – Ephesians 3:21
- Throughout the earth – Habakkuk 2:14

God's Love would be Manifested to Our Families and to Our Neighbors

- God's comfort to those who are grieving over the loss of loved ones – 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
- God's healing and restoration to those afflicted with sickness – James 5:13-15
- God's protection for those vulnerable, helpless, and distressed (elderly, widows, poor, orphans, aliens, and outcasts) – Isaiah 25:4-5
- God's provision for those hurting financially and those losing jobs – Matthew 6:25-34
- God's presence for those who are lonely and isolated due to sheltering in place – Psalm 139
- God mercies for those who are despairing during these difficult times being tempted by addiction and abuse – Lamentations 3:22-24

God's Sustaining Strength and Provision would be manifested to those Serving our Community

- All (Pastors/ministers, medical workers, ministry partners, government leaders, volunteers, food distribution, law enforcement)
 - Protection from the virus
 - Wisdom, patience, civility, and compassion dealing with complex problems
 - Endurance and encouragement
- General Requests
 - God would end the coronavirus pandemic
 - God would amply supply medical drugs, testing kits, protective equipment, ventilators, and hospital beds
 - God would provide food and volunteers to distribute supplies to those in need
 - God would restore economic stability

God's Power would be Manifested through our Church

- By Retelling the Gospel
- By Reimagining the Church and the City
- By Repairing What is Broken