

PARTNERS IN PRAYER- "God We Exalt You!"

June 5th, 2022 Communion and Summer Family Hour

Dear Prayer Team,



"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrew 4:16 (NKJV)

"Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you

the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, Which He wrought in Christ, when God raised Jesus from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all." Ephesians 1: 16-23 (KJV)

What if your house was "Fort Knox?" I don't mean as tight and locked up as a fortress, I mean, "What if you had unlimited riches at your fingertips?" What if you didn't have a care, a need, or a want, that was ever denied you? Wouldn't that be a great blessing? Do you know many believers live without life's richest blessings? Like paupers, they live without cashing in on the glorious riches that we all have in Christ Jesus. Let's use our rich status in Christ Jesus this month to pray stronger, harder, and more fervently. Amen?

Here is another question: "How can we even imagine putting God to work?" If God is infinitely great, holy, majestic and powerful, isn't it hard to conceive that any mortal sinful man could have the power to move God's hand or even to put God to work? Well just as that thought is mind-blowing; let's remember that prayer, which is every Christian's duty, is in essence the ability to put "God to work." Isn't that thought minded-blowing and unbelievable? I didn't come up with that thought alone; it is introduced to us by E. M. Bounds in his book, *The Weapon of Prayer* on page 19. Here he says:

"Can our prayers really put a Sovereign God to work? Yes! God has of His own motion placed Himself under the law of prayer, and has obligated Himself to answer the prayers of men. He has ordained prayers as a means whereby He will do things through men as they pray, which He would not otherwise do. Prayer is a specific divine appointment, an ordinance of heaven, whereby God purposes to carry out His gracious designs on earth and to execute and make efficient the plan of salvation. When we say

that prayer puts God to work, it is simply to say that man has it in his power by prayer to move God to work in His own way among men, in which way He would not work if prayers were not made. Thus while prayer moves God to work, at the same times God puts prayer to work in the affairs through men and their prayers.” (pg. 19)

Now before we become concerned about trying to manipulate God, Mr. Bounds isn't advocating the misuse of prayer. But he is trying to help us understand that a believer has a duty to be praying, and if we are prayerless, or never bother to pray, God can and will exclude us from blessings in our lives. We should never take that for granted. We need to commit ourselves to prayer and to the force of prayer as shown and modeled by Jesus Himself. We must pray and by faith rest in the truths that God is active in this world to save all men. So, let's remember to never cease from our prayers! If we are given the chance to live in the lap of luxury, wouldn't we do it? Then loved ones are you neglecting your prayers?

So, dear PCBC prayer partners, I want you to get praying for all the new things happening! As our gardens are planted and sprouting and we often find ourselves putting in the window air conditioners, we are finally arriving at summer time in June. What a welcome for many of us, saying goodbye to spring and turning the corner of Memorial Day weekend. But what new things are happening at PCBC?

I am excited to share with you that what is happening is new for our church. This Sunday is our start of "Family Hour!" We have been planning a summer program to substitute for our changes from Sunday School and into using our 9:00 morning hour as prayer and discipleship time. Many have been preparing for a family time for all ages in the fellowship room every Sunday from today through August. When you walk into the fellowship hall you will notice the change of decorations and the treasures and one hundred dollar bills sitting out. We are studying the book of Ephesians chapter one. This study will be done with several different teachers. This study of the book of Ephesians is so rich with spiritual blessings, that some writers have called Ephesians as the "Fort Knox" of the Bible. Just think if you could live in a palace home with furniture and amenities that are covered in gold. That is the type of study you will find. So pick up your "free spiritual checks" being handed out at the door this week, and join us.

What about the prayer hour? For the summer months of June through August, we are asking you to join the family group in the fellowship hall. I am asking that if you want to occasionally pray, we will just treat the prayer portion of the hour as a "Prayer Closet." What is a prayer closet? That is a simple ministry that is like the movie *War Room*. Pastor will be in his office at 9:00 to take prayer requests until 9:15. Anyone who wants to stop can share his or her prayer requests, or can just sit alone in the Pastor's office and have an alone time of prayer. As you do that, you will be considering that time as a

private prayer closet. You spend time praying for the church services that will start at 10:00. You pray for the family hour in the fellowship hall. You pray down your church prayer sheet for those on the list. You pray for the music team as they get ready. You just spend the time praying for the up-and-coming service. Then you finish and try to enter the worship service by 9:45. If, when you are in the prayer closet, others come into the room to join you, you are welcome to pray together. Just be sure to transition yourselves by 9:45 into the service. That is how the prayer closet will work all summer. If you have important prayer requests or updates for the bulletin, you can give them to me as Pastor at 9:00 at the prayer closet, in my office, or you can write the changes or requests on our “Next Step” cards in the church seats and drop them in the offering box in the foyer.

Just a few more updates as we head into this summer month. Each Sunday coming we have missionary guests. We will host the Marks family on June 12th. The church is planning a fellowship after the service with them. On

Sunday, June 19th, we will have time with Tim and Helen VanSumeren. They are back this week from visiting family and traveling to supporters in the central states of the U.S. They are being joined next week the 13th by the Haycock ladies staff who will be taking up our second apartment for the summer. We are praying for God’s working through the camp. Lori is even teaching two of the ladies events through the month of June, so please keep her in prayer. Then lastly, June 26th the Vosters will be with us, and we will be hosting a luncheon after church with them also. So you can see the exciting things to be in prayer for this month.



I want you to pray for the GriefShare ministry. We just finished our fourth week of thirteen sessions. We have had new people come every week. We have a good group of about ten in attendance. I ask prayer for many who are struggling with their recent losses. Please pray for the working of spiritual healing and for some to find salvation through a hard but wonderful time of tears and prayers.

One last thought as we are getting ready for communion and family hour this Sunday: I would like to encourage us to pray the Ephesians 1:16-23 prayer for our whole church family. As you read Ephesians 1:16-23, Paul shares three prayer requests for those believers. They are simply:

1. Our eyes are open to the Holy Spirit’s truths so each day we make wise decisions. (vs. 17)
2. That our hope would be strengthened as we remember the richness of all Jesus has given us as believers. (vs. 18)
3. That our lives will feel the transformation power of all Jesus is doing in and through us. He is changing us by His grace. (vs. 19).

When Charles Spurgeon preached this prayer, he called the three requests the “Three What’s” because the old King James translated them as “the what is...” in the English.

I spent time reading the prayer in a new translation called the Passion. It is done by Hebrew scholars and is as new and refreshing as the Living Bible has been. Here is the passage in that translation:

“I pray that the Father of glory, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, would impart to you the riches of the Spirit of wisdom and the Spirit of revelation to know Him through your deepening intimacy with Him. I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, flooding you with light, until you experience the full revelation of the hope of His calling—that is, the wealth of God’s glorious inheritances that He finds in us, His holy ones! I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God’s power made available to you through faith. Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! This is the mighty power that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted Him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm! And now Jesus is exalted as first above every ruler, authority, government, and realm of power in existence! He is gloriously enthroned over every name that is ever praised, not only in this age, but in the age that is coming! And Jesus alone is the leader and source of everything needed in the church. God has put everything beneath the authority of Jesus Christ and has given Him the highest rank above all others. And now we, His church, are His body on the earth and that which fills Him who is being filled by it!” (Eph. 1:17-23- The Passion Online)

Remember when we pray we P.U.S.H! We “pray until something happens.” So let’s get to work in our prayers! Will you pray with me?

“O infinite three-in-one God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we exalt You today! We exalt You for Your greatness. You made us and creation with power, might, and incredible wonder. We exalt You for Your Holiness. You are glorious in perfection, and totally set apart from our sins. There is no darkness or inappropriateness in anything You do. Thank You for Jesus being our salvation and forgiveness so we can be Your children born of the Spirit with life from above. We exalt You for Your wisdom. Who has understood Your mind or instructed You as Your counselor? Before the universe was created it existed in all its intricate complexity in Your vast mind. Even the tiny cells in our bodies testify to the sheer brilliance of Your creative genius. That there is nothing in this life which we face, no injustice, no unfairness, and no trial that You can’t turn men’s evil or wrongs against us into Your good. Help us to trust You more. We marvel at Your creation, we confess that we often wonder at Your providence. Help us to learn that Your ways truly are higher than our ways and that You are always working for our good despite the many things we don’t understand. And we exalt You for

Your love. Thank You for the rich grace and transformation that is ours. Today may we fear You by trusting You. And may we ever praise You through Jesus our Worthy Lamb who was slain for us, and is in glory now interceding and collecting our prayers to one day be answered. So, Holy Spirit, meet us and mold us. Help us never neglect Your work of prayer. We ask humbly, and with rejoicing, Amen and amen.”

Putting our prayers to God’s work, Pastor Corvin <><

Quote: “There shall be showers of blessing;
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
Sent from the Savior above.

Refrain:
Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.

Verse 2 There shall be showers of blessing,
Precious reviving again;
Over the hills and the valleys,
Sound of abundance of rain. [Refrain]” ... D. W. Whittle (1883)

