



THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

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ISSUE 2

The Resurrection of Jesus

“He is not here, for he is risen” (**Matthew 28:6**). These simple words declare the reality of the greatest event in human history. The angel announces that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He died on the Cross, was buried, but now, He lives again. It is the claim of the empty tomb that marks Jesus as totally different from every other major historical figure. It is this claim that sets Christianity apart from all other religions, philosophies, and ideologies.

In *Man Alive*, Michael Green writes, “Christianity does not hold the resurrection to be one among the many tenets of belief. Without faith in the resurrection there would be no Christianity at all.” John Stott adds, “Christianity is in its very essence a resurrection religion. The concept of resurrection lies at its heart. If you remove it, Christianity is destroyed.

The reason for these definitive statements is God’s Word. The Word of God emphasizes that Christianity stands or falls with the resurrection of Jesus, “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain . . . And if Christ be not raised your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins” (**1 Corinthians 15:14, 17**). Without the resurrection, there is no Christianity; there is no hope.

John McArthur pointedly writes, “Neutrality is not an option. Either Jesus rose and rightly demands your attention, repentance, trust and obedience or he stayed dead. If he only became a rotting corpse, why should you follow Him?” Jesus either rose from the dead and is who he is or he is not and is certainly not God in the flesh. There is no middle ground position. This is the most important question that anyone will ever face in his or her lifetime – did Jesus Christ rise from the dead? Everything, in time and eternity, hinges upon how a person responds to this question.

Jesus repeatedly told his disciples, “that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and the chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day” (**Matthew 16:21**; see also **Matthew 17:23, 19:20; Mark 8:31, 9:31, 14:28**). Jesus Christ predicted his resurrection. We must either believe Christ or reject His Word. We must acknowledge and cling to the fact that Jesus died and rose from the dead. If we don’t do this, we must reject Christ and His teaching. You cannot divide Christ and His Word.

This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will look at the evidence for the resurrection

along with its benefits for the believer. We will also examine what the resurrection means for our prayers lives. Christ's rising from the dead is crucial for our praying.

The Evidence For The Resurrection

How can anyone be sure that Jesus Christ actually rose from the dead? Historians are very clear about two things concerning Jesus – that He existed and that He was crucified. No serious thinkers doubt these two facts. There are few events of ancient history with better evidence than this. However, what about the resurrection? The following are some evidences for the resurrection of Jesus:

Exhibit #1:

The Death of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ actually died on the Cross of Calvary. Some have theorized that Jesus simply fainted or swooned on the Cross. Then, He revived when He was placed in the tomb – never actually dying or being raised from the dead. However, you must realize that the Romans were very good at their job. They operated under the constant threat of the death penalty if they allowed a prisoner to escape. The Roman soldiers thrust a spear into the side of Jesus. Blood and water flowed from his pierced heart (**John 19:34-35**). They saw no need to break his legs to hasten His death through suffocation (**John 19:36-37**). Could Jesus have survived after suffering torture, crucifixion, and exposure in a cold tomb with no medical attention? Could Jesus have convinced His disciples that He had marvelously and gloriously triumphantly rose from the dead when His medical condition was at best critical? The truth is that Jesus Christ died. This sets the stage for His glorious and triumphant resurrection.

Exhibit #2:

The Empty Tomb

One of the best-supported facts surrounding Jesus' resurrection is the empty tomb. The tomb where Jesus had been placed was empty; no one was there (**Matthew 28:6; Luke**

24:9-10, 12; John 20:8). This fact was never challenged, let alone refuted, by the contemporary enemies and critics of Jesus. In addition, the Jews or Romans could have immediately squashed Christianity by producing the body of Jesus Christ. The disciples could not have proclaimed the bodily resurrection of Jesus if the body had been brought forth. The empty tomb of Jesus needed an adequate explanation. The only explanation is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The only consistent explanation for the empty tomb is that Jesus arose bodily from the dead.

Exhibit #3:

The Post-Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Christ

According to the New Testament, numerous people (over 500) had an intimate, personal encounter with Jesus after His death. This happened to a variety of people at various times and in various places. These witnesses claimed to have seen, heard, and touched the resurrected Christ. Some critics have tried to explain this as hallucinations. It seems impossible that more than 500 people who reportedly witnessed the resurrected Christ all had the same hallucination. Hallucinations are mere projections of what is already in the mind. Grieving Mary may have been momentarily susceptible to hallucination, but what about those ambivalent to the cause of Christ, such as His brother James, or the openly hostile Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus Road? The witnesses did not hallucinate; they saw, heard, and touched the crucified but resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

Exhibit #4:

The Jerusalem Factor

Jesus was publicly executed in Jerusalem. His empty tomb and post-mortem appearances were first proclaimed there. Christ's greatest opposition was centered in Jerusalem. If there had been any contrary evidence to His resurrection, it would have been raised here. Yet, they had none. It would have been impossible for Christianity to get off the ground in Jerusalem if Christ had not been raised from the dead.

Exhibit #5:**The Testimony of Jesus' Enemies**

Jesus' early critics accused the disciples of stealing the body of Jesus. There would have been no need to account for a missing body if the body was still in the tomb. The reaction of the Jewish authorities testifies to the fact of the resurrection. They did not produce a body or even organize a search. Instead, they bribed the soldiers who guarded the tomb to lie (**Matthew 28:11-13**). Then, in the book of Acts, they opposed the apostles who declared that they had seen Him alive. The fact that they resisted and did not refute the claims of the apostles speaks for the reality of the resurrection.

Exhibit #6:**The Testimony of The Women**

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and the women who were with her (**Matthew 28:1-10**). These women saw Jesus (**28:9**). They clasped His feet and worshiped Him, not only seeing Him but also touching Him (**28:9**). They also heard Jesus speak (**28:10**). These women were the first and primary witnesses to Jesus' resurrection and empty tomb. This would be an odd way to concoct a story. In both Jewish and Roman cultures, women were lowly esteemed and their testimony was regarded as questionable. It certainly was not as credible as a man's testimony. Having the women as the first and primary witnesses to the resurrection would be a foolish way to invent the story of the resurrection. That would mean placing words in the mouths of those who would not be believed. If the writers of the Gospels had made up the resurrection and empty tomb, they would more likely have picked men as those who saw Christ and His empty tomb. The fact that the women were the first and primary witnesses of the resurrection speaks powerfully for the reality of the Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Exhibit #7:**The Transformation of the Apostles**

The book of Acts describes a dramatic and enduring transformation in the apostles of Jesus. They were terrified, defeated, and cowardly after Christ's resurrection. Then, they

became courageous preachers of Jesus Christ and, in some cases, became martyrs for Christ. These men became bold enough to stand against the enemies of Christianity through persecution and even death. This kind of radical and extensive change deserves some type of explanation. The truth is, human character and conduct do not change easily or often. The fact that the apostles deserted Jesus and denied knowing Him after His initial arrest makes their courage in the face of persecution even more astounding. What could have brought about such a change in their lives? They attributed it to their personal encounter with the resurrected Jesus Christ. In Christ's resurrection, they found their unshakable reason to live and to die.

Exhibit #8:**The Conversion Of James**

Jesus' brothers were unbelievers before His resurrection. John's Gospel informs us "even his own brothers did not believe in him" (**John 7:5; Mark 6:3**). The Scripture explicitly says that Christ appeared to James after His resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:7**). James was converted and became a follower of Christ. He became a pillar in the early church and played a prominent role in the first church council (**Acts 15:13**). He also wrote one of the books of the New Testament bearing his name. What changed James from an unbelieving skeptic to a pillar of the church? It was his personal encounter with the resurrected Christ.

Exhibit #9:**The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus**

Saul of Tarsus was a distinguished scholar of the Law, a member of the Jewish party of the Pharisees, and a Roman citizen (**Acts 21:37-22:3**). Zealous in his devotion and ready to defend ancient Judaism from what he perceived as a false and dangerous deception, Saul was the primary opponent of early Christianity. He had Christians arrested and instigated and approved of their persecution and execution. Traveling on the Damascus Road, Saul had a life-changing encounter. The resurrected Jesus of Nazareth appeared to him and spoke to Him (**Acts 9:1-30, 22:5-13**). Saul then became Paul! He is probably the second

most important figure in Christianity behind Jesus Christ. He became Christianity's greatest missionary, theologian, and defender and was the inspired author of 13 books of the New Testament. What brought about Paul's conversion – perhaps the greatest religious conversion in history? According to Paul himself, the incredible transformation took place due to his blinding face-to-face meeting with the resurrected Christ. His conversion and the startling accomplishments of his life after this can only be explained by the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive forevermore.

Exhibit #10

The Emergence Of The Church

What specific event in history could have started a movement that within 400 years came to dominate the Roman empire, and over the course of two millennia, all of Western civilization? According to the New Testament, Christianity came into being because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The church did not create the resurrection; the resurrection created the church. Surely, nothing other than the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His sending the Spirit (**Acts 1:8**) can sufficiently explain the growth and continuation of the Christian faith and church.

Exhibit #11:

The Apostolic Preaching

The dominant theme of the apostles' preaching was the resurrection of Christ. Above all else, they proclaimed that Christ died and rose from the dead. This was the heart of their preaching, "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" (**Acts 4:33**). The best explanation of why this theme was their immediate preoccupation within weeks of His death was that they had, as the Gospels tell us, repeatedly encountered Him alive in the days after His crucifixion. They preached the resurrected Christ because He was alive. They preached this because they had seen Him and heard Him!

The Response To The Resurrection

The resurrection is a reality. Christ died and rose again. He is alive forevermore. How then should we respond to His resurrection? How should the resurrection affect our praying? I would ask you to consider the benefits of the resurrection and how we should respond to them. These benefits are made known in the sermons in the book of Acts. Because of Jesus' resurrection, He made the following things possible for us. We must now act in light of His resurrection and its benefits:

The Sending Of The Spirit (Acts 2:33)

The sending of the Holy Spirit was a direct result of the resurrection. Peter was not content to tell his listeners that Christ had been raised from the dead. He told them about the implications of the resurrection. The risen Christ had done something wonderful – He had poured out His Holy Spirit. He goes on to state that this promise is available to all believers (**Acts 2:39**).

- ✓ *We must continually pray for the filling of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).* The resurrected Spirit has poured out His Holy Spirit on all who believe. We must cry out for and seek the power of the Spirit. To neglect this gift is to show contempt for the resurrection of Christ.
- ✓ *This should stir us to pray for genuine revival.* Christ has given us His Holy Spirit – the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead. The Holy Spirit has life-giving power. This same Holy Spirit can breathe new life, resurrect, any church. The resurrection should motivate us to pray for revival because Christ has given us His life giving, reviving Spirit.

Physical Healings (Acts 3:15-16)

In this text, the power of Jesus' resurrection was revealed through a miraculous healing. Having experienced death, Jesus is now alive and has defeated death and sickness. Jesus is not a departed dead hero. He is still with us, victoriously alive and fully active. Peter claimed that this healing was a direct result of

faith in Jesus, who would be powerless to perform miracles if He were still rotting in a tomb somewhere in Palestine. Because of the resurrection, Peter was saying, the man Jesus, who was crucified, was still able to heal as He did during His earthly ministry.

- ✓ *This should give us confidence to pray for healing.* Jesus Christ is alive! He still has the power to heal. Just as He healed in the Gospels, He can now heal. The power of the resurrected Christ can still destroy disease and restore bodies. We can pray with confidence because Christ rose and is alive!
- ✓ *Our faith must be in Jesus Christ.* The resurrected Christ is the Healer. Christ may choose to heal in a variety of ways, but it is Christ that heals. We must fix our eyes and our faith on Him. Healing comes through faith in His name, not faith in the way He chooses to heal.

The Conversion Of Sinners (Acts 3:26)

In this sermon, Peter emphasizes that Jesus Christ was raised and still had work to do. God raised Him from the dead so that Jesus could save us. The resurrected Christ calls and draws sinners through His Word and His Spirit. He is in the business of saving sinners.

- ✓ *The resurrection should stir us to pray for the salvation of sinners.* Jesus is a living Savior! He has the power to call and draw lost people to salvation. This ought to challenge and encourage us to cry out to Him for the salvation of the lost.
- ✓ *This should make us thankful for the grace of Christ.* Our salvation rests totally in Jesus Christ – His life, death, resurrection, and the working of His Spirit through the Word. We do not merit any of this; it comes to us because of grace.

Salvation By Union With Jesus (Acts 4:11-12)

In this sermon, Peter reveals that there is salvation in no one else. Being united with Christ by faith saves us. We are literally “in” Him – joined to Him by faith. Our salvation rests in being united to the risen Christ by faith.

- ✓ *We should rejoice in our position.* We are in Christ. We are joined to Him. All His grace, mercy, power, and riches are ours.

They belong to us because we are united to Him.

- ✓ *This teaches us to pray for other believers.* Since we are joined to Christ, we have everything we need to live the Christian life. We must appropriate it by faith. This should drive us to pray that ourselves and other believers would seek Christ and rest in what He provides for us. We must pray for a deeper intimacy with Jesus and dependence on Him and all that He has.

Jesus' Role As The Lord And Leader Of The Church (Acts 5:30-31; Acts 9)

Peter tells us that Jesus is the Leader and Savior of His church. He is the Lord and Head of His church. The risen Christ is building His church. We are under His authority. No man is the Lord and Head of the church. That position belongs solely to the crucified and resurrected Christ.

- ✓ *Pray that your church would acknowledge that Christ is the Lord and Head of your church.* For a church to be and do all that God desires, it must acknowledge Christ as the Leader. Christ has the right to reign and rule in the church; no one else has earned this right.
- ✓ *Pray that your church would be submissive to Christ's Lordship and leadership.* We must begin by acknowledging His right to rule. Then, we must submit to His rule – follow His leadings. Plead that your pastor and leaders to the membership of your church will be submissive and ready to receive and follow Christ's leading. To pursue a selfish agenda in the church is an insult to Christ and His resurrection.

The Forgiveness Of Sins (Acts 5:30-31)

The resurrection of Jesus means that God has accepted the work of Christ on the Cross. God has raised Him through the dead and offers the forgiveness of sins to all who believe in Christ and the good news about Him (**Acts 13:37-39**). Through Christ, we are forgiven and set free to love, know, and serve God.

- ✓ *This should make us confident and bold in our prayers.* We do not approach God based on our own merits. We do not come before God in our own goodness. We

come in the righteousness of Jesus given to us through faith in Him. We come as people who are accepted and forgiven by God. Put away your unbelief! Don't allow your sense of unworthiness hinder you from seeking God! We are not worthy in and of ourselves. Yet, through Christ, we are made worthy! Pray with confidence and boldness!

- ✓ *This should stir us to confess our sins.* There is forgiveness of sins with Christ. He is raised from the dead; forgiveness and cleansing is available. We should run to Christ with our sin, confessing it to Him and receiving His cleansing.

Comfort For The Dying (Acts 7)

In **Acts 7**, Stephen preached a sermon that confronted the people with their role in the death of Jesus, which enraged them. At this time, the resurrected Jesus appeared to Him, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (**Acts 7:56**). When they heard this, they stoned Stephen. Yet, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (**Acts 7:59**). The appearance of the resurrected Christ prepared him for his death. This appearance gave him boldness and confidence even in the face of death. He knew that Jesus would receive him, preserve him, and bring him into heaven into His presence.

- ✓ *The resurrection should give us comfort in the face of death.* Jesus has conquered death through His resurrection. He awaits us in heaven. He will receive us into heaven. For the believer, death is a step into the presence of Jesus, who loves you and died for you.

The Commissioning of The Gospel Messengers (Acts 9; 10:42)

Stephen prayed that his persecutors would be forgiven (**Acts 7:60**). Christ specifically answers that prayer in **Acts 9**. He appears to Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus road. Saul believes in Christ and is transformed into Paul the apostle. He saves Paul and then sends him out to declare the gospel.

- ✓ *The resurrection reminds us of our responsibility to tell others about Jesus.*

When you meet the resurrected Christ, it's not something that you keep to yourself. It's something that you should share with others. When Christ calls us to salvation, He also calls us to witness.

- ✓ *This should lead us to pray for the hardened enemies of Christianity.* The resurrected Christ can make a difference in the life of the most hardened. Who would have thought that Paul would have changed like he did? This gives us encouragement to pray that those who are opposed to Christianity. We need to pray that they will come to Christ and then become powerful witnesses of Jesus.

Assurance Of The Truthfulness Of The Gospel (Acts 17:30-31)

In this text, Paul declares that God has appointed a day of judgment by Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus Christ that God saves and will one day judge. This points to the fact that the gospel is true. God has appointed Jesus as Savior and Judge. The good news about Him is true. We can have complete confidence in the gospel. It is the good news of God about His Son Jesus the Savior. By the resurrection, God put His stamp of approval on the gospel. It is the power of God to salvation.

- ✓ *Do you have confidence in the gospel?* In this day, many are turning away from the gospel. We see a variety of messages being proclaimed by the church. Yet, the gospel is the good news of God approved by God through the resurrection. We must cling to the gospel and declare it faithfully. Pray that the gospel will be central to the life and mission of your church. Plead that there will be no compromise on this message.
- ✓ *Are you sharing the gospel?* The resurrection means that salvation comes through Jesus Christ. This is the message that people must hear. They must hear and believe the gospel to be saved. Are you telling others that Jesus has died and rose again? Are you exhorting them to come to Him for forgiveness and a new life? Pray that God will empower you to be a faithful witness of the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ. Plead that your church will

faithfully proclaim this good news to the world around it.

Resurrection And Revival

Our Own Resurrection (Acts 17:30-31)

In this sermon, Paul declares that Jesus Christ will judge all men. This means that all men will be resurrected. The resurrection of Jesus guarantees our resurrection both for the believer and the unbeliever. We may face death but we will live again.

- ✓ *We should rejoice in the hope of our own resurrection.* Death will not be able to hold us. We will rise again. Christ has conquered death. It will not be able to restrain us from rising again. This gives us great hope. We do not need to fear death. We will live forever.
- ✓ *This truth should stir us to consider how we live now.* We will be raised again to live forever in heaven. This life is temporary and fleeting. Eternity is permanent and unceasing. Therefore, we must live for the things that matter most – the spiritual and eternal.

The Certainty Of Future Judgment (Acts 17:30-31)

Every person will face the judgment of God. Jesus' resurrection guarantees this. His resurrection is God's testimony that Christ will judge all people. God appointed Him as the Judge of all. His resurrection is God's way of revealing that He will be the Judge and that judgment is an absolute certainty.

- ✓ *This truth should motivate us to live in obedience to Jesus Christ.* We will stand in judgment before Christ one day. It is an absolute certainty. None of us will escape; every one of us will give an account of how we lived for Christ.
- ✓ *We must impress this truth on the hearts of unbelievers.* Every unbeliever will stand before Jesus Christ as Judge. He will condemn them and cast them into hell for their refusal to trust in Him and repent of their sins. How we need to make this known in our preaching, teaching, and witnessing! It is hard truth but still truth. We cannot withhold this truth from unbelieving people.

If there is one thing that the resurrection teaches us about God, it is that He is the miraculous God. If God can intervene in such a dramatic way in human history by raising His Son from the dead, it is a small thing for Him to do so in other ways. The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us hope for genuine revival in our churches and in our nation.

Revival is nothing more than a wide-scale outworking of Jesus' resurrection power. A revival could almost be called a resurrection. It is a powerful intensification by Jesus of the normal activity of the Holy Spirit. Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit resurrects His church – He raises the church from spiritual dullness and deadness.

The church experiences resurgence. It has new life and power. It is an escalation of the usual work of the Spirit. In other words, it is a greater manifestation of normal Christianity. Revival is not something new and different; it is an intensification of the Christian life.

The point that I want to drive home to your heart and mind is that the resurrection should fill our hearts with hope and encouragement. We should have hope that revival can be a reality. It should encourage us to pray faithfully and expect genuine revival. As we think about and meditate on the resurrection, we see the reality of God raising His church to new life and power. He is the miraculous God; He can grant genuine revival to His church.

The following prayer guide can assist you in seeking God for revival in your church:

Lord Jesus, unleash the resurrecting power of Your Spirit into our midst; we desperately need revival. Have mercy on us and resurrect us (**Acts 2:1-4**).

Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit; give this church a hunger for the truth of Your Word and sound doctrine (**Acts 2:42**).

Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit, endue this church with a spirit of believing, prevailing prayer (**Acts 2:42**).

Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit, strengthen and deepen the fellowship of this church; deal with anything that would hinder the fellowship of the believers here (**Acts 2:42**).

Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit, stir us to worship

You in spirit and truth (**Acts 2:47**).

Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit, empower this church to proclaim the good news about You with great power and clarity (**Acts 2:14**).

Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit, convict and draw unbelievers; save them by Your power and add them to Your church (**Acts 2:37-41**).



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Taking Your Faith Into The Real World



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VOLUME 2

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Who Are Your Neighbors?

Your neighbors are the people that you meet on a daily basis – the people you see each day. They are the people that you cross paths with in the ordinary routine of life. It is these people that God calls you to bless and touch for the sake of Jesus.

In **Jeremiah 29**, God sends a message to the people of God who are in captivity in Babylon. Many of them were thinking that they would only be there for a short period. They felt that God would take them back to the Promised Land only after a brief stay in Babylon. Yet, God tells them that they would be there for seventy years. God had placed them there; they were to put down roots and to exercise spiritual influence where they were,” And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace” (**Jeremiah 29:7**).

God is speaking the same message to you today. He has placed you where you are. He has a distinct purpose in putting you in this place. He is bringing people into your life that you might bless them and minister to them. He wants you to exercise spiritual influence where you are. He desires that you be a channel of His blessing for all those around you.

Identifying My Neighbors

What does Jesus teach in **Matthew 22:39**?

What is the first and great commandment?

How are these two commands related?

In **Matthew 22:39**, Jesus teaches us that we are to love our neighbors. We are to love them as we love ourselves. We are to have a sacrificial love for our neighbors. We are to seek their highest good. If we love God, we are going to love our neighbors. These two commands are inseparable. Love for God results in love for your neighbors. Yet who is our neighbor?

Read **Luke 10:29-37**. What question does the lawyer ask Jesus (**v.29**)?

How does Jesus respond to this question?

spiritual influence in their lives. You can do nothing greater for them.

Matthew 28:18-20

In order to answer the question of “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responds with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus’ purpose in giving this parable is to show that our neighbors are those that we encounter – particularly those that we encounter daily that are in need. This parable reveals that your neighbors are the people around you. It is those that live next to you, the people you see at work, or the people you stand in line with at the grocery store. Your neighbors are those that you encounter in the ordinary routines of life. It is these people that you are to love as yourself and seek to bless. God has placed you where you are to minister to them. God crosses your paths with them that you might exercise spiritual influence in their lives.

The Great Commission can be translated literally, “As you are going . . .” (**Matthew 28:19**). It is in the ordinary routines of life that you are to pray for, bless, and share the good news of Jesus. God desires that you minister to people as you go through your daily life.

Luke 10:29-36

Motivations For Reaching Every Neighbor

The Bible reveals that your neighbors are those that you encounter daily – those that fill the ordinary routines of your life. God wants you to exercise spiritual influence in their lives. How can you know that this is God’s will for you? The following verses reveal that God wants you to reach those around you. Read these verses and meditate on them in light of all the people around you:

Jesus’ provides us with a compelling example in these verses. When you see people in need, you are to seek to make a difference in their lives. Every day of your life, you will meet people in need. This should stir your heart to pray for and bless people throughout your day.

Acts 1:8

Matthew 22:39

In this text, Jesus provides His disciples with an outline of sharing the good news of Jesus. They were to begin sharing the good news of Jesus in Jerusalem and then spread it to the ends of the earth. Your “Jerusalem” is the area around you. It is the people that you encounter on a daily basis. Jesus wants you to bless and exercise spiritual influence in your “Jerusalem.”

Loving your neighbor means seeking the highest good of those around you. What is the greatest thing that you can do for your neighbors? It is to pray for them. It is to seek to minister to them by blessing their lives. Loving your neighbors calls for you to exercise

Reaching Your Neighbors

Your neighbors are the people that you encounter on a daily basis. God desires that you pray for, bless, and minister to them in the routines of life. In order to put this into practice, you must consider three biblical truths.

No. 1: See the harvest that is around you.

What does Jesus tell His disciples in **John 4:35**?

Jesus tells His disciples to look and see that the harvest that is ready. You must realize that there is a harvest around you. The people you come into contact with daily have a variety of needs. Some need to turn to Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Others need to return to their first love. Others are brokenhearted. Others are struggling with sin or adversity. You come into contact daily with people who need your prayers and spiritual influence.

No.2: Strive to bless and pray for people daily.

What does Paul teach in **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**?

In **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**, Paul reveals that the transformation of lives is a process. He teaches that people coming to Christ takes time and requires the effort of numerous believers. Making a difference in the lives of others is a process; God will use you in the process. Be faithful to bless people and pray for them. You are making a huge investment in their lives that will bear fruit in time.

No. 3: Be faithful and don't become discouraged.

What does the Word of God teach you in **Galatians 6:9**?

Galatians 6:9 reveals that we will make a difference in the lives of people if we are faithful and do not give up. God will not let your labors for Him go without fruit. He will touch and bless your neighbors, as you are faithful to pray for them and influence them. God will honor your prayers, your ministry, and your blessing of the lives that you encounter on a daily basis. You can trust Him for this; He will move powerfully in their lives, as you are faithful to pray and bless.

Preparing Your Heart

Your neighbors are the people you meet on a daily basis. It extends from the people that live around you to the people you encounter in your daily routines. It is His heart's desire that you pray for and bless them. He longs for you to exercise spiritual influence in their lives. Pray today that God will open your eyes to see the harvest around you. Call on God to help you see your neighbors as He sees them – people in need of Him and His Word. Commit yourself to praying for and blessing them, confessing that God will honor your faithfulness in these matters.

Praying For Your Church's Witness

The following Scripture prayers deal with praying over the evangelistic witness of your church. These prayers are based on the Word of God and focus on seeing God mold the believers into powerful witnesses for Christ. You can use these prayers by placing the name of your church in the blanks. Plead these Scripture prayers with all your strength

and with consistency. By doing this, you can pray for a powerful work of the Holy Spirit among all the believers concerning evangelism.

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would be salt and light in the midst of this lost world. Grant them a righteous influence in the world (**Matthew 5:13-15**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would walk in wisdom toward those who are outside the body of Christ. I also pray that their speech would be full of grace, godliness, and wisdom so that they may know how they ought to answer and respond to the lost (**Colossians 4:5-6**).

Father, I plead that You would be the main pursuit of the believers' lives and that they would always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks them a reason for the hope that is in them with meekness and fear (**1 Peter 3:15**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would do all things without murmuring and disputing so that they would become blameless and harmless, a child of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom they should shine as a light in the world, holding fast the word of life (**Philippians 2:14-16**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would know and understand the terror of the Lord. I pray that the believers of _____ Church would see and know clearly that people without Jesus Christ are lost and headed to an eternal hell to face the wrath of God. Because they know and understand these things, I plead that the believers of _____ Church would persuade lost people to turn from their sin and to the Lord Jesus Christ in faith (**2 Corinthians 5:11**).

Holy Spirit, I plead that You will give the believers of _____ Church a continual and agonizing burden concerning lost people and their need to repent and believe (**Romans 9:1-3**).

Father, You have declared in Your Word that You have given believers the ministry of reconciliation. The believers of _____ Church have surrendered their lives to You. Because of this, You have given them the ministry of reconciliation--sharing the gospel with lost people so that they can be in a right relationship with You. I ask that the believers of _____ Church would be faithful to this ministry by sharing the gospel with others (**2 Corinthians 5:17-19**).

Father, You have saved the believers of _____ Church. You have made the believers of _____ Church ambassadors for Your Son, Jesus Christ, in this world. I pray that they would recognize like never before that they represent the Lord Jesus Christ in this world. Enable them to live a lives worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:20**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would see this lost world as God sees it (**John 3:16**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would not grow weary in sharing the gospel but that they will know that if they do not lose heart they will reap converts to Christ (**Galatians 6:9**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would receive power from the Holy Spirit and that they would be witnesses for You wherever they go (**Acts 1:8**).

I plead that the believers of _____ Church would have certainty and understanding concerning the truth of the gospel. I pray that the believers of _____ Church would diligently search the Scripture so that they will know what they believe and will be able to share and defend the Word of God (**Romans 10:8-17; Acts 17:11**).

I ask that the believers of _____ Church would not be conformed to this world but that they will be transformed by the renewing of their mind (**Romans 12:2**).

I pray that the believers of _____ Church would not love this world or the things of this world. I plead that they would not be attracted to and lured away by the things of this world, but that they will be focused on doing the will of God (**1 John 2:15-17**).

I ask that You would grant the believers of _____ Church opportunities to share the gospel. Bring lost people into their lives so that they can share Your Word with them (**Colossians 4:3; Matthew 7:7**).

Lord Jesus, You have declared in Your Word that we will be hated because we belong to You. For this reason, I ask You to give the believers of _____ Church the strength and the courage to stand for You in this lost world. Lord Jesus, do not allow the believers of _____ Church to compromise their stand due to the reaction of the world (**John 15:18-21**).

Father, I plead that You will make the believers of _____ Church bold and fearless in their witness of Your Son (**Proverbs 28:1**).

Invitation Praying

The invitation is the time where people are given an opportunity to publicly respond to what the Spirit is doing in their lives. It is a holy time that needs to be covered in prayer. The following prayer guide can help you pray during the week before your worship services or during the invitation of your worship services. If your church does not have this time at the end of a service, you can adapt the prayers for that situation. The key issue is to pray that people will hear and respond to God's Word whether there is a formal invitation or not. The preaching of God's Word is an invitation; we must cover this in prayer.

Holy Spirit, I pray that You would move in a powerful way during the invitation. During this time, release Your life-transforming power into the lives of the worshipers (**Isaiah 11:2**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that every worshiper will be sensitive to Your leading and conviction during the worship service (**Psalms 29:4**).

Holy Spirit, I plead that You would clearly speak to the worshipers about God's will for their lives. Make clear the commitments that You are calling on them to make (**John 16:7**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that You would deal with the pride that would hinder the worshipers from responding to Your call. Shatter the self-righteousness that would keep the worshipers from responding to the Word (**James 4:6**).

I plead that each person will hear and give heed to the Word of God. Holy Spirit, open their hearts that they might do this (**Acts 16:14**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that no one will put off any commitment that they need to make. I pray that they will not think that they can wait until later to act. I plead with You to move powerfully on their hearts and lead them to act according to Your leading at this moment (**2 Corinthians 6:1-2**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You will give each worshiper the strength and the courage to make the commitments that You have burdened them with. Show them that it is the Father's will and that You will help them to obey (**Philippians 4:13**).

Holy Spirit, I ask that You would bind the enemy from lying to people during the invitation. I plead that they would not listen to his lies and turn away from Your leading and conviction. I pray that they will turn to God and His will for their lives (**John 8:44**).

Hell According To God

Hell is not a popular subject. I take no pleasure in dealing with this topic. It breaks my heart to teach or preach on eternal

punishment. However, I am bound to teach and preach about this because it is in the Word

of God. Unfortunately, the doctrine of hell has fallen on hard times:

“Let me say at the outset that I consider the concept of hell as endless torment in body and mind an outrageous doctrine, a theological and moral enormity, a bad doctrine of the tradition that needs to be changed. How can Christians possibly project a deity of such cruelty and vindictiveness whose ways include inflicting everlasting torture upon his creatures, however sinful they may have been? Surely a God who would do such a thing is more nearly like Satan than like God, at least by ordinary moral standards, and by the gospel itself . . . Surely the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is no fiend; torturing people without end is not what our God does” (Clark R. Pinnock, *Criswell Theological Review*).

“Hell has disappeared and no one noticed” (Church historian Martin Marty).

The Word of God is explicitly clear – there is a place of eternal, conscious punishment for those who do not turn to Jesus Christ in true faith and repentance. We must believe in and preach the doctrine of hell. To fail to do so is disobedience to God’s Word and a lack of compassion for those who have not committed their lives to Jesus Christ.

The Word of God provides us with some basic facts about hell:

I. Hell’s Master

God not only pronounces the sentence; He also rules over hell. The power of God over the wicked extends beyond the grave. God is present everywhere; He is present in hell in holiness and wrath. In hell, a person will never again experience the goodness or kindness of God. The lost are forever separated from His grace and goodness to face His unceasing wrath.

“Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the

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LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD” (**Jeremiah 23:23-24**).

“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction **from the presence of the Lord**, and from the glory of his power” (**2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**, emphasis mine).

“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and **in the presence of the Lamb**” (**Revelation 14:10**, emphasis mine).

II. Hell’s Description

The New Testament paints five pictures of hell. It reveals that hell is a place of endless misery and suffering.

Darkness And Separation – This reveals the rejection of unbelievers by God and their eternal exclusion from His grace and mercy.

“And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (**Matthew 8:11-12**).

“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (**2 Thessalonians 1:9**).

Fire – Hell is a place of unspeakable physical suffering.

“Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye

offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire” (**Matthew 18:8-9**).

“So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (**Matthew 13:49-50**).

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (**Jude 7**).

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (**Revelation 20:15**).

Crying And Gnashing Of Teeth – Hell is a place of unceasing and unquenchable sorrow.

“And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (**Matthew 13:42**).

Jesus uses this picture seven times (**Matthew 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28**).

Punishment – Hell is a place of punishment for ungodly people who rejected God’s revelation.

“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (**Matthew 25:46**).

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and

they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (**Matthew 5:28-29**).

Death And Destruction – Hell is a place of eternal ruin.

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“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (**Revelation 20:13-15**).

III. Hell’s Duration

The worst aspect of hell is its duration. It is eternal; it will never end. Hell will exist as long as God exists. It will continue forever.

“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (**Mark 9:48**).

“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (**Matthew 25:46**).

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power (**2 Thessalonians 1:9**).

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (**Revelation 20:10**).

IV. Hell’s Occupants

The Word of God reveals that hell will be occupied by the devil, evil angels, and unbelieving people.

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (**Matthew 25:41**).

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (**Revelation 21:8**).

“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (**2 Thessalonians 1:8**).

Practical Applications:

- ✓ **Studying the doctrine of hell should increase your appreciation of the Savior’s sufferings.**

When I am tempted to be overcome with thoughts of hell, I turn my thoughts to the Cross and my distress becomes gratitude. Think of it – the Son of God bore the terrors of hell to save sinners like us! His love is beyond comprehension! When I shift my focus to Christ’s saving work, I am overwhelmed by His grace. I have a greater and deeper appreciation for His sufferings and the grace that He shows me.

- ✓ **Studying the doctrine of hell should stir you to bold praying and witness.**

The doctrine of hell should shatter our complacency concerning those who need

Jesus Christ. It should motivate us to pray for the lost and to share our faith. It should move us out of our comfort zone to labor for the souls of people through prayer and witness. Hell is real. Every person who does not know Jesus Christ is headed there. We must pray and share the good news of Jesus with them.

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Global Point Men

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

March/April, 2010

Praying Over Your Wife's Emotions

Your wife's emotions will affect your relationship. What she experiences in her emotions will have dramatic effects in your marriage. When your wife's emotions are in the hands of the evil one, everything gets out of control and the results are unpleasant and upsetting. Yet, when God is in charge, her emotions are an asset and the end result is peaceful and soothing.

Men react in a variety of ways to their wives' emotions. Some men ignore their wives' emotions. Others withdraw from the wife. Some men make light of what their wives are experiencing. In addition, some men turn up the volume of their lives in order to drown out what their wives are experiencing.

However, the best way to deal with your wife's emotions is to ask God to help you understand what your wife is feeling and pray accordingly. God can and will use your prayers to protect her from the enemy's lies. He will use your prayers to enable her to experience

emotional stability. You are not required to heal your wife of her emotional hurts. You are not responsible to fix her. Only God can heal her and grant her emotional stability. You are responsible to love her and pray for her.

The following prayers are offered to help you plead for your wife's emotional well being. In order to use them, place your wife's name in the blank and plead the truth of the Scripture.

Father, I plead that You will enable me to love _____ unconditionally. Help me show this love to her in all the circumstances of our lives together (**Romans 5:5**).

Father, I ask that I would be a servant to _____. Enable me to give myself to ministering to her and encouraging her (**Matthew 20:28**).

Holy Spirit, sensitize me to _____'s tasks, weariness, joys, uncertainties, trials, and needs (**Ephesians 5:18**).

Father, I pray that You would deliver _____ from a spirit of fear. Yet, I plead that You would create within her a spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind (**2 Timothy 1:7**).

Father, I ask that _____ would be filled with joy given by the Holy Spirit. I pray that _____ would pray without ceasing and give thanks to You in all circumstances (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**).

Father, I pray that would you grant _____ emotional stability. I plead that by Your sovereign power You would strengthen her emotionally and help her not to yield to sinful emotions (**Psalms 115:3**).

Father, I ask You to guard _____'s mind from the lies of the evil one. He is a liar and will attempt to deceive _____. He will lie to her in order to create any and all kinds of sinful emotions in her. Protect her from these lies. Give her the wisdom and the strength to recognize them and overcome them (**John 8:44**).

Mighty God, I ask You to show _____ that she is

fearfully and wonderfully made. Teach her that she is precious in Your sight and that You love her unconditionally (**Psalms 139:14-15**).

Father, I pray that _____ would not surrender to fear, frustration, worry, or guilt. I plead that she will not be afraid in any circumstance but will know that You are her God and that You will be with her no matter what. I ask You to strengthen her and uphold her by Your righteous hand (**Isaiah 41:10**).

Father, I pray that _____ would love her enemies, do good to those who hate her, and pray for those who mistreat her. Enable her to treat others, as she would have them treat her (**Luke 6:27-31**).

Father, create within _____ a forgiving spirit. I pray that You would protect her from bitterness and anger (**Ephesians 4:32**).

Father, I plead that _____ would be diligent to confess and repent of her sin. I pray that she would not be bogged down by past sins and guilt. Deliver her from guilt and grant her the blessedness of pardon and peace (**1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13**).

Father, it is You alone that makes a person safe and secure. I plead that

_____ will trust in You and that she will experience Your safety and Your security (**Psalm 4:8**).

Father, You are the Healer of the brokenhearted. You bind up the emotional wounds of the past. Father, I ask in the name of Jesus that You will grant emotional healing in _____'s life. I plead that You would deal with any emotional weaknesses in _____'s life (**Psalm 147:3**).

The Praying Husband Bible Study

Lesson 3:

Developing Your Personal Prayer Life

Central Truth: *In order to pray with power and effectiveness for your wife, you must develop your personal prayer life.*

Developing your personal prayer life is the foundation of praying for you wife. You cannot pray in power for her if you are not seeking God on a daily basis. God has given you the remarkable privilege of prayer, "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'" (**Galatians 4:6**).

Prayer is a gift from God. Yet, it is also a discipline that you must cultivate.

What did the disciples ask Jesus to do in **Luke 11:1**? How does this apply to you?

Developing your prayer life requires that you cultivate the five essential parts of prayer.

Read And Meditate On The Word God

The following verses reveal the five essential parts of prayer. Read these verses and meditate on the truths. Ask yourself, "Am I practicing this in my prayer life on a regular basis?"

Psalm 34:1-2

1 John 1:9 & Proverbs 28:13

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Matthew 7:7-11

Ask your Father now to teach you how to pray. Call on Him to transform your prayer life.

Praying For Your Relationship

Pray that God will transform your wife's prayer life. Call on Him to give both of you a heart to seek Him in prayer. Claim **Colossians 4:2** for your marriage, "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart" (NLT).

John 10:27*Listening And Speaking To Your Father*

Ask your Father to help you evaluate your prayer life. Plead with the Holy Spirit to help you understand your strengths and weaknesses in prayer. As He gives you insight, record your evaluation of your prayer life below.

Your World Prayer Plan**May**

- 1-Hungary-The Lost
 - 2-Iceland
 - 3-India-The Church
 - 4-India-Spiritual Warfare
 - 5-India-Mission Efforts
 - 6-India-Bible Translation\Distribution
 - 7-India-Massive Conversions
- States of India:
- 8-Andhra Pradesh; Arunachal Pradesh
 - 9-Assam
 - 10-Bihar; Goa; Gujarat
 - 11-Haryana; Himachal Pradesh
 - 12-Jaamu; Kashmir; Karnatara
 - 13-Kerala; Madhya Pradesh
 - 14-Maharastra
 - 15-Manipur; Meghalaya
 - 16-Mizoram; Nagaland
 - 17-Orissa; Punjab
 - 18-Rajasthan; Sikkim

19-Tamil Nadu; Tripura
 20-Uttar Pradesh
 21-West Bengal
 22-The Seven Union Territories
 23-Indonesia-The Church/Revival
 24-Indonesia-Government
 25-Indonesia-Lost/Mission Efforts
 26-Indonesia-Young People
 27-Iran-The Church
 28-Iran-The Lost
 29-Iraq-The Church
 30-Iraq-The Lost
 31-Ireland

June

1-Israel-Mission Efforts
 2-Israel-Peace
 3-Italy-The Church
 4-Italy-The Lost
 5-Italy-Spiritual Awakening
 6-Jamaica
 7-Japan-The Church
 8-Japan-The Lost
 9-Johnston Island
 10-Jordan
 11-Kazakhstan-The Church
 12-Kazakhstan-Mission Efforts
 13-Kenya
 14-Kiribait
 15-North Korea-The Church
 16-North Korea- Open Doors For
 Gospel
 17-North Korea-The Lost
 18-South Korea-The Church
 19-South Korea-Continued Revival
 20-Kuwait

21-Kyrgystan-The Church
 22-Kyrgystan-Mission Efforts
 23-Laos
 24-Latvia
 25-Lebanon
 26-Lesotho
 27-Liberia
 28-Libya
 29-Liechtenstein
 30-Lithuania

Confessing God's Word

"Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife as the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Peter 3:7).

Holy Spirit, make me sensitive to _____ and her needs. Cause me to be aware of what she needs and when she needs it. Teach me how to minister to her. Amen.

ASK YOUR WIFE TO PRAY IN AGREEMENT WITH YOU CONCERNING YOUR PRAYER FOR GREATER SENSITIVITY.

My Confession: I will be sensitive to my wife and her needs. I will seek to minister to her in every way that I can through God's empowering.

God's Purpose For Marriage

Whether a marriage is disastrous or marvelous depends greatly on the couples' view of marriage. How a man thinks about marriage will certainly affect his perspective on his role, his wife's role, or the relationship itself. Since God instituted marriage, we must look to His Word to find His purpose for marriage. Then, we must conform our thinking to His truth.

Since God instituted marriage, we can know that it is good and has perfect purposes. God's overall purpose is to bring glory to Himself. He does this overarching purpose through four basic purposes. In the coming issues of Global Point Man, we will look at the purposes.

The first purpose for marriage is:

Companionship

After creating Adam, God declared, "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him" (**Genesis 2:18**). This verse shows that God planned to make someone "suitable" for Adam. The word "suitable" means "compatible or corresponding to him."

After this, God brings the animals to Adam for naming (**Genesis 2:20**).

This is an interesting order of events. God says that he would make Adam a helper suitable to him. He then brings the animals before Adam. Why did God do this? Why would he declare his intention and then bring the animals for naming?

Certainly, God knew that none of the animals would be right for Adam. Yet, God wanted to show Adam his need for a companion. He wanted to create a longing in Him for a suitable helper. He desired to awaken a sense of need in Adam and to show him that nothing in creation could meet this longing. The animals could be present. The animals, like an ox, could help him. Yet, none of them could be a companion – a helper suitable to him.

God then provided Eve. He formed Eve and gave her to Adam. This reveals that God purposed for marriage to be for companionship between a man and a woman. From the creation account, it is clear God provided marriage for companionship.

Why is it important for a godly man to know this? First, the godly man will determine in his heart to treat his wife as his special companion. This will naturally happen to some degree over time. Yet, a Christian man seeks to be a better companion to his wife. He does this because it is the will of God.

Second, the godly man seeks to pass this on to his son. The world will teach young men a variety of reasons for

marriage. Yet, we must know what God says and pass that on to the next generation.

Developing Companionship With Your Wife

The following are some suggestions on how you can deepen and strengthen your companionship with your wife. Ask God to give you insight on how you can do this. Pray for the grace and power to work at this. Determine your heart to treat her as your special companion – a gift from the Lord to you.

Be with her and involved with her.

- Develop common interests with her.
- Plan to spend time alone with her.
- Call her from work.
- Tell her about what you do.
- Tell her how she can help you

Reveal yourself to her.

- Share your dreams, goals, and perspectives with your wife.
- Share with her how she can pray with you.

Seek to understand and help her.

- Plan a regular time to talk about her concerns and pray with her that she will find answers for those concerns.
- Ask about her well-being and then pay attention.
-

- Ask what she did today and then actively listen.
- Pray with her.
- Ask her what you can pray about for her.
- Help her when she needs it.

Appreciate her.

- Speak well of her to others.
- Thank God for her.
- Leave notes of appreciation.
- Think about and verbalize qualities and deeds of her that you are thankful for.

Treat her special in comparison to others.

- Put her needs and desires above others.
- Plan dates.
- Open doors and car doors for her.
- Show her non-sexual affection.
- Be sexually intimate with her, focusing on her pleasure.

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